9-1-1980

Fifth Freedom, 1980-09-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/fifthfreedom

Part of the Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/fifthfreedom/57
‘FRONT’ PARK DESECRATED

EMMA Harassed

By RIGHT-WING RELIGIOUS GROUPS

This summer, EMMA, the Buffalo Women’s Bookstore, suffered a series of harassments. The usual adolescent boys did not play much of a part, unless it was to spray paint the store windows, which happened twice in the same shade of beige. Twice in the same week, we were visited by righteous rightist groups whose primary purpose seemed to be intimidation. On July 17, Rev. Walter B. Smith lead ten “Concerned Citizens of Western New York” into the store. They pulled seven titles out of the children’s book section, and Smith left a note: “All books, magazines, pamphlets sold to minors that show and/or make suggestive pictures, as well as the same that describe sexual activity in words, are all offensive and objectionable to us. May we in concern only, not in judgement of your persons, ask you to remove all the above mentioned material from your store.” One of the group delivered a sermon against homosexuality, demanded to know how many lesbians worked in the collective, and noted that children would have to pass by the bulletin board (!) and the lesbian literature section to get to the children’s books. The collective member was also asked why EMMA did not have the Bible in stock. Evidently, the group had not bothered to note that this was a women’s bookstore.

The seven titles Smith’s group found objectionable were duly set aside for collective members to evaluate, and I for one remain mystified with both the selection and their definition of pornography. Frances Ann Speaks our deals with one girl’s experience with rape/incest via dialogue with her grandmother, with whom she is now living; Haida and Me is the story of a friendship between a white and one black seven year old girl; Blew and the Death of the Haji is a story for adolescents. The seven titles are: "Blew," "Haida and Me," "Towards the City," "In My Hands," "The Romance of Nurse Nance," "The Madison Lovers," and "A Child’s Story of Sex." Thanks to Buffalo’s vice squad, parks department and Channel 7’s Eye-witness News reports there is a new look to LaSalle Park. I didn’t say better, just new.

As a result of the ‘Perverts in the Park’ reports what was a very beautiful park has been made to look like love Canal.

All of this has been done with the blessings of City Hall, the biased TV reporting of Channel 7, and absolutely no light from the environmentists. This was all prompted by a complaint of a passing motorist that saw sex acts occurring in the bushes.

In all of the reports the idea of the presence of ‘homosexuals’ and the safety of the area children was always a prime interest to the reporter. However none of the recent arrests involved child molesting of any sort. Just because there is a large population of children that roam the park does not put all the blame on those arrested. Where are the parents of these kids who are roaming the park unchaperoned? Perhaps the question put forth every night on Channel 7 news needs to be updated to “(At any time...do you know where your parents are?)” A good guess would be in the local gin mill.

Then of course there is the possibility that they are on the other side of the park involved in the straight sexual activity that is evident there, and goes unnoticed by the police in the area.

So all we, of the gay community, ask is for fair and equal law enforcement and television coverage.

To achieve both it is our responsibility to be the educators of those in the positions of authority in these areas. They will not come to us, so we have to be willing to seek them out.

This Is EMMA The Buffalo Women’s Bookstore Collective, It Is Not A Pornographic Bookstore! Read The Article!

PARKS ACROSS COUNTRY BECOME TARGET FOR ANTI-GAY MEDIA/POLICE OPERATIONS

Parks in Akron, Ohio and in other areas have become the sights of co-operative harassment of Gays by the media and police. However, as far as we know, Buffalo’s LaSalle Park has been the only one whose physical make up was destroyed in the process. Doesn’t that say a lot for the mentality of those in power in our city government?

CONT. PG. 3
5th F R E E D O M

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

Our monthly circulation is 2500 copies.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We received this letter and feel that it is an excellent example of how people can speak up and be heard.

We thank Mr. McKay for giving us his permission to reprint this letter here.

Dear Mr. Ridge:

I am gay. And I am also a professional member of the media.

In my professional opinion, your recent coverage of a pending gay wedding was just another example of the cheap-shot, irresponsible, and sensationalistic electronic journalism being practiced by stations subscribing to the "Eyewitness News" format in general, and WKBW TV in particular.

Absolutely, the kissing scene should have been edited out. Doesn't anyone preview your stories before they are aired? Or maybe your ratings are so high, you just don't care.

True, Western New York gays--be they blue collar, professional, prominent businessmen--are in the closet, and will remain there as long as the door is kept locked by the likes of your news department going about and intentionally stirring up gay/straight prejudice.

I certainly hope that you will get the AIE stars out of your eyes, and muster up enough professionalism to see that this sort of thing does not happen again.

Sincerely,

Allen McKay

CLASSIFIED

ROOM AVAILABLE-SUBURBAN AREA. PREFER MALE 16-22. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE TO: BOX 232 GRAND ISLAND, N.Y. 14072

APARTMENT-2 BEDROOMS, UPPER. GRANT/PERRY AREA. $150/MONTH INCLUDES ELECTRICITY, SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. CALL JOE 885-2201.

