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The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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COALITION LAUNCHES GAY FEST

Gay Pride Fest '81

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 11
8 p.m. Miss (Ms.) Buffalo Boat Ride and Cruise. Buffalo Naval and Service- men's Park. (Tickets SOLD OUT).

THURSDAY, JUNE 17
8 p.m. "Singles" seminar. Niagara-Porter Library. Dual groups for men and women.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18
6 p.m. Dignity/ Buffalo workshop. Niagara-Porter Library.
8 p.m. "Women's Spirituality" seminar. Niagara-Porter Library. Women only.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20
1-5 p.m. Gay Pride Fest Health Fair. Unitarian Church, Elmwood and West Ferry. Admission free.
7 p.m. "Lesbians and Alcoholism." Brenda Underhill, guest speaker. Unitarian Church. Women only.
9 p.m. Women's Dance. Unitarian Church. Women only.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

MONDAY, JUNE 22
7:30 p.m. Roller Skating Party. Skate Haven Roller Rink, 1880 Abbott Road, Lackawanna. Admission: $3 at door. 50-cent skate rental.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23
6 p.m. "Meeting the Needs of the Women's Community." Niagara-Porter Library. Women only. Sponsored by Emma, the women's book-store.
8 p.m. "Socialist/Feminist Follies" discussion. Niagara-Porter Library. Women only.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24
6 p.m. Violence Seminar. Niagara-Porter Library.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25
1 p.m. Woodlawn Beach Clean-up. Woodlawn Beach, Lackawanna. Sponsored by Me And My Arrow.
7 p.m. "Creating a Gay Community Center" discussion. Niagara-Porter Library.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

SUNDAY, JUNE 28
1 p.m. Gay Pride Picnic. Chestnut Ridge Park, shelter 29.
3 p.m. Dignity/ Buffalo, Liturgy and polluck.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Gay groups unite to plan month-long events series

BY ROD HENSEL

With t-shirts, posters and over 20 special events, Buffalo's gay community will celebrate Gay Pride Fest '81 throughout the month of June.

These events will range from a ride on the Miss (Ms.) Buffalo boat to a wine and cheese tasting party, with stops in between for seminars, discussion groups, a roller skating party and two picnics.

The program for the month was put together by a coalition of gay organizations. "This is the first time since 1976 that the gay and lesbian communities have jointly planned events," noted Bobbi Prebis, a member of Gay Rights for Older Women.

Representatives from all of the area's gay organizations have been meeting weekly to form the coalition and plan the events. The idea of working together came about almost simultaneously from both sides (the gay men and lesbian women) who in recent years had planned Gay Pride events separately.

"Without a doubt, there have been problems and disagreements," said John Fauling, president of the Mattachine Society. "We've managed to work around them, if not resolve them, because I think everyone feels a real need to unite the community behind Gay Pride Fest '81."

Funding for the Gay Pride Fest '81 events is coming from the groups within the coalition. Mattachine provided most of the "front money" for site rentals for the social events, and hopes to recover costs from ticket sales. Gay Professionals donated $200 to Gay Pride Fest, and a private individual donated $100 for costs.

Boat begins fest

Gay Pride Fest '81 will begin on Thursday, June 11 with a cruise on the Miss (Ms.) Buffalo sightseeing boat. Originally planned by Mattachine, advance sail tickets for the event sold out in mid-May. The boat will depart at 8 p.m. sharp from the Buffalo Naval and Servicemen's Park.

On Tuesday, June 16 Gay Professionals will hold its regular meeting to outline events for the month and to hold a group discussion on the general topic of "Gay Pride." The meeting begins at 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17 will see the first in a series of seminars held at the Niagara-Porter Library (downstairs). From 6 to 8 p.m., separate workshops for men and women will be held on the topic of "Coming Out." From 8 to 10 p.m. separate workshops will be held on the theme of "Sexuality."

Dignity/Buffalo will address the topic of Gays and religion at a 6 p.m. seminar in the library on Thursday, June 18. Beginning at 8 p.m. the library will be the site of a women-only discussion on "Women's Spirituality."

First health fair

At the library on Friday, June 19, workshops for men and women will again be held. "Aging" will be the topic from 6 to 8 p.m. and "Sexuality" the topic from 8 to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 20 will see the Buffalo gay community's first "Gay Pride Fest Health Fair," to be held from 1 to 5:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, corner Elmwood and West Ferry. "This has been a major undertaking for us," said Kenneth Mathews, who is planning the event with Hollie Golner of the coalition.

"More and more, gay people are realizing the importance of taking care of their bodies. The health fair will help them learn how to do that."

Besides literature displays, slide shows and films, the health fair will offer testing for V.D. diabetes and blood pressure. Brenda Underhill of the Los Angeles Alcohol Center for Women will present a women-only seminar on the topic of alcoholism for 7 to 9 p.m.

During the health fair, Tom Hammond will host an experimental workshop on non-sexual intimacy. "The workshop is designed to explore how we can be intimate with each other in non-gentil ways," he explained. "A series of structured, non-threatening exercises by an experienced therapist will encourage the group as a whole, and same sex couples, to get to know each other in a playful, physical way." The workshop will be limited to 16 people, and registration can be made by calling 842-2750 or 885-0267 and asking for Tom Hammond.

Saturday night, Gay Rights for Older Women will sponsor the traditional Gay Pride dance for lesbian women. It will be held at the Unitarian Church, beginning at 9 p.m.

Picnic planning

On Sunday, June 21, Gay Pride Fest will hold its first "Unity Picnic" from 9 a.m. until dusk at Shelter number 37 in Chestnut Ridge Park.

"We've picked a really excellent site," said Ron Wojciechowski, Mattachine's representative to the coalition. "We hope to have a softball game and a general good time for everyone. We are asking everyone to bring some food to share, and we will have beer, ice and charcoal at the site."

The following evening, Monday, June 22, a roller skating party will be held at Skate Haven 950 South Buffalo at 1830 Abbott Road in Lackawanna. Tickets will be sold at the door for $3 each with a 50-cent charge for skate rental, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Two workshops for women will be held at the Niagara-Porter library on Tuesday, June 23. The first, at 6 p.m.,

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AN EDITORIAL:

Gay Buffalo is Talkin' Proud

Since last August, after "Perverts in the Park" and the "Gay Wedding" and the formation of Gay Professionals Media Committee to respond, Buffalo Gays have been standing up, speaking out and coming out.

After having our viewpoints aired to counter these instances of one sided journalism there was a full.

Then in December the Sodomy Law was repealed. Instead of the media covering this and then us reacting, we were contacted for a comment when the other side had "nothing to say." A 180 degree move from just a few months previous.

Then on to April 1981, The Courier Express contacts us to do a feature story on Buffalo's Gay Community. All aspects of the community respond.


Only one anti-article letter has appeared as of press time. (The Mattachine Society has waited to see what the reaction and response would be before responding. Our letter of thanks is on the way.)

And for those who appeared in the article by name and picture? No threats. No harassing phone calls. No problems. . . from the straight.

A few Gays were upset by this view as well, of course. These were a very small minority. But it shows that there is more homophobia in Buffalo's gay communities than in the non-gay population.

Now GAY PRIDE '81 for us to see what we really are all about.

For an education for us and for them.

Women and men. Lesbians and gay men. Buffalo's gays. Like Buffalo we're doing away with old attitudes. Rebuilding our part of the city.

And rethinking our feelings about each other.

