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Fifth Freedom, 1978-05-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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BOSTON—More than 200 parsons demonstrated in front of the Boston Public Library and at Boston police headquarters Saturday, April 1, to protest police harassment and entrapment at the library. The protest was the product of a community meeting held three days earlier to discuss possible response to the library situation, which has resulted in the arrest of more than 100 men during a two-week period.

At 1:45, several of the marchers burned their library cards in a demonstration which recalled the draft-card burning ceremonies of a decade ago.

Representative Neil King announced that he had filed legislation directing the state Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti to investigate "allegedly unlawful conduct" by police officers in Boston Police District Four.

House Bill 4882, which is presently in the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, authorizes the attorney general to hold hearings and summon witnesses for the purpose of making the investigation.

Protest police officers-four patrol-officers, one sergeant, and an officer from the Mounted Patrol—had been assigned to cover the demonstration at the request of nervous Library officials who had feared that the group would attempt to storm the building. An even larger unit was deployed to police headquarters on Berkeley Street for the same purpose. There were no incidents, however.

Officials at Boston Police District Four have consistently maintained that the library area was solely the result of many complaints from library management concerning the alleged nuisance posed by "crusading" on the first and third floors of the building. Police have denied that entrapment tactics were used to make the arrests, although many of the 109 men arrested insist that the plainclothes officers were "molesting themselves in the men's room or initiated conversations in the library.

It seems somewhat ironic that she, a minority as a lesbian, should be running and not anyone else, especially a black senator. She is quoted by UPI saying that her being "different" should not stop her from seeking and winning an office. She is quoted as saying that she should be running and that this community is ready to elect a black senator. She is quoted by UPI saying that her being "different" should not stop her from seeking and winning an office. She is quoted as saying that she should be running and that this community is ready to elect a black senator. She is quoted by UPI saying that her being "different" should not stop her from seeking and winning an office. She is quoted as saying that she should be running and that this community is ready to elect a black senator.
Rebirth

The new life and energy of spring are reinvigorating Buffalo both through the Mattachine Society and the resources it is now offering. The newly-established Mattachine Business Office at 43 Allen Street enables the Fifth Freedom to resume regular monthly publication in its former newspaper format. In addition, counseling and services are now available once more at 881-5335 each day between 2 and 10 pm; if desired, in person counseling may also be arranged through that number. Lastly, Mattachine's regular potlucks and membership meetings on the third Sunday of every month at the Unitarian Church are better attended than they have been in many months.

These resources provide vehicles for political action, self-expression, mutual support, and exchange of ideas and other words, the foundations for a positive sense of gay identity in Buffalo.

This strong sense of self is vital to our survival: we are still a hated minority in many segments of the community; and the city administration not only opposes our interests but also provides the backdrop for this type of behavior. In this issue indicates, has at hand all the tools necessary to lock us back in the closets from which we have only just begun to emerge.

Working with Mattachine is not abstract labor for the cook. It is a living, real, immediate experience. Whether with the newspaper, speakers bureau, counseling services, or one of our committees (which concern themselves with every aspect of gay life from legal aid to health care to spiritual support) your work with Mattachine is work with people and with yourself. For many gays, this represents an entirely new way of relating to other gays: working together in common efforts to meet common needs. New people are met, new skills are developed. Your energy, ideas, and input are welcomed at Mattachine—join us.

FROM OUR MAILBAG

I'm a male and I like having sex with other males. That makes me similar to many of you who are reading. Some of you know me from the bars or Mattachine meetings; we've stood or sat together, danced together, made efforts at conversation or communication.

We're males and gay. We've told and lived the same lines in order to survive. We've hated ourselves in the same ways, and are working to accept who we are, who we are, and depressed at times, in need of each other.

Sounds like there are bonds between us, like we could be friends. Mattachin's (I'd be afraid of each other. But I'm afraid of you, and I feel like I need to talk about my fears now, because my fears are what make me lonely. Maybe you'll talk to me about your fears too.

I'm afraid of my feelings, scared of others, because sometimes I'm afraid of others, because I'm afraid of the illegible and uncontrollable, and make me feel not safe and weak and needed and afraid then because they're everything it was told I was told for me to be. I'm not men, remember: they're little and control, strength, aggressiveness, and self-sufficiency. My feelings are not, not the sex I was told to be as I was growing up.

My feelings are aliens, invaders, they threaten my identity.

Sometimes when I'm with women I don't feel so right about my feelings; I feel some support for being a person even though I'm male. But with others, well, we're just so terrified of ourselves and each other, terrified of feeling what we know is there, that sometimes I despair of ever getting close to another man.

I want to be an open man, another man, hug him in simple affection, tell him I need to be protected but will protect him too when that's his need. I need to be gentle and receives gently from another man. I need to tell him that he terrifies me, that he terrifies me, and know that he won't be scared away by that.

There's a hole in me, a big, black, crossed-out, censored, non-pressing some right in the heart of me called my feelings. It has nothing to do with anything.

I'm through with being a man. I want to be a person, I want to be human, and I can't work that out by myself. And so I'm writing you these words.

Deneisha Tom

Our comment section is open for anyone who wishes to submit their thoughts on any aspect of gay liberation. We encourage open dialogue and respectful discourse. If you have something to say, please feel free to submit your thoughts.

