Fifth Freedom, 1979-10-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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GAY STUDENTS AT BUFF STATE COLLEGE

S.A.G.E. (Student Alliance for Gay Equality) at Buffalo State College held its first meeting for the 1979/80 academic year on Friday, Sept. 7, 1979. A surprising turnout of over 20 people attended including members from Woman Space, an organization at Buffalo State, and a representative from Gay Professionals. Among other topics discussed was a wine and cheese party which was planned for the following week. Despite the torrential rains of tropical storm Fredrick S.A.G.E.'s first wine and cheese party was well attended.

The Student Alliance for Gay Equality is a United Student Government organization which provides counseling and advice as well as educational and social activities for both the gay and non-gay student. S.A.G.E.'s resource center contains books, pamphlets, and other material. Information regarding alternative health services is available. Social events include seminars, movies, dances, and wine and cheese parties. In the past year S.A.G.E. has hosted the fall conference at Buffalo State College for the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations (N.Y.S.C.G.O.), participated in the Buffalo State Alumni Carnival, and sponsored a Gay Awareness Day seminar and workshops on Gay life along with a buffet dinner. Dances and wine and cheese parties were held and the film Gay USA was shown.

Finally, it should be noted that S.A.G.E. is open to all Buffalo State College Students and non-students and is always looking for input from everyone. S.A.G.E. is located in 118 Casey Hall on the Buffalo State College campus and has office hours Monday through Friday from 1 to 5:30 P.M. and is always more than happy to welcome new members and friends.

NGTF ENDORSES MARCH

The Executive Committee of the National Gay Task Force Board of Directors voted unanimously at its August 18 Meeting to lend official NGTF endorsement to the October 14 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. NGTF is encouraging all members and friends to join the national gay and lesbian community in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 14 to call for an end to all social, economic, judicial and legal discrimination against gay people.

The Executive Committee of the NGTF Board, which had declined endorsement of the march last spring because of various concerns about the organizing process, reconsidered its decision based on new information obtained by five NGTF staff and Board members who attended a planning conference for the march held in Houston in July.

NGTF observers were impressed that the march organizers had established a national network in a short period of time. "Coalitions have sprung up across the country," said Co-Executive Director Lucia Valentini, "and new gay groups are forming." The NGTF delegation was also impressed with the political diversity of the 200 representatives at the Houston meeting, which included 30% women and 29% Third World women and men.

Other national organizations that have endorsed the march include the National Organization for Women, the Gay Rights National Lobby, and the Metropolitan Community Church.
Dear Readers,

As the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights draws nearer, we think it's time for us to impress upon you our feelings about this event.

Modern Gay Liberation is very young and only just beginning like a child beginning to walk.

It takes time for any group to grow and prosper, but it also takes organization. This March is being very well organized, and the things that will go on in Washington on October 14, 1979 will have a positive effect on the movement in that it will show Congress and the American people that gay people can effectively lobby, campaign, and work together for the same liberties that are supposed to be granted to all citizens of our country.

The number of people attending this march will be massive. The feeling of brotherhood and sisterhood emanating from hundreds of thousands of people gathered together to see justice triumph, is one that can only be understood by attending such an event.

Because the price of attending an event such as this in a far-off city might be restrictive to many people, a network of cities including San Francisco, Honolulu, New York City, and Buffalo are offering reduced rates on transportation to and from the march.

If you would like to see the 1980's bring as many advancements to the gay movement as the 1970's have, then go to Washington, D.C. and show your support for an end to discrimination based on sexual preference.

Mark Eagle
Co-Editor

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Fifth Freedom Classified Add's cost $10 for each word and can be mailed to Fifth Freedom, Classified, Box155, Ellicott Sta., Buffalo, N.Y. 14203.

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The Lambda Association of Body Builders is a national association for active, gay body builders. For information, write: L.A.B.B., P.O. Box 594, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14203

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 artists and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mattachine Society or of the 5th Freedom.

Subscription rates for mailing and handling are $3.50 yearly. Mattachine members receive the paper free of charge. Each issue is mailed in a plain sealed envelope. Mail all correspondence to:

Fifth Freedom, Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203

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.

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BOYCOTT TOWNE HOT S

IS THE CRY OF THE GAY COMMUNITY, WE ARE ASKING ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE GAY OR IN SUPPORT OF GAY RIGHTS TO JOIN WITH US IN THE FIRST BUFFALO BOYCOTT OF AN ANTI-GAY ESTABLISHMENT.

The latest incident of anti-Gay activity has been going on in one of Buffalo's most popular meeting spots. The proprietor of the Towne Restaurant (formerly Towne Hots) at the corner of Allen and Elmwood has been censoring his public information bulletin board by removing Gay related materials.

