6-1-1983

Fifth Freedom, 1983-06-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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WGR-AM Airs Second Anti-Gay Program

by Hanford Searl Jr

For the second time in one month, WGR-AM Radio aired another homophobic program via EXTENSION 55, a local call-in show hosted by admitted, anti-gay broadcaster John Otto.

The latest, bigotsokeed with the advertised theme, “What To Do When Homosexuality Hits The Family,” aired Monday night hours with Dr. Richard DiFrancesco during the first two hours, 10 PM to midnight.

Dr. DiFrancesco, a consulting psychiatrist to the Diocese of Buffalo's Pro-Life Task Force, is the author of a forthcoming book, Morality in Media, claiming during his segment to have counseled The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Falls Area Inc., and treated many maladjusted gay patients.

However, Dr. James Haseley, an original member of the 13 year old Mattachine Society, and head of its Health Committee, denied the doctor’s claim to be affiliated with the group, saying, “It is not true, at any time.”

“Dr. DiFrancesco seems to be ignoring the recommendations of the American Psychiatric Association concerning homosexuality. They removed it from their list of psychiatric disorders in 1973. John Otto seems to enjoy beating the anti-gay drum on his show, raising the anxieties of those who are afraid of homosexual behavior. Rather, he is called ‘a dedicated psycho-sexual development’, a long-outdated theory that is no longer in practice,” the psychiatrist said.

Otto’s comments were also highly offensive and particularly offensive to the Christian gay community. Otto called gays “true deviants, deviants, abnormal, and handicapped.”

As the program progressed, with the majority of the 18 callers expressing pro-gay positions, Dr. DiFrancesco’s countering was met with laughter and ridicule. He asked for Christian understanding of Gay’s constitutional rights.

This unexpected turn-of-events and the guest’s sudden about-face startled listeners. Some were left wondering if they had tuned in to the right show.

“Homosexual behavior has been well documented in everything from animals. The evidence is so clear-cut and overwhelming that no one can claim that it occurs in many parts of the animal kingdom,” said Dr. DiFrancesco. The New York Times, said Dr. DiFrancesco. The New York Times, said Dr. DiFrancesco.

Dr. DiFrancesco also refuted the old stereotypes about gay men being suicidal, promiscuous, and steal each other’s lovers. He added that few, if any gay relationships were without complications.

Otto, who refused to divulge his guest’s credentials or medical background, constantly ranted about his numerous solicitations by people, “that way” whenever in Washington, D.C. He spoke of his open “after-dinner” when approached after his stint in the “deviant-free Navy” upon returning home to Buffalo.

So shaken by finding “them at home,” Otto contemplated walking into the Niagara River.

In this broad, grey dressing up child molester’s myths, encouraged by Dr. DiFrancesco’s remarks about “chicken hawks” and his self-servingly approach that the gay professional, professional, professional, professional.

The doctor repeated comments about lust, steam bathes, VD, and sex in the community. He then added that the site is “not the correct use of ‘physical architecture’ by gays and the ‘contarns’ society generally.

Openly and vigorously against any civil rights legislation for gays in housing and/or employment, Otto distanced himself from the civil movement of Blacks. Although he tried to pit gays against other minorities, he failed in his attempt to support anti-gay rights, when confronted by the fact that Buffalo Assemblyman Art Eve voted for the recent gay rights bill in Albany. Otto did not respond.

In the broadcast, speakers from the following groups talked to callers: Gay Professionals, Parents and Friends of Gays, Affirmation and Lesbian Feminism, New York Online, the FIFTH FREEDOM, the Gay and Lesbian Community, and the Metropolitan Community Church.

The FIFTH FREEDOM Editor Val Eastman alerted several representatives from numerous groups so the program was totally ignored.

One Allentown, straight woman called to tell Otto she was grateful for a gay friend who saved her from being “assaulted with vulgar, straight guys on the street.”

The Freedom to love whomever and however we want

Gay Pride Fest ‘83

Gone is the remainder of Gay Pride Fest ‘83, which is under way during the last half of June. The Community Calendar on page 6 of this issue contains a complete listing of events and workshops. The May issue of the FIFTH FREEDOM included full details and descriptions of each happening. (A few copies are still available at the GLCU or perhaps at your favorite bar.)

