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THE FIFTH FREEDOM

A PUBLICATION FOR THE BUFFALO GAY COMMUNITY

JULY 1981 FREE

"The Freedom to love whomever and however we want"

Pride Fest '81: Views and Reviews



This was the scene in New York City June 28 for the Gay Pride Week Parade celebrating the anniversary of the Stonewall riot of 1969.

NYC Parade: Freedom Was There

By JOSEPH

(Editor's Note: Joseph, owner of Me and My Arrow, attended the New York City Gay Pride march in June. The following is his personal account):

NEW YORK — On June 28, 1981 I dutifully appeared at Sheridan Square at 11 a.m. to march in this year's New York City Gay Pride Parade. I had wanted to be a part of this event for years, but had never had the opportunity. This year I was able to attend, so I flew down to celebrate with an estimated fifty thousand people.

It was a gloriously clear, bright, warm day. New York's customary humidity showed no signs of making an appearance. The parade stepped off at exactly noon. I planned on marching in the middle of the parade, so I had a chance to watch the first half. The parade originates at the site of The Stonewall bar, where the Gay liberation movement began 12 years ago when a police raid was strongly retaliated by the Gay customers of that establishment. The Grand Marshall of the parade was one of those customers.

One of the first groups to march by was the Parents of Gays. There were several sets of parents with their Gay offspring. Some carried placards declaring their pride and support. This group naturally received a great ovation from the assembled watchers. It was then the tears started. I cried due to the sheer joy of seeing so many people being happy and proud to celebrate their Gayness. I had understood for so many years that this was something to be ashamed of. And a lot of Gay people still hold that theory to be true. So this was one of the most moving sights I had ever witnessed. And mine were not the only eyes that were not dry. It's a thrilling and exhilarating experience. The tears remained as we cheered the Gay Teachers and the busload of the elderly and infirm.

There were leather groups, Gay and Lesbian Liberation groups, social groups, and service groups. There were Gay Daddies, The Boy/Man Love Association, The National Gay Task Force, and The Gay Switchboard. The New York Gay Marching Band, The Washington Different Drummers, and the New York City Gay Chorus entertained. There were other groups from all over the country.

We all marched from Sheridan Square to Washington Square, where we started up Fifth Avenue. There were as many observers of the parade as participants. They cheered our way as we progressed up Fifth Avenue to Central Park. Occasionally, whole parties of people tossed every torn up telephone book in the city from terraces high in buildings along the route. As the confetti streamed down, marchers cheered out to reciprocate their support. At one point, there was a dear elderly lady observing from the sidewalk carrying high a banner proclaiming "Grandma For Gays." She also received a grand ovation. **Continued on page 4**

Our Cover: Gay Pride Here and There

The cover of this issue is a collage of places and faces involved in Gay Pride events here and in New York City.

From upper left hand corner clockwise are: The Wilcox Mansion (Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site) where a Wine and Cheese party was held on Friday June 26.

Julia Child doing her thing at the Wilcox. Rumor has it that Teddy was heard rolling over after this one.

The U.S.S. Little Rock sight of a Mattachine Dance on the 4th of July, located in The Buffalo Naval and Servicemen's Park.

The Buffalo skyline as seen from the Miss Buffalo cruise on June 11, the start of Gay Pride Fest '81.

The start of the march in New York City. And marchers along the parade route. (NYC photos courtesy of Joseph)

By JOHN A. FAULRING, JR.

Gay Pride Fest '81 got under way on June 11 with a sold out ride on the Miss Buffalo. The weather had threatened for a while, but cleared up and allowed everyone to enjoy the ride and the moonlight.

It was a crowd of 118 gay men and lesbians that was aboard when the ship cast off. Throughout the three hour ride there was a great mingling of everyone aboard. "It was truly a great way to start the fest," said John Faulring, Jr. Mattachine president, "The unity was there and carried on through the rest of the fest."

The ride was a little bumpy at first, but as the sun went down, so did the waves. The ride was longer than last year due to an increased speed used by the captain. We were told that 20 miles are now covered by the trip.

There were many inquiries for tickets right up to the time that the boat sailed. Because of the demand for these rides there has been two more trips scheduled before the summer ends. One on August 13 will benefit the Legal Defense Fund and Sept. 2 will be for Gay Professionals third anniversary. Tickets for the first can be obtained from Ron at 885-3155. Tom Hammond at 842-2750 has details on how to get tickets for the GP ride.

ON FRIDAY JUNE 19 there was a combined workshop of men and women that discussed "Aging" as it applies to the gay lifestyle.

Some of the topics discussed were how the older gay is accepted in the bar scene, how ones does sexually as the years go by, the problems of those who have had a lover for many years and lose them through death (widowhood and widowerhood), and loneliness of the older gays.

ROLLER SKATING was the sport for Monday the 22. A crowd of 118 was on hand at Skate Haven in Lackawanna to get in some time on wheels.

Everyone had a great time trying to figure out some of the special skates that were called like "ladies only" and "couples only." Then for those who were more daring there was the trios.

Everyone had such a good time that there is another party planned for July 28 sponsored by the Gay Pride Fest Coalition. It is open to everyone in the community.

VIOLENCE AND LAW were the topics of the evening on the 24th. The first was filled with good ways to protect oneself against physical violence and the second was aimed at combating mental and financial problems that can cause just as much pain.

There were demonstrations by a black belt Tae Kwan Do instructor and a women's defense demonstration showing how everyone, regardless of physical strength or size, can protect themselves against violence.

The law seminar tried to give us a few insights into how we can get the most out of the system. The most interesting part was a question sheet that was passed out with hypothetical situations that were discussed. The discussion that ensued showed not

only how you might handle them, but how people had handled actual situations that had occurred in their lives.

WOODLAWN BEACH was the sight of a proposed clean up sponsored by Me and My Arrow on the 25th. Bad weather in the morning kept the crowd small and the posting of NO TRESPASSING signs while the group was there kept the clean-up to a minimum. However, there was a one load detail that did make some impact on the mess.

(Note: The beach at Woodlawn is and always has been private property. It is posted now and people are being asked to leave if they are found on the beach. It is not "our beach," so they have a right to ask us to leave. Wouldn't it be nice if some gays that do own beachfront property were to help us have "our own?")

"CREATING A GAY COMMUNITY CENTER" proved to be one of the most lively and electric of all the seminars. (Could that have been because it was an all open meeting?)

The feelings expressed there were all but totally in support of the idea that Buffalo needs a gay center and that it should be a coalition of women and men and the related groups that opens one. Those speaking out brought their views from their own experiences with the old centers that have been in the past, as well as those who are more in the coming out process and feel the need for that type of support system that the bars don't provide.

The two hours definitely was not enough to cover all the possibilities, so everyone present agreed to go back to their prospective groups and discuss what had been said. Then, on August 4th, another meeting will be held to relay the input from the groups. Concerned individuals are also invited to express their views.

This meeting could be a very pivotal one as far as Buffalo getting a gay center to call its own and to meet the needs of its own. Please plan to attend if at all possible.

THE WILCOX MANSION was the sight of a wine and cheese party on Friday the 26. The crowd of 115 was able to tour the historical significance of the building and then were treated to the hysterical.

John A. Faulring, Jr., Mattachine President, did a cooking demonstration a la Julia Child. Julia brought her new book along, **THE IRA DIET PLAN: FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING TO LOSE WEIGHT** and gave a few tips on how *not* to stuff your next chicken. (Pictures elsewhere in this paper!)

A good time was had by all as there was an art show, good friends and plenty of the bubbly to go around. Another chance to experience something that only Buffalo can offer.

PICNIC TWO was held the 28th with much of the same activities as with the first. This one was for those who chose not to go to New York City for the march.

It was a great way to celebrate the anniversary of Stonewall right here in

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AN EDITORIAL:

Community Center Consciousness

Gay Pride Fest '81 is history. And history it is indeed.

For the first time in many years Gay Pride Week saw a real sense of what it means to be gay in Buffalo. Workshops telling of how to cope with problems encountered; finding out that others have the same problems we do; learning how to cope and sharing ideas. Being able to see gay men and lesbians sharing and finding out that our problems are indeed our common problems.

Also seeing that the sense of homophobia that we fear really is not that strong here. Among the gays, yes, but non-gays as a whole are quite supportive.

Finding the media more than ready to help promote our cause and help spread understanding.

And perhaps the most important of all, being able to be on the receiving end of phone calls and mail from those of us still out there without any gay contacts or outlets.

Mattachine has been deluged with phone calls to the Hotline and with letters with each and every appearance on TV or radio. And we still get inquiries from the Courier article.

In addition to these calls from gays, we have received calls from friends and families, spouses and children of gays all seeking support groups to help them help their gay loved ones.

Unfortunately at this time we do not have such support groups. It is hoped that soon we will, but at this time nothing. This will only come when Buffalo's gays initiate the formation of this type of support system.

Knowledge is necessary for our cause to be accepted. Not conservative knowledge, but complete information.

If you think the conservative wing is close minded, just try educating gays about themselves.

In This Issue...

