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The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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THE FIFTH FREEDOM

A PUBLICATION OF THE BUFFALO GAY COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 1981

FREE

GAY PRESS ASSOC.



In New York City from January 8-11 I attended the formation meetings of the Gay Press Association.

The days of meetings were filled with seminars on advertising, auditing, circulation, distribution, all aspects of the publishing industry and management. The second day consisted of editorial contents in great depth, and then the formation of the association itself.

We were told that there are many national companies that are going to be looking for gay markets all across the country. These include liquor, records, books, movies and the entire gamut of ads that you see in 'their' magazines and papers.

All the large companies are starting to realize the gold mine that they are sitting on. Gays have more dollars set aside for pleasure and enjoyment than any other sector of society. This is brought about by the absence of families, the type of work usually done by gays that puts them in the upper tax brackets and the gay lifestyle as a whole.

Only a few gay publications have taken advantage of this opportunity, but they laid the groundwork for the rest of us. We don't have to worry about trying to tell an advertiser what they have to expect from our kind of paper. They have already had the shock value reduced and really don't care what is in it as long as you can deliver the customer to them.

MOST OF THE PAPERS represented there has some type of paid circulation. Very few papers are strictly free with the cost paid by the advertisers. This will be a topic of conversation as far as the Fifth Freedom is concerned in the future, I'm sure.

Printing, distribution and mailing costs are all factors that have to be considered to keep the quality of a paper up where it should be. The Freedom is on ot' its way there and will continue to grow.

I WAS HAPPIEST with the editorial contents section and all that was discussed in that context. It was most informative and helpful to me.

I was able to hear from the editors of such national publication as The Advocate, The Sentinel, and from the Washington Blade former Fifth Freedom editor Don Michaels.

They had many ideas and tips for those at the meetings on how to improve the contents of our papers. You will be seeing many of these changes coming up in the near future.

THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE of the Gay Press Association is:

The purpose and objectives of the Gay Press Association are: to ensure and promote ethical journalistic standards among its members; to increase understanding and communication within the Gay and Lesbian community and with the community at-large; to promote a healthy business environment; to foster the growth and development of the Gay Press/Media, and; to protect and defend the rights and integrity of Gay Press.

Some of the things that are being considered for types of services offered will be:

Guidelines and standards for ethics and style for the various types of gay publications, i.e. Tabloids, newspaper formats, entertainment magazines, guides to what's happening, skin magazines and mail ads, and the entire gamut of literature.

Benefits that could be tapped a a group that may not be accessible to smaller numbers of people like health benefits, life insurance and other programs that the independent people that work of these publications wouldn't otherwise have access to.

Wire service system to disseminate information quickly to all members.

Credit guidelines for advertisers and how to make sure you collect accounts due you.

A standard advertising format for the same basic type of publication. Not a sameness, but a uniformity of style.

A group for freelance writers to help get their work out to the markets and to help them get their pay once published.

A technical assistance and education department that can be called upon for technical advice.

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OUR COVER

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! THE GAY WAY!

Our cover is another of the new things that I hope to have for the paper. A real photograph. Wow!

This is the second original cover in recent memory. We all remember how popular Santa was, don't we?

This cover was shot by Ron with the help of some very good friends, Vicki and Debbie, and Dave.

I really appreciate their help. I hope that all of you have someone to hold hands with when the big day gets here.

The flower arrangement is courtesy Hodge/Buning Florist at 360 Delaware Ave. You can get one there to send to your sweetheart.

FOR A LOOK AT OUR COVER FROM 10 YEARS AGO...

SEE PAGE 8.

THE FIFTH FREEDOM

A PUBLICATION OF THE BUFFALO GAY COMMUNITY

FREE

The Fifth Freedom is published by and for the Gay Community through the support of The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. The Fifth Freedom is a monthly publication, distributed free of charge through any establishment or organization permitting such distribution. Our monthly circulation is 2500 copies.

The presence of the name, picture, or other representation of a business organization, or person(s) in this newspaper is not an indication of the sexual preference of such person, organization, or business.

Subscriptions are available at a rate of \$5.00 per year. This charge is to cover only the cost of postage and handling. All mailings are sent in a PLAIN, SEALED envelope. Mattachine Society members receive the paper free of charge.

We welcome any contribution of news items, written articles, letters to the Editor, artwork, photography, or poetry from members of the Gay Community. We cannot guarantee the return of any materials submitted unless they are accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. All materials submitted are subject to editorial revision.

We also welcome announcements from all Gay organizations. These announcements will be placed in the paper free of charge.

Our deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads, material and announcements.

EDITORIAL

We have just celebrated the 4th anniversary of the blizzard of '76.

Recently Buffalo was the center of attention once again. Only this time it wasn't Mother Nature, it was Man. That is if you use the term very loosely.

It was the occasion of the Nazi rally in Niagara Square.

Being out of town until that evening, I was able to see and hear what people who don't live here were saying.

Many were looking for bloodshed. Others said if they could have come here they would have caused some. Many were more interested in what was going on in Buffalo, than what was happening in Iran. Of course it was closer to home. That made it seem more real to them.

But they didn't know the REAL Buffalo people that were involved. I tried to tell them that there would be no bloodshed, because Buffalo has seen enough. They could not understand the feelings that have been going on here lately. They may be 'used to it' where they are, but we never will be.

With a lot of effort, both Buffalo and Iran were brought to the best possible conclusion. No one hurt. No one dead. Considering the factors that we were dealing with, a very lucky outcome.

