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Fifth Freedom, 1979-04-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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The "Take Back the Night" march was a symbolic statement of this effort, demonstrating that women are not passive, dependent, or powerless, and that we will end the violence that is committed against us.

Other events held in honor of International Women's Day included a film showing on the status of Cuban women by Action for Women in Chile, Latin America Solidarity Committee, and Ceta Local 2008; an All Women's Dance, held at the Universalist Unitarian Church and sponsored by the Buffalo Women's Liberation Union; a martial arts demonstration by Nvu Li Tao; and a series of workshops on Women against Violence, sponsored by Emma Women's Bookstore.

The film on Cuban women dealt with the revolution and the changes that have taken place in the status of Cuban women as a result. It was followed by a talk by Barbara Henschu on the lack of gay rights in Cuba.

The series of workshops, held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, on Saturday, included such topics as "Violence and the Legal System", dealing with what happens to women who defend themselves against violence; "Women, Depression and Drugs", "Women and Alcohol", "Neighborhood Outreach on Rape", "Organizing Against Rape", "Battered Women", and "Self Violence and Motherhood". This writer was unable to attend these workshops, but was informed by several members of Emma that the sessions were extremely informative and interesting.

BUFFALO CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY

The major event to celebrate this year's International Women's Day was a "Take Back the Night" march, held on Wednesday, March 7 on Buffalo's west side. The march was organized along this year's theme of women organizing against violence against women.

Approximately 700 people, including some men, participated in the march, which began at the corner of Richmond and W. Ferry, continued over Richmond, Utica, and Elmwood Streets to Children's Hospital, and then returned to the church. The Children's Hospital was chosen as the target of the march because it has been the scene of a growing number of rapes. Along the way, participants chanted such slogans as "Women unite! Stand up and fight!" "Women unite! Take back the night!" and "There's no excuse for Women's Abuse!"

The march was followed by a series of talks at the church. Speakers included Nkange Touse, Administrator at the Washington, D.C. Rape Crisis Center, who spoke on organizing women against rape, and Pat Line, of the Love Canal Home Owner's Association, who, in her talk on "Who asks to be raped?!" tied the type of violence which has been perpetrated against residents of the Love Canal area by the Federal and State governments with violence against women. These talks were followed by refreshments, folk singing, and displays by various women's organizations.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day, women organizing against violence against women, was chosen because violence against women is an acute and increasing problem in our society. Forms of violence against women include constant harassment on the streets, wife-beating, and rape, as well as the mistreatment of women by the medical profession. To reverse this situation, women are not only learning self defense, setting up rape crisis services, and demanding safe public housing and transportation, but are organizing to change the system which encourages and maintains the sexist ideology which perpetrates this violence. (Cont. on previous column)
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Interestingly, the public reaction to this book has been largely favorable and those I've directly touched have been personally very supportive. I have not lost my job, and have never experienced any pressure or harassment from either the educational establishment or from my colleagues. In fact, none of the public G.T.A. (Gay Teachers Association) members have. Reality does not seem to match up with our fears."

Sandy Gold.
(N.Y.S.G.C.O.)
(Downstate Co-Chair)

EDITORIAL

On March 4th, the following appeared in a column in the Buffalo News.

"Of our century's homosexual novelists in English, Forster is surely the greatest. It is fortunate that the "straight" world should learn of this great writer's INFINITI,* one sustained with fortitude, from a biographer who allot's it its proportionate place in the history of his subject."

(Emphasis added)

This paragraph was excerpted from a review written by CHARLES A. BRADY, the News book reviewer, of the book E. M. FORSTER: A Life. It is imperative that the gay community unite and provide feedback to the Buffalo Evening News showing our disgust and dissatisfaction at their negligence in publishing such prejudiced trash. This is another excellent example of the discrete (i.e. by using the relatively weak word 'infiniti' to describe Forster's gayness) type of propaganda that is used to reinforce the negative image stereotypes have of gays; when a straight person says "but everyone thinks gays are sick", it is precisely people like BRADY and the Buffalo Evening News that that impression has been instilled and reinforced.

I personally urge everyone to write a letter of protest to the editor of the Buffalo Evening News, the address is:

One News Plaza
Buffalo, New York 14240

FROM OUR MAILBAG

Dear Friends,

I read your paper whenever I get a chance and enjoy the way you put it together. Your effort is to be commended, especially in a city such as Buffalo, where the gay community unfortunately have no sense of "gay community". Which brings me to the point of my letter.

An article in your bar goer (twice a week, sometimes more) and have for the first time since the days of Big Daddy's and the early Hibachi Room found a little, much needed sense of warmth and unity in the new edition to our "bar scene": Slaters Disco. (Wasn't it supposed to be called The People's Choice...? it certainly should have been. It's indeed a new choice that is finally and truly "for the people").

What I most enjoy -- as well as the sense of a "united party" is the music they play. The selections absolutely astound the ear; they seem to be well thought out and mixed with a good ear for musical climax. The cross section of "hard driving", "get down and sweat" with a hustle type sound as well as beautifully chosen and sensitively selected slow songs is fabulous and I'm sure it's not as easy a task as it seems. (Where do you get those songs from?) My hat is off to whom is our responsible.

Secondly, the bartenders are good-looking, interesting people with more to say than typically tacky talk. What a pleasant change of pace!

Some improvements certainly need to be made. The bathrooms could be fixed up a little, but wasn't that a complaint of every bar we've had? At least there's plenty of room to move in them. The back entrance could definitely be made more attractive: it's really an eye sore and gives it poor impression to the new comer but at least you've got the largest bar parking capacity we've ever seen in Buffalo, but if we park in that bar parking lot that means coming in through the back which should be fixed up.