In this issue of THE FIFTH FREEDOM we have a review of the Gay Pride Fest '81 events as well as all our regular columns. Starting this month we have a new addition to our regular family.

KTM-NEWS BRIEFS will appear every issue. It is written by Kenneth T. Mathews, Mattachine Treasurer. The column will deal with events that the gay community is holding during the month, so you know who, what, when, where and how much. It is a welcome addition to the FREEDOM family.

Also in this issue is the first work by Hanford Searl, who will be starting his own column next month. Hanford has written for Billboard magazine, as well as other national publications and we are sure you will enjoy his work.

His column will deal with entertainment of all sorts, both gay and non-gay, so that you will be able to plan ahead as far as concerts, plays and the like are concerned.

THE FIFTH FREEDOM continues to grow and provide more regular features for you to enjoy and to keep you better informed of what is happening in Buffalo.

We hope you will enjoy it and will pass it on to a friend.

Letters to the Editor

NYC Switchboard Praise

Thanks for sending along the good news about Pride activities in Buffalo. I'm glad to know everything is coming together so well. Best of luck with all your events.

Scott Edwards
New York City Gay Switchboard

Madeline's Fan Applauds

I have never written to the Fifth Freedom before, nor have I been active in Gay politics because of job, family; all the usual reasons to not make my gayness public.

But I would like to take this opportunity to thank someone whose public stand has been a symbol of courage and a model for all of us. I attended Madeline Davis' concert in April and also saw her photo on the front page of the Courier, along with Joseph's and John's.

People have told me about Madeline's history of activism in the community, but, not until that concert did I realize what it must mean to be that public for so many people who can't. Since the beginning of Gay Liberation in Buffalo, Madeline has served publicly as a spokesperson and a frontliner for gay men and women here and everywhere.

Her music which is so ardently political and personal is an inspiration to all of us. I would like to thank

her and all of those activists who, for whatever reason, could not hide. Her forthcoming record will be more than entertainment. It will be an historic event for all of us.

Name Withheld

Rochester Reader Raves

I am fortunate to be able to obtain your paper at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. I am very impressed with THE FIFTH FREEDOM'S new format. It's fresh and appealing style and new diversity of advertisers speaks very positively of Buffalo's gay and lesbian community to out-of-towners. Congratulations!

As a side note, I read with interest Ken Mathews' "Gay Pride History Lesson." However, I recently became aware that Stonewall was only a "second wave" of the gay movement. According to John Lauritsen's and David Thorstad's book, *The Early Homosexual Rights Movement (1864-1935)*, the "first wave" of our movement began about 117 years ago in Europe.

It was quite extensive and the successes of Magnus Hirschfeld's Scientific Humanitarian Committee rivaled many of our present day accomplishments, until it was smashed in 1933 by the Nazis. It seems we have a number of "lessons" to learn from our "first wave" of the move-

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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(s), organization or business.

THE FIFTH FREEDOM welcomes the submission of news items, articles, letters, drawings, photographs, poetry and short fiction from the gay community. Announcements and releases from gay organizations are placed free of charge. Materials submitted should be typewritten and double-spaced. We cannot return any materials submitted unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and all materials are subject to editorial revision.

Deadline for the submission of all materials and advertising copy is the 20th of each month. THE FIFTH FREEDOM reserves the right to reject any materials or copy judged to be in poor taste.

Staff members of the FIFTH FREEDOM are unsalaried volunteers and additional volunteers are welcome. Advertising rates are available upon request.

Address all correspondence to: THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Telephone: (716) 881-5335.

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JOHN A. FAULRING JR., EDITOR

ment as well.

From reading his article, I would say Ken is quite enthusiastic about "our" history. If this is the case I know he will be as moved as I was to read this book (which I guess is an oldie published in 1974). Ken's flair with the pen might be a good way to educate the community even further about our proud forerunners.

I want you to know that I personally find it encouraging to know our neighbors to the west have a Gay Pride Fest. With that, maybe some Rochesterians won't have to run down to NYC each June!

Tim Sally

Who's Confused...?

This is to "Still Confused." Oh well, let it be said that one may be able to please some of the people some of the time, perhaps even most of the time, but one would never be able to please another as yourself. You've got a real problem, don't you dearie?

It wouldn't matter much to you if "poor" Dom did offer every kind of special, served every kind of alcoholic beverage known to mankind (the line about not being able to get Southern Comfort at Dominique's was a real joke), advertise, etc., Dom himself could come to you on hand and knee begging whatever from you, but you'd still have your little reason to attack him.

And anyone with even a tad of

sense would know why. You hate straight people with a passion. Your warped sense of logic permits you to think that all straights are out to take advantage of all gays. And although that might be true with some straight people, it certainly isn't true with Dom. Those who patronize and work at Dominique's are people *first* — people with names and faces and feelings.

Just because those people so happen to be gay makes no difference to him. He makes no moral judgement on people whatever their sexual preference might be. Yet he truly respects gay people for who and what they are, without taking a patronizing attitude toward them.

Seems to me that you use your sexuality as a defense and an excuse. I'm sure if Dom were gay you'd have only good words to say about him and his bar. If the situation were reversed, say a gay bar-owner who caters to a straight clientele, I can just imagine what your warped sense of logic would have to say. Jeremy Fox

(Editor's Note: The FIFTH FREEDOM welcomes "Letters to the Editor." Letters for submission should be typed, double-spaced and less than 300 words. Send to THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Letters must be signed in order to be considered for publication, however the FIFTH FREEDOM will withhold the writer's name upon request.)

—KTM News Briefs—

Calendar Checklist For July '81

By KENNETH T. MATHEWS

This column, I hope, will run every month. It's basic purpose is to inform the gay community of what is happening — in brief. It will also be a column where you — the community — can announce upcoming events or wish someone a Happy Birthday, or whatever. Full names used with prior approval only.

First off, I would like to congratulate the Gay Pride Fest Coalition for the fantastic job they did.

Congratulations for a job well done to John Faulring and Ken Mathews for their appearance on Extension 55 (WGR Radio) on Tuesday June 16th.

Also, congrats to John and Ron Wojciechowski for their June 23rd AM Buffalo (Ch. 7 TV) guest spot.

Birthday wishes in July go to:

Jim Haynes	19th
Heather	20th
Mike McG.	22nd
Ray K.	24th
Ron Wojciechowski	26th

Belated wishes to Tim B. on the 7th.

Best wishes to Debbie and Vicki who will tie the knot on 7-18-81.

There will be a Women's Dance on July 18 at the Unitarian Church. Call Emma for details.

There will be a Gay Pride Fest Coalition Skating Party July 28 at Skate Haven to help cover costs of the month long celebration. (See ad in paper for details). There will also be a raffle. Prizes needed to be given away. Call Ron 885-3155 for your donations.

SAGE on the Buff State campus is alive. They will be answering the phones at 878-6316 from 11 a.m. to noon and 886-4641 after 5 p.m. They have a "Feast with the Beasts" picnic at the zoo planned. Call them for more info.

July 16 at Me and My Arrow the Er-

ie County Health Department will hold a VD testing clinic. Those who are tested will receive a free drink.

Mattachine is also collecting recipes in order to publish a cookbook entitled "Out of the Closet. . . Into the Kitchen." No release date or sale price has been announced at this date. Recipes can be sent to Mattachine, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14205. Please enclose your name — it will be withheld upon request.

Mark your calendars for Monday August 3rd. The Buffalo Women's Oral History Project will give a program entitled "Buffalo Lesbian Bars 1930-1960." This program includes materials never heard before on the 30's, 40's, and the Black Community. It will be at 7 p.m. at the Fairfield Library 1659 Amherst (corner Fairfield, west of Main). This presentation is open to both men and women.

On August 4 there will be a follow-up meeting on the "Creating A Gay Community Center" meeting that was held during the GPF. It will be at the Niagara-Porter Library at 7 p.m. At this meeting local groups will bring feedback from their respective organizations as to what they would like to see a center provide in services to the community. Interested individuals are also invited to attend and voice their opinions/concerns.

To all the women who are going to the Women's Music Festival in Michigan this August — is there room on the bus or car pools? Call Emma Bookstore — 836-8970 for information.

Send all contributions to this column to Briefs, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14205. Remember: these are *not* Want Ads.

Remember to support advertisers in THE FIFTH FREEDOM. Tell them where you saw the ad so they know their ads are working.

That's all for now — Film at 11.

Purlie: Broadway Gem Shines in Buffalo

By JOHN A. FAULRING, JR.

"Talkin' about a good time. . ." That is the opening number of the African American Culture Center's production of Purlie now playing at the Center Theater, 681 Main St. through July 26.

From that opening song, you just feel like you are in for a real treat. The cast makes sure you are not disappointed. "Talkin'" is a rousing gospel tune that sets the whole theater to jumping for the entire evening.

The singing has to be the *best* I have heard in Buffalo. That even includes road companies of various shows. Mildred Spain's voice is one that you seem to always hear other people talk about, but never get to hear yourself. Her control is superb with the back up band, but when they are silent she really commands the stage.