TOP 10

BY DR. JOHN

1. Upright Down/I'm Coming Out by Diana Rosa (Newtown) LP
2. Fame/Redlight from Fame Soundtrack (RSO) LP
3. Lover's Holiday/Searching Angel/Girl's Affair Change (RFC) LP
4. Heart to Break the Heart by Frank Joli (Prelude) LP
5. Another One Bites The Dust by Queen (Elektra) LP
6. The Breaks by Kurtis (Piano) 12" LP
7. Take Your Time by S.O.S. Band (Tabu) LP
9. Let's Go Round Again by A.W.B. (Arista) LP
10. I'm Ready/Don't Stop the Music by Strange Affair (Targa) LP

SAY HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE FIFTH FREEDOM: COST: $1.50 FOR AN AD! SEND THIS COUPON WITH A MONEY ORDER MADE PAYABLE TO THE FIFTH FREEDOM AT MATTACHINE ADDRESS ABOVE TO NAME OR WAY YOU WANT TO SIGN AD:

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT! WE ARE YOUR PAPER!
Why does Buffalo's Gay newspaper need a column on the media?

It would be difficult for a publisher of Buffalo's Gay newspaper to be unaware of some of the spectacular if unsettling, coverage the Gay community has been receiving lately. Most prominent in the mind is WEW-7 TV's rousing essay on local pioneer in the Gay movement entitled, "Perverts in the Park", followed shortly thereafter by a piece on two Gay men who wish to get married, complete with a kissing scene which lit up the station's switchboard.

Irv Weinstein and the gang have caught on to the idea that Gay stories, if properly sensationalized, can sell real estate, groceries, bread, just the sort of thing to keep you tuned in for "film at eleven." That, of course, keeps up their ratings, and if Irv might say, those high, high ratings mean big, big bucks for Gay活得' 7's Carol Thruston and the Citicomm Communications.

Local Gays have begun to realize that bad publicity is the best publicity. In the media does them no good, as individuals or as a group, and they are taking actions to educate the media and promote a more positive image.

Gays being spotlighted in the print media and on the airwaves with increasing regularity. Once in a great while, the image is positive. More often it is simply inaccurate, and in far too many cases, out and outrailed.

All of this bad coverage has a total negative effect that creeps up on the Gay community in subliminal ways, without him or her knowing it. You may not like the phrase, "Funt...Now!," but probably don't know the place it was designed to promote.

It's important for all of us to have an idea of what's being said about us, and, should you feel so inclined, to let the media know when you don't like it.

Take for an example, a recent issue of the National Enquirer. Admittedly this publication on the popular magazine of journalism, but it does boast "The Largest Circulation of Any Paper in America," and their reporters some of the highest salaries of any journalists in America. The Enquirer recently went to the trouble of publishing four full color photos of the Gay Freedom parade in San Francisco. Full color photo reproduction is not cheap, and their pictures were, I think, by Rod Hensel:

"The headline put the photo coverage given the same event in "The Advocate," which bills itself as "America's leading Gay Newspaper."

But, while the Enquirer's Photos were fine, you might not like the accompanying story by Regina Smith. The headline read, in bold black letters, "STICK!" In just slightly smaller type, the Enquirer told America that "50,000 Weirdos March in Revolting Parade of Perverts."

The Enquirer went on to tell a bit about the events of Gay Freedom Day, capturing a little of the color and excitement along the way. For example:

"...repetitive looking transvestite 'beauty queens' perched atop a float, proudly wearing gaudy wigs and glittery dresses that did not cover their grotesquely lipsticked mouths smirking lewdly."

"...crazed young perverts and middle aged degenerates openly fondled each other in public..."

"...many in the crowd, also Gay sickos, roared their approval of the disgusting exhibitions."

Ms. Smith describes as "shocking" a picture of a young girl holding a sign saying "I LOVE MY GAY WIFE." We are told the event "allowed perversion, drugs, and drunkenness all day long." But Ms. Smith doesn't tell us whether or not she had a good time.

The article of 24 paragraphs devotes one to the quotable quote of Robert Humphries, "parade founder" as saying, "The parade is the Gay Community's way to the world to see and if the world doesn't like what it sees, it can damn well look the other way, because we are beautiful, we are real, and we are not going away." Humphries no doubt means well, and it's too bad America wasn't told what else he had to say. But, the impression he left was one of compassion, understanding and sicko's" marching on America's neighborhoods. It is the kind of image that did more for the reputation of Bryant's career than oranges.

And so last month, literally millions of Americans went to the supermarket and bought eggs, bread, butter and milk, and this newspaper. They read the article, and a lot of them probably read it because "how else could they print that."

That's what millions of Americans now think about you and me. And that's why Fifth Freedom needs a media column.

EMMA, CONT. FROM PG. 1

scents that seems to be about a girl thinking about her grandmother who has written, "Pertner's First Canadian Education is a book for parents and educators in the Dewey tradition; it's not a propaganda book and Mama Gives Birth are two books dealing with childbirth; What is a Girl? What is a Boy?" Pertner has been dealing with gender and sex role stereotyping so that the two are not confused — in separate picture books. Pertner, in separate pages, it shows pictures of a little girl, a little boy, a man, and a woman, duly labeled "girls" and "boys" to show how we look when little and how we look when grown up.