But it was more than luck. It was people's realization that this is how it has to be. All of us working together and doing what we can. We can't always control 'THEM' but we can be responsible for ours and ourselves. And that is the bottom line.

Buffalo.

Talking Proud.

No wonder.

Mail all letters, subscription requests, ad copy, contributions and all other correspondence to;

THE FIFTH FREEDOM
P.O. BOX 155
ELLCOTT STATION
BUFFALO, N.Y. 14205

All Fifth Freedom staff members are volunteers. Anyone interested in working on the paper should call the Gay Hotline at (716)-881-5335, or write to the address above.

Permission is required for the reprinting of any materials appearing in The Fifth Freedom.

Advertising rates will be sent upon request.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I am writing to you and your staff in regard to your cover of December 1980. It has to be one of the most crude and tasteless representations I have ever seen. If this is a publication of the Buffalo gay community, which it is not but rather of a small group within it, and if this is what you are looking for in a cover as you suggest on page four, then you and the staff of The Fifth Freedom should seriously consider your continuance in this publication if not actually offering your resignation.

A publication that seeks such banality and enjoys the total trivialization of sex not to mention a complete lack of sensitivity to the historical, cultural and religious values present in both this holiday season and in the Buffalo gay community, is not able or worthy to reflect, stimulate and/or lead a community of women and men that I know to be rich, deep and committed to the growth and expansion of human life.

Honesty calls for a clarification that this publication does not represent the Buffalo gay community. An apology for such an offensive presentation may be the beginning of a hoped for maturity and vision.

Sincerely,
D.A.G.M.

Dear D.A.G.M.,

Our December cover was the first original artwork that has been done for this paper in a very long time. And in order to get this done I had to go to a "straight" artist. Not one gay person has come forward to offer their talents, even if it has to be done from the closet. I'm waiting.

As far as offering my (at this point there is no 'our', due to lack of interest from the gay community) resignation, I have no intention of doing this now or at any time in the future. I feel that I have put many new ideas and much energy into the paper. If I leave, there would be very little chance of the Freedom coming out regularly at all. Would that be representative of the Buffalo gay community?

I could debate the next paragraph at great depth due to my religious background, but suffice it to say that our cover may just say a great deal as to the state of people's feelings for the holiday season. Many of the things that you mention should be rethought by all of us.

If, indeed, our community is 'rich, deep and committed to the growth and expansion of human life' why don't we see more of this reflected in the only visible voice of Buffalo gays? With all of this untapped beauty, we could have a much fuller and better picture of gays, for the straights as well as ourselves. Where is it? I have been asking, but no one answers.

CONT. FROM PG. 2

And, where may I ask, have you been? If it took the cover to motivate you to get involved, I think it served a very worthwhile purpose. If I am lucky enough to make one person write to share their thoughts in a letter such as yours with every issue, I figure that in a few millennium the paper will truly be a platform for the entire community. If you have suggestions on how to get a more diverse sector of gays represented, please let me know.

I think that by printing a letter such as yours, it proves that we are indeed trying to let all sectors of our community have a voice. If they make the choice that they wish to remain silent... what can we do?

Thank you for writing. And I will be waiting to hear from you again soon.

EDITOR

Dear People,

I would like to respond to the letter written by JFO in your Dec. 1980 issue.

JFO seems to feel he has found the answers as to what makes or breaks a gay bar in Buffalo. I would suggest he contact the owners of the Villa, Dominique's, and Mean Alice's and tell them: Those bars have been around probably longer than he's been out.

I think that JFO has personal reasons for not liking anything at all about Mean Alice's (MA'S). Alice's prices are in line with prices charged by the other bars. In fact some top shelf prices are cheaper...

... JFO says he, 'was astounded to be treated like a real person in a Buffalo gay bar'. I can't understand that unless he has never acted like a real person...

...JFO feels that Alice's, the Villa, and Dominique's can learn from Mac Arthur. I hope they don't...

Yes, JFO there is room for more gay bars in the city. I hope you try to support them all.

Carl Rogers

Carl,

Thanks for your letter. We all have our 'favorite bar' whatever the reasons. They may not all be of a legitimate nature, but they do color our feelings.

I agree that we should support all of the bars, so we continue to have a choice. Sometimes it is difficult to accomplish this though.

Please keep in touch. And thanks for calling us 'people'. Sometimes we (I) begin to wonder what people think of us (me.)

EDITOR

To The Editor:

Buffalo certainly is "Talking Proud" lately. I was completely overwhelmed by the positive attitudes of the Buffalo Gay & Lesbian Community as expressed in the January issue of 5th Freedom.

It seems to me very common for people in Buffalo, Rochester & Syracuse to look at each other's hometowns and say to themselves "Yeesh! Who the hell would want to go to Buffalo... or Rochester..etc."

I must admit I never had strong positive feelings about Buffalo either. But this past weekend my lover and I decided to travel to Buffalo with another couple, just to shop, look around, have a nice meal, maybe dance, and return home. Since then my attitudes have really changed.

Contrary to popular myth, people in western N.Y. are not all cold and unfriendly.

We stopped at Mac Arthur Park and the Allen Rest and found warm and hospitable persons to help us. In Rochester we have a Park Avenue and Corn Hill neighborhood and we were surprised and delighted to explore Buffalo's counterpart- Allentown.