There are quite a few microphones hanging from the roof, but I don't think they are really necessary. The voice projection of everyone here is great. When a soft passage or phrase is missed, even the microphones don't help. Thankfully these are few and far between. In the finale the microphones aren't the only things hanging from the ceiling!

Dwight Earl Simmons is a good Purlie. Not great in that Purlie doesn't need to be great, just be himself. The character is very much like Flip Wilson's Reverend Leroy. Hip, cool and a philosopher on life. In being himself, he makes the best point that he possibly could. Simmons' religious fervor is very catching and has the audience caught up in his rapture. One cannot help but feel that much of his dialogue is spontaneous and makes for an even better performance.

Lisa Renee Daniels is Lutibelle. She mugs and sings her way through the role that Melba Moore created on Broadway very admirably. Her voice is clear and enjoyable. Her version of "I Got Love" is very well controlled. She has a job to do with her facial expressions and does so admirably.

My favorite has to be Missy, played by Ella E. Robinson. She is the most loveable of all the cast, in addition to having a voice that is matched in the cast only by Ms. Spain. Unfortunately, they don't get the chance for a duet. Her character can only be described as Aunt Jemima. And this is not meant in any derogatory way. She is the pillar of the family, a confidante, cook and beautiful dreamer.

Stereotypes do play a very impor-

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meet you
under
the lips. . .

ME AND MY
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—How Does Your Garden Grow—

Beans, Gas and Obedience: Plants For Pleasure

By **BILL HARDY**

Hello, and a joltingly jubilant July to everyone. I hope you enjoyed last month's column. There I was again next to those luscious looking buns in the Villa ad. Oh me. Oh well!

A few months back I discussed unusual houseplants. This time around its going to be unusual outdoor plants. For you apartment dwellers, please bear with us, or bare with us if you choose. Some of these would be a tad difficult to attempt in a pot on a porch, and would never do indoors.

FIRST OFF, the New Guinea bean. Not really a bean, but a member of the pumpkin and gourd family. The most spectacular aspect of the vine, aside from the 4 foot "beans" is the incredible rate of growth. With optimum summer time conditions, it can grow up a trellis at 6 inches or more per day. At that rate it's best grown on the Empire State Building. But alas, it can prove to be rather humorous when your friends drive up and down your street looking for your house, only to find a large mound of green with monstrous beans hanging from it.

NEXT, there is the Evening Primrose, also called eight-o-clocks, or evening dandelions. This beauty forms large pointed buds which open before your very eyes. The buds unfurl to reveal a lovely yellow flower. You've got to be right there because this one doesn't wait around for you. The plant is biennial, which means it grows the first year and blooms the second year, then dies. But biennials reseed themselves rather profusely so

while the first year plants are growing the second year plants are blooming. Just don't pull out anything that resembles a dandelion until it has bloomed.

THE GAS PLANT, Dictamnus, is a lovely white or pink perennial with pretty lemon scented foliage that is attractive even when not in bloom. The unusual feature of this one is the flowers. They are supposed to give off a flammable gas, especially on warm humid evenings, that can actually be ignited without harm to the plant. Notice I said "supposed to." I've tried it every year and can't get the damn thing to even spark, let alone ignite. Well, I'll try again this year.

Now here is one for all of you masters out there. The Obedient Plant. When you bend the stems, they stay in whatever position you put them in. Up to a point of course. Botanically its Physostegia, and spreads fast, forming a large clump with snapdragon — like flowers in July and August. Just so the slaves don't feel left out, may I suggest a Golden Chain Tree?

So much for the unusual plants. I think everyone enjoyed their July 4th on the U.S.S. Little Rock. I know I did. The only problem I had was when someone with a sparkler came a little too close to my lovely boutonniere made of Dictamnus blossoms and I blew up over Lake Erie. At last they ignited!

So till next month, think green, stay cool, and I hope you got as big a bang on the 4th as I did.

Views and Reviews...

Continued from page 1

our own backyard. The fun was made even better by a perfect day weatherwise and by a turnout equal to the previous weeks.

Once again by popular demand there will be another picnic at Chestnut Ridge on August 30. Watch next month's FIFTH FREEDOM for details.

The same day Dignity/Bufalo held a Gay Pride Liturgy to acknowledge another part of the gay community's needs.

JULY 4th, after a weeks rest, the grand finale of this portion of Gay Pride Fest '81 was held aboard the U.S.S. Little Rock in Buffalo Naval and Servicemen's Park.

A crowd of 125 was on hand to celebrate the 4th together and just have fun. They were treated to a tour of the ship, the U.S.S. Sullivan's and various other attractions the park has to offer. (The park is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily for those who missed it).

There was music, snacks, dancing, a cash bar for the evening and to finish the evening off, there was free champagne and pizza at 11 o'clock.

NYC Parade:

Continued from page 1

After marching for about two hours, I noticed that several of the Dignity groups were carrying small signs with names of different cities. I spotted one saying "Buffalo" and ran over to its bearer.

"Are you from Buffalo?" I asked.

"No," he said, "I'm from New York." Noting my puzzled expression he said, "Don't believe the one that says Honolulu either."

The crowds marching and the crowds watching both increased in number as we triumphantly wended our way to 79th Avenue at Central Park, our final destination. By this time a lot of Lesbian mothers were now carrying their small children. It was a long walk, but an exuberant one.

Our long march ended at The Great Lawn in Central Park where the rally was now to be held. It was 4 p.m. All sprawled out on the vast lawn to listen to various speakers.

I rushed back to Christopher Street to experience another Gay Pride Week event, the Street Fair. Christopher Street is cordoned off so the assorted booths can be set up. There wer booths selling beer, wine, food, and merchandise. My favorite booth was sponsored by The East Side Sauna. A large sign proclaimed "Kiss Our Staff." It was the first Gay kissing booth I'd ever seen. One dollar to kiss humpy men from The East Side

Drawings were held for raffles and door prizes that included champagne (courtesy Me and My Arrow) and one lucky winner got their money back for their admission to the party, donated by the Villa Capri.

Despite the many rumors that had been circulating through the bars, there were no pickets, VFW protestors, film crews from TV, or any of the other things that undoubtedly stopped many people from coming. It was unfortunate that such rumors may have kept someone away that would have really enjoyed themselves had they gone.

There were people there from Rochester, Hamilton, Erie and even one person all the way from the state of Washington. There were even non-gays there that were able to see that we are truly no different and there was a great sense of the gay women and men sharing a good time of dancing and friends in the same space at the same time.

(Editor's Note: As of press time we had not received any reviews on the women only events. Herein you will only find the men's and dual workshops).

Sauna. Naturally, since all proceeds were being donated to The Christopher Street Liberation Committee, I was most anxious to contribute. If the lines had not been so long, your intrepid reporter would have had a more detailed analysis.

It was on to The Saint, currently New York's hottest disco. They were also donating funds to the committee. The Saint is everything you have heard, and more.

Thus ended a wonderful, exhilarating day. I won't miss this event again.

Mattachine Social Night

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier, (MSNF), Inc. will be planning social events for their third-Sunday-of-the-month meetings.

This month, on July 19, MSNF will present a special comedy skit in honor of an historical event. Held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Elmwood and West Ferry, the pot luck supper begins at 6:30 with the program scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend, have fun and meet new people.

The Social Planning Committee is looking for a Physical Education teacher who is willing to do a fitness seminar at a third-Sunday social. Contact Mattachine if you would like to volunteer.

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The Fifth Freedom Advisor

Herpes, Help And Happiness

THE FIFTH FREEDOM ADVISOR provides answers to questions about sex and gay life. Send questions to FIFTH FREEDOM ADVISOR, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205. For immediate help in talking about a gay problem, call the Gay Hotline at 881-5335.

Dear FFA,

I am a male heterosexual transvestite and have only in the past year allowed myself to enjoy it and feel good about my desires. But at this point I really feel the need to be with others socially and am at a loss as to how I can go about it. At this time I feel nervous about going out in public (although I have a rather slender figure and am quite beautiful, no ego intended) and would rather if possible socialize with women than men.

Can you tell me of any bar and/or organizations locally that are bent in the direction of my sexual lifestyle? I have thought about going to one of the gay bars in the area but I am not sure if I would be accepted, also I am afraid that many may think that I am a jerk because I am not attracted to other men sexually.

My dearest desire is to be with lesbians and be accepted socially and sexually as a woman with a penis.

Also, can you tell me of any clothing stores in the area that don't get weird about a man buying women's clothing?

I hope you can help me as I don't know what to do about all of this, I feel all penned up.

And thank you and your staff for being freedom fighters for human sexual rights in Buffalo.

Tina

Being able to enjoy yourself sexually and feeling good about yourself are both very positive attitudes. I wish more people felt as positive about their own sexual desires.

To my knowledge there are no bars or organizations in the area that exist primarily for transvestites; although there certainly is a real need.

Tina, I can't promise acceptance of your sexuality or attitudes anywhere. There is as much prejudice and intolerance in the gay community as in the straight. It seems that we want acceptance of our own lifestyles while refusing to give it to others who are "different" from us.

I have heard of several men who feel as you do who have found what they were looking for at the Betsy, which is primarily a women's bar. I would like to invite you to attend a meeting of the Mattachine Society where you would have the opportunity to meet gay men as well as gay women who are interested in you as a person.