Signs pertaining to the October 16th, National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, put up by members of the Buffalo Area Coalition have been immediately & systematically removed, while non-Gay leaflets & announcements have been allowed to remain up. The restaurant owner, when questioned about the removal said that he did not feel his customers should have to be exposed to such "offensive" advertising. How many things do you see on this bulletin that are offensive to Gay people?!

HE'S SAYING GAY PEOPLE ARE OFFENSIVE!!!

He then added that he did not, in fact, need Gay business. Doesn't he know that we are at least a solid 1/3 of his business?

At Mattachine's meeting of Sunday, October 7, it was decided that Mattachine publicly supports the Towne boycott.

Buffalo Area Lesbian/Gay Rights March Coalition (1979)

LESBIANS TRYING TO ENTER U.S. BARRED

On August 10, Leonard Castillo, Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, sent out a directive that suspected homosexuals must be admitted to the U.S. on a "deferred" basis. However, between August 22 and 24 at least 55 women enroute from Canada to the Fourth Annual Michigan Women's Music Festival at Kalamazoo, Michigan, were turned back at the U.S. border by INS officers. Women were apparently questioned if they "looked" like lesbians—ie 6 women traveling together in a car. To determine their sexual orientation, women were asked such questions as "When was the last time you slept with a woman?", "What do you do in bed?", and "Do you have a purse?". Many more women withdrew their applications for entry to the U.S. following the questioning.

NGTF and the National Organization for Women sent a letter of protest to the Attorney General. Castillo has ordered an investigation into the affair. However, officials explain that the border officers apparently hadn't gotten notice of the policy change regarding gays coming into the country, and that (to paraphrase) we can't get all upset every time a piece of paper gets lost.

MEAN ALICE'S EXPANDS

Mean Alice's has recently announced plans to enlarge their present facility at 729 Main Street, in the heart of Buffalo's theatre district. The new design for Mean Alice's will call for expansion into the lower level. This new area will be called 'The Gallery'. 'The Gallery', decorated in brick, wood paneling, and stained glass will include a brick bar, a fireplace, tiffany glass lighting, and is to be furnished with antiques. It will be provided with a portable stage to be used in a new dinner/theatre program.

Plays also include enlarged kitchen facilities, a theatre district-type mural painted on the rear facade, and upgraded parking facilities.

At present, improvements are estimated at a cost of 25 to 30 thousand dollars. An October opening is tentatively planned.
"Do you receive prank or crank calls? How do you treat them?"

"Oh, yes. Sometimes they're very persistent, calling 20 or 30 times in a row. When that happens we will eventually slam down the receiver, or maybe take the phone off the hook for awhile. Of course, that technique cuts off the legitimate calls too."

"Most pranksters are 12 to 15 years old, and one can hear a lot of giggling going on in the background of such calls. But some of that type of call are made by older people too, and they can be really threatening or violent."

"Do some callers expect the Hot Line to be a dating service?"

"Yes most definitely. We could make a fortune there with at least one such call a night. But it is strictly against Mattachine policy to provide such a service, and we agree strongly."

"Are most calls local or are they from people just passing through and calling for local information?"

"We get both kinds as well as long distance calls from people who plan to be in the area. New residents also call. And so do locals who plan out-of-town trips of their own. We consult the Gay Yellow Pages to provide names and addresses of gay-related businesses across the country."

"Some aspects of your volunteer service sound rather frustrating. Why do you give up so much of your personal time to answer phone calls from strangers?"

"That's a good question. I guess it's to make their lives a little easier. I know I needed such assistance, and now I can give it. As an officer of Mattachine I've done it, and I'll probably continue doing it."

"What training is required of those who staff the Hot Line?"

"A counselor training program lasting 10 to 12 weeks at three hours once a week is the vehicle. Sessions are held in the Mattachine office and a new class is in the discussion stage right now. Hopefully details can be announced soon."

"What problems are faced by the Hot Line service itself?"

"WE NEED HELP !!!!!!!".

(I found myself feeling that I should involve myself in this special outreach to the community, both gay and straight. Perhaps I should heed the advice found in a column in this issue and get a "round tuit." Meanwhile, we all owe a special thanks to Tom and Claude as well as other staffers over the years for their unsung and unselfish listening ears and calls voices over Mattachine's Gay Hot Line).
SELECTIONS

by

SAM

Well ahead of the expected demand just before Hanukkah and Christmas a supply of Round Tufts has arrived and each copy of this issue of The 5th Freedom includes two. (See above.) The only effort involved is to take a fairly sharp pair of scissors and cut them out following the dotted line.