Since we believe in patronizing gay owned businesses, we had a delicious (and affordable) meal at the Allen Restaurant. Later, we spent an enjoyable time talking among ourselves at Me And My Arrow.

In Rochester, the Chamber of Commerce says, "I'd rather be in Rochester," and being a Rochesterian familiar with our varied gay and lesbian community, I would have to agree. But our trip to Buffalo was one I'll always remember and one I'm sure we'll repeat soon.

It's good to know Buffalo has so much to offer it's community and I'm sure it will offer even more if Buffalo Gays and Lesbians keep that spirit moving, continue with a positive attitude and keep on "Talking Proud."

God's peace,
Tim Sally

CONT. ON PG. 9

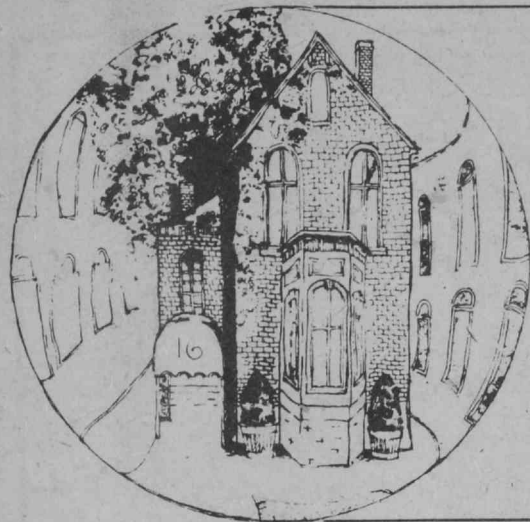
finally....

ME AND MY
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Allen Restaurant

16 ALLEN STREET

MON. 11 AM - 2 PM
TUES. - THURS. 11 AM - 8 PM

FRI. 11 AM - 10 PM
SAT. 6 PM - 10 PM

881-0586

MEDIA WATCH

by Rod Hensel

The Media Watch turns this month to Toronto, where the Canadian Broadcast Corp. (CBC) aired on Jan. 11 a 90-minute documentary called "Sharing the Secret: Selected Gay Stories."

It was, by almost any standard the gay community could impose, a most impressive effort, a fascinating look at gay life and gay people. For those of us who are gay, it contained nothing new or shocking. But to others it gave an objective look at gay life we might find impossible to express.

The scene is Toronto, one of the major gay communities of North America, and the story is told largely through the words of the men interviewed. They are shown in their homes, at their jobs, with their lovers -- even at the bars, in the parks, and in the baths. What the documentary made clear is that gay men have different views of being gay, and that they express their homosexuality in different ways.

What struck me most were the words the men used-- words you and I have heard hundreds of times from other people in one way or the other.

"Gays are great actors," said Andre, 22, a stockbroker, as he described what he sees as the double image he has to project.

Lee, on the other hand, described the pain of trying to cope with his own feelings. "I would pray at night that I would wake up and this would go away," he said on camera.

Peter, a 23-year-old musician, was by far the documentary's most controversial character, describing himself as a "sexual extremist." A one-time hustler who didn't need the money but found being paid for sex a thrill, he took the viewer on a cruise through one of Toronto's parks at night, and inside one of his city's baths in film footage unlike anything ever seen before on TV.

Peter defended "having sex for the sake of having sex," adding that "sex need not encompass love."

"HAVING SEX FIRST and conversation afterwards," he said, "is a great way of starting out and getting to know someone."

Rocco, age 27, described his first experience at a gay bar. "To see two men dancing together -- it was so different," he said.

But as he came out, Rocco developed a certain distaste for cruising the bars, although he still goes out each weekend, and spends considerable time in preparing for it and in the image he projects.

"If I'm worth going to bed with, I'm worth spending some time with," he said off-camera as film showed him entering a Toronto bar. "It's constantly having to start over and over again, and sometimes I wonder if it's worth it."

Rocco, who approaches age 30 with more than a little fear, explains why he continues to cruise the bars. "It's just a matter of survival for me," he explains. "If I don't, I don't stand a chance."

Robin Tyler, a lesbian activist, presented the cause of gay rights. In a moving speech before an audience which the cameras captured on film, she explained how society has persecuted homosexuals, and how it finally touched her when she came out to her mother, who

did not take it well. Angrily, she denounced "this super righteous religious society that made my mother feel guilty."

Perhaps most memorable was the film's depiction of two young lovers, and the trauma one of them faced as his family gradually came to accept the situation. In interviews with the parents over a period of time, viewers saw real tears as the parents remembered their initial feelings of bitterness, anger, and guilt, and how it waned into a gradual yet reluctant acceptance.

THE FILM WAS DONE by two-time Emmy winners Rose and John Kastner, a mother and son team. To do the background work, they immersed themselves in the Toronto gay community, interviewing over 500 people off-camera. As might be expected, their biggest problem was getting people to tell their story publicly.

The news media made it hard to ignore the documentary. The Toronto Star, in a lead feature story in its Sunday entertainment section, did a lengthy interview with the Kastners describing their own feelings in producing the film. Closer to home the Buffalo Evening News carried a paragraph blurb in its "Broadcast Beat" column that the program would be on the air.

It was a documentary of great drama and impact, The sort of thing I hope a lot of people watched. To the straight world, it presented an understanding of gay people, and an understanding is what can someday lead to an acceptance.