GAY BUFFALO . . . WE'RE TALKING PROUD!

In This Issue . . .

In this issue of the FIFTH FREEDOM, we are pleased and proud to present your guide to Gay Pride Fest '81. In these pages you will find described a number of events taking place in Buffalo over the next few days, and we urge you to attend as many as possible. The events will allow you to have a good time, to meet new people, to grow as a human being, and most importantly, to help you feel good about who you are.

This issue also marks an expansion by the FIFTH FREEDOM to a sixteen page issue and a press run of 3,000 copies. This was made possible by our support of our advertisers, and we hope you will help us gain the widest possible circulation by passing a copy on to a friend.

As we celebrate Gay Pride this month, we must not forget that there are many issues still facing us as gay men and women. One is the problem of being arrested, and we address the problem in this issue with a FIFTH FREEDOM interview with attorney William Gardner. You should know your rights, and what to do should you find yourself in a too close encounter with the men in blue.

All this plus our Letters to the Editor section and our regular columns. If you have comments or suggestions for the paper, please let us know.

In the meantime . . . enjoy.

Letters to the Editor

Author praises Buffalo interview

Thanks so much for the sensible and faithful reduction of the interview.

I look forward to part two and wish you well with the new publication.

Edmund White

New York, N.Y.

Assemblyman seeks support for bill

As the Chair of the Assembly Sub-committee on Human Rights, I am writing you now because of your needful support in the effort toward human rights for all citizens of New York State. In 1981, it is astounding to consider that ten percent of the people of our State are denied their full human rights because they are a lesbian or gay man.

Politicians are generally unaware of the number and range of organizations supporting lesbian and gay civil rights. We need to demonstrate to them that many groups from all over the State agree that no person should be discriminated against because of their sexual or affectional preference.

If you are committed toward working for a world free from unwarranted discrimination, it is vital that your views are shared with legislators in Albany. A group of concerned legislators have already introduced the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill A3935/Passammante, Siegel, Sanders / S2797 Ohrenstein, Ackerman, Breshears, Connor, Gallo, Gold, Leichter. This bill outlines discrimination because of affectional or sexual preference in employment, sale or rental of housing, land and commercial space, use of public accommodations, training and education, and extension of credit.

I encourage you to make sure your views are known to your own legislators and to the legislative leadership. I recognize that many activists are tired from the long uphill struggle for lesbian and gay rights, but I know that we must be relentless in our efforts if we hope to see our dreams come reality.

Thank you for your invaluable help.

Steven Sanders

6th District

New York State Assembly

Arrow owner defends door policy

The person alluded to in the letter from Ken in the May 1981 FIFTH FREEDOM (Clique cards called discrimination) was not nor is it any than what you, Joseph, unseen by me and My Arrow.

Ken is absolutely correct in stating I am discriminatory. I discriminate against thieves, drug dealers, hookers, vandals, drunks, and druggies.

When a new bar opens, all the undesirables that have been barred from other places feel that they have a right to try, as well. But opening up process begins all over again. This can be a most difficult and trying time. My doormen have been seasoned at knife point by people who have been barred. Any diplomatic way to avoid this kind has voted to be sent.

Thus the cards came into being.

I will work every effort I can to protect my customers. I'm sorry Ken is offended, but it is something I must do.

The Fifth Freedom, June 1981

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

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

Deadline for the submission of all materials and advertising copy is the 20th of each month. THE FIFTH FREEDOM reserves the right to reject any materials or copy submitted to the paper.

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

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

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JOHN A. FAULRING JR., EDITOR

As for the "privileges" extended to a "selected few," this is totally untrue. First, the selected few are hundreds. Come in any weekend and note how "few" have been admitted. Also, if Ken can find someone who has been given special bar prices (with the exception, of course, of the Thursday, Sunday, and Cocktail Hour specials) I will allow Ken to drink FREE all night.

I am happy that I am always available to listen to comments, good or bad, from my customers and to take action when possible. I care for the community and want the best for it.

Joseph

President

Me And My Arrow, Inc.

Note to "Madder Than Hell": Please read the policy for reprinting Letters to the Editor and resubmit your views for publication at a later date. We must have some form of identification in order to publish letters. This is Editor's policy.

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(Editor's Note: The FIFTH FREEDOM welcomes "Letters to the Editor." Letters for submission should be typed, double-spaced, and limited to no more than 300 words. Send to THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Letters must be signed in order to be considered for publication, however the FIFTH FREEDOM will withhold the writer's name upon request.)
Fifth

I am 19 years old and very embarrassed to ask for your help. I have only had one sexual experience with another guy who gave me a blow job. I want to have sex with other guys and have had several offers but have turned them down. The truth is, I don't know what to do or how to do it. Is there somewhere I can go to learn about sex?

Jeffery

We all start without experience and your lack of experience or knowledge is nothing to be embarrassed about. Becoming comfortable with sex is a slow process that requires a willingness to keep an open mind and try new ideas, even if you think they might not appeal to you. You already know some of the things that excite you sexually. Be honest with your partner and don't be afraid to tell him of your lack of experience. Many men would be flattered to be the one to help you in your early experiences and will be glad to help you. Just some might not be willing to accept the responsibility. So BE HONEST.

A good book on gay sex is, "The Joy of Gay Sex" by Edmund White and Charles Silverstein is available at several local bookstores.

Jeffery, for sex top be good you MUST relax. Worrying about your lack of experience or sexual techniques will only create tension and take the fun out of sex. The best advice I can offer is one gay man to another to relax and just let it happen. Keep an open mind and above all, a sense of humor. It helps.

Are dildos safe? What size should I buy? I enjoy being fucked but when I am not with someone I would like to be able to use a safe substitute.

Concerned and horny

Shoving anything into your rectum can be potentially dangerous. Dildos that are 15 inches long and 3 inches across may be fun to fantasize about but they are not realistic and their use could be deadly. If you plan on using one I would suggest that you purchase a moderately sized one that is well built with no rough edges. Be sure the base is big enough to prevent it from slipping into the rectum where it may cause a trip to your local hospital to get it out. Using plenty of lubrication will help to reduce the chance of damage. Have fun, but please use common sense.

Tom (not his real name) is the greatest guy in the world and I love him. It hurts. Most of the time he is warm, gentle and caring but when he drinks he becomes angry and his whole personality changes. He accuses me of things I've never done and often slaps me very hard. Last night Tom and I had a terrible argument about his drinking and he stormed out of the apartment. Several hours later he returned drunk and started yelling at me and calling me names he has never called me before. He told me he was going to teach me a real lesson and as he is much stronger than me, he had little difficulty holding me down. Tom then proceeded to beat me with his belt while he called me all sorts of terrible names. Even

though I was clad only in pajama bottoms, I don't know which hurt more, the beating or the names. I was crying when he left the apartment again.

This morning he came back and begged me to forgive him. He said he felt terrible about what he did to me and promised that it would never happen again. He also promised that he would never drink again if I stayed with him. Tom told me that if I hadn't argued with him he would have never done those things to me. I don't know what to do. I do love him very much but now I am also afraid of him. How do I know he'll keep his word about the drinking. If I stay I know I'll have to be careful not to argue with him so I don't push him back to drinking. Please help me, I'm very confused.

In love and afraid

Love does strange things to people and so does alcohol. The thing that stands out in your letter is your willingness to take responsibility for Tom's behavior and his drinking. Tom has a drinking problem and does not have the right to make you responsible. The choice to drink or not drink is his, NOT yours.