Yet, there is absolutely no way to deny the disco freedom that works here. No additional lighting or decorative ornaments can change the magic that makes a disco "work". And work it does! And with good tunes isn't the music we hear, the people we meet, and the warmth of that combination the essence of a disco? Thank you, Slaters, for being what you are: indeed The People's Choice!

Sincerely,
Frank T. Scavino

APRIL 1979 VOLUME 9 NO. 2

Publication of the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

5th Freedom is a monthly publication by and for the Buffalo gay community. It is distributed free of charge in any establishment and with any organization permitting such distribution. Our monthly circulation is 4,000. We welcome any contributions of news items, written articles, letters, art work or photography by members of the Gay Community. We cannot guarantee the return of any materials submitted for publication, whether used by 5th Freedom or not unless specifically requested and accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All letters to the Editor must be signed, although names will be withheld upon request. Views expressed are solely those of the respective authors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mattachine Society or of the 5th Freedom.

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All Fifth Freedom staff members are volunteers. Anyone interested in working on the paper should call our business office at (716) 881-5335, write to the address above or drop in at our offices at 45 Allen Street. Permission is required for reprint of any materials appearing in the Fifth Freedom. Advertising rates sent on request.

STAFF

Jorge A. Fiedler
Co-editor
Edward Taussig
Editors
Mary Ann Hearn
John Good
Dora Smith
Tom Hammond
Bernie N.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bill Hardy
Tom
M. J. H.
Ross Rewitt
Stuart Reiss
Louie Crew
R. B. Schroeder
BIRDS IN THE BUSH
Conservationists are complaining that gay men don't seem to be as interested in bird watching at a Federal Wildlife sanctuary along the Potomac, south of Alexandria (Virginia). Nature lovers contend that the influx of gay tricksters has caused trampling of vegetation and compacting of earth. The name of the dusty trysting place? Dyke Marsh.

CONTAMINATED MONEY
After a warning from federal authorities, the Oklahoma Gay Activist Alliance has discouraged members from circulating currency stamped with the words "GAY MONEY". John E. Green, 1st Assistant in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oklahoma City, earlier warned that the "defacing" of currency with the red "GAY MONEY" stamp must stop or his office would seek to prosecute the violators.

LICENTIOUS PLATES
Since new license plates were issued last month, 130 irate motorists in Scott County (Iowa) have returned the plates because they bore the prefix GAY. One woman wrote: "I cannot be a single teacher and sport those plates." A traveling salesman complained that while he was in Chicago, his car doors were kicked in because of the plates.

State officials tried to eliminate prefixes that might be offensive to towns or overlooked GAY. Says Scott County Treasurer William Cusack: "Out in California I'm sure there is a waiting line for GAY plates. But not in Iowa."

ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE THE BEST
"Butch" frogs with deep voices make better lovers than their higher pitched brothers with "tenor" croaks, according to British zoologists who are experimenting with several hundred European toads at a pond near Oxford. The tenors, almost invariably gave way to the bass-voiced toads, even in love making, who happened to challenge them.

“Zine Magazine-

ROUND HOLES OK'D
Hartford, Conn.—A legislative committee recently repealed an archaic Connecticut regulation that required all toilets to have horse-shoe-shaped toilet seats.

The regulation was adopted in 1939 because some persons, despite disclaimers from doctors, believed they could get venereal disease from soiled, circular toilet seats.

Toilet manufacturers had complained to the Health Dept. that it was expensive to make horseshoe seats in the various colors and designs used in homes because they couldn't be sold in any other state. (GAY NEWS)
Washington, D.C.—The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled a New Hampshire law against statutory rape unconstitutional because it punishes males, not females, who engage in sexual acts with minors.

The Court let stand a decision by the First Circuit Court of Appeals that overturned the conviction of a 24-year-old Portsmouth, New Hampshire man who was found guilty of having sex with a 14-year-old girl in 1974. The man had served three and a half years in prison.

A recent Harris poll has shown that by a 60-37 percent margin, the majority of Americans support the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortions.

Of the 60 percent who favor legalized abortions, 63-30 percent majority said that their views would not otherwise stop them from voting for an anti-abortion candidate while of the 37 percent who oppose abortion, A 53 to 37 percent majority said that they would not vote for a pro-abortion candidate.

Therefore, in terms of political impact it is obvious that most people opposed to abortion are prepared to make their vote dependant on this single issue and are gaining political efficacy by organizing accordingly. Thus, it has been estimated that 20 percent of the total population are effectively anti-abortion while 15 percent are pro-abortion.

Boston—The Poison Information Center here has published an announcement warning gay people that ingestion of amyl or butyl nitrate ("Rush, Locker Room, etc.") either orally or intravenously can be fatal.

At least one New Hampshire man is in critical condition at a Boston hospital as a result of ingestion.

-Gay Community News

Boston—Supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment scored a triumph in Wyoming but suffered a defeat in Virginia recently.

The Wyoming Senate, the first legislati

body in the nation to grant women the right to vote, narrowly affirmed the state's ratification of the ERA at the behest of the Senate. They defeated a resolution that would have retracted the Wyoming Legislature's 1973 approval of the amendment.

A Virginia Senate committee killed ERA for the seventh year in a row there. ERA supporters said they would seek passage in the House of Delegates in Virginia.

In a landmark decision on March 5th, the Supreme court struck down an Alabama law that had required husbands, but never wives, to pay alimony by a vote of six to three.

Justice William J. Brennan Jr., writing for the majority, said the Alabama law violates men's constitutional right to equal protection and that the state law "Carries with it the baggage of sexual stereotyping" that a woman's place is in the home and a man's place is in the marketplace and world of ideas.