ON ANOTHER CHANNEL across the border, and at the same time, CBS was airing a segment of "Trapper John M.D." in which a gay police officer gets shot at a gay rights demonstration. Our cute hero, a doctor at the hospital, doesn't buy the official police story that the officer was shot by the bartender from a gay bar, and ends up proving that the real assailant was a queer-hater who happened to be the police commissioner.

The subplot for all of this was the young cop's reconciliation with his father, who rejected him after finding out he was gay, and a sub-sub-plot of some hallway snickers among the medical staff that our cute, young hero-as-doctor might be gay. Since the good doctor has to come back next week for another episode, a few romantic episodes with a girl are thrown in so there can be no doubt.

I suppose the end message was that gays are just people and can be good cops or whatever, but coming on the heels of the CBC documentary it fell a little flat.

LESS THAN 24 HOURS later on ABC, a new mini-series called "Dynasty" premiered. Like the program "Dallas" it is patterned after, it has numerous sub-plots, but the one that interests us is millionaire Blake Carrington's gay son. The blonde-haired boy with fair complexion is heir-apparent to an oil empire, but daddy hired a private detective and found out he was gay.

When the boy finally confronts dad, Carrington refers to being gay as a "sexual dysfunction" and offers his kid a job to "straighten yourself out."

Our boy finds this unacceptable of course, and goes to work for dad's chief competitor. The plot is scheduled to go on and on, and it will be interesting to see just how big a role the gay theme plays in subsequent episodes.

It is however another ABC attempt to grab an audience through sexual themes, and for once they picked a gay one. Who knows, if it gets a big rating, more gay sexual exploitation programs might get on the air. Or to put it another way, will a "Deardra's Devils" ever replace "Charlie's Angels?"

GAY TASK FORCE

The Gay Task Force recently helped in the first case since it's formation.

It was a case of gay assault upon a couple gay men. One was attacked on two separate occasions. He required hospital treatment and stitches.

The assailant was known, but what wasn't known was whether or not to press charges. After discussing the possible courses of action it was decided that a warrant would be filed.

The Task Force helped those involved get through all the paperwork and forms necessary. We will follow the case to see what the results are.

Any other problems call 881-5335; 885-3155; or 886-2590 for help.

CONT. FROM PG. 1

It also is being looked into to see if we can come up with any type of affiliation with national groups that are already in existence. This would be like AP, UPI or other wire services. The various press associations and organizations that would be beneficial to all members.

THE TYPE OF PUBLICATIONS that were represented at the convention were the full spectrum of the type of gay oriented magazines, papers and guides that you are all probably very familiar with.

There was the paper with the smallest circulation, but they came the longest way. It was Gay Alaska. There were all sizes and descriptions of papers.

I would say that the Fifth Freedom was not really the 'typical' or 'norm' but was basically what most of the papers had started from and what they have grown into is impressive indeed.

I hope to be able to see and make Buffalo's paper grow into the type of paper that I know it can become. If we are to survive we have to make many improvements in layout and graphics. Then comes getting it typeset.

With all of these changes come more responsibility to all of the people who read, or might start reading, the paper. I know that the numbers are increasing all the time. And hopefully they will continue to rise and we will grow in size and quality.

There are people that are coming to my aid as far as layout and design, artwork, articles and all of the elements that are needed to have an interesting paper for everyone.

We are in the line for some advertising for a national publisher on a book that should be out soon. We have started some of this on our own, (see page 10) and will be trying to get more books that will appeal to everyone's interests.

We won't be forgetting the local advertisers that have helped keep us afloat all these years. We will be doing more for them as far as the look of their ads and the amount of people they reach.

We will be doing a paper exchange with the papers in Rochester (The Empty Closet) and Albany (Alive), so that you can see what is going on in cities that are close by and that you may be visiting.

In the next issue we will be publishing the names, addresses and subscription rates for all of the papers that were at the conference. This will enable you to be able to send for a paper in an area that you are interested in, or maybe even your old home town. I think it will prove very interesting to you. Be watching!

We may even try to become a clearing house for many of the papers so that you can order through us, pick them up here and avoid any embarrassment with your own (too) friendly mailman.

We hope to be able to provide you with more pictures to go along with the stories that we feature. And the hits just keep on coming.

I hope to start a comic strip entitled, "BAR WARS" that I think most everyone might enjoy, especially when you see a familiar face there.

I will be starting a feature on all of the bars that will include the history, the owners, the help and interesting interviews with all of them. (They didn't know about this, but they do now.)

And could I possibly be doing a story on another new bar opening here in Buffalo soon? Wait and see.

Of course we will keep our eyes on the media and let you know what they are up to these days.

The best part of the trip was knowing that it had been a project of many of the beautiful people here in Buffalo.

The money collected was most helpful in meeting the expenses. Bob Lyman supplied the train ticket. So many people that I just don't want to forget anyone.

From what I could find out, I was the ONLY ONE to be sponsored by an entire city. I think that speaks very highly about Buffalo's gay community.

I know I will never be able to thank all of the people who dropped change in our Accu-Jac collection jugs, but I do guarantee that you will see results for your money.

Please keep in touch and let me know what you are thinking, feeling and looking for as far as the paper is concerned. I will be listening.

Thanks to everyone!

tea dance
and doubles
sundays 4pm

ME AND MY
ARROW ♂

bar · disco

274 delaware
856 3291

ANTI SODOMY LAW OUT

This article consists of excerpts from the recent anti-sodomy decision from the State Court of Appeals. It is by no means a complete transcript. I have just taken quotes that I found to be interesting.