I seriously question if love can grow in an atmosphere of fear, but that has to be your decision. Your lover's promise to never drink again may be the first step to his recognition of his drinking problem. Whether you believe him can only be based on your past experience with him in sticking to his promises. Are you willing to "not argue" for fear that Tom will start drinking again? Is that the real reason for the drinking?

If you decide to stay together I would suggest that you both see a professional counselor. Tom's drinking problem may be more than what it seems. He may have had deep problems that will have to be dealt with, and your willingness to accept being slipped around in the name of love should be explored further. Both of you must come to accept that men and women are responsible for their own actions. Good luck to you both.

**GRNL mobilizes religious groups**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Despite considerable press attention of Moral Majority's efforts against gays and the growing perception of some gay people that religion is their enemy, the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) has reported that many religious denominations, as well as a variety of other groups, have sent letters to Members of Congress urging support and co-sponsorship of H.R. 1454, the labor/gay civil rights bill in the House. This support has been mobilized by Gay Rights National Lobby, which is intent on demonstrating the broad support for the legislation that has developed.

Among the religious bodies and denominations that have sent letters are: The National Council of Churches of Christ (a coalition of 34 Protestant and Orthodox denominations), the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the United Church of Christ, the Lutheran Council, the Presbyterian in the United States, and the United Presbyterians.
Attorney talks on criminal law and your lifestyle

(In December, the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, struck down the consensual sodomy law and declared that New York's gay's had a constitutional right to engage in private, consensual sex with each other without fear of arrest. In late May, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the District Attorney's attempt to appeal from that decision. Buffalo attorney William H. Gardner was the successful attorney for three of the defendants. FIFTH FREEDOM asked Gardner to talk about the decision and his views of its impact on the gay community.)

F.F.: Bill, what do you think this means for the future for gays?

W.H.G.: First, it will no longer be possible for you to be convicted of a crime for engaging in oral or anal sex in New York with an adult that is, anyone 17 years of age or older), unless you do it openly, in public rather than private. Moreover, the Court's decision takes away the basis for the straight community to put down gay people as mere criminals because of their lifestyle.

F.F.: Why do you think that is important?

W.H.G.: Arguments over civil rights for gays (nondiscrimination in housing, jobs, etc.) can now be fought out on the merits, not on the question whether such rights should be given to civilians. Besides, many gays will find it important in improving their self-image and in dealing with their family and straight friends to have the criminal label removed from their private conduct.

F.F.: Can gays still be arrested under other laws, Bill?

W.H.G.: Yes, they can. Too many gays do not understand that if actual sex is performed in public in a way that members of the public can easily see it, they can be arrested for public lewdness, a crime. It probably would not apply if sex occurred in a parked car under conditions where secrecy was being attempted. The biggest danger, though, is the loitering statute, which is an offense, not a crime.

F.F.: What is the loitering statute, Bill, and what advice can you give for someone who might get into trouble under it?

W.H.G.: The statute says that one is guilty of loitering if he remains in a public place for the purpose of engaging in, or asking someone else to engage in, deviate sex or "other sexual behavior of a deviate nature." Noone knows exactly what that last phrase means. Note that you can be guilty whether or not sex occurrs and whether or not the sex may occur in public or in private. It being in a public place is having the intent that is needed. Beyond that, the officer merely needs some words or action by you to give him some evidence what your intent is in order to arrest you.

F.F.: Is this the law that the Buffalo Vice Squad was arresting people under in LaSalle Park last summer?

W.H.G.: Yes, believe so. The police have been concentrating on arrests for loitering rather than for consensual sodomy since February 1980.

F.F.: Is it fair to assume that as long as a gay person stays out of the parks, he'll be safe from arrest for loitering for deviate sex?

W.H.G.: No. The law can be applied in any public place, even in a gay bar. If the person you are talking to turns out to be an undercover cop, and you invite him to have sex with you—even in jest—you can expect to be arrested, wherever that conversation occurs.

F.F.: Do you think the loitering law may be declared invalid?

W.H.G.: Yes, definitely. I am convinced that law is unconstitutional. First, now that sex in private is legal, one who discreetly invites another and the other has legal sex is committing is simply exercising his free speech rights under the Constitution. The Supreme Courts of California and Massachusetts have already held that under similar laws in those states. Second, I think the law is unconstitutional because it requires no overt conduct to occur before you are guilty, just that you be in a public place and have the "evil" thoughts. The Colorado Supreme Court has overturned an almost identical statute that state on the ground that there are other good arguments, but it would be too complicated to get into all of them here. I refer you to the comments which discuss the issue and which I am willing to share with other attorneys who are working on such cases, without charge.

F.F.: How serious is a violation of the loitering statute?

W.H.G.: It is an offense, just like a traffic offense. It is not a crime. But the process of being arrested is the serious part for a crime, and no one wants to go through the hassle of being arrested or, worse, having a sex conviction on your record. In that sense, it is certainly serious. However, in most instances I could conceive of, the most that you would risk upon conviction in the particular case would be a fine, not a jail term. There are other reasons why you should very hard to avoid being convicted, though.

F.F.: What are some of those reasons, Bill?

W.H.G.: First, you have to live with the conviction record for the rest of your life. If you want to teach school, work in a bank, become a professional person, join a service, or take any employment where the application requests information whether you've ever been convicted, you will have to reveal the information and perhaps lose the position or else lie. And sometimes lying can be perjury, a separate crime. Besides, some states are very tough on sex offenders. For example, if you pleaded guilty to loitering for deviate sex purposes in New York and later moved to California, you would be required to register with the local police where you then lived as a convicted sex offender. Your picture could be used in photo lineups and you might be called in for physical lineups whenever a sex crime was committed, by someone whose name would be there in the public record along with rapists, child molesters and the like. If, on the other hand, you simply did not register, you would be guilty of another crime in California and could get a five-year jail term or possibly a $1000 fine. It simply is not worth it when you could have stood up against the original New York charge and probably avoided conviction in the first place.

F.F.: Bill, do you have any advice for someone who is arrested for loitering?

W.H.G.: Yes, First, be quiet! Whatever the problem is, it will not get better by talking any more than is necessary to politely give your name and address and comply with the formal arrest procedure. If you talk about the case during your time "in-custody," you will likely incriminate yourself. If you try to talk your way out of an arrest, someone may claim that you tried to bribe or threaten him. Talk to your lawyer first, whether it be a private attorney, if you are eligible, the public defender.

F.F.: What do you say to the gay who wants to plead guilty and get the minimum fine?

W.H.G.: I would never do that, certainly never without first having consulted an attorney. Any gay can generally get you a different plea (for example, disorderly conduct) not involving any conviction for a sex-related offense. It may even be possible to get a dismissal after six months on a first offense (what we call an "ACD"). If neither of these alternatives are possible or desired, your attorney will move for dismissal on constitutional grounds and on any grounds he or she may think appropriate. You may be in motion for a delay and vigorously pursued, the charge will frequently be dismissed by the trial court or by the appeal court, even if the charge is on some sexual conduct other than the unconstitutionality of the statute. Sooner or later, I am convinced that any court will strike down the law unconstitutional, but you won't get the benefit of that ruling unless you have challenged the charge.

F.F.: Is there a danger that this might result in newspaper publicity?

W.H.G.: There is a thin line, and although my experience is that in the lower courts, publicity can frequently be avoided when you fight the charge. If publicity should occur, you have to balance that against the lifetime risk of letting a conviction go onto your record.