I do not know of any store where you could buy women's clothing without hassle and will have to ask my readers for help in locating stores where a TV would be welcome. How about it readers?

P.S. While the Fifth Freedom Advisor column is written by one person, the staff of the paper believes deeply (as do many others) in the need for sexual freedom for all. After all Tina, the freedom to be our sexual selves and to love whomever we wish is, The Fifth Freedom.

Dear FFA,

I am very turned on by a close friend and want very much to have sex with him. The problem is that he has told me that he has Herpes. He said that it is only contagious when the sores are active. Is that true? What are the symptoms of herpes and how do you catch it?

I will appreciate your answer in the next issue of the paper.

Paul

Your concern about genital herpes is well founded. Usually but not necessarily transmitted sexually, it is caused by a virus known as Herpes simplex type II, which is closely related to Herpes simplex type I, the cause of common cold sores.

Although a lab test is required to tell one from the other, as a general rule type II appears below the waist and type I above; but there is an estimated 10 percent crossover. There is NO known cure for either, nor is the incubation period known. Herpes II is especially dangerous to women as it has been linked to the development of cervical cancer.

The symptoms are painful, blister-like eruptions along the vulva and genital mucous membrane, accompanied by a fever, itching, swollen and tender lymph nodes. For men the first symptoms are small, painful blisters or bumps on the glans (head of the penis) or shaft of the penis. Blisters can also form around the anus where they soon rupture and form soft, painful sores. Because the sores, wherever they are, are vulnerable to bacterial infection, they should be checked by a physician. After four or five days the sores become less painful and start to heal on their own which can take anywhere from a week to a month after which the virus enters a latent stage and is no longer contagious.

The herpes virus can be reactivated by different things including emotional stress, fatigue, colds and sunburn.

Treatment consists largely of self care and includes, in addition to keeping yourself in good shape, rinsing the sores with a mild solution of salt water.

What can you do to prevent herpes? Very little; but please remember that the sores are very contagious.

Herpes is often misdiagnosed visually as syphilis or chancroid. For that reason it is important that you be tested to be sure. Because of the visual similarities, don't ever assume it's "just herpes."

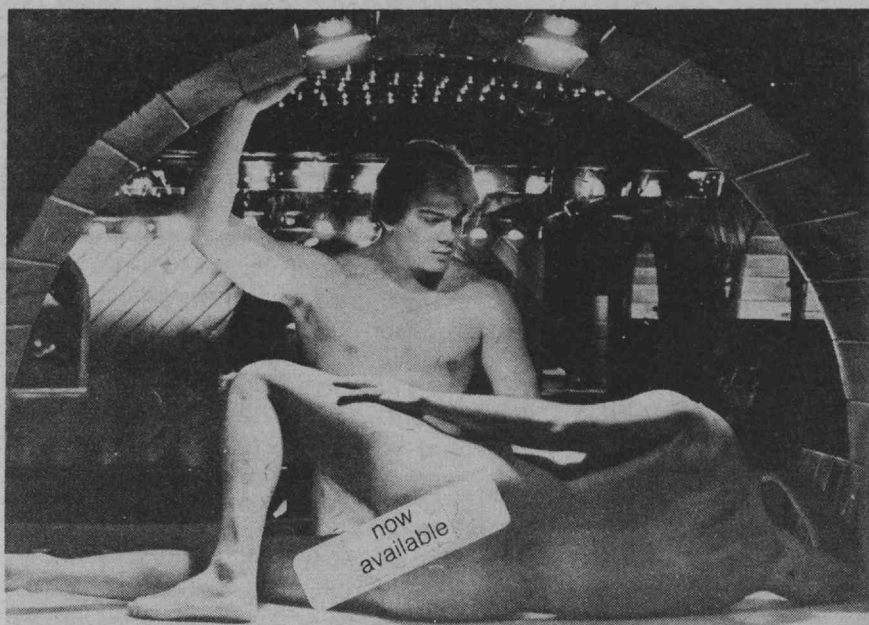
Dear FFA,

What do you think about a guy who likes to spank himself? I am in my early thirties and while I have never had sex with another guy, I do consider myself gay. Several times a week I strip and while standing in front of a large mirror, I spank myself with a hairbrush. I use considerable force and when I am done my ass is usually blistered or bruised. I then masterbate. I enjoy the feeling of being spanked and want very much to have another man spank me and then have sex with him. Is this normal? How can I meet other guys who would be interested in spanking?

Terry

It is not important what I think of your enjoying spanking yourself. What IS important is what YOU think about it. Many people are very turned on by the idea of giving or receiving a spanking and while I do not

Continued on page 7



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The Aural Column

Starting Out: Do's and Don'ts

By JOE

It was a pleasant late May night. Some Mattachine members gathered over a few beers, glasses of wine and more twelve-year-old scotch than a couple of us would rather mention, when an interesting question was put to me: "Could you be a little less technical and just show us how to assemble a fairly good audio system for the smallest possible investment?" Or, "How does someone who knows practically nothing about audio guard against getting hosed with a junk system?" These are not easy questions to answer.

Let me say at the outset that my tastes run to McIntosh electronics, AR or McIntosh speakers (BIG ones — two per channel), reel-to-reel Tandberg tape decks and Technics three speed turntable/toner arm combinations with Shure or Stanton cartridges. Needless to say, not everybody can afford ten to fifteen thousand dollars in an effort to achieve nirvana in sound. This includes me, but I'm working on it.

In the meantime, how do you satisfy one appetite without starving another? And how can you do it without poisoning your prospects for a pleasantly extended aural experience?

The one best piece of advice I can offer should permeate all other recommendations regarding specific brands and types of equipment: GO TO A REPUTABLE SHOP. There are perhaps half a dozen in the Buffalo area. Editorial prudence prohibits their mention here. Those whose names I did not give may hunt me down and go right for my front panels. If you would like to know who they are, contact me through The Fifth Freedom or the Gay Hotline (address and phone number elsewhere in this issue).

Look for this:

(1) His listening room(s) will approximate a living room in furnishings and size. Just because a room is carpeted does not mean that its dimensions have the same proportions as the average listening room.

(2) He will have been in business for a while. The *ambience* of the place should be relaxed and unpressured. Do his salespeople look nervously at their watches near closing time if you're not buying?

(3) His service department will be prominent, and will have that NASA look to it. The more his technicians look like M.I.T. graduates, the more conscientious their service.

(4) The sales staff will be intelligent enough to argue with Avery Fisher, but will not talk down to you. A salesman who seems either offended or snobbish because of your ignorance is most probably trying to hide his own.

(5) His line of equipment will not contain "little marvel" systems whose only purpose is to save a sale at the expense of possibly losing a customer. If someone tries to tell you that "This \$350.00 system is *all you'll ever need*," back out of the store without ever letting him out of your sight.

Generally speaking, do you like this place? Do you TRUST these people? Do they like you or just your money?

In starting a system, the first component you should pick is the speaker system. Spend as much of your budget here as you possibly can. A moderate receiver may not produce as much loudness as it would with a

smaller speaker, but the difference is likely to be less than three decibels — hardly noticeable. But that louder speaker may prove less ACCURATE, making you tire of it quickly. Then see how loud you want to listen to it!

It's difficult to go wrong with Advent or AR at about \$400.00 a pair. Other good speakers include Allison, Boston Acoustics, Electro Voice, Infinity, Ohm and Polk.

Listen to all kinds of music. Listen hard. Don't rush and don't be rushed. Speakers are your most important components. I'll spend an entire column just on auditioning technique sometime soon.

Next come electronics. While I myself am a devotee of separates, I would recommend a receiver for the more budget conscious. Some pundits recommend an integrated amplifier with the possibility of adding a tuner later.

Do not do this. Radio — both FM and AM — holds a wealth of musical and spoken word programming that your record collection and budget would be hard pressed to compete with. Of course, if you are upgrading, and already have a compact system or some such, you can plug your existing tape outputs into the auxiliary input on an integrated amplifier and watch your empire start to grow!

Choose a 25 to 40 watt-per-channel unit at about \$400.00 by either Sony or Kenwood. Pioneer, Technics, and Yamaha are also fine. I have several pieces of Sony equipment and am ever-delighted by their quality of sound and construction; as well as human engineering, durability and availability of service.

More important than higher power (25 watts versus 40 watts, say) is how the FM section performs. Your final choice should be governed by which unit picks up difficult-to-receive stations most cleanly. Can you get CBC-FM (94.1 Mhz) without intrusion from its adjacent neighbors — and *in stereo*? Does it sound like steam escaping, or is it quiet? This is probably the most severe test of the receiver and should be the deciding factor, all others being reasonably equal.

What remains is the turntable. If you play your bargaining cards right, you can probably capture a nice combination for about \$300.00. Phono cartridges are the most discounted items in a system, especially in combination with the purchase of a turntable. The experts (Broadcasters, Sound System DJ's, Equipment and Record Reviewers) use mostly Shure, Stanton and ADC. It's difficult to go wrong in agreeing with them.