The one point that I would like to put forth most strongly is that: This law does not exclusively affect gay men and lesbians. It can, although rarely, be put into affect where straight couples are concerned, as long as they are not married.

The reason I bring this up is that if this law is appealed to the Supreme Court, we will need straights support to help this law to be kept off the books.

Excerpt:

These appeals, argued together, present a common question -- viz., whether the provision of our State's Penal Law that makes consensual sodomy a crime is violative of rights protected by the United States Constitution. We hold that it is.

The statutes under which these defendants were charged and convicted provide as follows: 130.38
Consensual Sodomy - A person is guilty of consensual sodomy when he engages in deviate sexual intercourse with another person.

130.00 - Sex offenses; definitions of terms

The following definitions are applicable to this article: "Deviate sexual intercourse" means sexual conduct between persons not married to each other consisting of contact between the penis and the anus, the mouth and the penis, or the mouth and the vulva.

Because the statutes are broad enough to reach noncommercial, cloistered personal sexual conduct of consenting adults and because it permits the same conduct between persons married to each other without sanction, we agree with defendants contentions that it violates both their right of privacy and the right to equal protection of the laws guaranteed them by the United States Constitution.

As to the right of privacy. At the outset it should be noted that the right addressed in the present context is not, as a literal reading of the phrase might suggest, the right to maintain secrecy with respect to one's affairs or personal behavior; rather, it is a right of independence in making certain kinds of important decisions, with a concomitant right to conduct oneself in accordance with those decisions, undeterred by governmental restraint.

The People are in no disagreement that a fundamental right of personal decision exists; the divergence of the parties focuses on what subjects fall within its protection, the People contending that it extends to only two aspects of sexual behavior -- marital intimacy and procreative choice. In (one case) the court found violative of the individual's right to be free from governmental interference in making important, protected decisions a statute which made criminal the possession of obscene matter within the privacy of the defendant's home. Although the material itself was entitled to no protection against government proscription the defendant's choice to seek sexual gratification by viewing it... That right to make decisions with respect to the consequence of sexual encounters and, necessarily, to have such encounters, was not limited to married couples was made clear by the language of the court.

The makers of our Constitution undertook to secure conditions favorable to the pursuit of happiness. They recognized the significance of man's spiritual nature, of his feelings and of his intellect. They knew that only a part of the pain, pleasure and satisfactions of life are to be found in material things. They sought to protect Americans in their beliefs, their thoughts, their motions and their sensations. They conferred, as against the Government, the right to be let alone - the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized man.

Protection for the right of privacy for individuals indulging in acts of sexual intimacy (by unmarried persons) and as to satisfaction of sexual desires by resort to material condemned as obscene by community standards when done in a cloistered setting, no rational basis appears for excluding the same from protection

decisions. ...so long as the decisions are voluntarily made by adults in a noncommercial, private setting. Nor is any such basis supplied by the claims advanced by the prosecution -- that a prohibition against consensual sodomy will prevent physical harm which might otherwise befall the participants, will uphold public morality and will protect the institution of marriage.

...There is a distinction between public and private morality and the private morality of an individual is not synonymous with nor necessarily will have effect on what is known as public morality.

...Certainly there is no suggestion that the one is a substitute or alternative for the other nor is any empirical data submitted which demonstrates that marriage is nothing more than a refuge for persons deprived of legislative fiat of the option of consensual sodomy outside the marital bond.

(There was an effort to have made sodomy illegal of the same health hazard 'logic' as is being done with marijuana. Can you imagine picking someone up, taking them home, undressing them, and... finding a Surgeon Generals sticker on the good parts?)

It surely does not follow that, because it is constitutionally permissible to enter the privacy of an individual's home to regulate conduct justifiably found to be harmful to him, the Legislature may also intrude on such privacy to regulate individual conduct where no basis has been shown for concluding that the conduct is harmful.

The law on its face discriminates between married and unmarried persons, making criminal when done by the latter what is innocent when done by the former. (HUH?)

A member of the Supreme Court stated that the Court had not yet "definitively answered the difficult question whether and to what extent the Constitution prohibits state statutes regulating such behavior (private consensual sexual behavior) among adults).

OF COURSE these pages go on forever, but at least you can see some the arguments that were put forth in reaching the decision.

To get a view of the dissenting side, all one has to do is reverse the logic put forth here and you will have it. The main decision is 14 pages long and the dissenting opinion is 13. (There is one concurring that only takes 1 page. Why is it always so much easier to agree with someone?)

The dissenting judge stated ' In view of the continuous and unbroken history of antisodomy laws in the United States, the majority's decision to strike down New York's statute prohibiting consensual sodomy can only be regarded as an act of judicial legislation creating a "fundamental right" where none has heretofore existed'. (Is that Jerry Falwell's fundamental right?)

I hope you have found this article interesting albeit very dry at points.

Those of us in Western New York had a big part in getting this law overturned. Cases from Buffalo were the main thrust and a Buffalo lawyer fought the case.

A great deal of the downstate press seemed to gloss over the cases from here and reported extensively on the the case from Onondaga County.

I feel that was somewhat of a disservice to the people that had pressed the case from Buffalo.

All of us have gained from this decision by proxy. These people put everything on the line...and won. We just come running in and take the benefits without having to risk anything. But isn't that the way of human nature.

They 'had so much to lose', but felt that they could gain so much more. I feel that they lost nothing, but gained the most important thing of all. The right, if anyone or anything can give that to you, to be yourself.