F.F.: Well, then, Bill, can you sum up what you think are the most important things for one worried about a loitering arrest to remember?

W.H.G.: Yes, there are the basics. First, if you are conversing in a bar or elsewhere in the public and sex gets into the conversation, know who you are talking to. If you don't know them, check with someone else who does or walk away. By the way, don't believe the story that if a cop is looking whether he is a cop, he has to answer truthfully. That is not true. Second, if an invitation for sex is offered, make it clear that the sex will be at your apartment or another clearly private place. That will help with any later argument that you were exercising free speech constitutional rights. Third, until you are sure about your partner, don't be explicit about what kind of sex is being talked about. To be guiltless, you have to know that you had oral or anal sex or "other sexual behavior of a deviate nature" in mind. Fourth, if you are arrested, don't panic. Insist on seeing a lawyer as soon as possible. If you want a public defender, tell that to the judge on the arraignment, if you want a private lawyer but don't have one when you go to court the first time, plead "not guilty" and wait for an appointment to get a lawyer. The court will give you one. One last thing: Speak frankly with your lawyer and listen carefully to his or her advice. Your lawyer needs to know all of the details and, with that information, is in the best position to give specific advice as to what you should do.

F.F.: Bill, would your remarks be the same if a lesbian was arrested for loitering?

W.H.G.: Yes.
The Courier finds Gays; Billie Jean and the press

By ROD HENSEL

"A Stable Gay Community Is Growing Here"

There are those who thought they would never see the day when that headline would appear over a page-one article in the Buffalo Courier-Express. There are others who hoped they would never see that.

It all happened, for good or bad, on April 13 when reporter Carol Stevens did a major feature article on Buf

The article was a thoughtful, sensitive story on what it is like to be gay in Buffalo. It was made possible by the courage of those listed above who were willing to come forward and talk publicly.

As people in the gay community are delighted in the article. For many in the closet, it was a lifeboat to which they could cling, and the next day Mattachine's Gay Hotline was deluged with calls from those just coming out and those wanting more information about the groups and services mentioned in the story.

Some of those quoted received mail over the next few days from people making those first tentative steps toward coming out. But it is also sad to report that some of those spokespeople also lost friends.

For some in our community, the article meant they could no longer be associated with people who had spoken out so openly about being gay, even though they themselves are gay. For them, the article was not a revelation (as it was to some straight) nor a source of great pride (as it was to many of us), but rather a horror story which they felt threatened them as individuals.

It is extremely sad that this felt this way, but do not quarrel with them. They are victims of centuries of oppression; of a society which will not let them feel good about who they are. And one newspaper article, no matter how well done or how well presented, will not change overnight. As we salute gay pride this month, we would do well to remember that gay pride is a newborn baby — it must be handled gently and with understanding so that it can grow to be healthy and strong.

So a salute goes to the Courier and Carol Stevens for an excellent article. Send the paper a letter saying so if you can, and if not, then give a simple word of thanks to those who were interviewed and spoke out for you and me.

HOMOSEXUALITY DOMINATED the media news most of last month, not because of the Courier's feature article, but because of Billie Jean King's admission to a lesbian affair. The tennis star's admission that she made a "mistake" was nauseating at best, and the media, I think, tried its utmost to sensationalize the topic (most notably the New York Post). But what they got back from the public was either a great big yawn or "so what" response.

Eyewitness News' Ann Simon did a series on the issue of homosexuality, complete with one of those dubious channel 7 polls, and though she tried to make her utmost she couldn't seem to find anyone too upset. She talked to women softball players, who said beforehand they were worried about people getting the "wrong" impression, yet left you with the strong feeling they weren't losing any sleep over the situation. Ann also had problems putting the word "gay," using the term homosexual instead, and it would be nice if she would broaden her vocabulary.

Although I can't quite approve of Ms. King's repentant attitude, I do give her credit for coming forward and frankly admitting the affair with her secretary, and for openly talking about it with the likes of Barbara Walters and Ron Barrett.

As Buffalo Evening News columnist Jeff Simon summed it up: "Billie Jean King declassified homosexuality almost in the same way Betty Ford declassified cancer and alcoholism."

Ms. King also deserves credit for saying that "anyone can have their own lifestyle," a refreshing change from some of the Congressmen who got caught in the Capitol Hill men's room with their zipper down and still proclaimed that all homosexuality was wrong.

The Squibb drug company, incidentally, maker of vitamins and such, fired Ms. King from her promotional contract. If you're hopping one of their products every morning, try another brand.

The Toronto Star did a poll in late April showing that 83 percent of those in the Metro area said there should be no prejudice against homosexuals in their right to work, although 45 percent said they should not hold jobs as teachers or in voluntary youth organizations. The phone poll of 200 people also showed people did not want homosexuals working as policemen, as doctors, or at universities.

Only 31 percent agreed with the statement that homosexuality is an acceptable form of behavior, while 17 percent said homosexuals should be rejected and outlawed. A very high number, 72 percent, agreed with the statement homosexuals should be treated the same as everyone else.

The Star interviewed a psychiatrist in conjunction with the poll, who said that the survey reflects the public's view of stereotyped homosexuality and "plays on public fantasy." He pointed out that Gays come in all sizes, shapes and personalities, that homosexuality is a different way of life, and that despite that many homosexuals in the professions and other ways of life go unnoticed.

The story was headlined "We're becoming more tolerant of homosexuality."

Continued on page 8
It was a party to remember last month at Me And My Arrow, 274 Delaware, as owner Joseph played host to a "Joan Crawford Party." Michael Blueberry, left, took first place honors. Pictured with him (from left) are Vinny and Cora Louise Widow.

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By JOE

I appreciate a well turned phrase, so let's begin this month's column with a few lines from a Cy Cooley n/ Carolyn Leigh song.

"It's a feeling that beneath that little halo on your noble head, there lies a thought or two the devil might be interested in. You're like the finish of a novel that I'll finally have to take to bed."

I feel like Christopher Columbus when I'm near enough to contemplate..." the sweet geography descending from your eyebrows to your toes. The possibilities are more than I can possibly enumerate. That's what you fascinate me so.

All this brings about the inordinate amount of fascination in some circles with amplifier "class of operation." The question of operation revolves around two major factors: switching, or non-linearity distortion; and power output.

Some basic explanations of each class are helpful here, but space does not permit detailed descriptions. Besides, many arguments, though interesting, theory exercises, simply don't hold up when the shouting stops and the hassling begins.

AN AMPLIFIER operating in class-A mode has its output stage biased for full operation at all times. This is to prevent crossover or notch distortion at that point where the frequency of the sound waves changes from positive to negative. Since there is no change from one output device to another at the zero point, a class-A circuit eliminates the possibility of interference problems between pairs of output devices which cause distortion by presenting a unified waveform. Class-A amplifiers work well and produce very little distortion.

However, class-A operation has drawbacks. Since the output stage is always on, it always consumes large amounts of electricity — very expensive to run even when not playing at full output. Also, since this circuit is always operated at full bias, it operates with a lot of heat which tends to shorten the life of its components. Those manufacturers that design around this problem, Stax and Rotel among others, do so at large expense. Thus a class-A amplifier's success is achieved at the expense of (1) efficiency, (2) weight and (3) expense.