The decision represents a major shift in outlook by the court on applying statutes dealing with equal protection to sex discrimination cases.

Similar laws are on the books in New York and nine other states.


Because of an official, though largely unpublicized, policy change, gay veterans issued less than honorable discharges solely on grounds of their homosexuality in most cases have them upgraded to "honorable" and begin receiving standard veterans' benefits. For this purpose, the fifteen-year limitation for upgrade applications has been suspended until January 1, 1980.

Thus, gay veterans may apply for a review of their discharge classification no matter how long ago they left the service. For more information and referrals to local counselors or attorneys, please write to: Keith Snyder, Veterans Education Project, 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Room 610, Washington, DC 20036. or call (202) 665-2244. Indicate your dates and branch of service in your letter or call. (N.G.T.F.)

Washington—For the first time in American history, more than half of all households consist of just one or two people.

"Not only are there fewer children per household, which is one reason for the declining size, but there are also fewer adults," Census Bureau analysts Paul Clicken and Arthur Norton reported.

With the high divorce rate, they said in the current issue of American Demographic magazine, "We have evidence that 45 percent of all children born in 1978 will become members of one parent families for a while at least, before they reach the age of 18 years, if present circumstances continue.

On the brighter side, they said, high divorce rates mean fewer spouse are in unhappy marriages, and there are fewer unwanted children. (VP).
Asap of the Tongue

The Spring Report - by Carroll

It seems with the coming of Spring, the backseats of autos have again become the height of fashion. According to some, the backseat was never excluded from their domain: some being very passionate and in no need of central heating. I wish someone would inform me on just who these people may be. The numbers I’ve had would inflict frostbite in mid-summer. Well, such is my case.

On a particular Sunday, a certain friend of mine was in a titillation over some gossip that he believed would be of interest to me and my column. I listened intently as he reported the bare hilarious facts. When he finished, I, too, was titillated and reported it to another friend. Well, the friend was fit to be tied, the said incident involved none other than he. Well, gossip will be gossip. I’m sorry that I am unable to report the incident for general consumption.

Recently, I attended an all male slumber party that was held at a close friend’s house. I hate to be critical but for the most part the action provided was comparable to a gathering of Girl Scouts. It even lacked a good pillow fight. The activities that did go on where such: spin the bottle and strip poker, via computer. Such is progress. You may wonder how in the world a group of nude males refrained from having an orgy. Well, it’s amazing what clothing does for some bodies.

I must confess that I myself did not go away totally unsatisfied. What morning brought was sheer pleasure, though a non-involved party was rather disturbed over the fact that this certain person and I kept knitting him in the beat of our passion. I think what bothered him the most was the fact that he was not invited to partake in the fun. Latin-Americans are just marvelous lovers. Afterward, when I regained my senses, I was quite embarrassed by the fact that the non-involved party laid there的是esadrop on my passion: all were supposed to be sleeping. Nothing works the way we plan it to. What is done is done.

What really amused me most of all at this affair was that a person I had been seeing sought reacquaintance with the comforts of my body. Well, needless to say, I wasn’t buying. So ended his little scheme for a night of merriment at my expense.

On Thursday, March 8th, for the first time in the history of the Buffalo police department a woman was assigned to patrol the same kind of beat as had been traditionally assigned only to male officers in the department. Ms. Patricia C. Schlesinger, who has worked on an undercover burglary assignment since December, has been assigned to the traffic division and will either walk a beat downtown or ride patrol with male officers in the division.

Ms. Schlesinger, as did all policewomen in New York state, became a police officer in 1973 when the title of policewoman was eliminated. In Buffalo, before this assignment, the complement of female police officers had traditionally performed only such tasks as questioning rape victims and serving warrants against female suspects.
COLLEGE ROMANCE, 1975

Really? She told you she's breaking up—just because you never have anything to say, once you've fucked, except how it was?

Well, turn gay: quite a few mature, articulate, high-minded men I know are eager— I mean, I'm sure they'd be delighted for you, Rick, or rouse (in time), unspeakably Beautiful, to say them for yourself. Unlike young women, we've been accustomed to enjoying (or providing) our own company—and oh, what pleasure to be "used" more often as a "sexual object"!

KNABENLIEBE

When later at the bar that well-known sensualist called Ron "a beautiful man", I was stunned something wasn't right, I couldn't tell what.

I thought: "a man" to me still is what my father is, and my dead uncles, "the man next door", the red-skinned butcher, and my parents' friends. All, of an unknown other are than mine, have filled their certain stations in my life and none is blond.

But Ron whom once again I am abstracted from by leading each other on with promises we should have known we wouldn't keep—a old resentful story, The Killing of Desire (by eagerness and worry)—

Ron who's never yet become himself and still is trying who to be and what to do, I'd hardly thought of Ron as a "man".

No: to me he's almost always been a boy--as in "beautiful boy", or "the boy next door", or "my oldest boyfriend"; more than once, I guess, I've seen in him some "mysterious male Being"; and frequently he played Eros or Youth, or The Prince of Energies, or my cranky Muse--well, perhaps "a young man", but never just (or quite) "a man".

Oh, my best friend, lover, lie detector, blood brother, hardest source of comfort and joy, you were always just a boy.

(Christ, I'm sometimes still aghast when sensible folks call me a man, let alone a former pupil or my troubled, first-born son.)