I know that I for one would like to get to meet these people at some point in time and see if they feel that they gained or lost in their battle. I'm sure it would be a very interesting story to hear.

Until we find out if the District Attorney is going to appeal the decision, we'll just have to wait.

SElections

by SAM

"Coffee Cups and Ralph Waldo Emerson"

To the consternation of a number of persons of Polish extraction wanting to ban labeled "novelty" coffee cups whose handles were on the inside, a recent ruling by New York state's highest court stated that although such items are offensive, they are not proscribed by this state's Human Rights Law.

A day or so after this news hit the media, a state senator, Thomas Bartosiewicz, announced he is preparing a bill that would ban such items in New York offensive to any ethnic, racial, or religious group. My immediate reaction was, "good; it's really senseless to make fun of a whole category of people like that." My second thought had me considering writing a letter to the Brooklyn senator stating that such legislation would still leave the door open to unnecessary slurs to unnamed groups, and gays in particular. (Incidentally, I think coffee cups with their handles inside are inherently hilarious!) But my thinking has taken me yet a further step.

Any law regarding this issue would probably end up so vaguely worded that it would be virtually useless and impossible to enforce. Rather, such tasteless items as those coffee cups should not be banned; they should be allowed on the shelves to be sold. But wherever and whenever sensitive and thinking people see them, a comment should be made about their offensiveness. This, in effect, would be a grass roots type education activity, an effective response to wholesale defamation.

Many ethnic group members (and probably this applies to racial and religious groups as well) have a working repertory of stories and jokes that make their group the "butt." However, the same tale presented by an outsider may take on very different and negative meanings and nuances. I have long felt that if a story is funny without making a whole class of people fit a stereotyped and usually false image.

Several years ago while attending a Las Vegas show starring Bob Newhart, he started telling a story I had heard several times before, always with a gay man as its central character. Even as Newhart began his version, I knew his telling would be better than any other I had heard because "gay" or "homosexual" did not enter into his account. And without knowing anything about the man's sexual orientation the rest of Newhart's audience found the story funny too!

One of the slogan buttons in my collection announces "The Patchwork Majority" made up of those persons dedicated to peace, the greening of America, Black Rights, and gay liberation. The idea of course, is that if persons with these divergent interests would get together, they would be close to a majority with real political and economic clout. To accomplish that, however, requires that all these people look beyond the outer layer of their own skin, and recognize the discrimination and "fun-making" aimed at other minority groups can and often is aimed at them as well.

When and where another person is hurting so might I. So am I! In very real ways when ignorant comments are hurled at any minority, they are aimed at me and my gay brothers and sisters too.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said all of this more succinctly: "I am my brother. . . and my brother is me."

POET TREE

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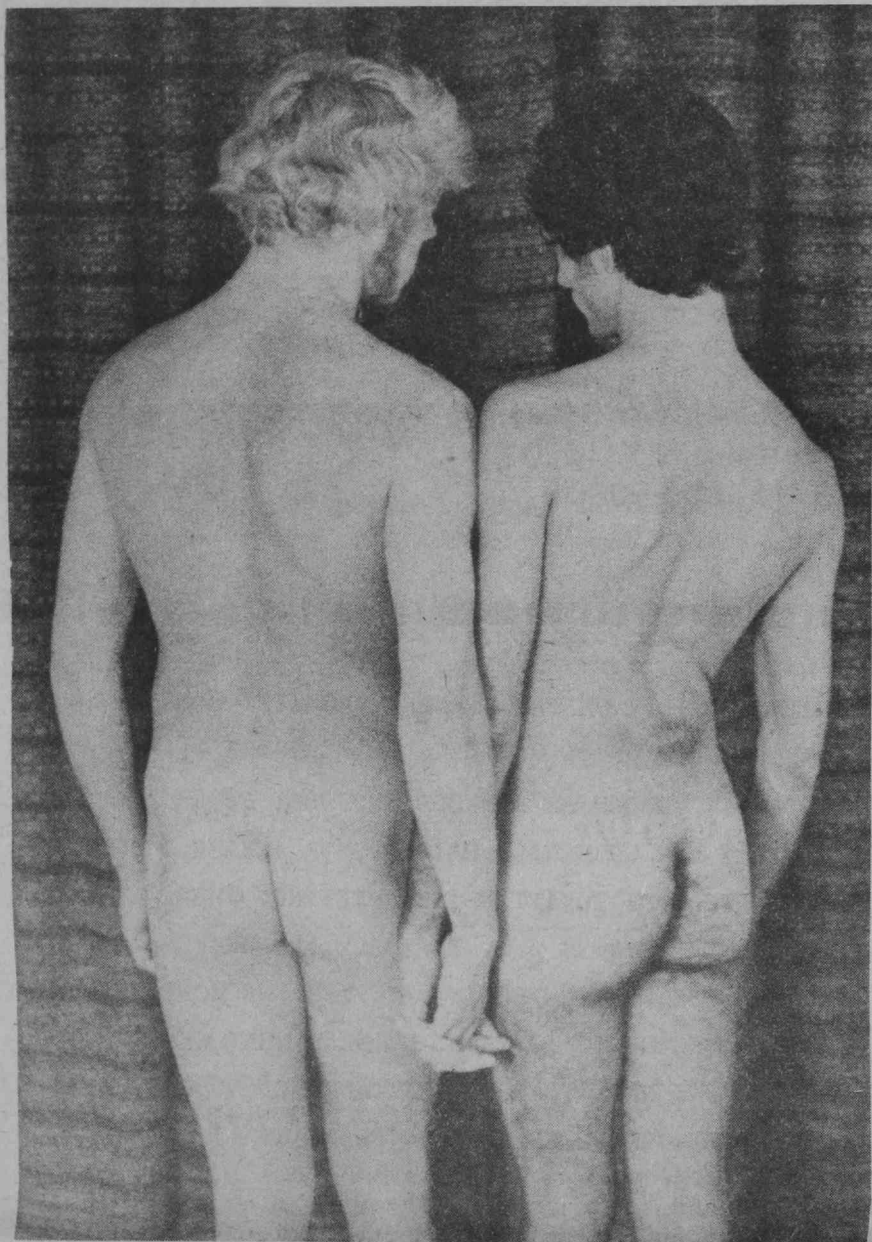
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Photo: R.E.B.