Enter class-B. Here we have the classic push-pull output circuit. A pair of push-pull biased devices operate for exactly one half of the frequency wave. This design is commendably efficient (about 60% to 70%). It only superheats at full power — a condition surprisingly infrequent even at a disco. Its main disadvantage occurs at the crossover point.

At this point the first device does not always shut off exactly. Nor does the second device immediately begin to operate. It is this hesitation which produces the distorted waveform. Just as electrical bodies cannot immediately be at motion or at rest, neither can electronic circuits.

How much distortion are we talking about here? Even more importantly, how much difference between classes A and B? In a properly designed class-A amplifier the distortion is typically .002 percent. In a class-B .03 percent. A ratio of nearly twenty-to-one! But don't take a second mortgage to buy a class-A amplifier yet. Let's discuss a few other classes first.

Class-C is virtually unheard of unless you belong to the Amateur Radio Relay League. It is used almost exclusively for radio frequency amplification. It is quite efficient for amplifying these frequencies — light years above the range of human hearing — but at audio frequencies, it produces grossly audible distortion.

Class-D amplification comes next, but I will discuss it in a future column due to some interesting new developments.

Next come classes G and H. These designs are mainly used by Hitachi (G) and Soundcraftmen (H). Both are modified versions of class-AB operation. The aim is to produce low distortion and high efficiency. This is done by basically operating two amplifiers: one class-A and one class-B. AS I HAVE MENTIONED earlier, few amplifiers operate at maximum power all the time. "So" say the class-G and H people, "why provide full power supply voltage all the time? Why not bias a low power amplifier CLOSER to class-A, and a high power amplifier section CLOSER to class-B?" This is exactly what they have done.

The class-H design results in an amplifier that can put out 320 watts per channel CONTINUOUSLY at .01% distortion.

(This in an amplifier rated at 250 watts continuous)! Yes it heats at this level, but NOT ALL THE TIME. I have used an amplifier of this class in the theater. Its nearly 700 watts combined output left the audience's ears ringing, but it remained mostly cool and stable.

Now the second question. To this question I can only pose another. Can you HEAR .03% distortion? No you cannot. So what good is twenty times less? Argue if you will, but when broadcast distortion is typically 5% or more and disc distortion about 2%, does another .03% make any difference at all?

I have left class-AB operation out of the picture until now. This mode reaps the benefits of classes A and B by biasing the output stage somewhere in between. This is the mode of operation most commonly used today. It is relatively inexpensive and not so esoteric as to be problematic over lifetime use.

I BELIEVE THE issues of amplifier class are really secondary to other design parameters in the success of what produces high fidelity to the original performance. What we should be truly interested in is that aural experience which fulfills the promise of a great performance. Seek overall quality in construction, manufacturer's reputation and dealer service. If you find these, all class arguments fall by the wayside and you will enjoy.

Incidentally, "You Fascinate Me So" comes from MY PERSONAL PROPERTY, an album by Bobby Short, without some of whose work no record collection should be considered complete. It was pressed by Atlantic, SD 1869. I believe it is now out of print, but if you ever find it BUY IT!

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**Fifth Freedom cover features coalition's t-shirt logo**

This month's FIFTH FREEDOM cover is the logo designed by the Gay Pride Fest '81 Coalition. The artwork was done by Great Arrow Graphics.

In addition to being our cover, it will be showing up all around the area on T-shirts and on posters adorning the July 4th Dance.

The souvenir shirts will be for sale by various groups, individuals and stores/businesses in the Buffalo area. Also at all Gay Pride events.

The shirts come in white, light blue and tan colors with the logo in gold and royal blue. The sizes are Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large.

The price of the T-shirts is $6.50 each. The following are a list of places selling the shirts: Marrakesh — 140 Allen St. Headquarters — 152 Allen St. Emma Bookstore — 2474 Main St.


If you go looking for your size and color and they are out, try another outlet. If you still have no luck, call one of the following numbers to try and track the right one down:

John — 886-2590
Ron — 885-3155
Emma — 836-9870
Gay Hotline — 881-5335 "We hope to see many faces with T-shirts attached all during the month of June," said John Faulring, on behalf of the coalition.

"If you know of someone that has moved away from Buffalo, why not send them a shirt to show them what they are missing!"
Coalition Launches Gay Pride Fest '81...

Continued from page 1

will be sponsored by Emma, the women’s bookstore, on the topic of “Meeting the Need of the Women’s Community.” The second, at 8 p.m., will be on “Socialist/Feminist Fol lies.”

Self-defense and the law will be topics on Wednesday, June 24, with two events at the library. At 6 p.m., a “Violence Seminar” will be held to discuss safety on the streets with some demonstrations and tips on self-defense. An 8 p.m. seminar is entitled “Gays and the Law: Who Gets the Law” and will discuss legal problems Gays run into.

Pride on the beach

Thursday, June 25 will see an afternoon event with a clean-up of the Woodlawn Beach area from 1 to 4 p.m. The combination clean-up and party is being sponsored by Joseph and the staff of Me and My Arrow. That evening, beginning at 7 p.m., members of the gay community are invited to join a discussion at the library on creating a gay community center to serve the city. Representatives from the groups in the coalition say they hope the discussion will be the first step toward establishing a permanent location where gay groups can meet and socialize.

The Wilcox Mansion on Delaware, the site where Teddy Roosevelt took his oath of office as president of the United States, will be the scene of a wine and cheese tasting party for Gays on Friday, June 26, from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission tickets will be $3 and sold at the door. Musical entertainment and comedy skits will be part of the evening.

On Saturday, June 27, Emma will present an evening of women featuring plays and poetry. The women on

ly event will feature “The Great Neb ula In Orion” by Lamford Wilson, “Save Me A Place At Forest Lawn” by Lores Yerby and “Poet Ready” by Sally Drucker, a local Buffalo poet. The evening will begin at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Church with a $1 admission.

Sunday will see the second of Gay Pride Fest’s picnics at shelter 29 of Chestnut Ridge Park from 1 to 5 p.m. The picnic is being planned as a gay pride celebration for those not attending the annual March in New York City on that day. Also on Sunday, the Buffalo Women’s Liberation and People’s Association for Gay Expression, Gay Professionals, Dignity/Buffalo, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Coalition and the Lesbian’s Liberation Union and individual groups.

Everyone come

“We have done a lot of work to plan this event and we hope everyone will enjoy it,” noted Faulring. “This is our way of joining with millions of other men and women throughout the nation who will be saying in June that we are gay and proud.”

Additional details to see everyone come all month long,” added Joseph, spokesperson for Gay Professionals.

A Gay Pride History Lesson

BY KENNETH MATHEWS

Every year, near the end of June, gay men and women throughout the country celebrate Gay Pride Week. For the gay community, June 28th is sort of a national holiday. With workshops, lectures, parties, picnics, parades, sports and dances, we honor the events that happened on an early summer’s night on the streets of Greenwich Village.

New York City, 1969, the gay faces took a month that will go down in history. June – the weather is nice and we come out of our houses and into the parks. Kew Gardens is the place to be if you are looking for action, so on June 18 a group of the garden’s neighbors cut down a lot of trees and bushes to keep the homosexuals out of the park. There are investigations by the Park Commissioner’s Office and the Mayor’s Office. The Mattachine Society of New York City even offers to replace the cut down trees. But we are not celebrating trees – we are celebrating what happened ten days later.

The Stonewall Inn, 53 Christopher St., was filled with 200 men when the plainclothes policemen entered on June 28, 1969. They had warrants to confiscate the liquor because it was said that the Stonewall had no license.