Edited by John Good

Candid View

Candid View is a column that focuses on personal experiences and reflections related to being gay. It is a platform for sharing stories, thoughts, and insights on various topics. The column aims to create a space for dialogue and understanding, highlighting the diverse experiences of people who identify as gay.

Please submit your contributions to Candid View at candidview@5thfreedom.org.

If you would like to make a contribution towards Gay Rights in Buffalo, please use this handy PLEDGE FORM.

Mail to NESP, Fundraising Coor., at the address on the back cover of the Fifth Freedom.
**SHORT SHOTS**

**Can I keep him, Ma?**

Every boy should have a fight—even though it often turns out / to be a non-illusion. Because it gives him a sense of equality / to have something smaller than himself / to play with. / And even when he grows up and leaves it behind he'll / be sorry to hear it died. / And sooner or / later he'll be finding / one of his own / and dressing it in / saying, / "Can I keep him, ma?" / Ilambr, quoting Call White: "PRES- / DON'S BOX"

**Attention Male Lovers!**

New York, NY: Dr. Charles Silverstein, author of The Joy of Gay Sex and a Family Matter: A Parent's Guide to Homosexuality, has announced that he has begun interviewing gay men for a new book for gay sex lovers. Silverstein explained that the book "will cover the history of gay relationships, the nature of Gay love, and most the satisfactions and trials of gay lovers." Confidential interviews are planned for a number of geographical areas. For further information contact Dr. Charles Silverstein, 233 W. 3rd St., New York, NY 10014. Gay Community News

**For Women Only**

New York, NY: A book of love letters of lesbians is being planned by two New York City women. Joan German and Diane Edington are asking women all over the country to share their experiences and send letters to be a part of the collection. "This collection," the two have said, "will show all facets of...relationships—the courting, the beginnings, middle, ends, struggles, experiments, new beginnings: companionship friendships, and each woman's own growth through births, deaths, rebirths." Deadline for collection of letters is July 1, 1979. Please send them to their attention, c/o the Women's Coffeehouse, 54 7th Ave., So., New York, NY 10014. Gay Community News

**A Flushed Ruling**

Sacramento, CA: Superior Judge John Sagra has halted sale and distribution of a newsletter listing Bishops in Northern California's Western Distributing Corporation which prevents their wholesale transactions as well. It was said that the newsletter had been marketed as a sexual stimulant, which placed it in violation of state health codes by producing a "neuro drug." UPI News

**By God!**

San Francisco, CA: GAY ABORTISTS, a new organization founded to counter recent attempts to infringe church/state separation, held its first formal meeting in February, and elected a board of directors. "GK is a nonprofit and non-political organization of Gay women and men brought together to expose the attempts of organized religion to victimize Gay people." UPI News

**Pity!**

Florence, OR: The City Council of this small Oregon city in one fell swoop of over-zealous legislation has banned all sex. The ordinance pronounced illegal the "engaging in sex while in or in view of a private or public place." The city council members apparently thought they were forbidding public sex only and realized that the ordinance forbade all sex for several days after it was passed and published. San Francisco Daily

**Hard Pill to Swallow**

Paris, France: The contraceptive pill might make lesbians out of young girls taking it. A French psychiatrist, the evidence: laboratory rats, having received large doses of the hormone, turned against the opposite sex. Lesbian Connection

**Another Pill in our Camp**

Los Angeles, CA: U.S. Senator, George McGovern, former presidential candidate, spoke to a fund raising a fundraiser for the new Gay organization, SEN NME. "There should be no controversy in the United States over personal rights," claimed McGovern. "It is men and women alike who have the consciousness of human rights to this country." UPI News

**That Ain't No Cheap Trick**

Las Vegas, NV: A hard rock band called "Cheap Trick" must believe it's being discriminated against. The group appeared at a hotel here along with a band named Sanaas, but received no billing. Hotel officials explained later that, at least in Las Vegas, "cheap trick" has another meaning; they were afraid people might get the 'wrong idea.' Gay News, Philadelphia

**Gay Teachers get Boost**

Albany, NY: Declaring that opposition to Gay rights has crystallized around the issue of gay teachers, the NEW YORK STATE COALITION OF GAY ORGANIZATIONS has initiated the first stage of a survey to determine the attitudes of school administrators across the state to homosexual teachers. Gay News

**Is He?**

Brockton, NY: Protesting the opening of a motel for gays, Ellyn Olson of NYC carried a "Gay Save Brockton" picket through the city. He then proceeded to reinforce her point with a scurrilous citation: "God destroyed Sodom because he was homosexual." Free for all

...She Was!

Seattle, WA: Richard Gordon, in his forthcoming book, THE INTERN LIEF OF ELLEN GREENSTEIN, contends that "the question of her being a lesbian is simply historic fact." The author bases his conclusion on careful readings of Nightingale's letters. The Royal College of Nursing in London has responded with a statement questioning why anyone would "take up this sort of material" about a British heroine. Seattle Gay News

**The Orthodox View**

N.Y., NY: Seven right-wing Jewish organizations have declared their opposition to Gay rights. The coalition of 7 groups, which represents over 1000 Orthodox rabbis and teachers, has threatened to boycott all Gay rights bills that may come before it. Gay Community News

**It's Not Greek to Them!**

Athens, Greece: The Greek Ministry of Public Order and Social Services is preparing a bill to proclaim the deportation of the country's Gay population. The bill reportedly provides for one year's imprisonment for first offenders and deportation for a second offense. Gay Polities