There has been wide-spread demand for these special circles. They are sought by both gays and straights, women and men, young and old, people of any stripe. The desire to have a Round Tuit is not a new phenomenon. For many years I have heard people verbally expressing this need which, once satisfied, would apparently give them piece-of-mind. You have heard these persons—maybe even yourself—give examples such as those which follow.

"I've heard of the Mattachine society. I know they've done an awful lot of work for Gay Liberation in the Buffalo area. One of these Sunday evenings I think I'll go to one of their potluck supper meetings, as soon as I get a Round Tuit."

"Because of the situation at work I can't afford to let anyone know that I'm gay. For some time now I've been thinking that I could send Mattachine a money order, or even risk just sending a five or ten dollar bill in the mail anonymously to let the organization know that I appreciate the fact that such a group exists. Yes, maybe next payday I'll get a Round Tuit."

"Several times I've had occasion to call the local hotline at the Gay Community Services Center. Each time the friendly voice at the other end of the line has been helpful whether it was to tell me which local bars cater to a gay clientele or where I could go for medical advice for that canker that wouldn't go away. When things sort of calm down this fall I'm going to get a Round Tuit and figure out a way to let those people know that I'm glad they've been there when I needed them."

"Yes, I've been a member of Mattachine for four or five years now. They're always asking for volunteers for this, that, or the next thing, but apparently it's always the same people who get involved. I can see how after a while even the most fervent persons can get burned out. I'm going to get a Round Tuit, take my turn, and ask how I can be useful."

"Write your member of Congress. 'Find out how your local member of Council feels about the issue of gay rights. How often I've heard those lines, and the next time some gay-related legislation is in the works, I'm finally going to get a Round Tuit and do something!'"

"I'm sick and tired of having to pretend amasement at "faggit" jokes. They're talking about me, a gay person, and my brothers and sisters. I've read that if all gay people woke up tomorrow and their faces were green, there'd be a lot of surprised relatives, friends, co-workers, and other social contacts. It's taken a long time for me to get a Round Tuit and telling people point-blank who I am, but I'm ready to do it!"

"Did Buffalo celebrate Gay Pride Week this year? I sure didn't hear anything about it. Though they don't threaten New York's pride march, etc., I have some ideas, and next spring I'm going to get a Round Tuit and be involved in some local planning for our special week!"

These are but a half dozen or so examples of familiar lines. The excuse of having no Round Tuit is just that, an excuse. The Tufts are above. Cut them out. Use them; they belong to you. Or, how much longer are you going to wait to get a Round Tuit (around to it)?

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Happy Birthday Libra!!!

From about 4800 BC, there has been much heated controversy over Astrology and Astronomy. Where do they differ? What is the function of each? The list of questions is endless, and so are the blind, assumed answers attached to them. Now, to set the record straight.

Astrology is the study of the supposed influences of the stars and planets on human affairs. Astronomy is the science of star measurement and analysis, of all the celestial bodies.

Another such fallacy associated with Astrology is Astrology: a system of divination by means of the stars, or fortune telling. This practice is vigorously rejected by myself and other honest Astrologers. We can only forecast conditions, trends, and probabilities: but not details. The details or specific events are always the result of the actions of our choice and free will.

Astrology as we know it today, had it's birthplace at the site of Ancient Babylonia, about 6000 BC. Later, it was The Moors who conquered Spain, who brought Astrology to Europe, and with lasting effect. Among the greatest of all Astrologers, they depended mainly on Arabian methods, which first began in Egypt. St. Thomas Aquinas was a great Astrologer of this period.

The word Astrology comes to us a combination of the Greek words ASTRON or ASTRAL: meaning star or stars; and LOGOS: meaning 'The Word', or truth, or science.

Jesus Christ was an Astrologer, as well as adept in all branches of Extra-Sensory Perception. Luke XXII:25 quotes The Christ as speaking: "AND THERE SHALL BE SIGNS IN THE SUN AND IN THE MOON AND IN THE STARS; AND UPON THE EARTH DISTRESS OF NATIONS, WITH PERPLEXITY; THE SEA AND THE WAVES ROARING." I have often wondered why our educational system fails to teach Astrology in the class room.

Christ must have felt it important or He would not have used it in His teachings to the masses. It is interesting to note that each of The Disciples that Christ chose was born under different Sun Sign (to be printed next month).