Have the service technician mount, align, balance and *test* your choice in a Sony, Kenwood, Dual, (or if you prefer stacking records for multiple play) Garrard or Technics turntable. The most important factors to look for in a turntable are easy access to operating controls and insensitivity to shock and feedback. If the tonearm skips to another groove when you stamp on the floor nearby, find another unit less sensitive to this problem.

Unless you can afford to "Get the McIntoshes, boys," you have done it. We've spent \$1,100 and still have not mentioned anything about tape equipment. This is because I don't think a tape deck is essential to a good basic system. Spending money there would detract from overall sound quality too much. Let's save that topic for another column on upgrading an already existing system.

So stay tuned in — and up.

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Editor's Edition

Community Center: Fact or Fantasy?

By JOHN A. FAULRING JR.

Buffalo has no gay community!

That is a statement of fact. There is no one group that could even begin to be representative of the people here. There are many communities that each serve a portion of the gay populace, but can the diverse philosophies and lifestyles be unified under one banner and yet allow each to retain its individuality?

That is the task before us at this time. Can we unite the men's groups that have members who are "out" and want to be active, with those that are "closeted" and need to feel they need to remain so, with those who have a certain dress code as a special tie that binds them in a club atmosphere, with those who have religious beliefs that are their common cause (other than their being gay).

Is it possible to unite the women's groups (that are even more diverse than the men's) to work toward common goals. In addition to the commonalities mentioned above for the men, we then get into the Lesbian, Feminist, socialist, professional and parent groups. Many fit into more than one of these groups.

The only thing shared by all these people is that they are all called homosexual or gay. That appears to be where their shared ground ends. Or is it?

Is there something more to be found that will unite all of these people to gain common goals and win battles that will affect us all? That is the question that *must* be answered

soon.

No matter what circle you travel in you hear about the plight that befalls us with the conservative wave that is sweeping the country. But that wave is not a single group or philosophy, it is a coalition of minds and power that disagree on many topics, but have found a common cause. Can we do the same?

The GPF Coalition did work together for a couple months, but during this time there were disagreements. Most were overcome, but some were not fully resolved.

All the events that were held drew from a very limited audience. The crowds and faces grew to be the same ones. Small but dedicated groups of workers, attendees and a few newcomers were the core of the meetings.

Afterwards, if you decided to hit the bars before home, you saw much larger crowds there. When you mentioned where you had been, many, if not most, feigned ignorance of the whole matter. Even if they didn't read THE FIFTH FREEDOM or see the many fliers that were distributed, one has to find it hard to believe that they were not within sight or sound of the many non-gay media events that covered the Fest. Or could it be that all the closets today are sound-proofed?

What community would be served by a center? Who would provide the financial as well as physical support needed? Who cares? That question will be asked on August 4th at 7 p.m. at the Niagara-Porter Library. Who will answer?

Herpes...

Continued from page 5

have any figures on it, I do know from personal experience that it is more common than many people think.

One way to meet guys is by first making a few gay friends and then just telling them what you like. Another way to meet guys who are interested in spanking you is by placing a personal ad in publications like the Fifth Freedom or the Advocate. You'll also find a listing in the Advocate for publications that deal mostly in spanking and related areas. One such publication is "Knight," P.O. Box 630, Flushing, NY 11352. Enclose \$1 for a sample issue.

Your question about - "Is it normal?" is one that only you can answer. For me, everything is normal if that is how the individual person feels toward what he or she is doing.

Don't get uptight about spanking. I doubt that anyone has ever died from a blistered ass. If you enjoy it, that's

ALL that matters.

Dear FFA,

I recently called the hotline and talked with a very nice sounding guy. He was very easy to talk with and sounded like the type of person I would like to meet. When I asked him if he would like to have a drink with me he said it was against the rules of the hotline. Is there any way to meet the people who work the hotline?

Unsigned

Most people who call the Gay Hotline are honest and sincere people. Some are not. The rules of the hotline are to protect the counselor from those callers who might cause him harm. The best way to meet the various people who work the hotline is to come to a Mattachine meeting. Most are active members of the organization and are as friendly in person as they are on the telephone.

Purlie Shines in Buffalo

Continued from page 3

tant role in this production. But in their portrayal, they point out how those that are stereotyped, as well as those who stereotype, get caught up in the game. The more involved it gets the harder it is to draw the lines. Out of these types comes the lesson: no matter what others say about you, it all depends on how you feel about yourself that really matters!

Lutibelle has one line that is just perfect. When Purlie asks her why she doesn't have any pride in her race, she answers, "I've got cultural pride. I just don't need it much in my occupation." Being a maid, she has other priorities for her. That line sure could apply to many of us. In the end, though, she realizes that she can indeed have both, and needs to in order to make it.

The rest of the supporting cast is equally enjoyable. Missy's husband Gitlow, played by Don G. Blakely has a great way of explaining life. Ol' Cap'n, as portrayed by George Schei-

tinger, does it too, but from a different side of the plantation.

The only character that is a little weak, as written, is Charlie, Ol' Cap'n's son, played by Philip Salemi, Jr. The part leaves much to be desired as far as substance, but makes up for it in high camp.

The choreography is very well put together. It emphasizes the songs in just the right way and never overpowers. Particularly fun is "Big Fish, Little Fish" where Ol' Cap'n does his thing.

All in all "Purlie" has to be one of the most enjoyable nights in Buffalo theater. And the best part is that all of the talent is local. The entire cast is something we can all be Talking Proud about.

The play runs from July 16-26, Thursday thru Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at all Ticketron outlets. If you have any questions call the American African Culture Center at 884-2013.

Fantastic Fest Finished

Gay Pride Fest '81 ended July 4 with a dance aboard the U.S.S. Little Rock. The Fest, which began with a Miss Buffalo Cruise on June 11, was a complete success, according to Hillary Cook, who added, "The events were organized to reach as much of the Gay Community in Buffalo as possible, to encourage more interaction among groups and individuals, and, to begin gathering energy for a Gay Community Center."

"Those goals were achieved; in fact, everything exceeded anyone's expectations."

The group which planned Gay Pride Fest '81, a coalition of gay groups in Buffalo, (including Gay Rights for Older Women, Buffalo Women's Liberation Union Lesbian Caucus, Gay Professionals, Student Association for Gay Expression, Mattachine and Dignity), although declaring the Pride Fest a resounding

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success, also reports a large deficit at the end of the activities.

A Roller Skating Party on July 28 at Skate Have, 1880 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, has been planned to eliminate that deficit (a raffle is also planned; as well as continued sale of t-shirts which are available for \$4).

Ron Wojciechowski, a coalition member, observed that, "The Gay Community which enthusiastically supported Gay Pride Fest '81 should be made aware of the deficit so that they can help. If we are to build a sense of community, then we have to allow those who will, to share what they can with the community, to be able to express their appreciation, and to get involved."

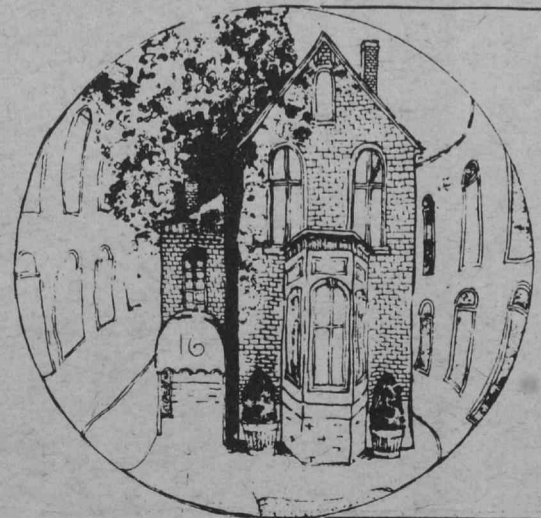
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Sexuality, Singles And Coming Out

By HANFORD SEARL

Both the gay men's and lesbian's groups tackled the definition and application of sexuality, sensuality and affectional drives in their lives at Gay Pride Fest '81's seminar on "Sexuality" June 19.

The continuing trend of the hoped-for-success of first sexual encounters maturing to friendship and finally relationships amongst men was debated while the women discussed parallel problems, vulnerability and love.

"We're certainly living up to our own stereotypes here tonight through ideas and roles. Look how hung up we all are in trying to understand one another's sexuality," bemoaned Susan, a member of the Gay Pride Coalition.

Once the initial hurdle of awkwardness was overcome, the dual meeting opened up into an educational process where the men learned that the women were equally quick to sexual arousal and just as objectional to role-playing.

Fear of talking as well as risk-taking about relationships were discussed, living up to false expectations and building walls also was covered.

The old, resurfaced problems which divided the men and women's groups here the last five years, also a national trend whereby lesbians began to assert themselves into the gay community as well as being involved in women's rights in general, was monitored and resolved.

About six-seven years ago, both groups worked closely together, added Susan, who pointed to the two-sided repression of women from the better money-power and jobs of gay men as well as the women asserting a sexual image and the role-playing prejudice society has imposed.

The men's separate group, including 10 participants and moderator Jim Haynes, Buffalo State professor of Biology, divided their session into discussing practical, bodily functions, sensuality, vs. sexuality and continuing trends.