**Venerable Anyone?**

Philadelphia, PA: Many people believe you are what you eat; now a psychologist is suggesting you are how you decorate. Doctor M.R. Rameen - in her book PSYCHO-DECO-GRAPHY — has studied the decorating patterns of 100 different women. She says, for example that women, who are sexually oriented avoid glass top tables, heavy texture sofas, sofas, and rather different wallpaper on every wall; she also states that such women dislike fireplaces. Gay Link, Philadelphia

**From a Bigot's Primer**

"MISCEGENATION: state subsidized, well-guarded (See: suffocate) home for timid (See: descent) homosexuals. As in Criminal Code; Statute: 1, a manifestation of hate (See: revenge), a chronic obsession with saving others from themselves. As in "I love them too much to let them continue in sin"— 2, a cheap frozen concentrate containing much harmful material; (See: anyone of your own gender as soon as possible). Body Polities

**Rabbit Test**

Ottawa, Ont: On January 18, Ottawa County Court Judge Elmer Smith awarded a Gay man custody of his 8-month and 13-year-old sons. The Court decision marked the first time in Canada that a known Gay father has won a child custody battle. The legal victory came after Judge Smith the question of the woman's sexuality and concluded that "on all counts the homosexual factor should not detract the court in its view that the father ought to be preferred as custodian." Body Polities

**Playboy's for Gays**

San Francisco, CA: The Playboy Foundation has recently announced that a grant will be going to Gay Rights Advocates, a San Francisco-based public interest law firm that serves the Lesbian and Gay communities. A major effort will be the creation of a national resource center for briefs, pleadings, and other legal documents relevant to homosexuality and the law. Gay Community News

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**Harrakash**

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55 Allen St. Noon to Six Mon. thru Sat. 882-9200
The New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations (NYSCGO) held a major conference in New York (at NYU) the last weekend of April. Jim Kaysen, regional coordinator for the Niagara Frontier, and Dom Licht, secretary to the organization, attended. The agenda called for Major discussion on the present legislator packages now before the Assembly. John Nebrich, lobbyist for NYSCGO in the State capital, has been in constant contact with Buffalo concerning the need for greater and more support for such issues as Child Support (Barrett discrimination due to sexual preference), Civil Rights and Anti-Sodomy Laws. The conference also discussed women's and men's issues, media and finance (always an important issue).

NYSCGO, a coalition of some 50 Gay organizations around the State, is the major Legislative advocate for Gay rights in New York. NYSCGO operates primarily through the volunteer efforts of its affiliated organizations and members, although it has committed itself to supporting its full-time lobbyist.

As with most groups of its kind, it is in dire need of financial support (with a budget for 1977 of $50,000. If you wish to contribute, or just learn more about what NYSCGO is all about, write to NYSCGO, Box 131, Albany, N.Y. 12201.

Classes in Counselors Training will commence as soon as six more people express interest and sign up. Classes will meet for three hours weekly, at a time that is most convenient for all involved. Training will run for ten weeks. Since counseling is one of the most important jobs that Mattachine performs for the Gay community we ask that you please give some thought to taking Counselors Training. Training classes are often beneficial to the trainee and most people find them enjoyable. For more information on this or any other health related issue feel free to call us at 881-5335.

Mattachine has returned to prominence in Buffalo with the opening of the MNHF Business Office. The office, located at 45 Allen Street, Suite 3 E, has been open for six weeks. The counseling and production work for the PCFA's Homophile is housed at that location. Coverage in counseling is in the process of being organized. Normal office hours are 9 through 5 weekdays.

Mattachine meetings are now being held twice monthly, on the first and third Sundays. They open with a Lock Supper at 6:00, followed by 7:30 by the scheduled program. Some recent programs have been: Political Awareness, Gay Therapy, and a VHS Clinic; Future plans include a scheduled film program and an auction.

Another sign of progress has been the PCFA's President's return to tabloid format. The print appears somewhat smaller to accommodate more material at the same cost. There has been a tremendous outpour by a few hardcore staff members to produce this issue, however many new people have also become involved. If you wish to get involved, and have some fun as well, contact Mattachine anytime during office hours, at 881-5335.

MATTACHINE NEWS

Speakers Bureau has been busy keeping Mattachine visible on area college campuses. One recent engagement included twenty representatives of the Gay Community speaking before the human sexuality class at UB. The course, which is required for all medical students, is taken by approximately two hundred students.

Other committee chairpersons have been in contact with representatives of such organizations as: Buffalo Area Metro Ministries, American Civil Liberties Union, and the Erie County Health Department.

Mattachine needs support and money to carry on these programs. The money goes towards the cost of rent, printing, typewriter rental, telephone and other necessities. If you would like to become a member of Mattachine, please use the form on the back cover, or if you care to help out financially, please feel free to pledge money on an everyday basis—Use the form at the bottom of page 2.

Personally, I hope to see you all at the meeting, May 7th.

John Good, Secy MNHF

REGIONAL NEWS

ROCHESTER:

Many items come from the Flower City:

--Three individuals were arrested in February after her fifth arrest in five months ago. "Bucky" Schulte, one of the owners of the bar, complained to the police of people loitering in front, harassing customers and vandalizing automobiles. No action was taken. Suddenly, a few weeks ago, three arrests including that of the 18 year old, Jind Lea, Co-President of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. met with Lawrence Emlander, M.D., and Col. Hastings of the Police Department, and succeeded in getting the charges reduced to loitering and trespass.