This last book also gave the second group cause for pause later that week. Disgusing any connection with "Concerned Citizens' Against Gayotten, Three women, led by Rev. Cora Prantner, Zeroed in on that title immediately. They said they were from the "league of Decency" (a play on the Catholic's dec intimate Legend of same). Prantner reportedly failed to agree with the woman staffing while one of her followers serenized. Rev. Prantner left her calling card ("non-sectarian ordained minister"), and later apparently harrassed the police commissioner into sending Policeman Dupre to the next week to check out the store. Reportedly, Dugan went through the entire collection at EMMA, said he found nothing objectionable, and then described some real pornography he had come across as chief of the Buffalo Police Salacious Literature Unit. As some say of a non-sectarian, non-sectarian, he assured the woman staffing that he personally had nothing against Gays. Prantner then campaigned for assembly on the "Right to Life" party ticket, and as a "non-sectarian ordained minister" may very well entitle herself to some tax breaks from the state. Her paid campaign pictures in the Buffalo Rocket with headlines under them like "PORNOGRAPHY" and "ABORTION" is "HOMOSEXUALITY" next. Other hassles include a door-to-door petition and a radio campaign. A man living in the area is reportedly circulating a petition to close the "pornography store (sic) on the corner of Main and Greenfield Streets."

After we heard about this, a woman called the store to say she heard on a fundamentalist FM station a request for money to be sent in for a legal fund to close down EMMA. There seems something very odd about a legal fund for prosecuting that which is normally state business.

EMMA is opposed to pornography as it is generally oppriective of and degrading to women. Several women in the collective had protested "Windows" and "Cruising" and have tried to organize Women Against Violence Against Women here in Buffalo. It seems to me that what the Right is against here is sex education, any self-determination of one's sexuality, and what should be women's fundamental right to control over their own bodies.

Karen Peterson, member, EMMA collective

Note: EMMA is also an information center, lending library, and sponsor of community events. The aim is to promote literature and music and about women accessible. The materials carried are non-sectarian, non-racist, and opposed to the oppression of lesbians and gays. They are open to suggestions and constructive criticism. They could not have survived without your help, support, and concern. Thank you for your help for them to help us all.

The Barracks

56 Widmer Street
Toronto, Canada

Open Monday-Thursday 6-10 pm
Weekends 24-hours
(416) 366-1292
How Big is Your Closet?

In gay parlance those of us who are "out of the closet" are always putting down those who share our beliefs and desires, but for reasons of their own, choose not to exercise their right to do so. "Closet cases", "closet queens" and other derogatory remarks.

But to paraphrase an old idiom: 'One man's closet is another man's...bar...or bath...or park...or gay activist group...or professional organization."

The point I am trying to make is even when gays come out of their closet, they become closeted into other limiting social expressions.

Very few of us patronize all of the options that are open to us for our sexual expression. (This is not passing judgement on any of them as "right or wrong" as the fundamentalists would label them; or as "good or bad" for our gay image as we would determine them to be from our own viewpoint.)

"Go to one bar and that becomes the best bar in the city and the only one I go to!"

One of the groups in town offers something to us and pos! we're hooked. This is it! No one else can come close to giving us what we need.

Or else the anonymity of the baths catches us and gives us an out. Impersonal sex and no emotional involvement. (Boy what a stroke of good fortune!) So how BIG is your closet? All of the alternatives can become a closet for us and keep us from experiencing a fuller expression of what it is to be a "practicing homosexual" rather than a "practicing closet case".

How many beautiful people do we miss seeing and experiencing? How much fun do we miss?

Let's all break out of our gay closets and open our eyes, and minds, to what we are missing. We may not like all we see, but that's true of the rest of the world, too.

So next time you hear the term "closet case"...see if the closet fits...!!!

Gay and proud!
VIEW From Across The RIVER!

by Paul

Sometimes I wish there were no Niagara, although, admittedly, I find no other local gift of nature so powerful. That river seems to divide our peoples more so than it would if our border had been running along a wheat field. The Niagara River is an unmistakable physical barrier (you need bridges to overcome it which require money and time, especially lately with the present gas price differential) and this in turn becomes psychological.

Americans think nothing of driving from Lockport to Buffalo and Canadians from St. Catharines to Niagara Falls Ontario, yet driving from Buffalo to Welland or St. Catharines to Niagara Mills, New York is thought a considerable undertaking. That physical barrier has isolated our peoples in the sense of reinforcing cultural characteristics and limiting the extent of which one people mixes with the other.

In my view, someone who has lived extensively in such countries, our denial of the tremendous social opportunities available to us is a damn shame. And we, as one very unique community, can do something about it.

First, we have to understand each other. Americans tend to be easy-going, emotional, brash, blunt, and partiers. The Canadians tend to be reserved, provincial, unemotional, polite, and proud of their ethnic origins (especially those of British descent).