1970s, 80s, 90s... -by Louie Crew-

Calling all Gay people!
Calling all Gay people!
Lesbians, queens, punks, faggots, fairies, queers!
Wherever you are!
Calling all of you Gay people!
Come out wherever you are, Gay people.
You do not have to stick your hands up.
Aw right, come on out right now, darlings.
*With special, if unwelcome thanks to Baraka

UNTITLED -by R.B. Schroeder-

I lay awake, awaiting some lover long overdue. Douglas, you left me lonely, you left me sans.

Last Saturday we swam beyond sand dunes and dove under, butting against my buttocks with your head, your hair tucked behind, like the tail of a young pup, and on you, seaweed trying to tangle around your arms, sand wipes away, washes easily into the drain, in regard to men, the memories must wait awhile before they wash away.

ADVERT -by Louie Crew-

They said we were perverted.
They speculated we were inverted and guessed the only way to avert the danger that we might subvert was subtly to divert with plans to convert.

Even if covert, we reverted, always.
Honey, from now on let's just vert!
After coming out on "Stonewall Nation" (my ongoing bit of Movement work, since no one else in Buffalo seems willing, though God knows I have no "radio sense", let alone the means to practice it as art), the much older poet still needing to insist he still needs women, read an unscheduled poem to prove his point.

Listening in the studio, I liked his poems, even that one, or at least his line, so much cleaner and thinner than mine, never congested with meaning. (Maybe I should try to write such lines myself.)

Just now, over drinks at his place, with Howie (who muttered "well-preserved" when the others left the room) and the old man's current hetero affair (married, I guess, otherwise why care she "might be seen" with him?), he said he'd taken courage from the likes of us: "I could never have done that ten years ago or even five."

I liked him well enough before, at least his line and that he read, now this embarrassing praise—shit, another minute and he'll take some irreversible step toward endearment. Yup. Somehow having gotten on to drugs, I say that snorting poppers makes me feel sexy toward people whose bodies wouldn't otherwise turn on me. He chuckles: "I guess I don't know any people like that."

Maybe I should (if I could) turn on to him--maybe that's what he wants (no, actually, I think, he wants Howie)--though he is 64 and I've been troubled all my life by much older men.

DAVID II

In pure certitude
You addressed me: "I will",
Which drafted my life
In a new direction,
Not away from me
But through you
Towards myself,
To my home-coming,
Re-arrival at a place
Where you have sat and sit
Reclining at
The end of my day.

I could travel the world,
Pinpoint capitals on my map;
I could sing in
A hundred different languages,
And be glad to
Sit again in your presence
And speak over and over
Our talk.

You could fly oceans,
Groove where antelopes play,
Walk in and out of
Palaces of Justice,
Sidewalk cafés,
Shops and docks,
Places of pleasure,
And when you shook them
I'd find you home, home,
Warm beside me.

We could roam earth,
Vagabonds outbound,
Frame heavens in our lens,
Stare down alleys of fright,
Champion mountains,
Put all that behind
And be together, just two,
Knowing all in
Each other's eyes.

JUST TWO

DAVID II

In pure certitude
You addressed me: "I will",
Which drafted my life
In a new direction,
Not away from me
But through you
Towards myself,
To my home-coming,
Re-arrival at a place
Where you have sat and sit
Reclining at
The end of my day.

I could travel the world,
Pinpoint capitals on my map;
I could sing in
A hundred different languages,
And be glad to
Sit again in your presence
And speak over and over
Our talk.
"It is a warm feeling to see all my friends having a good time together; we do things together as friends."

Another major void G.Y. BUFFALO fills is the need of belonging, of having some place to turn to. Member's comments: "G.Y. presents to me a place where I can come and talk to people around my own age on a more personal level than I could in any social sector. The stigma of being gay puts a lot of added pressure on you and G.Y. is good in that talking out your problems with others helps you to handle them better."

"G.Y. has made me feel good about what I am. I used to be really depressed until I started coming to G.Y.. It has made coming out 'fun'." "G.Y. seems to be bringing us together, making us feel like we are not alone, and that there is some place we can go. It is nice to know that there is a group of people that will listen to you. I feel G.Y. is doing a lot for Buffalo, and it is nice to see the group growing every week. It is important that every person has something to turn to, and that is what G.Y. has been for me."

During the meetings, rap sessions are held on many different topics, such as: dealing with parents; promiscuity vs. monogamy; coming out to friends and family; and, the bar scene. In this way, members can become a source of information to other members through their own first and second hand experiences. In this situation problems will surface and are often solved by the group as a whole. Therefore, we can be a very effective peer counseling group, as well as a social rap group.

As one member put it, "The group is excellent. A cohesive, low pressure, fun group. Discussions are both relevant and irrelevant."

Meetings are held every Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at 42 Custer St. (1st. floor) three blocks north of Hertel Ave., off of Main Street. Also under, only. For more information, call 836-1541 before 11 p.m. People who may be over the age limit, but wish to see the group continue may send tax deductible contributions to:

GAY YOUTH BUFFALO c/o GAY LIBERATION FRONT 111 Talburt Hall Amherst Campus, SUNYAB Amherst, N.Y. 14261
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Griselda came to, weeping.

"I'm sorry"—she sobbed.— "I was so very afraid." A big tear rolled down her furry cheek.

"Do you know who killed Luella Fullbottom?"—asked J.P. —She hesitated, then said: "Yes. Yes, I do."—more sob-— "It was... was... Rex Rancid, Cuella's former boyfriend, turned actor, turned owner of Buffalo's first combination Bowling Alley-Car Wash." "I didn't do it"—cried a voice standing in the door— "I'm innocent."

"REX RANCID!!"—screamed Griselda—Rex ran from the building into the street, followed closely by J.P., Andrews, Griselda and Alice Capri.