--Gay Alliance is involved in a re-organization under the CETA program. They are approaching the City for monies for employment of five full-time individuals. The Alliance is willing to barter services, as this is the last step in preparing for affirmative action program for gay people in employment within the City of Rochester.

--The Gay Alliance, in cooperation with several gay businesses, announces the 3rd Annual Gay Community Picnic! July 6th, Sunday, at the Genesee Valley Park, Shelter #41 donations are requested.

--The Rochester Woman Against Violence Against Women (RWAVAW) held a rally and demonstration in Washington Square Park. Two weeks previously, they picketed in front of the Women's (Adult) Theatre. The protesting was for a more prompt response three months ago when they moved to Nine hundred and eighty-four pages in front of the Cine-Downtown, protesting several acts and accepted violence against women.

--Six people, including Bob Sweeney, President of the Rochester Gay Brother- hood, lobbied April 12th in Albany for the Child Custody Legislation which would bar discrimination because of parental sexual orientation, now in Senate Committee.

--Michael Robertson, Past President of the Rochester Gay Brotherhood, Past Co-President of the Gay Alliance (succeeding present President, Mr. David B. Cowan, and winner of the 1977 Vinnie Award for outstanding service to the Rochester Gay Community, is leaving for Iowa with lover, Randy.

SYRACUSE:

--There are reports that a new non-de- nominated Gay Religion organization catering to pastoral care, counseling, and religious needs for Syracusers. Gay Action is not very active at the moment. The only strong organization is the Gay Liberation Front at SU.

ALBANY:

--New efforts from the Capital city have been focused towards efforts for NYSCGO (see article). Some other ef...
Some Random Thoughts on Promiscuity

The new Kinsey study will be out in August, and Rosnow reports encouraging statistics showing diversity and stability in gay life. The study titled 'Sexual Behavior in the U.S.' includes a "typology of homosexuals." According to Rosnow, "If the more positive end of the scale were the conventional, self-accepting 'closed-couple'... those living in marriage-style unions... followed by the more sexually free 'open couples' and the hyperactive 'functionalists' who were nearly totally revolving singles of the straight world.' This scale seems to suggest that promiscuity and healthy acceptance are somehow connected, whereas promiscuity produces less healthy people. It is unclear from the report how well documented this assumption is, but it seems more than coincidence to me that the epitome of gay mental health parallels, once again in a major heterosexual norm.

Far be it from me to ignore the importance of monogamy in western society. The stability of one-to-one long-term relationship produces children, a depth of emotional satisfaction, and joint income tax returns. But to suggest that what is a socially protected and economic necessity for the survival of civilization is also a psychological necessity is, I must admit, going too far.

Nonogamy is encouraged in the homosexual world. The nuclear family in the focal point of social order, and without some secure family base the responsibility to raise its children could fall on "the state." Further, taboos against sexuality in general encourage adults to limit their sexual expression to one member of the opposite sex.

But the term just doesn't apply as functionally to Gay people. Nonogamy is discouraged among Gay people through discriminatory housing practices, social disapproval, legal restrictions and tax structure. The psychological make-up of male/male relationships differs significantly from that of male/female relations, and further complicates the possibility of monogamous coupling.

The word "promiscuity" carries with it ugly connotations, and religious and social homophobia delight in pointing to its prevalence in gay life. To be sure, there are disadvantages in relating to several partners. Promiscuity is also as scary to distance people, allowing others to get too close. One can diffuse a continuity of emotional depth and satisfaction, and it often leads to a variety of physical ailments.

The promiscuous person need not, however, be less healthy or stable than the monogamous counterpart. It is a richness in relating to several people. To the slender and weak is one's person. There is a magic and fascination in discovering persons for the first time on a sensual basis, which developed through a second and third meeting, can carry a sharing and commitment equally valid on that show in a monogamous relationship.

I am often irritated by the assump tion that the quantity of a relationship (that is, how long it lasts) is necessarily more important than the quality of a relationship. I have seen more depth and meaning in some couplings that last just one night than I have seen in some that last two years.

I must be careful here not to advertise a "cure" for the gay, as la John Necha (especially in the Christian world) would be. But there is nothing worse than anything that is any more desirable than monogamy. Yet I feel the need to question the Kinsey report's broad generalization: It is infinitely desirable. It is time to return to the fact that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, but that those who are in a monogamous situation see the advantage of promiscuity as more desirable, and those who are in a monogamous yearn for the one who will be able to offer them.

I just wish we could coin a word meaning the same as "promiscuous"—we have borrowed the term "homosexual" which goes along with it from a set of mores that don't apply.

Tom Rambay

Selections

Most Doors Swing Both Ways by SAM

This column emphasizes a personal choice of man, woman, or being gay. If he offers any advice, he offers it as though he had not been there.

During the course of a day we all pass through many doorways, usually with no effort involved in such action. This month I want to spend a little time looking at some of the doors gay kids know as more traumatic than those which we navigate as passages from one room to another. These doors are part of a process which has to do with our sexual identities.

A contemporary sociologist, Erving Goffman, has focused some of his attention on techniques by which persons try to manipulate impressions others have of them. In an early writing the vehicle he uses is a theoretical model of social life. As in dramatic productions, the meaning of what is going on is defined by the actors and actresses. Methods include the style of clothing one wears, the language one uses, and the places one chooses to go to.