Our bars and other social institutions reflect our individual cultural characteristics. Alcohol is served until the late hours of morning in a half dozen bars in Niagara Falls and Buffalo. Walking around with a drink in hand has always been the norm. Neon and brightly lit advertisements line the windows and serving areas. And there's some sort of bar at every corner.

In the Niagara peninsula, on the other hand, licensed places are limited—limited in their hours, i.e. not before noon and only until 1 a.m. weekdays and restricted even more on Sundays. Limited in how customers can make themselves comfortable inside (until recently you couldn't walk to another table with a drink in hand); and

limited in absolute numbers (there is only one club serving the community and only one night a week, even though the relative population would justify many more). Americans can avail themselves of several local organizations, one of which is the largest of it’s kind in the U.S.

Canadians have no choice but one local organization whose president has made it clear to this writer, that it looks to Toronto for political inspiration, even though he and his following regularly cross the river to have real down to earth fun with fellow Canadians and Americans in the many American bars serving both communities.

Since the fact is most of the institutions lie on the U.S. side, it is the Americans who must make the initial overtures to Canadians to bridge our communities. Americans are also more prone, culturally, to experiment with meeting new people than are Canadians and are therefore more suited to this role.

To start, it would be easier to influence the half converted. Many Canadians take advantage of American bars, but some are wary of crime in the neighbourhoods.

They watch with fascination a certain Buffalo television station known for it's sensationalist journalism and become convinced the Queen City is all muggings, rapes, fires, and robberies. Perhaps the Americans can reassure their friends things aren't that bad and that Western New York has alot to offer.

And the best way to do that is by taking a Canadian out to lunch or to the art gallery or Art Park or Woodlawn Beach or anywhere that will make him question his image of Western New York and it's people.

The bars can do their part by offering Canadian nights—Canadian money at par or 2-for-1 with Canadian money.

For Canadians who've had little or no contact with Western New York and it's people, Americans can beat reach them by going over there.

Frequenting the sole Canadian club is one way of bridging the communities. Canadians wary of crossing the river can then become comfortable with Americans on Canadian territory. Once trust has been established Americans can take their new acquaintances to some of the mellower stateside bars. Friendship can then go on from there.

Canadians must promote themselves better. Many Americans know very little of institutions serving our lifestyle in the Niagara peninsula and even less of the peninsular itself (except for the locations of gas stations).

What is the best way to get to the St. Catherines bars? Where do people hang out? What is worth seeing at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, St. Catherine's, Welland? Where are the good restaurants?

Canadians have a knack for really living and eating elegantly. Americans like to see this formality and enjoy playing at the role. The Niagara peninsula has some of the most beautiful parkland in Canada just waiting for afternoon picnics among international friends.

Some of the best acting can be experienced at the Shaw Festival along w with charming boutiques and restaurants at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Canadians can make the Americans feel they can enjoy themselves and feel at home on the other side of the river.

Canadian bars and institutions serving the community can do their part by offering American nights and by advertising in American community publications.

We should all get to know one another better and o become a model for international friendship.

To find meaning in life requires support and our community needs all the support it can get. And notice I said our Community. We can build it!

GAY HOTLINE
COUNSELOR TRAINING
PROGRAM STARTING
SOON. ANYONE THAT
IS INTERESTED CALL
THE HOTLINE AT
881-5335 FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION.
PEOPLE POWER NEEDED
TO STAFF THIS LINK
TO THOSE WHO ARE
LOOKING FOR HELP IN
THEIR SEARCH FOR
ANSWERS. PLEASE DON'T
LET THEM DOWN.
CALL NOW!
On July 30 WKLY-TV decided to provide Buffalo with its first gay "eyewitness" report on a "Gay Wedding" in Delaware Park. What followed was a very graphic report by reporter Cindy DiBiasi.

The couple were shown walking hand in hand thru the park and then were interviewed and stated their case. They felt that gays are entitled to have their legal right to be married, just as straights are. So far so good.

Then, to show gays as "they are", there was a very close-up view of two in a deep French kiss. Accounts of the amount of time it lasted range from a few seconds to too long.

On Thursday night there was a follow-up report as to the furor that the report caused. Reportedly the station received 'hundreds of calls' about the report. Straights were furious that the report should have aired at all. And the kiss the "kiss of Death" to the whole story.

Gays were furious that a couple was chosen to represent the whole gay community. Apparently the kiss disgusted the gays that called just as much, if not more, as the straights.

The position of the Mattachine and the legal end of the 5th Freedom is this: We support the idea of gays seeking this type of union if that is their desire. However, we do object to the sensationalized hatred of the TV coverage. And the kiss was definitely not the graphic threat that caused both for the couple to be willing to 'perform' for the cameras and for channel 7 to show it.

As to the bad image for the gay community: What and who have would been good for a sit down? With exploitive reporting no one could have given a good image. In addition to the sensationalized and graphic reporting, we were most upset by the erroneous reporting of the entire situation. With exploitive reporting no one could have given a good image. In addition to the sensationalized and graphic reporting, we were most upset by the erroneous reporting of the entire situation.