Suddenly, a blinding flash of light appeared and a huge flying saucer, an interplanetary spacecraft, descended from the sky and landed atop the Marine Midland Tower.

A beam of lavender light shot down from the ship, and two figures materialized on the street below. The large figure, a 6'8" leather robot stood motionless, as the other figure, clad in a white ermine spacesuit and an aurora borealis studded helmet spoke.

"My name is Faaguu, and my companion's name is Wort. We have travelled many light years to bring you an important message."

What is the message? Could it be they have run out of Aurora Borealis stones on Faaguu's home planet, and flying overhead Buffalo would be the spot to replenish his supply?

What about Rex? Will he have to close up the shop because of warped alleys due to an over-abundance of water and turtle wax?

And what was the real reason for which Andrew was kneeling behind the bar while the bartender looked so happy?

For the answers to these and other pointless questions, stay tuned for Chapter 4 of .... MORT D'AMOUR.
The nationwide boycott protesting Nestle's advertising and sales of infant formula in underdeveloped nations is having some effect. Nestle officials have begun meeting with the Infant Formula Action Coalition (INFANT) in an attempt to negotiate a settlement. Recently Nestle announced that it has suspended all mass media advertising of infant formula in underdeveloped nations.

This is only one step however. Nestle still advertises formula by posters, calendars, and printed material in hospitals, clinics and doctor's offices in Third World countries. They still give out free samples of formula that mothers use until they run out and find it is too late to begin breastfeeding and must continue use of formula. They still use "Milk Nurses" women dressed in white who effectively sell new mother's infant formula by convincing them Bottle-feeding is modern and scientific, breast-feeding backward and primitive.

Declining birth rates in western countries have precipitated the aggressive marketing and advertising campaigns of companies such as Nestle. Despite the fact that no more than ten percent of third world mothers-who can't breast-feed have any real need for formula, these campaigns have been incredibly successful.

In Singapore, in 1976, twenty-one percent of all babies from low-income families were breast-fed. Twenty-five years later only five percent were.

But the problem is far more serious than just promoting an expensive and unnecessary product. To use infant formula safely requires pure water, a way to sterilize bottles and nipples, and enough money to buy the necessary amount of formula.

A refrigerator is also needed unless the formula is to be prepared every few hours. Because exclusive bottle-feeding can cost over 80 percent of their total income, many families over-dilute infant formula, which leads to malnutrition and death.

They must also mix the formula with contaminated water, because that's the only water available. They can't afford fuel to boil water, so the bottle and nipple become contaminated too. Then the prepared bottle usually bakes in the sun. The result is diarrhea, which also leads to malnutrition.

Malnutrition causes irreversible brain damage in infants. If prolonged, it brings death. The problem is so widespread that doctors speak of an epidemic of "baby bottle disease".

By the time baby bottle disease is diagnosed (if it ever is) it's usually too late to do anything about it because the mother's milk has already dried up.

Chronic malnutrition directly due to the unsafe use of infant formula by mothers who could have breast-fed has killed thousands of third world babies and caused severe mental retardation in countless others.

Church groups here have used stockholders' petitions and lawsuits to force some U.S. formula manufacturers to discontinue their promotion of infant formula to mothers who can't afford to use it safely.

But Nestle, the gigantic Swiss transnational which sells more than a third of all the infant formula in the world, is, by its structure, immune to such pressures. They ignore moral arguments. The only way to get at them is a boycott.

The National Council of Churches, an umbrella group for several hundred churches across the United States has voted to join the boycott.

In Albany N.Y. over thanksgiving weekend, the Catholic Diocese launched a campaign to promote the boycott of Nestle products.

A list of brand names to boycott which are all owned by Nestle follows:

NESCAFE, NESTEAS, TASTER'S CHOICE
SUNRISE
LIBBY'S
CROSSE & BLACKWELL
STOUFFER'S
JARLSBERG CHEESE (Nestle')
KEILLER
MCVITIES
MACGEL
DEER PARK MOUNTAIN SPRING WATER
LACTOGEN INFANT FORMULA
JAMES KELLER AND SON, LTD.
CRANFORD
GERBER CHEESES
PRICE'S FRENCH ONION DIP
SWISS KNIGHT CHEESE
CHERRY HILL OLD FORT CHEESE
PROVOLONE LOCATELLI
MAJOR GREY'S CHUTNEY
PERDUE
WISPRIDE
KAVLI CRISPBREAD (FLATBREAD)
L'OREAL (HAIR CARE AND COSMETICS)
BERRINGER WINES
असुर SORBITE
NESTLES QUICK, CHOCOLATE, etc.
My stars, but it has been a while, hasn't it? I sincerely hope everyone's holiday went off with a bang. I know my New Year certainly started with one. Well...

Now that spring is here, and everyone's thoughts are turning to—among other things—the great out of doors, we must not forget all of our lovely chlorophyllated organisms living on the inside. This time around we're going to discuss insects. I've talked about them before in brief but I'm going to get into their identification so that when you get through you will be an expert on bugs. A test will follow.

First we have aphids. Those little green, grey, red, brown or black creatures, grouping in clusters on the underside of leaves and on stems. They suck vital juices from the plant, stunting leaves, eventally killing it. Compare it to falling asleep for 3 hours in the orgy room at the baths. Aphids are easily seen, specially when masses together.

Next we have the white fly. The first indication of these are small oval whitish eggs on the undersides of leaves. The next stage are the flies themselves. Then the plant is moved, clouds of white flies rise from the plant, only to settle back on it. Fuchsia plants seem to be one of most susceptible to these, and also Purplepassion.

Fungus gnats are small grublike worms that surface on the soil in your pots after watering, eventally turning into small black flies howering over the soil. Although not too serious a pest, they can damage roots in the larval stage.