HERE WE HAVE A SORT OF 'THEN AND NOW' SET OF PHOTOS.

OF COURSE THE AD NEXT TO THIS IS FOR THE VILLA CAPRI. THEY HAVE HAD MANY QUESTIONS AS TO "WHO...?" BUTT WE AREN'T TELLING!

THE PHOTO IS THE VERY FIRST COVER OF THE FIFTH FREEDOM. I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO TRACK IT DOWN WITH HELP FROM FRIENDS. IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE, BUT SOME THINGS ARE FOREVER!!!

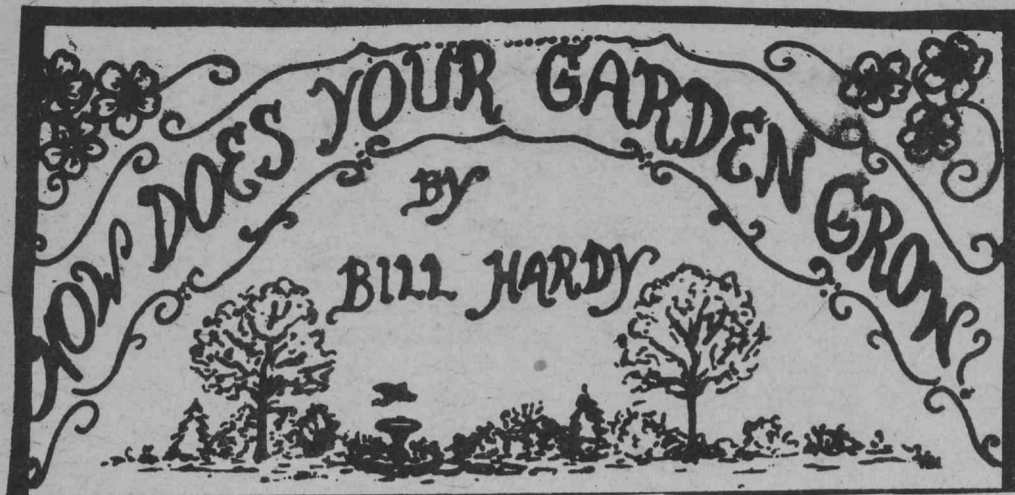
WE HOPE TO FIND WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A FOLLOW UP TO THIS COVER. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TWO OF THE WOMEN. IF ANYONE HAS A COPY PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

SOME THINGS NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE.

BELOW IS A CARTOON FROM THE FIRST ISSUE, TOO. DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANYONE?

AS I SAID.. SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.





Greetings, and a frivolous February to you all. I hope you have been bundling up these past few weeks. Those subzero temperatures are enough to frostbite even the most well protected buns.

This month's subject is growing pendant plants in suspended containers. Or, How are you hung and how big is your basket? Actually, a basket is useless unless there is something good and solid inside. A clay pot or a ceramic container containing a hanging plant will do nicely inside a woven basket.

Whatever you decide to grow your hanging plant in, just remember, it must be up so it will grow down where you want it to be. Macrame and wire hangers, brackets, shelves, pedestals or even an old tree stump are useful in getting the plant "up there" so it can hang "down here".

After you have found your desired container and decided on a suitable spot to hang it, you now must choose the proper plant. First and foremost is the amount of light the area gets. If you live in a basement apartment with only a north facing window, don't try to grow a Burro's Tail, as this plant needs full sun, preferably a southern window. Always check the light needs of the plant you choose.

But, you say, you have a southern exposure, very bright indeed. The only problem is that its in a walk in closet where the cat sleeps, just off the hall. The closet is far too small for you to entertain in, (oh the temptation to throw in a few closet comments) even though the cat has thrown a few lavish parties. Unfortunately, you can't even turn around too swiftly without impaling yourself on a coat hook. So what can you do? Simple. Grow the plants in the closet. Rig up shelves, hangers, whatever works for the size closet you have. Then, when entertaining, or if you just want to change the look of things move the lush, well grown specimens into that dark northern living room, for which you have to borrow the illumination lights from Niagara Falls to read your newspaper. The plants will look great in their portable macrame hangers, cascading off your book shelves or hanging next to your statue of David. Don't leave them too long. Get them back to their light as soon as possible.

Wandering Jews, airplane plant, (also called spider plant), pothos (of which some varieties are mistakenly called variegated philodendron), and the asparagus fern are among the easier to grow hangers.

Hoyas, ferns and begonias look wonderful in hanging containers, too. Consult a plant book and your local nursery-greenhouse or florist, for more information. Whatever you do choose, find out its light, soil, water, and temperature requirements. With that knowledge, you too can be well hung.