Cindy DiBiasi had been told (by the minister involved), as had the couple, that the Chase Hotel temperature generated by the television coverage there would be no wedding.

Originally, it had been agreed that a non-formal, religious ceremony (similar to the Rite of Union in the M.C.C.) would be performed. The understanding was that it would not and could not be portrayed as a legal document.

Wednesday evening, before the report aired, the reporter talked to the minister involved and was told that the wedding was off. Did the report state this? No! Did it state that it would be strictly a religious document? No! Instead they showed instead they showed a 10 second clip of an interview with a local lawyer that has worked on gay rights cases that shed no light on the matter at all. (This was not the fault of the lawyer. His remarks were edited to fit the sensationalist tone of the whole report.)

Then on the following day Ms. DiBiasi was again contacted and told that the ceremony was definitely off. Was this reflected in the Thursday night report? No!

The comment was made, however, that there would be a series of follow up reports as to why the straight community should react with such horror to a gay story and to a gay kiss. Thank goodness so far the follow up has not been done. Obviously it would have been done in the same manner and enough negativity had been generated by the first two reports. How can we believe that it would have been handled in a more professional manner?

When asked what the follow up report would consist of, we were told that they were going to interview 'experts in the field'. When we asked what was meant by that, they said it meant social workers, psychologists, sociologists, etc.

5th Freedom asked: Will you interview gays for the reports? Chairman: 7: Oh yes! Where do you intend to find them?

7: I don't know.

Chairman: We were contacted through the Gay Hot Line and Gay Professionals were reached for comment, to quote, "We want to see some of the positive input from either group made it's way into the report."

The report stated that it was not the first gay wedding in Buffalo. True, but it is the first one to be exploited.

As a further gesture of bad taste on Thursday night's program, one of the gay's parents, who were interviewed backs to the camera (due to their shame).

Statements were made: 'My son is emotionally sick. 'He's not responsible for his actions. 'My son is dead. 'Men should not be with men or women with women. God doesn't want it that way."

I'm sure many gays have heard many of these lines before in their own lives.

Such reporting is un-callous for, but apparently suited to Channel 7 and it's policies. One cannot help but wonder if this story would have had carried had it not of been preceded the week before by the 'Perverts in the Park' and 'Eddy on a No-No in Lasalle Park' themes. All of these were Eyewitness News exclusives. And it was the actual first of 11 of the propositioning of an undercover cop in the bushes of Lasalle Park. Needless to say, the film showed absolutely nothing.

Letters of protest can be sent to:

WKLY-TV News Dept.
7 Broadcast Plaza
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Atttn: Steve Ridge

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!!
State in your letter that you want it placed in the FCC file for the record.

And as to why this is a 'TRUE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT'? I was the minister involved!

local neighborhood tabloids, and they were all ready to hear what we had to say. We opened with a statement of what we hoped to accomplish and what had prompted us to call such a meeting.

Of the former, we said that we wanted to improve the gay image in Buffalo, give the gays a solid contact with the gay community and to remind them of the FCC ruling that has been put into effect. This ruling states that they have to make available time to all minority groups and give these groups the positive coverage and public service help that they may need.

This time and help is to be given when they are approached and they do not have to seek out those who would benefit from the ruling. We were making ourselves available to them.

On the latter, the recent front page coverage of 'Perverts in the Park' and 'A Gay Wedding' were the prime motivations.

All those present were very receptive to us. There was a tension in the air at the start, but that was soon replaced by a feeling of mutual trust and a sincere interest on both sides. There were two of the local television stations present, channels 4 and 7, and they were asked to respect the wishes of those who for various reasons did not want their faces shown on the screen. They were most co-operative and short only the backs of the heads or sides of those present.

After then open general meeting, two of the committee members were available for on camera interviews. All went very well with this portion of the meeting.
Dignity/Buffalo will hold its Fifth Annual Anniversary Dinner Buffet on Sunday October 5th at 5:45 pm. The cost is $6.75 per person with an open bar (beer and wine). Dignity/Buffalo cordially invites you to attend our affair. We have come a long way since our inception five years ago. Many of the political goals that Gays have been fighting for also have their implications inside the Roman Church. We have the problems of acceptance there too.

Tickets are available until Sept. 15th. Send money order only, payable to: Dignity/Buffalo, P.O. Box 75, Ellicott Sta., Buffalo, NY 14203. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of your ticket. Limited accommodations are available. It will be held at the Allen Restaurant, 16 Allen St. next door to Dominique’s. If you have any further questions, please call our Hotline at 874-4139.

Dignity/Integrity Rochester and the M.C.C. are co-ordinating the support and sponsorship of Cuban men and women who were part of the thousands who came to the United States as a result of Castro’s infamous boatlift. Rochester’s Dignity/Integrity is, as its effort, sponsoring a Gay couple in that city. They are asking for financial assistance from the Buffalo Gay Community. Please send any contributions to: Dignity/Integrity Rochester 42 Tyler House 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Rochester, NY 14614. Make check or money order payable to St. Luke's Discrionary Fund. Any assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the group.