The New York Times does not say exactly what happened, but the crowd of 200 grew to 400 people now outside on Christopher Street. And the riot with the police started. After 1 a.m., the street was a battle field with flying bricks, bottles, garbage, pennies, and a parking meter. The melee lasted only 45 minutes, but when it was over, 13 gay men were arrested and 4 policeman were injured one with a broken wrist.

On June 29, at about 2:15 a.m., 400 demonstrators protesting the raid on Stonewall clashed again with policemen in the nearby Sheridan Square area. Policemen, linked arm-to-arm, advanced up and down the streets trying to disperse the gays as they threw more bottles and cans and started small fires. Graffiti started appearing reading “Support Gay Power” and “Legalize Gay Bars,” by 4

ics. The t-shirt logo will also be available on posters and buttons.

Additional details to see any of the Gay Pride Fest events are available from the Gay Hotline (881-5335) or the Emery Board. Area bars will be distributing pamphlets with a complete calendar of events.

Child care will be available at all events except the skate party, Miss Buffalo and the picnics.

The Gay Pride Fest’81 coalition is comprised of The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier Inc., Gay Rights Coalition of Western New York, The Association for Gay Expression, Gay Professionals, Dignity/Buffalo, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Coalition and the Lesbian’s Liberation Union and individual groups.

The Courier finds Gays

Continued from page 5

uals.

IN WATCHING the local media, this column would be remiss in not watching the FIFTH FREEDOM itself. In the last few months, we have changed format and style and gained, I think, a wider audience in the gay community as a quality paper. As you look at this month’s issue, you will find many new advertisers, some from companies who do not usually make use of the gay press.

That they are here is a compliment to us as gay people, for the ads say we want your business. In these pages, in the bar poll, in the King coverage and in the Courier article, the message is clear: Gays are gaining acceptance, and being gay is something we can be proud of.
Gay lobbying group monitors New Christian Right

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), which long before the national gay media jumped on the bandwagon was among the first groups to report on the emergence of the New Christian Right, last month reported on a wide variety of anti-gay developments by that group. The following round-up is a synopsis of some of those developments:

McDONALD RESOLUTION (Again?) — Congressman Larry McDonald, D-Ga., a long-time mover and shaker in the John Birch Society, has once again introduced an anti-gay resolution in the House of Representatives.

The Resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 27 (to be confused with an anti-gay amendment to the Legal Services Corporation Act, also authored by McDonald) would declare the "sense of the Congress" that this nation will never afford gay men and lesbians the same civil rights which other citizens take for granted.

Although there is no clear indication that the Resolution will ever be passed, Christian Voice lobbyist Gary Tox, who indicated in the last session, his organization will press vigorously for co-sponsors for the Resolution.

Their drive for co-sponsorship is at least in part aimed at intimidating others from support pro-gay civil rights legislation.

Their strategy is very clear," GRNL Executive Director Steve Endean said. "They hope to intimidate both legislators and the gay movement into backing away from the effort to end discrimination."

Endean went on to say that GRNL had no intention of backing off, and he urged those committed to justice to write their Representatives at the House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, to let their feelings be known.

PRO-LIFE/ANTI-GAY? — The "Life Amendment Political Action Committee" (LAPAC), an anti-abortion organization which is closely associated with the New Right, has announced a "Program for Protection of the Family," which includes an anti-gay provision. That provision says: "No (federal) funds should be available for any material or program which depicts homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle."

PROTECTING THE FAMILY — The so-called "Family Protection Act" has been re-introduced in the House of Representatives, with Representative George Hanson (R-ID) as its chief sponsor. H.R. 311, which is virtually identical to the bill introduced last session, has several anti-gay provisions.

Although there can be no certainty when it comes to Congressional developments, the Gay Rights National Lobby indicates that they expect H.R. 311 to be withdrawn when the "Family Protection Act" is re-introduced in the Senate — probably as several separate bills — and then reintroduced in the House to conform to the Senate version. Contrary to information learned previously by the Lobby, it appears that Senators Roger Jepson (R-IA) and Jeremiah Denton (R-Al) will play leading roles on the legislation in the Senate. Former chief sponsor Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., will be playing merely a supportive co-sponsoring role.

GRNL Executive Director Steve Endean urged those concerned with this so-called "Family Protection" legislation to write their Representatives (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) and Senators (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) to voice their concern.

"It is important that Members of Congress hear from constituents who oppose the exploitation of the family issue to enact the anti-gay, anti-black, anti-women, and anti-labor provisions of the FPA," Endean said.

ANOTHER ELECTRONIC PERCH — Group Research, an organization which monitors various Right-Wing organizations, has reported that Moral Majority, headed by the Rev. Jerry Falwell, is initiating a new television program to be called "Another View From Washington." The show will feature a discussion format and will be offered free as a "public service" broadcasting.

BLUE BOY'S new bar at Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS — The Niagara Falls gay community gained another bar the weekend of May 17 with the opening of Blue Boy's at 520 Niagara St. here.

The bar is located adjacent to the Niagara Falls Convention Center, and the owners expect to draw a clientele from Western New York and Ontario as well as tourists and college students.

Gary and Bernie are the hosts and bartenders at Blue Boy's, which has been transformed from a run-down home- hood tavern into a modern comfortable lounge. Red and black carpeting contrasts with natural wood paneling and wrought iron soda fountain type stools in the lounge area look on a long mirrored bar that dominates the outer room. To the rear, a dance floor surrounded by mirrors and additional tables are lit by recessed gold spotlights. Fan lights and plants complete the decor.

According to Gary, Blue Boy's will be featuring a number of special events throughout the year. The first will be a special Fourth of July party, and future plans include bringing drag shows back to the area after an absence of several years.

Right now, the bar is featuring a Monday through Saturday "Happy Hour" with all regular drinks priced at 90-cents.

On Wednesday, all drinks are priced at $1 from 9 p.m. to closing. On Sunday, Blue Boy's opens at 2 p.m. for a Tea Party with hors d'oeuvres and $1 drinks until closing.

Gary said that over 200 were on hand for opening night, and added that he hopes the crowds will keep coming on.

Because of Niagara County laws, bars in that county close at 2 a.m. on weekdays and 3 a.m. on weekends. Niagara Falls has one other gay bar, the Ithys-Billoy, located at 1149 Michigan.

FIFTH FREEDOM WANT ADS WORK!

"It is ironic that Paul's strident anti-gay activity probably played a key role in activating the gay and lesbian communities on behalf of Mattos, D-Dallas, despite the fact that Representative Mattos had subsequently supported the 1980 version of the McDonald amendment. The result was a wide margin for Mattos in the heavily gay precincts of Oak Lawn, possibly providing the marginal difference in this over-all tight race. Paul apparently attributes his loss to the gay community, although it is unclear whether Mattos shares this view. Mattos has consistently refused to co-sponsor pro-gay civil rights legislation, and his position on future anti-gay amendments is uncertain." At ACTION, Paul replaces Sam Brown, an outspoken advocate of justice for lesbians and gay men.