"We can't escape the fact that a majority of gay men adhere to the approach of get it up, off and then get out of my life attitude, whether it's promiscuous or not," insisted Professor Haynes.

Sexual mechanics as well as the psychological aspects of attraction were listed with one participant underscoring how we see one's self and others differs and that it's all in the mind of the beholder.

Restrictive preferences and types, repeating past relationship problems with similar persons and the aging/physical hangup also were detailed.

The women voiced the non-tramp role of a man's being allowed to play the field while a woman, lesbian or straight, was perceived and judged by double standards if she undertook similar activities.

Even among the lesbian community, an unspoken, on-going tradition is to bad-mouth a fellow "sister" who breaks up with a lover or delves into extra-relationship experiences, stressed Susan.

"There's no real consensus amongst the lesbian community about the definition of monogamy despite what some will tell you," she said.

A question was raised as to the need for separate sessions and if that didn't encourage to divide gay men from lesbian women to which an expressed need for separation on the topic of sexuality was underlined by some women.

One male participant's views

about fidelity and a need for closer emotional/physical ties between both groups resulted in wide disagreement, embarrassed laughter and ridicule.

Both straight and gay singles bars, meatracks and impersonal social settings were criticized while it was pointed out gay men would support such businesses as baths while women would not.

"What we all have to realize is that with age and experience, our goals change. We pass through a gay adolescence no matter how old or young. What matters is who we are throughout that process," concluded Professor Haynes.

singles

Marked differences, namely lesbian drives to seek out a monogamous relationship as opposed to gay men's sexual drive for more impersonal gratification and some myth-destroying was discovered during the "Singles" workshop June 17.

Meeting at the Niagara-Porter Library, the two groups learned that lesbians, just as much as gay men, are sexually-motivated but tend to settle down to build a nest quicker than their male counterparts.

"No doubt it's part of the heterosexual, nuclear family influence and the basic nature of women to do so," reported Lucy, moderator of the women's groups. "We didn't talk about aging however in our group."

About 30 women attended the individual and dual sessions, discussing the different stages of being single and the female reaction to it. Dealing with loneliness, separation and stressing careers also was covered.

Taking the worry out of dating, the preconceived expectations and hoped-for results also was listed by the lesbian contingent.

Spirited debate prevailed during the men's separate session, only attended by a sparse, dedicated seven members as to the attributes and negative aspects of the prevailing one-night stand practice of gay men.

"It's definitely a complex situation, the issue of freedom vs. commitment factor, the open relationship as opposed to the closed, monogamous set up," said Mark Eagle, men's facilitator and member of SAGE, Buffalo State's Student Association For Gay Expression.

A transexual, college-age students, one man married for 29 years and out two as well as a black, a former New York City native and divorced gay parent comprised the men's group.

Meanwhile, a wide spectrum of women was represented in their separate group, which shattered the gay men's misconception that all women were inclined to monogamous relationships.

"Many of us are just as sexually-oriented and motivated as you are. It's just harder to find similar women with those open feelings willing to use her freedom to do so," charged a female member.

Some gay men and lesbians expressed discontent about all talk and no actions regarding brotherhood and sisterhood in the gay community here, calling for a needed change.

According to Ron, the formerly married gay man in the separate group, some 2,000 years of forced straight rules have been superimposed on gays throughout history and that many gays feel compelled to mimic heterosexual marriage.

The lack of gay role models, promotion of long-lasting relationships

and conditioning within the gay culture towards just the youth-oriented, beautiful-person image was underscored by another male participant.

Sexual needs as well as emotional aspects were outlined by both groups, with some expressing the desire to remain single while others vowing to continue searching for a single partner.

"We're lucky here in Buffalo for we have more of a mix in the gay community. We don't specialize such as bars elsewhere in the country in larger areas," said one female member.

Changing attitudes of aging, growing old alone with gay friends and the danger of growing bitter over aging alone was also covered. One male participant said he was 50 before he came out.

Sending out an approachable, likeable image was stressed by Ron, whether looking for a short or long term relationship and being content as well as secure within one's self.

The need for gay organizations to be more friendly to newcomers, alternatives for socializing other than bars and the importance of personality evaluation also were spotlighted during the involved sessions.

coming out

More common denominators and similarities than differences of experiences was the final verdict in dealing with self, parents, friends, work, society and religion for both gay men and lesbian women at the "Coming Out" seminar June 27.

The first of "Gay Pride Fest '81's" 10 dual and separate workshops throughout the 13-day, month-long celebration, the individual and joint men's and women's groups reached identical conclusions at the Niagara-Porter Library.

"Coming out means so many different things to many people in regards to their circumstances," said Peter, the men's moderator. "Everyone has their own time of doing it and respective limitations."

About 15 men, two who were first coming out, four within the last year and one person during the last 20 years, comprised the men's individual session, which decided it was an individual choice for each person.

According to the group's consensus, an individual's social, family, religious and ethnic background determined how, the manner in which and when a person confronts the coming out process.

The women's individual group, totaling 27 persons, four of which were just coming out, discussed Robert W. Osborn's 1974 pamphlet, "On Coming Out," and the nine stages listed about facing and accepting one's homosexuality.

"While agreeing with most of what the men concluded, we decided women are more objectified by society, forced into cosmetic role playing," reported Diane and Mary Ellen, moderators for the women's session.

Dealing with coming out at work, school and to children of gays also was covered by the women's session. Distinctions between women's gay rights activists and just living as well as being lesbian, also was discussed.

The continuing, image misconception and reality of feminine men and masculine women was covered by the dual group, pointing to the ongoing, national stereotype of being macho or totally female as conditioned by society and religions.

Playboy Magazine's, as well as other men's girlie publications ex-

ploiting and promoting the lesbian/eroticism issue, also was voiced. A longer time to share ideas between men's and women's groups was stressed.

"We may have personalized our separate session more," said one female participant. "I shared one of the worst examples of a lesbian woman forced by a male relative to be-cured. It was me. I was raped."

The need to establish a permanent gay community center to allow an alternative as well as additional space for socializing from the gay discos, bars and restaurants was expressed.

Support group and resource material, such as the Gay Hotline, various gay organizations and setting up a gay library service was conjectured by the men's group. Being gay was put in perspective as part, not all, of one's life.

"To some it's coming out everyday or all at once. Some hide certain aspects or do it in stages. It can be experienced in different phases but it must be accomplished," concluded a male participant.

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The Media Watch

Buffalo's Pride Fest Publicity

By ROD HENSEL

Buffalo's Gay Pride Fest has come and gone, and the time has come to evaluate what went right and what went wrong. Of particular interest is how we (the Gay Community) handled the news media - and how the news media handled us.

Members of the fest coalition debated at length just how much publicity should be given to the "straight" news media. It was decided that to reach the broadest possible number of Gays in Western New York, the coalition would publicize the schedule of events as widely as possible. The risk was that the broad publicity would keep away the more closeted members of the community whose support was needed to insure the numbers and therefore financial success of the events planned.

The fears proved unfounded. The broad publicity did not keep many away, and in turn we were able to make contact with many in the area who were nearly certain they were "the only one who felt that way."

Following nearly every public appearance by spokespeople for the coalition, Mattachine's Gay Hotline was deluged with requests for additional information. Some just made voice contact for the first time - others attended one of the events and made that first step towards coming out.

The joy of that made it worth the pain of the publicity - a pain in the posterior named John Otto whose extreme homophobic attitudes probably did more to publicize Gay Pride

Fest than the coalition could have ever dreamed of.

OTTO IS THE host of WGR Radio's Extension 55 call-in talk show. His tirade against Gays began the night he interviewed Mattachine's John Faulring and Ken Mathews. Otto began the interview by worrying that the Pride Fest dance on the Little Rock would turn it into a "fairy boat" as he called it and somehow defame the honor of the U.S. Navy. It was all downhill from there, as Otto skillfully manipulated his questions to grasp every opportunity to put down Gays.

But Otto was in for a big surprise. Instead of having his listeners join in his put down of homosexual men and women, his callers were more than three to one in support of John and Ken. What was scheduled as a two-hour interview lapsed into four because of caller demand, and Otto, sensing a surge in his ratings if not his loins, milked the matter for all it was worth. For two solid weeks he kept raising the subject, deliberately lisping on the "s" when he used the word homosexual, and with a sneering attitude tried to drum up outrage against the Little Rock dance and against a new NBC television series that will feature Tony Randall as a gay man raising a young girl.

Otto's unprofessional hysteria did not go unnoticed. He gave many closeted gays the incentive to call in and defend themselves as gay people, perhaps for the first time, and he made the Gay Hotline ring with requests for information. He failed however to raise any protests - there

were no pickets outside the Little Rock - and he grossly misjudged his own audience by thinking they were as narrow-minded as he. Meanwhile many in the local gay community are writing letters of protest to WGR and organizing a boycott of sponsors, and perhaps the station's owners, Taft Broadcasting, should re-evaluate if Otto, a Buffalo broadcasting legend, is projecting the kind of image they want their station to have.