GAY PICNIC

GAY PROFESSIONALS SECOND ANNIVERSARY/ LAST CALL PICNIC PARTY
WHERE: CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK
LOOK FOR "GP" SIGNS
WHEN: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 1980
12 NOON 'TIL ?
WHAT TO BRING: FOOD FOR A COMMUNITY TABLE
BEER IN CANS ONLY! NO GLASS!
GRILLS, CHARCOAL, AND ICE
OUTDOOR GAMES
RADIOS
LOTS OF ENERGY
EVERYONE WELCOME!

COME ON OUT AND HAVE THE LAST CHANCE
AT A SUMMER ROMANCE!

**RAIN DATE SEPTEMBER 14 IF WE NEED IT. **
* BUT WE WON'T! *

SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Dignity News

Dignity/Integrity Rochester and the M.C.C. are co-ordinating the support and sponsorship of Cuban men and women who were part of the thousands who came to the United States as a result of Castro’s infamous boatlift. Rochester’s Dignity/Integrity is, as its effort, sponsoring a Gay couple in that city. They are asking for financial assistance from the Buffalo Gay Community. Please send any contributions to: Dignity/Integrity Rochester 42 Tyler House 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Rochester, NY 14614. Make check or money order payable to St. Luke’s Discrionary Fund. Any assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the group.

Tell Our Advertisers That You Saw Their Ad In The Fifth Freedom.
Gay Business.
Gay Dollars.
Gay Pride.
DANCE MUSIC NEWS

BY DR. JOHN

Welcome to our first "Dance Music News" column in the Fifth Freedom. I will be continuing where John Cecilia left off, as he has found "greener pastures" in New York City, spinning at New York, New York, and Bond's. I will strive to present an unbiased report of Buffalo's Dance Music scene each month, and in future issues I'll also review new album releases to help you get the most for your record buying dollar.

Why the change from talking about "Disco" to "Dance Music?" Quite simple: it was a matter of necessity. With the emergence of New Wave music in the clubs, and groups such as The Rolling Stones and Queen producing danceable records, the word "Disco" was simply not an adequate name for this mixture of music now found in dance clubs.

From another standpoint, the media had degraded and maligned the word "disco" to the point where it became an alienation factor.

Whether it's Donna Summer, Queen, or the B-52's, it's all music you can dance to. Hence the name "Dance Music."

At this time, the Dance Music Industry in this area seems to be in a confused state. The number of clubs in this once glutted market is being slowly pared down. There are now about five "major" clubs in the area. Club owners for the most part are still working against each other instead of working together to keep their industry strong and prosperous. There is a lack of communication between DJ's, local radio stations, and record stores. Many records enjoying popularity in the clubs are never heard on the radio, and are not available in local stores. There is also an increasing burden on the DJ, constantly searching for new records to spin for his dancers, since record companies are producing less traditional "Disco" records, and have cut back sharply on distributing promotional records, due to the current "recession."

In an attempt to remedy this situation, a group of twenty-five of Buffalo's spinners have banded together to form the BUFFALO NEW YORK DISC JOCKEY ASSOCIATION. They meet every other Thursday at the B.B.C. to discuss problems, produce and promote parties, and strive to unify the industry in Buffalo. They also receive promotional records from some companies, and publish

FALL SPECIAL: DRIED ARRANGEMENTS 882-6878

"Like a Phoenix From the Ashes"

Marrakush
140 Allara St. Mon.-Sat. 12 to 6 882-8200

20 Allen Friends, Sept. 1980
Just want to say Thanks for "Coming Out" to be with us. We appreciate your business. Drop in soon and say hello! Happy Fall.

Dominique

"Mixdown Magazine" each month.

The music itself has gone through some very noticeable changes. Pretty much gone is the traditional sound of Ultimate, Cerrone, and Alec Costandinos. A very funky, slower-tempo sound is prevalent, ranging from the latest Donna Rosa, to the S.O.S. Band. Ever since Rod Steward paved the way two years ago with "Was Ya Thinkin'...", more traditional Rock groups such as Pink Floyd, J. Geils, and now Queen are enjoying increased popularity and record sales via the Dance Music route. And now, New Wave music, once thought of as "idiotic" by many, has taken its place in the clubs, adding a refreshing change of pace. Gaining more acceptance here each week, it is very popular in Canada. For those who still prefer the traditional disco sound, more and more DJs are frequenting import shops in New York and Toronto, and many are slipping in more and more of the old material.

We now have a "new" place to go on Tuesday nights. Mean Alice will be opening on Tuesday nights starting Sept. 16. Drinks will be only 50c, and Dr. John will be spinning -- no tapes. "Alice's" will also be undergoing another upgrading of their sound system and light show soon, not to mention the remodeling that is already place inside.

And just so you don't think I'm all "pro-Alice", in the future issues I will be featuring and reviewing The Villa Capri, The Betsy, and Dominique's. Until next month, keep in touch. I invite your comments and suggestions.