"The Fifth Freedom, June 1981"
Captain Kink tells Buffalonians where to go

By CAPTAIN KINK

Dear Di: A straight man in Buffalo? Are you on drugs? This is the "Queen City" you know. I suggest that you leave town, but stay away from Toronto, San Francisco, Provincetown, Key West, or the Big Apple. Recommended are Erie, Pa.; Topeka, Kansas; and Fargo, North Dakota because no self respecting gay would live in any of those places. If finances prevent you from joining the herd that is leaving, here are some hints for making life a little more bearable. Face it, honey, it's slim pickings but there are a few straight men to be found, and here is where:

1. Mulligans—but I don't make any promises.
2. Cole's—home of the quasi straight.
3. The Playboy Club—those who can, do; those who can't, watch.
4. A Riverside Men's Shop—it's been there for eons, just like the clientele.
5. O.T.B.—but don't bet on it, the odds are against you.
6. The Ponderosa on custody day—if you want a man with no mileage, forget.
7. Any gay bar at 4:15 a.m.—the men left are desperate and will go home with anyone.

May I suggest the Betsy? What you find there will be more of a woman than you are, and more of a man than you can handle.

Seventh Day Adventist gay group will meet

Lesbian and gay Seventh-Day Adventists from the United States, Canada and Australia will attend their second annual conference this summer in Northern California. The weeklong "Kamping," sponsored by Seventh-day Adventist Kinship, International, Inc., will be held August 16-23 at a privately owned ranch in Corvallis, California.

Kinship, a gay Adventist organization which began in 1977, has recently filed for incorporation as a non-profit religious organization. Basically a support group, Kinship is also seeking acceptance of gay lifestyles within the fundamentalist denomination.

For more information about Kamping '81 or local Kinship chapters, write: S.D.A. Kinship, International, Inc., P.O. Box 1233-V, Los Angeles, CA 90028.

Dear Captain Kink: I am a homosexual man who constantly meets nothing but horny straight women. What should I do? It has no place sale!—P. Charles.

Dear P.: Talk with Lady Di in a Chocolate Shop. I'm sure she can help. If not, try these places:
1. Me And My Arrow—chic and trendy, lacoste shirts are a must.
2. Dominique's—for that tough touch of gray.
4. City Lights—not too mean anymore, but the wave may pass.
5. The Continental—what was, might be again.
6. Seneca Mall Red Rooms—no lades, but watch for the cops.
7. N.Y.S. Department of Motor Vehicles, Northtown Plaza—buy a book while you are waiting.

Dear Captain Kink: I can masturbate with both hands. Does that make me bisexual?—Ambi Dexter.

Dear Dex: No, it means that you are spending too much time alone. Don't abuse yourself, let someone else do it instead (see above letter).

I would like to give special thanks to Mary Queen of Scats for her invaluable contributions to this month's article. As far as June's Kink of the month goes, Father's Day is coming up so do something really perverted: get a girl pregnant.

Cleveland group now owns community center

CLEVELAND—The GEAR Foundation here has become the first gay organization in the nation to own the building which houses its community center.

Purchased last fall, the building at 2641 W 14th Street is being financed by the renting out of five apartments and an office on the second floor. Two ground floor sections are being rented out, with GEAR's Gay Community Center and Gay Hotline occupying the center section of the ground floor.

GEAR (Gay Educational and Awareness Resources) is a non-profit, tax exempt organization which sponsors gay coffee houses and seminars, provides speakers to community groups, provides a hotline counseling service and publishes High Gear, the newspaper of Cleveland's gay community.

WIN 2 FREE TICKETS TO GAY PRIDE FEST'S FINALE 4TH OF JULY DANCE ABOARD THE U.S.S. LITTLE ROCK IN BUFFALO'S NAVAL AND SERVICE MEN'S PARK

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Feeding tiny green treasures
or the problems of fertilizing

By BILL HARDY
Hello everyone, and a jauntily jovial June to you all. Yes, that was me in P.M. Magazine on June 2. Well, this is the month for gay pride, graduations, the art festival and more, in-the-sun activities. There’s so much to do and see (especially if it’s a hot weekend at the art festival) that one hardly knows where to begin. Know where I’m beginning and when I’ve done that I’m going to feed my plants. Yes, all of you plants, indoors and out, need food too. Right now, during their active growing period, they should be fed at regular intervals.

“Okay you say with an agonized sigh and your hand to your head. “What shall I feed my tiny green treasures?”

“Good question,” I reply. Whether you are shopping for food for your Baby Tears in the bathroom, the Philodendron in the foyer, the Petunias on the patio or the oak tree in the front yard, all fertilizers have one thing in common. Three numbers on the bag, can or bottle. Those three numbers, whether they be 5-10-5, 10-10-10, or 2-4-6 tell you how much of those elements necessary for good overall development are present in the mixture.

The first tells how much nitrogen is there, and nitrogen promotes leaf growth. The middle number indicates the phosphorous content, which promotes root growth and also strong cell structure. Of course too much of anything (well, almost anything) is not good, as graphically illustrated in the before and after photos of myself and some highly overfed rigorous plants. Too much nitrogen will produce too much leaf and little or no flowers or fruit. Too much phosphorus and potassium will produce all root and nothing else. Humus… Sounds like old acquaintance I knew— all root and nothing else. What’s that I said about too much of a good thing?

Well anyway, according to the famed (at least he said he was when he gave me the pamphlet at the airport) British horticulturist Dr. H.E. Grozen-Bigg: “The shortest distance between two elements on a scale of one to ten would be like giving a snake underarm deodorant for his or her birthday.”

Puzzled? Well so was I. After scraping the doctor’s pamphlet, I bought a can of water soluble fertilizer in proportion of 20-20-20, a good even balance. If you have flowering plants, try a 10-30-20 formula as this will push the blossoms to bloom, but won’t blast them off the plant as the nitrogen content is low.

The best commercial fertilizers I’ve found are “Peter’s Plant Foods” available in many elemental combinations and “Schulze’s plant food.” This can be used every time you water. Rapid-Gro is okay, but contains a tad too much nitrogen for my plants and I.

So while you are partying and having a good time, remember that your plants want to celebrate too. You deserve it, they do also, so feed them well.

Till next month, Happy June, think green, and 20-20-20.

Mattachine matches Legal Defense monies

The Legal Defense Fund being established for the Buffalo area gay community grew a little richer last month as the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier voted to match the proceeds gained for the fund at a spring dance.

Mattachine members decided to make the contribution because of the importance of having a legal fund available to gay men and lesbian women should the need arise. “We all have a stake in this,” declared Jim Haynes, a member of Mattachine’s board of directors. Mattachine also donated the workers for the dance and planned it on behalf of the defense fund.

“I’m very pleased that Mattachine decided to take this action,” said Ron Wochiechowski, head of the defense fund. “I hope other groups concerned about protecting the rights of gay people will follow Mattachine’s example and make a donation. With this seed money, we can sponsor other events to raise money so the fund will be strong when it is needed.”

He added that proceeds from the dance totaled $35.27, with Mattachine having turned over a check equal to that amount. Additional contributions can be sent to Legal Defense Fund, P.O. 862, Buffalo, New York 14205.

By D.J. Nightly & Sunday Afternoon

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HODGE/DUNING FLORIST
Gay lobbying group announces 'Plan for Action' in Congress

WASHINGTON — Citing the need to maintain the movement agenda to eliminate discrimination, the Gay Rights National Lobby has released the first half of its 10-point "Plan for Action." The Lobby will shortly distribute the Plan to local gay and lesbian organizations and activists nationwide.

In addition to a national petition drive — already well under way — the Plan includes development of GRNL's Constituent Network, mobilization of non-gay support, well-coordinated opposition to the so-called "Family Protection Act," and direct meetings with Senators and Representatives while they are in their home districts.