For many youths, being named legally in a high school part of their coming out in America is quite as one has looked forward to that night on the couch, there is still as uncertainty involved. Upon opening the entrance door, part of one's youthful 'innocence' has been forfeited. For many, a whole new world is opened that night. Similar is one's entry into the gay bar scene. Few of us would dare that there was apprehension the first time. Remember, driven by the place several times even before daring to park in the neighborhood. Then the studied nonchalance of walking of a couple of times to get up the nerve to actually go in! Quick looks all around before an even quicker movement that got you inside. For some guys, a single visit to a gay bar is enough.

That door swings both ways. A similar experience may take place after one has made the decision to try out the gay bar. Usually, one's initial visit there is at night. Perhaps darkness provides a cover. Doors into such facilities as well as into the couches swing both ways.

Another type of business through which young people are drawn are the adult bookstores. Some of the same techniques accompany walking into such a place as they do for the above. And probably the uncertainties continue for a year or two. Watching one of the gay peep shows through yes another doorway. If one can write "probably" in that sentence, because I do not have the cruelty of perspective. All other responses are part of my bias and I have learned that in such matters I am basically unique.

There is one more door to write about which is different from the rest. Hate is only one. I refer to the door that we open from the closeted expression. Once we're out, we're out. Perhaps because we know our story before anyone else does and makes it so difficult. It can take a bit of time and thought before we say, "I am gay, and I am proud of it." And after self-acceptance, it is not long before we begin considering those who know and love us.

I felt that it was something important to tell them, that I was going to be "out," that I was going to be "alive," to feel sunlight and the relief of being free. To have a closer existence. If ever I was to be complete, it meant sharing significant knowledge with the world that the secret was no longer a secret to be held between the sheets. To be sure, there were already many people I knew about who knew my sexual preference, but this is different. Relationships with close friends are so different from the same.

Once having said, "I am gay," there is no retraction of the statement. There is no way to go back to that closeted one-door even if I wanted to... and I don't want to.

A Lesbian's View of Buffalo by Pattie Varga

Now would seem to be a good time to be talking on. Now that Sister of Sappho has closed its doors (tumor has caused that it closed due to lack of interest.) And with Ricardo's being the only woman's bar of Buffalo who wouldn't want to move on. (There has been increase of women socializing in Mean Alvin's lately.)

However, before being hasty, perhaps I should look again as to why Buffalo has to offer. For there may be other lesbians who might not be as fortunate as I am being able to just pack up and leave for greener pastures, and that maybe just leaving isn't an option.

For all women--a new social club is in the process of being formed. As far as I believe that it is not yet. I hope that when there is more information available, it will be known to the office of the Mattachine Society.

A Gay woman over the age of 28--Gay Rights of Older Women is still active.

Most of the all homosexuals, there are still clubs that would welcome gay women. Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier Gay Liberation Front Student Alliance Gay Equality Dignity (the gay Catholic Group)

For information on any of the above mentioned groups, phone 811-5335.

As to the bar scene, rumor has it that Ricardo's is planning on changing their selection of music. I look forward to this change.

REGIONAL NEWS cont.

FURTHER WHICH THE ALBANY people are putting up include lobbying religious organizations, for example...

Five people representing NYUCGQ demonstrated on the steps of the New York State Catholic Conference when the conference held a public liturgy at St. Pius X Church here in Albany on April 10th. The peaceful demonstration was supported by a group so as not to disrupt the service, but only to raise the issue with the bishops.

The media statement distributed at that time stated that the only reason that we, the organizers of Gay Rights Legislation in the New York area and surrounding, were there was to give the conference a chance to listen. It finished by stating "we question the Christian attitude that the Catholic Conference, for Christ taught love and compassion not just for hetero-
BUFFALO GAY PEOPLE -- WHAT DO THEY WANT? — An Interview with Guy Vullo

BY TIM DENESHA

Late last year, one of Buffalo’s most long-established gay bars, the Hibachi Room, closed. Early this year, the city’s newest gay bar, Gabriel’s Gate, closed two weeks after opening as a disco, thus leaving gay clubbers that it had been converted to a disco after several months of poor business.

The close proximity of these events and the gay community’s suspicions about the attitude of the Griffin administration toward gays, many rumors have been circulating about the closings.

On March 25th the Fifth Freedom Interviewed Guy Vullo, who was the manager of the Hibachi Room for over ten years. He was eager to discuss the circumstances of both closings as well as his experiences in managing gay bars in Buffalo.

FP: Would you comment on the sign which is posted on the door of the Hibachi Room "CLOSED-TRAFFIC VIO. BUFFALO"?

GV: David Chipman, the owner, put it up; it’s meant to be sarcastic. How can he help being bit- ter? You’re king of the mountain for three and a half years and in one day, it’s gone. Mean Alice’s opened its doors and that was it. Friday night the people were there, Saturday night they were gone.

The two dollar door charge was probably what did it. You didn’t have to pay at Mean Alice’s. Also, being a block from West Chippewa Street added to it; we always had a lot of trouble with black pigs who were never easy to handle the crowd.

After Mean Alice’s opened, Dave cancelled the door charge, lowered the cover, and we had all kinds of crap coming in— I almost lost my life one night because someone had a knife. That killed it; he closed the place eight months after Mean Alice’s opened. He’d spent $50,000 on renovation, and he financed himself right to the hole to pay for it, based on his track record as a businessman.

So you could say that back once business dropped off. And that’s why the Hibachi Room closed. I believe Dave is planning to move out of Buffalo now.