HELP!
Recently a member of Mattachine's Hotline service took a call which requested information about the availability of housing for a seventeen year old female. Problems associated with her parents' rejection of her sexual orientation necessitate such a move. She will be attending a local college in the fall. Personnel at Compass House were the contacts with the Hotline. Further information or leads which can assist the young woman can be handled by contacting either Paul Stanley or Martha Blackstack at 886-0935.

THANKS!
MEAN ALICE'S

buffalo's best disco bar

Luncheons Served Daily 11am to 3pm
Join Us For Our Daily Cocktail Hour 11am to 7pm
Saturday 6pm to 10

SUNDAY'S IN SEPTEMBER

Sun. Sept. 7
"End of Summer Appreciation Night"
75¢ Bar Brands and Local Beer
$1.00 Top Shelf and Other Beer

Sun. Sept. 14
"Disco Oldies Night" plus a
"Pepe Lopez Party"
Special Tequila Drinks & Prizes

Sun. Sept. 21
"Beer Bust"
25¢ Draft 50¢ Local Beer 75¢ Premium Beer

Sun. Sept. 28
"Smirnoff Party"
Drink Specials & Prizes

FRI. & SAT.
"Inflation - Fighter"
1/2 Price Drinks 9 - 11 pm

Welcome to Buffalo Party
Sept. 15 SPONSORED by MATTACHINE and MEAN ALICE'S 10 pm
SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS
$1 at door for FIFTH FREEDOM and FUTURE PARTIES 1/2 price drinks till 12

Please Join Us For the Best Disco & New Wave Music and Fall Fun!
NO COVER CHARGE: We Appreciate Your Patronage
TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

On July 22, the House of Representatives passed an anti-gay amendment to the Legal Services Corporation appropriation bill on a motion by Larry McDonald (D-Ga.). The amendment reads: "That no part of this appropriation shall be used by the Legal Services Corp. to provide legal assistance in promoting, defending or protecting homosexuality." Explaining his amendment, McDonald said, "it is my feeling that the Congress of the U.S. should not spend a penny of the taxpayers dollar to support, defend, protect or legitimize the practice or acts of homosexuality...Individuals in their personal lives may be at times solely a matter of their own concern. This is not to say however, that the Congress...should venerate certain conduct by spending money to defend wholly unacceptable behavior." Originally the vote was taken by a voice vote and defeated, but Mr. McDonald called for a recorded vote. When the vote was taken the bill was reversed with 290 in favor, 113 against and 30 members did not vote. It is amazing how people can say one thing and when it becomes one for the record they change their tune before the folks back home find out how they really feel.

These folks back home are mad and won't let those who were for this anti-gay bill or didn't bother to vote forget that there are a lot of us who vote and pay taxes that will stand for this kind of two faced politics.

For those who care to know how their representative voted, (and we all should), the following list is provided.

VOTED FOR THE BILL
Voted AGAINST Gays
Barber Conable
Jack Kemp
Stanley Lundine
Henry Nowak

VOTED AGAINST THE BILL
Voted FOR Gays
NO ONE!  !  !

Did Not Vote, implicitly Voting AGAINST Gays
John LaFalce
Liz Holtzman

As one of those that did not bother to vote, a spokesman said when asked about the failure to be there for the vote, "it wouldn't have made any difference any way. Just look at the vote..."

Doesn't that sound like a lot of people who fail to vote? On the day after Election Day, that is. Is this YOU??

The Fifth Freedom plans to pursue this matter and report on it further in our October issue. Some of these people are running for office this fall and some may not make it to the November election if they don't make it past the primaries. HINT HINT!

In the mean time we strongly suggest that you contact the above mentioned people and let them know how you feel about their vote. (If by chance your Congressperson is not on this list please check and find out who it is and find out how they voted.) You do not need to say that you are gay, just that you are for human rights for all. And gays are human. And are taxpayers, too.

---

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE FIFTH FREEDOM
SElections by SAM

Two statements—one in a personal conversation and the other to national reporters—made perhaps a continent apart, reflect attitudes that deserve response by this gay writer.

The conversation was between me and a local radio personality. Many of our readers have probably already read the news story.

Now for the background:

Some time ago while listening to local AM radio I heard a disc jockey make several consecutive anti-gay "jokes". I wrote a polite letter to the station demanding what I found offensive and why. And I added that I would appreciate either a written reply or the chance to talk with him face-to-face. After allowing about six weeks for him to respond, I telephoned him one day at the station after his daily program.

In the course of our conversation I noted that he would not have been able to get away with telling "nigger" or "kike" stories over the air. He replied that both Blacks and Jews tell many stories about themselves which don't necessarily cast their respective group in a good light and that gays should expect the same treatment as "put-down" is often a source of humor. I countered with the statement that a joke about one's own group is one thing, while an outsider's comments are quite different. His clincher was, "Well, you should have thought of that when you decided to be gay!"

As the recent Republican National Convention wound up, Americans were treated to numerous interviews with the party's candidate and members of his family. After all, the voting public should know what kind of people may be living in the White House if the Reagan-Bush ticket wins the election. Perhaps one of the results of such interviews is that we learn much more than we ever wanted to know about our American version of royalty.