Mealy bugs and scale are both stationary insects, feed on stems and leaves. Mealy bugs are whitish cottony clusters and is a type of scale. Brood scales are easily seen, brown raised spots on stems and leaves. It is actually a shell harboring a tiny insect inside. Both, as aphids, suck vital juices, killing the plant when present in large quantities. These generally should be swabbed off the plant individually with a cotton ball, using insecticide, and the entire plant sprayed.

Lastly, we have spider mites. In my opinion, these are the most difficult to get rid of, as you really don't know you have them until they number in the millions. Something like scabies. The first indication of them is the yellowing of the tops of the leaves. When you look under the leaf you will see tiny pinpoint size yellowish white specks moving about on tiny webs. When advanced, the new growth tips of the plant will be completely covered by webs and at this point, the plant should be discarded.

Palms, dracaenas and impatiens seem highly susceptible to spider mites.

For prevention and cure of all of the above I have found that Isotox Insect Spray is just about the best. It's made by the Ortho Company and is available at most nurseries or garden centers. Aero sol houseplant sprays are all right but they just don't have the strength that Isotox does, nor the systemic action which means it's absorbed into the system of the plant. I've recommended this product before, but when you have a good thing it merits repeating.

For the naturalists among us, a good washing with soapy water and a sponge or soft cloth will help remove insects. This should be done at regular intervals just as a preventive measure. Spraying with diluted garlic juice will also help prevent insects from appearing. It will also keep away any vampires lurking outside your window. Gargle with it and it should repel any kind of sucker.

So much for the insects. Looking outside at all the beautiful crocus and daffodils in bloom, I am more eager than ever for summer's return, so I can get back outside on that nice, sun warmed acres and get busy. I may even do some gardening. So, 'til next time, think green and be happy.

SAGE UPDATE

The Student Alliance for Gay Equality, (SAGE) is planning a number of events for the next several months. On March 14, they had a successful Wine and Cheese party. A series of workshops and a Disco Dance is planned for Saturday April 28 that is being funded by the campus Faculty Student Organization and will be called Gay Day.

SAGE plans to have a booth at a carnival at Buff State planned for May. It hasn't been decided yet what the booth will contain, but suggestions have included throwing cream pies in the faces of SAGE members, or maybe a gay kissing booth.

SAGE, which is working on a "limited Budget" is accomplishing "surprisingly alot." SAGE which is located in room 118 of Cassety Hall has office hours weekdays from 1-5:30 pm, and serves both the gay and straight community on and off campus. SAGE has applied for a budget for the 1979-80 term. They have asked for approximately $4,000, which will be used to organize and hold many activities, both social and informative. Films like "Rocky Horror Picture Show" will be acquired and shown on campus, but will be open to anyone.

Sho, Ten workshops, like the one's on April 28, will be held, and guest speakers will attend to help grant a cultural and political awareness to the Buffalo gay community.

SAGE will also send representatives to conferences in other cities to obtain some perspective on the national gay rights situation.
"A wounded beast is by far more dangerous..." says the Indian Mahabharata. And, in our case, that wounded beast is even ridiculous and tragicomic at the same time. Yes, IT'S ALIVE! and her name is Anita (Spanish derivative for Ana -Anne). We got a hold of an informative letter and an accompanying ballot of her new organization: ANITA BRYANT MINISTRIES, P.O.Box 40-2948, Miami Beach, Fla. 33140

Her letter, which we cannot publish because of space reasons, is as slanted as her views and the views of those who will be touched by it. It is a fact that many people are susceptible to be misguided, be it because of lack of information or because of Judeo-Christian or Victorian attitudes held by he or she with regard to sexuality as a whole, including their own. With her unique angle of attack, she may turn some people into homophobics, gays included, as well as individuals that are unsure of their sexuality, who don't want to face it or who have a psychological trauma. It is clear to me that the letter is aimed towards those who are prone to homophobia. Anita, in this desperate attempt, is trying to recruit for her "divine" cause the people that are (one or all): a) paranoiac to gays, b) gays and paranoiac to gays (homophobic) and c) repressed, no matter what gender they belong to.

Anyone, gay or not, with only a few grains of gray matter and a millilitre of objectiveness can see how she gives one THE answer to the question that she will formulate two lines below. For example, her statement: "They want to recruit our school children under the protection of the laws of our land!" is followed by a comment on San Francisco's local ordinance regarding the age of consent, and by sharp, heavy emphasis on the advice that she needs from you (underlining is original), all of which conditions the reader to her survey question number one: "Do you approve of legislation allowing known practicing homosexuals to teach in public, private and religious schools?". For the answer, one is given three choices: Yes, No, Undecided. But her intention is clear! The terrible responsibility placed upon your shoulders: to protect the homeland desands action from you, you cannot be watered-down lemonade (or orange juice, to be sarcastic), you have to be 100% strong and stand martyrdom with Roman Catholic patience. (...continuing in page 13...)

OFFICIAL PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY BALLOT

1. Do you approve of legislation allowing known practicing homosexuals to teach in public, private and religious schools?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Undecided

2. Do you favor stricter laws controlling child pornography?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Undecided

3. Do you favor the elimination of "R" rated movies from television and stricter controls governing sex and violence on TV?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Undecided

4. Do you favor prayer back in schools?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Undecided

5. Do you approve of allowing government fund raisers, those of same sex, to teach in a public school?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Undecided

Anita Bryant Ministries
P.O.Box 40-2948
Miami Beach, FL 33140

Dear Anita,
I have cast my ballot and I want to send the following gift! Also, please send me the Opinion Survey Results in your Anita Bryant Ministries newsletter.