FP: For as the police go, they can be nice or they can be bastards; you just have to kiss their ass. Back in the fifties, at least one gay bar was burning over its patio. Did door charge to the police every week, but it’s not that extreme now? Christmas time, you send a case of liquor over to the station of whatever precinct you’re in; if you serve food and a cover comes in for lunch, you serve them for free. That kind of thing; and they don’t give you too much trouble— won’t ticket the cars in front of your bar or some stuff like that.

The State Liquor Authority has different offices in each part of the state and each one applies the laws differently; but they’re all pretty strict, except for New York City, where things are real loose, probably because someone’s putting paid off. The SLA is unimpeachable; the board of the State Liquor Authority dictates to it and the Supreme Court. That’s an expensive that barely anyone can carry a case that far. They’ve got a million laws on their side and can close you down pretty much whenever they want. Years ago there was a bar here called Denny’s place; the owner, Denny, lost his liquor license because one of the bartenders had jokingly made a grab for his coat. And back then, if you closed him down, he couldn’t afford to fight the case.

A similar thing happened with Dave Chipman about eight weeks after he opened the Hibachi Room. The SLA came up with ten charges, including possession of dope by one owner, and seemed likely to win.

FP: Was was dancing with men against the law?

GV: No, but it was a violation of a "social norm" as they call it, and they could use that kind of thing to close you down. Fortunately, Dave paid off the SLA and was allowed to close the bar on the basis of one charge right from the beginning into a special account for legal fees. It cost him $35,000 to fight that case, and he won; he got a sympathetic judge, who threw the whole case out of court.

But it took months and a lot of work for the Fire Commissioner some of us tried to organize an alliance between the bars here; part of the reason was to establish a joint legal fund, so we’d have the money to fight if we needed it. We were also hoping the alliance would help businessmen like having each bar has its two-or-five night on a different night, or two bars not scheduling special events on the same night...but it didn’t work out, there wasn’t that kind of cooperation.
What about the attitude of the Buffalo city government?

GV: At regular times, if you have a mayor like Makowski or Sudita, you get along pretty well; oh, the laws are there, they've got all the tools to close you down anytime, it's just a matter of whether they choose to. As for Griffin, though, it's different: Griffin doesn't give a shit, he's gonna try and close down every gay bar in this city before he's out of office. It's gonna happen, and it's already started... Then the Bielicki Room closed, Bill Schroeder started going a big lunch business at Ricardo's. Then, all of a sudden, the health department shows up with a list of $15,000 worth of improvements he's got to make on his kitchen if he wants to continue serving lunches. He can't afford it, so that's the end of his lunch business. Then the insurance company shows up, and wants him to evict the entire place because there are holes in the rug that someone might trip on. Now, come on, something's coming down here, and no one wants to realize it.

NF: What in particular would you like to say to Buffalo's gay community?

GV: Gay people should look at what has happened here in the past few months, and look at the position they're in now. This is practically a one-bar town now, and it's a hell of a lot easier for the city or the SSA to close down one bar than five or six. Two bars have closed in the last several months, largely because of lack of support from the gay community. Whenever the next bar closes, whether it's one or somebody else's, I hope it'll be supported. If people could just get together to go from bar to bar, give them all a share of their business, Griffin's against us, and by focusing ourselves on just one bar, we're making it that much easier for him to shut down the gay social scene for all.

Recently I was talking to a friend who used to work in the bar here, and he lives in California. I told him some of my different plans, and he said, "You mean to tell me you're gonna do something in Buffalo again? How many times does that town have to kick you in the ass before you learn?" But I'm gonna do it again, I have to; either you're a bar person or you're not, and I'm a bar person: I'll never be happy doing anything else. But this'll be the last time in Buffalo; if it doesn't work this time, that'll be it for me and Buffalo.

Poetry

WOMAN'S HANDS

(For Susan Scafe)

Your woman's hands hold a pen to sketch our anger in words with shaky, unbroken lines, poems that hard spilled; a tenderness colored by pure woman-spirit floating in the bloodlines of a once-free woman's soul. Their chins have not left their mark there their coldness shimmed as we wait silently to light the fuses our hands so eager to pump yours again to feel the freedom you've kept alive in your heart all these months rising up in struggle every time. Woman's hands, Susan yours and ours woman's hands move in the Chilean sunlight, scattered from the beaten paths sessions clutch habits in tenements and try to fend off rage align welfare checks yet refuse to crawl. They crawl out poems in darkened cells knowing that someday their hands will shatter the bars and move on to remake the world.

—by Debi Sengall
ALBANY

Along the Levee (American River, Sacramento)

Well, that's the last thing I expected in this colorless, slick scene — the sun. Ah, but it's only making an appearance, amazes to be gone, focused on just a not very well bred dog tearing from the woods, shaking himself dapp. a day I'd heard a white back hoping he come with the sort of man I wouldn't mind coming with myself or if not that then at least a man, with something interesting to say, hoping to come with me.

No luck — maybe this isn't the season or weather for cruising, or learning something new. I guess I'll go home — I mean, my best friend's house, where I'm staying here, at least it's dry there, though I fear making love is out this visit, with his free-floating Catholic guilt, and his wife so very pregnant — no matter what she says about "not feeling threatened" By the sun, but in a "beautiful, time-honored relationship" in the next room.