The type of employment chosen by the candidate's youngest son drew some reporter's interest. Apparently he is a promising member of one of the Joffrey Ballet performing troupes.

In several of those family-type interviews it seems that Mrs. R. has been quick to point out that his interest in ballet grew out of his love for basketball. And then she adds, "He's all man. We made sure of that."

The two underlined statements in this column are related. I think a comment in response is called for, as I indeed did verbally with the local DJ. Both seem to work from the premise that one's sexual orientation is either a matter of learning or choice.

I don't remember making such a choice myself. I can recall feelings at the age of four or five that could be labeled as homosexual. Those were natural feelings and thoughts, or at least I cannot rationally explain their source. The choices I have made is to act in accordance with those feelings and enjoy that little tug in the groin when I see a particularly attractive man.

Meanwhile, let it be noted that I'm not turned on by that local radio personality and I also avoid his same patter.

With respect to the comments of the young man's mother, I find myself wondering if she thinks parents can actually determine their child's sexual orientation. I have yet to encounter the parent (gay or non-gay) who says he or she would want to have gay children knowing the homophobia that surrounds us. I also wonder what Nana K. meant by "all man."

In the meantime, wouldn't it be interesting if in the long run it turns out that in spite of parents, basketball, and a live-in girlfriend, the young man is "you know what?"

WANTED

HONEST, INTELLIGENT, MASCULINE MALE STUDENT 1! IS LOOKING TO MEET SINCERE MASCULINE GUYS, 18-25 FOR SOLID FRIENDSHIPS AND/OR POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP. INTO SPORTS, RUNNING, BASIC WEIGHT TRAINING, PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE OUTDOORS. I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE HONEST, DISCREET AND WILLING TO RESPECT OTHERS, AS WELL AS THEMSELVES. SHOULD BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION WITH A POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE, AND A STRONG MASCULINE IDENTITY. DISCRETION AND MUTUAL RESPECT IS ASSURED. REPLY BY PHONE AND PHOTO IF POSSIBLE TO: P.O. BOX 344, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14221. NO BS, OR SM PLEASE. THANKS!

Deadline for All Articles and Group Announcements Is The 20th Of The Month. Please Don't Be Late! We Want The Paper Out On Time. Thanks For Your Help.
Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier
Temporarily without offices.
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 155
Ellicott Station
Buffalo NY 14203
Meetings held the first and third Sundays of the month at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, Elmwood at West Ferry. For luck supper at 6:30. All are welcome.
Fifth Freedom
Offices as above. Meetings will be announced. Call the Gay Hotline for information. Paper is being produced temporarily in the staff members homes.
Gay Hotline *** 881-5335
Staffed part-time by volunteer peer counselors. Anyone interested in staffing should apply to Mattachine. Training programs offered periodically.
Gay Rights for Older Women (GROW)
Call Emma Bookstore for details at 836-8970.
Leather/Levi Club
Write P.O.Box 897, Ellicott Station,Buffalo, NY 14205 for more information.
Gay Professionals
An organization to provide support for Gay people in the professions.
Call Tom Hammond at 842-2750 for more information. Or write to:
Gay Professionals
Box 264
Buffalo, New York 14209

Student Association for Gay Expression (SAGE)
Buffalo State College (SUC Buffalo)
1300 Elmwood Ave. Office Hours:
12:30 to 3:00 Monday thru Friday.
Phone 878-6316.
Gay Liberation Front (GLF)
Coffee house Friday nights at 8 p.m. in 107 Townsend Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYAB) Main St.
Dignity/Dignity/Buffalo for Gay Catholics and Interested Christians.Call 874-4139 for more information.
Bookstores
Emma Feminist Bookstore
2474 Main St. at Greenfield.
Marrakesh, 140 Allen St.
882-8200
Gay Periodicals
Talking Leaves, 3144 Main St.
837-8554
Gay periodicals
Books
Bars and Restaurants
Villa Capri, 926 Main St. 886-9469
Mean Alice's, 729 Main St. 886-3298
Dominique's, 20 Allen St. 886-8694
Allen Restaurant, 16 Allen 881-0586
The Betsy, 454 Pearl St. 855-8902
Baths
Club Amherst, 44 Almeda Street 835-6711
Morgan Turkish Baths, 655 Main St.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BUSHES GONE?  PG.1

A.A. for Gay Men and Women
meets at Shoreline Apts. 210 Niagara, Wednesday evenings
at 8:30 p.m. For phone contact call 853-0388 and ask for a member of the gay group. For anonymous contact write: Open Mind Group
Box 395, Ellicott Station
Buffalo, New York 14205

Niagara Falls
Twenty-two-twenty-eight Club
2228 Falls, 282-9185
Itay-Bitsay Lounge, 1149 Michigan
Unique News, 1907 Main St.

Fredonia
Gay Awareness Organization
SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia NY 14063
Meetings Wed. at 7:00PM in S-123 Campus Center.