THE OTHER appearances on the media by coalition spokespeople went well. Callers on WBLK touted Bible verses but could offer no original thoughts of their own, and interviews on WBEN Radio and WKBW-TV's "A.M. Buffalo" saw sincere but uninformed questioning by responsible journalists. Neither of the major daily newspapers picked up on the story to any great degree - a questionable judgement call considering the ample opportunity given them and the significance of a sizable minority in the community organizing such a broad scope of events for the first time.

And what did we learn from it all? First, that a great deal of misunderstanding exists about gays and that a massive educational program is needed for both the public and the media. Secondly, that we can as a community make our views known, and that the media is at least willing to listen. And last, that if we keep our cool, act responsibly and refuse to be

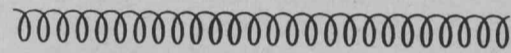
baited, we win new friends as they compare us to the snide, hysterical homophobic rantings of the John Ottos of this world.

Community Center Meeting Announced

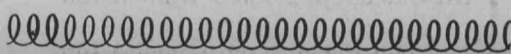
As a result of the workshop, "Creating a Gay Community Center," which was held on June 25, during Gay Pride Fest '81, a group of community minded individuals are preparing for a major community meeting on August 4 at the Niagara-Porter Library. The topic will be "Working Towards a Community Center."

Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome. Everyone who attends is encouraged to think about what she or he would like to see their Gay Community Center do. On an individual basis, everyone is also encouraged to inventory their skills and energy and decide what the one thing is that he or she can do to help make the Gay Community Center a reality.

Ron Wojciechowski is helping to organize the meeting and may be reached at 885-3155 for details or for help. The meeting will begin at 7 on August 4.



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Captain Kink

Dear Captain:

By CAPTAIN KINK

Dear Captain Kink:

How can I ever thank you? June's kink of the month was a godsend, all those cute gay men trying to get me pregnant for Father's Day. 'Tis true, never have so many done so little, but P. Charles was simply divine! The wedding is in July. Thank you for introducing us. By the way, was that you I saw running around in the "Arrow" at 4:15 a.m., alone?

Love and kisses, Lady Di (abetic in a chocolate shop)

Dear Di, Bitch!!! I hope you are happy with your little princess, but if you steal another of my tricks I'll break your face. And, it was not me you saw at the bar, I was home getting my beauty sleep. I have seen you, however, but what more can be said about a woman whose Hai Karate reaches the bar before she does? Or was it Brut? I don't frequent the perfume counter at K-Mart so I wouldn't know. All will be forgiven if you invite me to the wedding, I simply adore Greek tragedies.

Dear Captain Kink:

I was thoroughly disgusted by last month's Kink of the Month, getting a "girl" pregnant for fun. How can you even think of such trash?

Liz S. Moore

Dear Butch:

You were upset. Oh goody. After writing about fisting, branding, bestiality, s/m, B&D, and piss scenes, it's nice to know that there is someone out there who is not completely jaded. When outsiders laugh at us it hurts, but when we can no longer laugh at ourselves we are doomed to a dreary existence indeed. When I say we, I mean we as gay people, not as gay men or as gay women. If one

thinks about it, our lives are absurd. We cruise bars and parks wearing hankies or whatever to advertise the strange things we want done to us. Years of psychotherapy can tell us why, but it can be summed up in two words: sexual arousal. Our lives seem to revolve around it. But getting back to your objections, getting a girl pregnant for fun is offensive, but not for the reasons you would cite. All the feminist crapola you could throw at me about a woman's right to her own body, or male responsibility, or one-sided male sexual chauvinism, pales into insignificance when one realizes that Jerry Falwell and the Moral Majority would find it the least objectionable of all the activities I have written about. It is also the one most likely to be ignored by gay men.

There are a lot of battles to be fought in the years ahead, and a sense of humor will sure help. If you cannot laugh at the absurdity of the vision of hundreds of gay men dashing out the door of Me And My Arrow hunting for pretty (or not so pretty) young girls to hump and thump and pump away at, then too bad. As Bette Midler says, "If they can't take a joke, fuck 'em."

Dear Captain Kink:

While out cruising a few weeks ago, I saw this dreadfully cute young man wearing a Handi-wipes in his pocket. I wanted to approach him but was afraid to. What does it mean?

Confounded

Dear Found:

I saw that same man and asked him what it meant. He said he did windows! Who said good help is hard to find. Anyway, I have decided to update the handy dandy secret hanky decoder that was printed some months back.

COLOR	LEFT SIDE	RIGHT SIDE
Handi-wipe	I do windows	Do my windows
Madras Plaid	I do Preppies	looking for Preppies
Strohmann's Bag	I knead your buns	Knead my buns
Harlequin Romance	Love you for the night	Tell me you love me
Susan Polis Scholtz	I'm schmaltzy	Be sentimental to me
Greeting Card		
Colonel Sanders Bag	Are you under 18?	I'm younger than I look
Tampon	You can Rely on me	Can I Rely on you?

SElections by Sam

Gay Pride Year Round?

By Sam

Sometimes I am downright scared by Gay Pride Week and even local events such as our local celebration, this year dubbed "Gay Pride Fest '81." It's as though there is a week or more designated as the time when gay men and lesbians can be themselves, only to return to closets and anonymity for another summer, fall, winter, and spring. Now to be sure, those who sponsored and hosted this year's local events as well as those of us who participated were involved in a more varied program than our area has seen in several years. And the fact of a coalition being involved in planning events for both women and men was special and important.

Part, and *only* part, of our celebration should like in the slogan "It's OK to be gay." The "I'm-OK;-You're OK" slogan has its place, and the record shows Harris was not pro gay. I am saying here that BEING GAY IS MORE THAN OK. It is who and what I am. It is a political statement and one that cannot be silent for eleven months of the year. Giving non-gays a glimpse of our lives can be enlightening for them, but if it is to be only a glimpse that is a frustration for us.

What we have to get to work on is building strong ties with other groups in the community. The Reagan administration and those who sit in Congress cannot be regarded as friendly or even as sympathetically understanding of homosexual persons. A scaled down version of the Legal Services Corporation has been approved by members of the House of Representatives and has been forwarded to the Senate. The Corporation which sponsors the legal aid program will cut back on assistance for poor people who are also homosexuals. The use of tax dollars will be prohibited to "promote, defend or protect homosexuality." That means when a poor person's sexual orientation is part of another issue (e.g. cases of alleged discrimination in employment or housing), he or she will not have legal representation in the matter.

In day-to-day living I cannot complain about my economic status. The combined income my lover and I share serves us well, and although we do plan and budget, we are by no

means "hurting." But in today's world, one's financial picture can change suddenly and dramatically. How far away am I (are we) from being poor?

One of the inaccuracies of folklore I have personally experienced in growing older is that as aging occurs, so does one's becoming more conservative politically and economically. In my case, each year finds me leaning more and more to the "left." The Marxist explanation of industrial society's being centered on the conflict between the have's and the have not's makes much more sense to me now than it did as a sophomore economics student more than 20 years ago. The House action as well as rules about abortion seem to say that "if you're poor, too bad; if you've got the bucks, you're OK." I would add, "... for the time being."

Fun activities and serious discussion and programs of a Gay Pride celebration are fine. But there is so much more if we are to really experience liberation. Remember, it was oppression that spurred the riots outside the Stonewall 12 years ago. It is not over and if one is willing to face the truth of the matter, there are rumblings throughout the nation that there is more to follow. That is truly frightening. I am just as surely scared by those of our number who are willing to judge how far we've come by numbering the bars and other gay entertainment centers. And worse yet were those few homosexuals who reacted negatively to the forwardness of gays "too far out of the closet" when they consented to be interviewed as part of the feature stories recently printed in the *Courier-Express*.

But since not that many of us are poor, so what. Or should our gay community begin to align itself with other minority interest groups and work toward the kind of oneness experienced in our Gay Pride Fest '81 when gay men and lesbians worked together and produced something special for all of us?

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The Fifth Freedom's

GAY DIRECTORY OF BUFFALO



INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

THE GAY HOTLINE: 881-5335. Counseling help with gay life, information on the gay community. Staffed by trained volunteers of the Mattachine Society. Hours: 6 to 10 p.m. daily; all day on Friday.

SUNSHINE HOUSE CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER: 831-3646. Assists persons having emotional, family and drug related problems. Emergency outreach services, information and referral. Emergency overnight housing. Open 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

PUBLICATIONS

THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 881-5335. Volunteers needed to work on paper, including writers, artists, graphics people and photographers. Press releases, public notices and articles for publication may be submitted to the above address. Published the first week of each month. Advertising rates on request.

ORGANIZATIONS

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 881-5335. Meetings held first and third Sundays of each month, Unitarian Universalist Church, Elmwood at West Ferry. Pot luck supper at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

GAY PROFESSIONALS, P.O. Box 624, Buffalo, New York 14209. Tel: Tom Hammond, 842-2750. An organization to provide support for gay people in the professions and those who seek a confidential place to meet new friends. Open to all gay men and women.