—Burton Weiss

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SUNDAY: Free Buffet 7-8pm; Disco Dancing from 7pm

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HAL FISCHER: AN OVERVIEW

Once again the Catholic Archdiocese of New York is mounting a vicious campaign to defeat gay rights for lesbians and gay men. Now, as in the past, they are appropriating huge sums of money (25 million dollars) to destroy the city council bill (to end desecration) and drive gay people back into the closet.

A spokesperson for the Archdiocese Office of Communications says that "the issue is not moral one," and that while "catholics take pride in their support of civil rights for all minorities, civil rights for homosexuals cannot be compared with other "minorities" because "race, age, sex and age are inseparable parts of personalism."

The Catholic Church has published a position paper called, "Catholic Assumptions Regarding Homosexuals and Legislation which they might be subjected to all parishes. In this paper they state:

1) that homosexuals deserve every pastoral and sacramental service that can be offered to them;
2) that Catholic leaders should make a special effort to understand homosexuals, and their problem to offer them counselling;
3) that homosexual activity is "immoral;"
4) that the Catholic position strongly reinforces parents' and their having determined, if any children in their formative years free of any person or influence that might drive (then toward homosexual sympathies, and that parents' rights are undermined in this.

The church, while saying that homosexual acts are bad and sin, indicts itself by saying that positive role models will be so alluring that children, will find homosexuality hard to resist.

The self-respect which emanates from his work, a vestige of Fischer's authoritarianism. This photography is marked by a dignity. If Fischer's photography cannot be designated as "gay art" in the strictest sense, it is certainly one of the gay subcultures most aesthetically viable products.
After all these years of silence about gay sex, "Loving Men" is a rare, if not unique, offering. Freedman and Mayes are to be commended for their attempt to bring gay sex into the limelight. What they have done in their book is to present an array of gay men in a way that is not only informative but also fascinating. They have managed to avoid the overblown rhetoric that often accompanies discussions of gay sex, and have presented their material in a way that is accessible and engaging. The authors have also managed to avoid the overgeneralization that can often characterize discussions of gay sex, and have presented a range of gay men, each with their own unique characteristics and perspectives.

The book is well-organized, with each chapter focusing on a different aspect of gay sex. The authors begin by discussing the history of gay sex, and then go on to explore the cultural and social contexts in which gay sex occurs. They then turn to the physiological aspects of gay sex, and finally to the psychological aspects. Throughout the book, the authors provide a wealth of information, and their writing is clear and concise.

One of the strengths of "Loving Men" is its accessibility. The authors have managed to make a complex and sometimes difficult subject matter accessible to a wide range of readers. They have also managed to avoid the overgeneralization that can often characterize discussions of gay sex, and have presented a range of gay men, each with their own unique characteristics and perspectives.

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BUFFALO

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, Business and Fifth Freedom office at 45 Allen St., 2nd floor. Mailing address MSNF, Box 1270 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14205. Meetings every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month held at the Unitarian Church, Elmwood & West Ferry: Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00 PM followed by meeting and program at 7:30 PM. All members and friends welcome. Call 881-5335 for information and counseling.

GAY RIGHTS for OLDER WOMEN (G.R.O.W) Call the Buffalo Women Center, 499 Franklin St., tel. 886-5293 for information.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT/ SUNYAB, College F (Telstol House), Townsend Hall, Main St. Campus, UB. Gay coffeehouse every Friday evening at 9 p.m. Phone 831-5336 for information; counseling offered at GLF number every Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 10-2 p.m.

STUDENT ALLIANCE FOR GAY EQUALITY (SAGE), Buffalo State University College, 111 Cassety Hall, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo. Mailing address Cassety Hall B20. Meetings every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. in Room 414 of the Union.

Parents of Gays/Lesbians, 144-23 Roosevelt Ave., Flushing, New York 11355

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Bignity/Buffalo, Meetings at the Center for Justice at 2278 Main St., Buffalo, NY. 1st Sunday of the Month: Liturgy at 3 PM followed by Pot Luck Dinner & planning meeting. 3rd Sunday of the month: Liturgy at 5 PM followed by business meeting. Call 884-5631 for further information.

Seasonal Changes

Serving Resouce and springtime are forever linked in poetry, but science tells a different tale. German doctors report that the level of the male hormone testosterone is highest in the fall and lowest in the spring. Another German scientist surveyed 1,000 married couples and found that 53 percent met and fell in love in the autumn. Finally, another survey found that the majority of divorces—62 percent—occurred in marriages of people who met in the spring...

Two medical researchers, Charles and Mary Ann Lewis, claim in an article published in Science Now that men are less healthy than women because of the "sex roles" males are encouraged to emulate. As children, males are encouraged to endure pain and hardship, to "take it like a man," by six years of age,"say the Lewises, "males perceive themselves to be less vulnerable or susceptible than females of the same age." All of which leads to the conclusion that men don't seek medical help as readily as women, have many more chronic diseases than women and die sooner... Advocate

BARS & RESTAURANTS

DOMINIQUE'S, 20 Allen Street, Buffalo. 886-8694.
MEAN ALICE'S, 729 Main Street, Buffalo. 756-3298.
RICARDO'S, 252 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. 855-8762.
VILLA CAPRI, 937 Main St., Buffalo. 886-9469.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meetings every Wednesday at 8:30 PM. Shoreline Apartments Building #210, apt 102, Niagara St.

BATHS

CLUB AMHERST, 44 Almeda Street; 835-6711. Club membership required.