The importance of Astrology in The Bible led to the conclusion among advanced Astrologers, that The Supreme Intelligence gave us The Zodiac to be a huge time piece, a Cosmic Clock, whose hands would be the planets that pass across it's face as the hour and minute hands of an ordinary clock move through its marked hours. This in mind, I look upon the heavens as a read able guide, purposely placed there for the benifit of mankind; and that the admonitions of this guide are more purely spiritual and psychological, than simply physical.

May The Stars Be With You...

Catherine
WOMANS INFORMATION

C.A.R.A.S.A.-Buffalo Chapter
Concerned with women's reproductive rights 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.

- Nyu Li Tac - Women's Martial Arts School, 886-6773
Offers training in self-defense and exercise specifically for women

N.O.W. Buffalo Chapter, 885-1818
A women's rights organization working on projects of concern to women

Simple Gifts, 884-5330
Shelter for women in crisis situations. Free.

Womenspace, Bfio. State College, 862-6426
Resource center for women on the SUNY campus.

Women's Studies College, 831-3405
Offers courses, presentations and activities 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, 831-5536
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 - SUNY Chapter
C/o Women's Center - Working to promote reproductive freedom for women at UB

MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD

A memorial service was held Friday, September 7th at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, for Ronnie Caralcay of Buffalo. Ronnie died at the hands of an assailant on September 1st.

Rev. Glyn Price, pastor of the Unitarian Church, conducted the service which included comments about Ronnie's life by several friends, poetry written by Ronnie, read by friends, and several songs by Madeline Davis.

GAY RADIO PROGRAM

Stonewall Nation Radio, one of the longest running gay-related radio shows, has been on the air (WBFO) for approximately eight years. The show can be heard by tuning your radio to WBFO on Wednesday between 10:30-11pm.

Named after Madeline Davis' song of the same name as the show, it's goal is to reach people who aren't otherwise connected with the gay community to let them know a viable gay community exists.

Heddie Swanson and Jim Nell are the basic workforce who run the show on a collective basis, rotating responsibilities. Ms. Swanson says, "I like to think of the show as being fairly radical and hopefully feminist with a format of half gay-related news and half cultural/artistic news."

Some past achievements include a long-running soap opera on the Sisters of Sappho, and an interview with Tom Robinson. The show is presently getting together a format on women in the arts with an emphasis on lesbians. Also in the works are some songs about Anita Bryant. Something to look for in November is an edited form of the Holly Near concert.

Anyone who wishes to have any events announced over the radio may contact the station on Monday evenings between 7-9:30pm. The phone number is 831-5393.

Also needed are more people to work on the program to add new ideas for more diversity.
gay directory

Fifth Freedom
Office at 45 Allen St. 2nd floor. Mailing address: Box 155, Ellicott St., NY 14203.
Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier
Business office is at 45 Allen St. 2nd floor. Mailing address: Box 155, Ellicott St., Buffalo, NY 14203. Meetings held at 45 Allen St., the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Pot luck dinner at 6:30 P.M. followed by meeting at 7:30 P.M. All are welcome.
Gay Hotline
881-5335 Staffed by volunteer counselors. Apply to Mattachine Society.
Training sessions offered periodically.
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 886-4303 for meeting location.
Student Alliance for Gay Equality (SAGE)
SUC Buffalo. Meetings are Fridays at 3pm., 118 Cassety Hall Ph. 886-8501 (ask for Mark)
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 Sat. 1:30, Townsend Hall, SUNYAB Ph. 836-1541
SUNYAB. Coffee houses Friday nights at 8pm., Townsend Hall. Ph. 836-1541
Radio
Stonewall Nation-WBFO-FM 88.7, Wednesdays at 10:30. Ph. 831-5393
Dignity/Buffalo-gay religious organization. Call 884-5631 for more information.

On Thursday, October 11, ABC-TV will broadcast a one-hour documentary on "Gay Lifestyles" at 10 pm Eastern time. The program, produced by Helen Whitney, features a human interest approach to the gay movement. Individuals may respond with comments on the program to: Ms. Helen Whitney, ABC-TV Documentaries, 7 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023

BARS AND RESTAURANTS
Buffalo
Villa Capri, 926 Main Street, 886-9469
Sean Alice's, 729 Main Street, 866-3298
Dominique's, 25 Allen Street, 886-8694
Allen Restaurant, 43 Allen Street, 886-8740

Nagara Falls, New York
Twenty-two-Twenty-eight Club, 2228 Falls, 282-9183
Itsy-Bitsy Lounge, 1149 Michigan Avenue

Baths
Club Amherst, 44 Almeda Street, 835-6711

Bookstores
Emma Feminist Bookstore, 2474 Main Street, at Greenfield 836-8970
Marrakesh, 55 Allen Street, 882-8200, Gay Periodicals.