$50
$10
$25
$-

Name
City
State
Zip

P.S. Anita, thanks for letting me take a stand in your nationwide campaign.

Your gift is tax deductible

Doubtful Group Meets Again

On Sunday, March 25, representatives of many of Buffalo's gay organizations met for the second time at Mattachine's office to discuss the possibility of forming a coalition of the organizations.

Discussion centered mainly on the need for a coalition of the gay organizations in Buffalo, and on the functions which such a coalition could fulfill. The following possible functions of such a coalition were mentioned: presenting a show of unity to the general community, giving groups a chance to learn about each other, coordinating activities and fundraisers, increasing inter-group communication, and being able to take united stands on important issues as they arise. It was pointed out that intergroup communication and coordination of events are particularly terrible. It was also pointed out that improved communication between groups would make people aware of those groups' existence and purposes, thus improving membership.

There was a discussion of the particular need to contact women's groups.

There was some discussion of the structure of a coalition. There was agreement that the coalition should keep on meeting, that an agenda or set of rules for meetings is needed, and that one function of meetings should be for each group to tell what events it has planned, and to make an effort to coordinate. This discussion was followed by a general introduction in which a representative of each group present gave a description of his/her organization, and of that organization's upcoming events.

The group also went on discussing the possibility of making Gay Pride Week (by middle June) a joint effort of Buffalo's lesbian and gay organizations, instead of the single effort of the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier as it was usually in the past. The representatives of the different groups agreed in bringing this idea to their respective organizations for further discussion and suggestions. The issue is thus still pending.

There was general consensus in making the Mattachine Gay Hotline (881-5335) the central reference point for events and activities of all groups.

The one general calendar of these events will be then kept at the office of the Mattachine Society at 43 Allen St. Anyone may call for information or to give information to update the calendar.

The doubtful group will meet again at the Mattachine Society Headquarters on April 29 at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.
"SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING OUT"

One of the quandaries I face five or six steps out of my former "closet" concerns how many people I think have to know about my sexual orientation and affectional choice. There are days and weeks when I think it's really nobody else's concern, and that what I do with my body is my business alone. It is not necessary that my gay identity be up-front as my name. At other times, it is all I can do not to shout the fact from the rooftops. What I have achieved for the time being is some sort of balance, and I want to report what it means to me to be "out" as far as I am.

To begin, I find that I am much more honest and open in my relationships with all people, whether or specific persons I interact with know or do not know I am gay, I am free to speak my piece and not hold back because of "my secret". Those persons who are important to me know the truth, and if they have been hurt I do not believe further hurts can be incurred. But now I no longer hold back my conversational input by thinking: "If you only knew about me, you wouldn't have anything to do with me." I am learning that my ideas and opinions when heard are respected, and good feelings about self are released.

Being "out" to selected persons (doubtlessly many other persons know or have guessed) means that I can receive their comments in an open atmosphere as they can feel free to make them. I refer to the sharing I have had after the recent P.B.S. showing of "The Naked Civil Servant". How good it was that this friend could share his thoughts with me on the subject, and ask me my impressions as a gay person.

Another friend asked that I read an article on homosexuality in a specialized publication for professionals. She was interested in learning my reaction and how much of that person's story was my own/her effort to understand. How special to share with this dear woman and friend.

Participation with my lover in the Mattachine Society's small group meetings with the University of Buffalo medical students gave us the opportunity to present ourselves as real people to an important professional segment of the community. There was no doubt about the reason we were there as guests for the day, and (once again) telling about ourselves involved a special sharing of facts and ideas.

(...continuing in next column...)

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SElections by Sam

Recently, a long-hoped for visit to Christopher Street and the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookstore made me glad all over again that I am where I am in my life journey. To plan a short visit to that "Mecca" and relive it by telling about the weekend turned out to be another of those little advantages that have been the subject of this month's column. I know they're not impressive. They are not cited as major events in the gay liberation movement. Many are, however, examples in my own life of which allow me to live more as a whole person. And it is both fun and exciting learning how to live more fully.

(...continued from page 12...)

Her other two questions are introduced in the same way. This is survey question number two: "Do you favor stricter laws controlling child pornography?" (same choice of answers), and it is placed just before the following paragraphs: "Please keep in mind that the use of young children in obscene magazines and films is growing. Even five and six year olds are being photographed and used for perverted sexual appetites. Sometimes, for the price of an ice-cream cone, a child will pose naked for a porno film... and the laws of our land make no distinction between children and adults who serve as models."

I wonder how many questionnaires are introduced with such a lengthy and leading description of the kind of questions that will follow. THIS I CALL BIAS. She is not being objective, and the responses that she'll get (and she will get many, damn it! because there are still many narrow-minded people around, about whom I have a very particular theory) those responses, then, will be the ones she expects: political and even economical support! But, how convinced will these people be? If they are so easily lead into supporting something like this, won't they also be susceptible to subscribe to a good cause? To extend on this subject, please refer to the concept of das Massen-Mensch (Mass-Person, Mass-Being) by the German philosopher Martin Heidegger.

Anita, are you gasping for breath? Is that the reason why you have to go all the way to the non-plus ultra position? By the way, I hanged the picture that you inserted at the end of your words in front of the typewriter with which I am writing this. It is nice to look at it, right there, on the board. Such a beautiful nuclear family!

March 1979
Gay Rights National Lobby

1606 17th Street, N.W.  •  Washington, D.C. 20009  •  (202) 462-4255

The past two decades have seen substantial progress in the struggle to secure basic civil rights for gay people. However, it has only been recently that these accomplishments have reached the national stage and we have a long way to go to achieve national civil rights legislation.