Effective execution of these points could give the national lobbying campaign two critical elements which were largely missing previous-ly, GRNL Executive Director Steven Endean stressed. Those elements, he said, are substantial constituent pressure and increased "respectability" as a "mainstream issue."

GRNL urged local groups to seek support from local chapters of supportive organizations such as the National Organization for Women, Americans for Democratic Action, the National Women's Political Caucus, or the ACLU, among others. They also urged outreach to justice-oriented religious bodies.

One of the actions urged by the Lobby to add "respectability" to the issue is approaching local and state Leagues of Women Voters for support. Endean noted that National League policy calls for non-discrimination for all persons and, therefore, state and local Leagues can promptly come out for local, state, and federal gay civil rights legislation. Normally, the League of Women Voters must do a lengthy study of an issue before taking a position — but the National League policy on non-discrimination eliminates this requirement.

Endean described this as a critical point in the struggle for gay/lesbian civil rights. "In legislative terms, we believe it is critical that we maintain our high co-sponsorship and continue to press our high agenda," he said. "If there was reduction in co-sponsorship or were retroceded from our own needs in order to maintain a strictly defensive posture, we could easily find ourselves in grave diffi-
culty. These things have a way of 'snowballing' on themselves."

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Gay Civil Rights Bill goes before new Congress

WASHINGTON — With far more co-sponsors than at any comparable point in a Congressional session, Representatives Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Henry Waxman (D-CA) have reintroduced the national lesbian and gay civil rights legislation in the House of Representatives. According to the Gay Rights National Lobby, which represents the only full-time lobby for lesbian and gay civil rights on Capitol Hill, this Session's bill, H.R. 1454, has a total of 34 initial sponsors. H.R. 1454 is virtually identical to the last Congress' H.R. 2074.

Although last Session's bill had 55 sponsors at one point, only 49 returned to Congress this year. And the general disorganization accompanying the beginning of a Congressional Session probably account for the fact that some of the former co-sponsors have not yet signed on H.R. 1454.

While the current 34 sponsors is a high mark for this early in the Congressional session, Steven Endean, Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, warned that we could lose some of the former co-sponsors from the 99th Congress.

Both the general apprehension about the apparent rightward shift politically and the unique factor of extra cautious Congresspeople who are uncertain what reapportionment will do to the shape of their districts could contribute to reluctance to again co-sponsor gay civil rights legislation. Endean also pointed out that several former co-sponsors took a lot of “political heat” for their co-sponsorship without setting positive feedback from gay constituents.

Among those who have not yet signed on the bill is time-long sponsor Rep. Norman Mineta (D-CA). Mineta's district includes San Jose, which recently repealed its local gay rights ordinance by a margin of 2 to 1.

GRLN praised chief sponsors Weiss and Waxman for their continued leadership and explained the importance of continuing to press on the bill, “We certainly understand that the bill won’t pass this session, but we feel it is very important to continue to press for it, gain additional co-sponsors, hold Congressional Hearings, etc. To step back from this badly needed legislation and strictly maintain a defensive posture against Moral Majority’s certain-to-come anti-gay initiatives would be a serious mistake,” Endean said. He went on to say, “By maintaining and increasing the visibility of the gay civil rights issue of Capitol Hill and building grassroots support, we can move swiftly when the political climate improves.”

Laxalt's family bill put before Congress once again

WASHINGTON – The Gay Rights National Lobby has reported that the anti-gay "Family Protection Act," or some version of it, will "unfortunately be re-introduced" by Senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nevada), President Reagan's closest advisor in the Senate.

"Because of this close association, Senator Laxalt had initially been reluctant to re-introduce the "Family Protection Act." Only considerable pressure by his colleagues in the New Right changed Laxalt's mind, the group said. But the Family Protection Act, which the right-wing Human Events described as the "top legislative goal of the organized Christian community," could well change in format, being separated into four separate bills. The form and content of the bills is not yet known, so the impact on the lesbian/gay communities is unclear.

There are currently mixed signals on how vigorously the legislation will be pushed. On the one hand, Senator Laxalt said, "I'm not suggesting be- nign neglect of social issues. But the economy and defense have to come first. They'll require 100 percent of our time at the front end." He went on to send a message to his New Right troops, "I'll counsel them to cool it and wait a bit without totally neglecting or abandoning their causes. Let's not make our legislative plate too full or too complex."

On the other hand, Human Events reports that Senator Orrin Hatch, Chairman of Labor and Human Resources, has pledged to schedule hearings on the legislation as soon as it is introduced. Kate McQueen and Jerry Weller, Co-Chairs of the GRNL Board of Directors, urged concerned citizens to take two actions in response to this anticipated legislation. First, use the occasion to build coalitions at the grassroots level with others endangered by the Family Protection Act – racial minorities, labor, and women. And second, write your Senators to point out that the "well-being of the family" should not depend on denying some personal civil rights. Senator Moynihan/Senator D'Amato, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Those needing additional information or interested in being part of GRNL's on-going Coalition Network to defeat such legislation should write to: Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), P.O. Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 462-4255 (national office).

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Gay rights group is formed within Pentecostal churches

WASHINGTON – The newest religious task force combating "racism, sexism, and homophobia" has been formed within Pentecostalism: Christian Voice, and Religion Roundtable, in the public's eye, if not in fact," explained Dr. James S. Tinney, director of the coalition.

"We take as our task the education of Pentecostals and Charismatics regarding the fascist character of such alliances between right-wing politics and conservative religion," Tinney said, "as well as the task of consciousness-raising about the Pentecostal movement's own structural sins against racial and sexual minorities."

The coalition specifically encourages local churches to accept what it calls "the legitimate claims" of feminist, gay rights, and Black and Hispanic liberation movements.

A prepared statement of purpose commits the Pentecostal Coalition for Human Rights to help members and clergy in the process of reconciling personal religious experience and biblical faith with activist support for avant-garde liberation theologies aimed at ending "racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism (or homophobia)."

A first priority of the coalition is to locate those hundreds-of-thousands of Pentecostals who are struggling to assert and maintain their special identities within our churches."

Tinney laments the fact that the movement is viewed as a white male religion although "it was founded by a black minister, it has more black adherents than white, and it is predominantly made up of women.

"Since there are nearly 10 million Pentecostals in the U.S. alone, the very lowest estimate suggests that there may be as many as one million lesbian and gay Pentecostals, as well," he added. The arrival of a pro-gay Pentecostal support group follows a precedent set by the earlier formation of pro-gay caucuses in more than 23 other denominations, from Baptists to Seventh-Day Adventists.

The Pentecostal Coalition for Human Rights opposes art depicting Christ as white, language using masculine references to God, and restrictions against ordaining women and practicing homosexuals.

Persons desiring more information are invited to write P.C.H.R., Box 366, Howard University, Washington, D.C., 20059.

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PUBLICATIONS

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

ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOR GAY EXPRESSION (SAGE), 110 Caswell Hall, State University College at Buffalo, New York 14205. Meets Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business meetings, Wednesday noon, 2 p.m.

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

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (GPA), 311 Squire Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, New York 14205. Sponsors coffee Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Niagara Falls (school is in session). Formerly the Gay Liberation Front.

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

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

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

GAY AWARENESS ORGANIZATION (GAO), State University of New York at Fredonia, Fredonia, New York 14063. An organization for gay students at SUNY Fredonia. Meets Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Room 5123, Campus Center.

BOOKSTORES

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

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