BOOKSTORES

EMMA, Women's Bookstore, 2474 Main St. at Greenfield, Buffalo, NY 836-8970

MARAKESH, 55 Allen St., 882-8200. Gay periodicals.

RADIO PROGRAMS

STONEWALL NATION, WBFO-FM, 88.7 FM, Mondays 10:30 to 11 p.m. "Mainly a talk show, interviews, reviews, music, etc. Mostly gay men."

CLUBS

NEW YORK/ONTARIO LEATHER CLUB (NYOLC), Box 684, Ellicott Station, Buffalo 14205. Meetings held every 2nd Sunday of the month at 699 Elmwood Ave. at 3:00 PM. Call 886-9469.

NIAGARA FALLS

BARS & RESTAURANTS

AD LILB TAVERN, 2228 Falls Street, Niagara Falls.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLASSIFIED

Bisexual men, discreet, candid, clean, and near, wishes to meet young, attractive, straight/bisexual couple for friendly, pleasant relationship. I am a beginner at exploring and experimenting with a wide range of sexual experiences. Send phone number to Greg, c/o Mattachine. Photo helpful.

Do you know the difference between the NYC 4-6-4 J series and PB 66's and K5's? If you do, or even if you prefer K units: contact Peter, c/o Mattachine.

Ornola clocks, cast iron lawn dogs, and other oddments needed for Mattachine auction Sunday, May 21 at 7:30 pm in the Unitarian Church. Not strong on conversation, but affectionate and loyal. Something different. Leave message for Sporty at 288-709.

Get it three ways at once. Mattachine's next meeting has three films: anger, prejudice, and... pillow talk. Come to the Unitarian Church at 7:30 pm, Sunday, May 1.

Professional? Wish to feel support from people of similar background? A confidential organization, non-explosive! Contact Bill at Mattachine, 501-5355.

AA—GAY MEETING

Wednesdays at 5:30p.m. Shoreline Apts. Building 7120, apt 101 (Pastor's Office—door to left of building's entrance, Niagara St. near the Square)

DIGITAL/MOUTH—

Catholic gay organization. Liturgy and services. Newsletter. Contact: Digital/Mouth Newsletter c/o Nick O'Connell 8 St. John's Place Apt. #2 Buffalo, NY 14201

GAY MOTHER'S COUNSELING GROUP—

Child & Family Services 335 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203

Mondays 6pm. to 8pm. Starting May 21. Leader: Tom Hamilton, M.D., CMH. Fee based on income. Contact Mr. Hamilton at 849-1557.

LIVING AS A GAY PERSON—

Unitarian Camp experience, Aug. 20 to Aug. 26. Contact Diocese of Ontario, Inc. 268 Sheridan Ave., Hamilton, Ont. LIP 2R3

LESBIAN MOTHERS TO

CONFERENCE IN AUGUST

New York, NY. Nearly one thousand lesbians of widely diverse age, class, political and ethnic backgrounds attended the Eastern Regional Lesbian Conference held the weekend of April 1 at Hunter College.

Keynote speakers at the conference characterized the diversity of the conference as "potentially our greatest strength rather than a threat to our unity."

The many workshops at the Conference enabled the women to share skills, discuss political strategies, offer support to each other and plan for future projects. Topics included gay rights legislation, organizing, and "how to" sessions on publicity, newsletters, fundraising and the staging of women's events.

WOMEN have begun planning resource networks as the result of some of the workshops. One such project, for women starting and owning businesses (individually or collectively), was described as "on its way to becoming a reality." A group of New York women announced plans to organize a bartering network for the exchange of goods and services.

Plans are also afooting for the Second Annual Lesbian Mother's Conference to be held in August in Kingston, Mass. Supported by the Lesbian Mothers Support Group at the Cambridge Women's Center, this year's conference will include not only mothers but other lesbian women in co-parenting situations. For more information on the conference call the Lesbian Mothers at the Cambridge Women's Center: 617-354-8807. Gay Community News

Space donated by a Gay businessman who must remain anonymous.

REMARKS:

I know too well your worldly ways
unfortunately
I am classed with you
but my love will not stand
if I knew
I need someone to stand with me

WANTED: Warm, w/6, 18-24 for personal friendship more than sex. Semi-experienced Gay seeks platonic relationship, possibly leading further with time. Write to Mitch, c/o Mattachine, PO Box 1270, Ellicott St., Buffalo, NY 14205

Personal

Many holidays have gone by, and a long cold winter.

The laughs and good times shared during those holidays we will always cherish. We sincerely look forward to many more great times with the coming warm months.

Sincerely yours,

"Thank you for shopping at Dominiques"
WE NEED YOU....

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 7

3) Trivia Night at Social Awareness 6:30 PM

Auction

Proceeds to go to MSNF

MSNF

WILL BE HELD AT THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

ALL FUNCTIONS HELD AT THE

MATTACHINE CAN ONLY GIVE TO YOU, WHAT YOU ARE WILLING TO PUT INTO MATTACHINE!!!

WE NEED YOU....

Pot Luck Supper 6:00 PM

Elmwood Ave. and West Ferry

POT-LUCK SUPPER 6:00 PROGRAM 7:30

GAY BUSINESS IN BUFFALO

MATTACHINE SOCIETY of the Niagara Frontier, Inc.

1270, ELLICOTT STA., BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14205

P.O. Box 120, ATTENTION: EDITORIAL: NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003

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