The Gay Rights National Lobby has been in existence for only about two years and, unfortunately, during much of its early existence, it has been plagued by financial and organizational difficulties that kept GRNL from fulfilling its early promise.

Steps have been taken, however, to eliminate those problems and the lobby is getting on with the important business of establishing a strong and professional lobbying presence in our nation's capital for gay civil rights.

The top priority of the organization is to build such a presence. This will include a wide variety of things, such as the education of members of Congress and their staffs on gay issues; demonstrating to them that support for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men is not equivalent to political suicide; building a large strong constituent network; and gaining--and increasing the active support of progressive and public interest lobbies.

In addition to supporting positive legislation regarding gay civil rights, the lobby must also be on the lookout for negative legislation such as the so-called McDonald Amendment to the Legal Services Act of 1977. The lobby will carefully watch seemingly non-gay legislation (such as REDU-funding, sex education funding, etc.) to attempt to block any anti-gay efforts in these areas.

(continued in next column...)

Virtually every group or issue in the country has a lobby working for its interest on the national level. The gay community must not be an exception. But the process to gain national legislation will not be an easy one. Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Nick Coleman (a co-sponsor of statewide gay civil rights) once said that it takes at least three or four times through the legislative process to pass controversial legislation. It will probably take even longer to secure federal legislation. We must begin now.

While the Gay Rights National Lobby has been around for a couple of years, the support for the Lobby has been inadequate and therefore it has been less effective than it could have been with more extensive funding.

**CLASSIFIED**

Gay male, age 24, 6'0", serving prison term would like to have any gay person write to him at: Gary Roundy, 149-619, P.O.Box 45699
Lucasville, Ohio 45699

Lonely man, age 24, lacks comfort and understanding from others and needs and wants people to write letters to. Currently confined to prison and very lonely. All letters to: Verrick Evans, 142-316, P.O.Box 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699

Man in correctional facility finds loneliness unbearable and wishes to correspond with anyone who is nice enough to write him. Please send your letters to: Robert L. Wilson, 142-734, P.O.Box 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699

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BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203
716/856-3398

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evenings open again May 1st

SUNDAY: FREE BUFFET 7-8p.m.

MON & WED: 1/2 PRICE DRINKS

THURS: WATCH FOR MOVIE SPECIALS
April 19th: "A Star Is Born" with Judy Garland

NO COVER CHARGE: WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATRONAGE.
gay directory

Fifth Freedom
Office at 45 Allen St. 2nd floor. Mailing address: Box 155, Ellicott St., NY 14205. Meetings start at 6pm, see Calendar for dates.

Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier
Business office is at 45 Allen St. 2nd floor. Mailing address: Box 155, Ellicott St., Buffalo, NY 14205. Meetings held at the Unitarian Church, Elmwood and West Ferry; Pot luck dinner at 6pm followed by meeting and program at 7:30pm. All are Welcome.

Gay Hotline

Gay Rights for Older Women (GROW)
Call Emma Bookstore at 836-8970 for more Info.

Lesbian Rug Hookers
Meetings start at 7:00pm. Women only. Rug hooking and Arts and Crafts group. Call Cheryl at 886-4103 for Meeting location.

Student Alliance for Gay Equality (SAGE)
SUC Buffalo, 118 Cassety Hall, 1300 Elmwood Ave. Meetings at 4:30pm. in Student Union.

Gay Professionals
An organization to provide support for gay people in the professions. For more information call Tom Hammond at 849-1572.

Gay Youth
Meetings start at 1pm at 42 Custer St. 1st floor. 3 blocks north of Hertel off Main St. Contact Ross or Ed at 836-1541 for more Info.

Gay Liberation Front
Gay coffee house starts at 8:00pm at S.U.N.Y.A.B. Townsend Hall, Main St. Campus. Call 836-1541.

Salter's 621 Main St., 612 Washington
Villa Capri 937 Main St. 886-9469
Mean Alice's 729 Main St. 856-3298
The Copper Kettle 2299 Main St. 836-9283
Dominique's 20 Allen St. 886-8694
Allen Restaurant 437 Allen St. 886-8740
Itsby Bitsy Lounge 1149 Michigan Ave. Niagara Falls 282-9717

Club Amherst 44 Almeda St. 835-6711
Emma 2474 Main St. at Greenfield St. 836-8970
Marrakesh 55 Allen St. 882-8200

Women's Studies College, 831-3405 — Offers courses, presentations and activities by and about women.
Women's Center, 636-2598 — A space on campus for women's cultural and educational activities and projects.
UB Anti-Rape Task Force, 831-5336 — Provides services to protect women against rape in the University area.
Women's Prison Project, c/o CAC — Provides services for women at the Albion Correctional Facility.
Coalition for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse — SUNYAB Chapter, c/o Women's Center — Working to promote reproductive freedom for women at UB. Buffalo Women's Liberation Union, Box 841, Ellicott Station, Bfo. 14240 — A Socialist/feminist organization currently working on projects related to childcare and rape.
Action for Women in Chile (AFWICH), c/o Women's Studies — Concerns include advocacy for women political prisoners in Chile.
EMMA, the Buffalo Women's Bookstore, 836-8970 — A collectively run bookstore and resource center with all types of books, pamphlets, posters, records and crafts for, by and about women.
N.Y.A. — Buffalo Chapter, 885-1818 — A women's rights organization working on projects of concern to women.
Womenspace, Bfo. State College, 862-6426 — Resource center for women on the SUCB campus.
### Schedule:

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**Notes:**
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- For times & locations of regular meetings.
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