A.A. FOR GAY MEN AND WOMEN, Tel: 853-0388. Meets twice-a-week: Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., Shoreline Apts., 210 Niagara; Fridays, 8:30 p.m., Ascension Church, corner Linwood and North. For phone contact, call above number and ask for a member of the gay group, or write: Open Mind Group, P.O. Box 395, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOR GAY EXPRESSION (SAGE), 118 Cassety Hall, State University College at Buffalo, 1300 Elmwood Ave. Tel: 878-6316. Organization for gay men and women at Buffalo State College. Office hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business meetings, Wednesday Noon to 2 p.m.

GAY RIGHTS FOR OLDER WOMEN, Tel: 836-8970. Contact the Emma Bookstore at the above telephone number for additional details.

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (GPA), 311 Squire Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, 3435 Main Street. Hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sponsors coffee hour on Friday at 9 p.m. in 107 Towns Hall (when school is in session). Formerly the Gay Liberation Front.

U.B. MEN'S CENTER, 211 Townsend Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, 3435 Main Street. A drop-in center for all gay, bi-sexual and straight men. The center is open Monday-Friday from Noon to 5 p.m.

DIGNITY/BUFFALO, P.O. Box 75, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 874-4139. An organization for gay Catholics and Christians.

NICKEL CITY LEATHER/LEVI CLUB, P.O. Box 897 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York. Contact the above for further information about the group.

GAY AWARENESS ORGANIZATION (GAO), State University of New York at Fredonia, Fredonia, New York 14063. An organization for gay students at SUNY Fredonia. Meets Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Room S-123, Campus Center.

BOOKSTORES

EMMA FEMINIST BOOKSTORE, 2474 Main St., Buffalo, New York (at Greenfield St.). Tel: 836-8970. Feminist and gay books.

MARRAKESH, 140 Allen St., Buffalo, N.Y. Tel: 882-8200. Gayellow Page directories, gay periodicals, lambda jewelry.

TALKING LEAVES, 3144 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y. Tel 837-8554. Christopher Street, The Advocate, Gay Community News, Body Politic, R.F.D., Gay Left, Outcome, Achilles Heel, Gay Insurgent. Gay novels and periodicals.

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VILLA CAPRI, 926 Main St., Buffalo. Tel: 886-9469.

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WRITERS, artists, photographers wanted to volunteer their time to work on The Fifth Freedom. Write: Fifth Freedom, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205.

NEED HELP in coming out? The Gay Hotline has trained counselors to talk with you. Call 881-5335 daily from 6 to 10 p.m.; all day on Fridays.

THE SUNSHINE HOUSE needs volunteers to assist in providing services. Call 831-3436 for details.

CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS and Allegany County Gays sought to start support group for area: share problems and concerns, plan social activities, meet new people. If interested, please write Southern Titer Gays, c/o Fifth Freedom. P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14205.

GWM, 6', 34, 210, Br/Bl, seeks chubby black males 25-55 into Fr., Gr., FF, etc. Smoke, poppers OK. MALE 34 c/o the paper.

GAY WHITE MALE, 6'9", 151 lbs., 48, Br/Br, I'd like to meet male 18-22 looking for love. Call 1-284-6867 in am or pm.

FOR SALE: Gay Magazines - Back issues of Honcho, Play-guy, etc. Call John 883-5325.

GAY PARENTS: I would like to form a support group for Gays who have children. Both men and women. Please write to: Bill N., c/o The Fifth Freedom, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205.

YOU CAN HELP other Gays who are in trouble because of anti-gay laws and ordinances. Contributions sought to establish Legal Defense Fund for Buffalo's gay community. Write: Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 862, Buffalo, New York 14205. All contributions kept confidential.

FIND A FRIEND, rent an apartment, sell an unneeded object. Use the Fifth Freedom want ads. \$2 for first 15 words, 10-cents each additional word. Boxes for confidential mailings available. Write: Fifth Freedom, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205.

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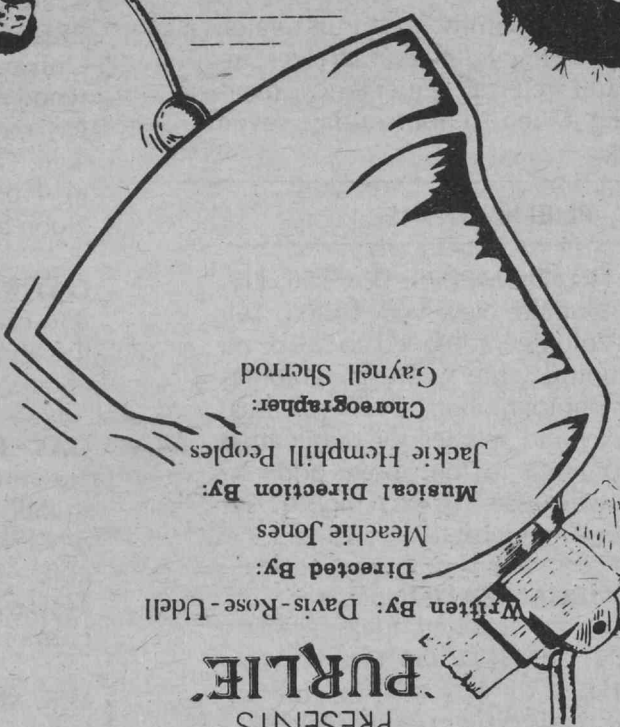
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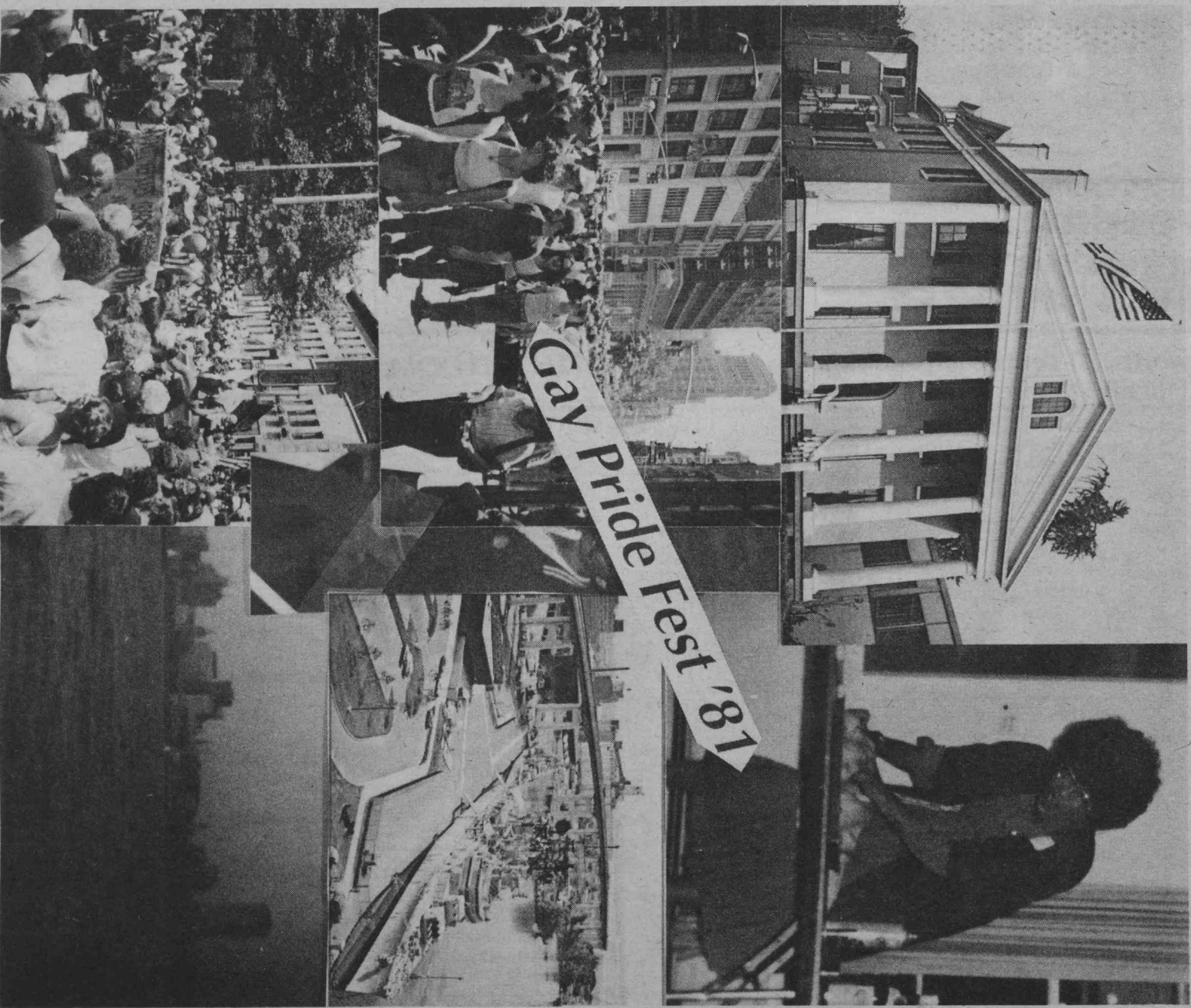
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- New York City Parade