So till next time, think green and mist, mist, mist!

TA-TA TO TEDDY!

Put out the Teddy Bears and put in the forks! You heard me. FORKS!

Now it's a new Frisco fad. You put a white plastic fork in your right back pocket to show, "Take me to dinner and I'm yours." Left side means, "I'll pick up the tab."

FAST FOOD?

LEATHER MAN NEEDS WORK

Glen Hughes, the leather man from Village People, has been fired. No reason was given for Hughes dismissal. Maybe he can find work at the YMCA. Or in San Francisco. Or Hollywood. Or in the Navy. As long as he doesn't stop the music.

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CONT. FROM PG. 3

Dear Tim,

Thanks for showing us that we can't always see the forest for the trees. It does us all good to get away from home and see what else is out there. I hope that all gay and lesbian communities in the cities you mention, and others, will try to set up special events in their hometowns to show off for the rest of us. I would be glad to help promote any such efforts.

Buffalo and the gay and lesbian community here will keep on "Talking Proud" about the gay and non-gay aspects of our city. The Fifth Freedom is happy to help keep it going strong.

EDITOR

CAPTAIN KINK

When one speaks of being "kinky", the first thing that usually comes to mind is black leather, whips, and chains. Exhibitionism, fetishism or monogamy may also be considered, but kinky seems to involve S&M.

Reports vary, but sex researchers such as Kinsey, Masters and Johnson, and the Playboy Foundation say that about two to three percent of the general population are into S&M. This figure is substantially higher among gays. In 1973, a Playboy study reported that among "single" men, ten percent have performed sadistic acts, and six percent have been on the receiving end, although it is not clear how many have tried both.

S & M is a subject that generates a great deal of humor and controversy, but the publishers of Mandate, Honcho and Numbers know that many gay men harbor secret S&M fantasies. How many would like to try it just once, to see what it is like? Whenever we go cruising and pick up a stranger, we run the risk of catching a disease or getting hurt. We accept that. But what happens when you go home with someone and he pulls out a pair of handcuffs? My advice to the novice is: Don't get yourself into something you can't get out of.

Fantasies do not hurt, but whips do. Done with the right man, a kinky scene can be a lot of fun, but know your limits. Find someone you know and trust, and start off easy.

Now for the "Kink Of The Month":

February is for Valentines
With frills and hearts and flowers
So get it on with bubble baths
Or do it in the shower!

BOOK REVIEW

by VICKI MARKLE

LOVE IS WHERE YOU FIND IT & ANOTHER KIND OF LOVE
by PAULA CHRISTIAN

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Before Rita Mae Brown and Isabel Miller, there were few womwn writing novels about lesbianism and doing it well.

Paula Christian did, publishing six novels between 1959 and 1965. Now two of her books, "Love Is Where You Find It" and "Another Kind Of Love", along with four others, have been reprinted and are now available to the public.

Christian wrote between two eras, McCarthy and the women's movement. Most of the lesbian literature at this time consisted of cheap trash shoved between the covers of paperbacks.

But Christian didn't resort to melodrama, stereotypes or worn out formulas, like many of her contemporaries. Instead, she gave us well-rounded characters, intelligent articulate women who had good jobs. Also, she never portrayed butch-femme relationships. Her characters may fall in or out of love with, make love to, fight with, or depend on their lovers, but they never resort to roles or role-playing.

Christian's style is crisp, taut, engaging and intelligent, but most of all, simple and well-expressed.

"Love Is Where You Find It" involves Dee Sanders, a New York photographer working for a corporation and her long-time relationship with one woman, Rita, and their split. Then Dee becomes involved with two other women, Karen and Martie.

"Another Kind Of Love" deals with Laura Garroway, a magazine writer. She becomes aware of her lesbianism and struggles emotionally as she comes out. Her affair with a man ends and she has several relationships with women, finally coming to grips with herself.

Christian, in my view, is one of the best lesbian writers I've read in a long time. Even though the novels were written almost twenty years ago, they still have a certain freshness and originality. They are a part of lesbian history. In fact, they illustrate a time when nearly every lesbian was in the closet, for the fear of losing her job, friends and family. They tell of the frustrations and the pain but also the joy and delight of being in love. Christian tells it all, both good and bad.

NOTE: THE OTHER PAULA CHRISTIAN BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE ABOVE ADDRESS. THEY ARE:
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Ferry. Pot luck supper at 6:30. Meeting at 7:30. All
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THE FIFTH FREEDOM 881-5335

The paper is being produced in a private home at the
present. Volunteers always needed to work on the paper.
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GAY PROFESSIONALS-FF, P.O.BOX 264, BUFFALO, NY 14209.

A.A. FOR GAY MEN AND WOMEN 853-0388

Meets twice per week: Wednesday evening at 8:30 p.m. at
the Shoreline Apts., 210 Niagara and Friday evening at
8:30 p.m. at the Ascension Church on the corner of
Linwood and North Streets. For phone contact call the
above number and ask for a member of the gay group. For
more information write: OPEN MIND GROUP, P.O.BOX 395,
ELLICOTT STATION, BUFFALO, NY 14205.

GAY RIGHTS FOR OLDER WOMEN 836-8970

Call Emma Bookstore for more details at number above.

GAY PEOPLES ALLIANCE (GPA) 831-2179

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UB MEN'S CENTER NO PHONE

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NICKLE CITY LEATHER/LEVI CLUB NO PHONE

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