The second week-end in June includes not only the annual Pride Parade (see details on page 7), but also a Friday evening workshop by William Gardner about “Criminal Law and the Gay Lifestyle.” The presentation will be followed by an informal family-style cheese reception. On Saturday evening local gay and Lesbian will be reading and discussing their poetry.

During the week, workshops will be held on a variety of topics including; the AIDS epidemic, being gay while growing up, child rearing and donor insemination; themes in women’s music; and the Bible and homosexuality. Relatives and Friends of Gays will celebrate their first year as a group and the Women’s Dance Coalition is holding its first all-women dance for 1983 at the close of Gay Pride Fest.

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley also extends an open invitation to their 4th Annual Gay Prom on June 17. Admission is 97. At the Paradigm Party House, 1713 Lyell Ave, off Rt. 390, Rochester.
Speaking Out With Gay Pride

As we know all too well, the climate of opinion in our beloved country with respect to the rights of gay men and lesbians even to the extent that these exist in the United States is, to all the more important for those who do not feel that atmosphere to speak out whenever the occasion arises. Whether or not we are able to do so on behalf of the many closeted gays whose courage to be open has been undermined by the constant assault by the negative treatment of gay identities by the local press remains in question.

Unfortunately, most local politicians are unresponsive to the needs of their gay constituents. What is well illustrated by the story silence, with which our efforts to discuss the local approach to enforcement are being handled by Buffalo Communications Commissioner Cunningham and District Attorney Angeloni, and there is also evidence from the negative votes of Western New York State Assembly members at the last session of William Hoyt, Arthur Eve, and William Parmet (all Democrats) -- on the recent bill to include sexual preference under will strike law. In these political matters, admittedly, we have ourselves also to blame because gays of the Buffalo area have not become an effective political force.

On the other hand, those organizations in the gay community which are willing to come forward and those few media outlets like the FIFTH FREEDOM which attempt to speak for the community must be alerted whenever issues come to the attention of gay community members. We do ourselves no good through a conspiracy of silence.

In that regard, it was encouraging to see the contrast in gay responses to the two recent supplementary programs that related to the gay community. On May 2nd, when noted radio homophile, John Otto, appeared on WGR's "What To Do" bill, no gay spokespersons were invited. The show, which reached 250,000 members of the gay community, both of which received responses indicating that their complaints were not worthy of attention inasmuch as only two phones were against the innumerable thousands who presumably submitted their concerns to these gay organizations.

In contrast, on May 22nd, when an Otto program, featuring him with the "What To Do When Homosexuality Hits The Family" book, was released, well represented as the callers. There is this an encouragement of the willingness to speak out.

We are naíve enough to believe that such calls are likely to change the views of Otto himself, but at least this program, is important to continue to provide a voice in the community for our community, especially for occasions like these.

One is to reach out to the "silent majority" of gay who are closeted, unwilling to speak out of fear of disclosure or out of their own personal division. For them, we hope that the year ahead will continue to provide them with the courage to become more involved with others in the gay world -- not merely in a sexual way, but as well as the members of the Buffalo Gay Pride Festival and the Annual Gay Parade, and their contributions to the world.

For a second reason for continuing to speak out is the need to impress on the non-gay world that we are a community of people with parents and children; their fathers and mothers; their brothers and sisters; and that we will not go silently into the night of our oppression. It is the lawful rights and liberties which have kept us quiet for so long. As the movement for human rights has reinforced the gay movement assurance on the gay-non-gay world that we are part of the continuing fabric of American society.

You can speak out by sending a letter to the editor on this matter to any of the following people:

John Soller, Vice President and General Manager, WGR 55 Radio, 464 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY 14202. (716) 881-4562.

The Taft Broadcasting Company, Dudley S. Taft, President, 1716 Young St., Cincinnati, OH 45210.


During July and August the FIFTH FREEDOM will be published as a single, combined issue, to be released on July 22. Monthly publication will resume in September. Beginning that month the publication date will be the first of each month, with the deadline for submitted copy being the first of the preceding month.

DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE IS JUNE 26.
Ignorance is Bliss

Dear FIFTH FREEDOM Readers,

Florida may have its Anita Bryant, but Buffalo now has an anti-gay crusader of its very own in the person of John Otto, the late night talk-show host of radio station WGRS. Mr. Otto's long history of hatred towards "homosexuals" is reinforced with a vengeance twice this month. The first time was triggered by his shock that the NYS legislature was trying to pass a gay civil rights bill without his knowledge. His response was to call a show on May 2nd on the issue so he could use his paid position as talk show host to lobby against the bill. Apparently Mr. Otto was only allowed to air his views by having a sponsor of the bill on the show for a while to provide an appearance of fairness.

The second time was in response to several complaints directed to the May 2nd show to the station manager of WGRS by Gay listeners. A second show was held on May 23rd, only 10 weeks later, on the topic of how to deal with a gay child in the family, presumably to placate the complainants and to rectify some of their complaints. But this show also turned into a forum for Otto's homophobic outbursts and rather than an attempt at reconciliation with the gay community, he went on to increase the hatred and anger the gay community and it succeeded quite well.

Like all true zealots, Otto invokes the powers of religion and "morality", the only recourse of the refugee from rational thought. Mr. Otto's favorite game is to try to bait his gay guests on the air and then go on the offensive. Mr. Otto is convinced that the morality of other people (e.g. pedophilia, bestiality), thereby leaving the door open to the possibility that such acts are justified. Unfortunately most of the gay callers fell into his trap. The best deal with such baiting types of questions is first of all to proclaim them as such and to complement him. The use of such questions, then one can either refuse to answer, or answer either that "morality" is a relative and ambiguous concept, or it is only used by people to rationalize their own phobias and prejudices; or one can say that anything which does not harm another person is morally acceptable. But one should never be led into condemning the morality of another, for as gay people we must realize that the struggle for our rights must not be made at the expense of other peoples. We have known suffering and prejudice too not only to think that it has not happened to our own personal pain, and we must not let the anti-gay crusaders goad us into doing so.

Otto also tried to drive a wedge between gays and other minorities, as is only used by people to rationalize their own phobias and prejudices; or one can say that anything which does not harm another person is morally acceptable. But one should never be led into condemning the morality of another, for as gay people we must realize that the struggle for our rights must not be made at the expense of other peoples. We have known suffering and prejudice too not only to think that it has not happened to our own personal pain, and we must not let the anti-gay crusaders goad us into doing so.

Never Again

Edward Taussig

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A.I.D.S. Study in Buffalo

by Ross Hewitt, M.D.

A modest medical investigation concerning A.I.D.S. is being conducted by Dr. Ross W. Tronolone, physician-in-chief at the Children's Hospital. He has been allocated the funds to study twenty healthy gay men, with emphasis on a new technique for using white blood cells used to determine "T-cell ratios." Volunteers, who have been recruited by word of mouth, have had to fill out a questionnaire, undergo a physical examination and have blood drawn. The abnormal finding will, of course, be passed along to that volunteer, and further investigation will be done.

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), an organization in New York City that has evolved as the gay community's response to the A.I.D.S. crisis, offers the following advice to us:

Every gay community must be on the alert that all studies announced in their area contain the names of respected gay advisors, in the fields of science, medicine, and epidemiology. Remember you may be getting a free physical but you are not helping the gay community or science if the data statistics gathered from your body are used to propagate meaningless or frightening or dangerous statistics.

The Mattachine Society, in accord with the above GMHC recommendation, has voted not to endorse the participation of Western New York gays in such research without known gay advisors.

Dr. Tronolone is straight, and not very concerned about the gay community's request that "we want our blood," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if the first case of A.I.D.S. in the Buffalo area occurs in someone who is not gay."

The current study is being funded only by the Immunology Department at Children's Hospital. There were no announced gay advisors, either, before volunteers were recruited.

GMHC also has a Scientific Affairs Review Committee comprised of gay professionals in research that will assist other researchers by examining their research protocols. Although he did agree to having a copy of his questionnaire and a "general description" sent to GMHC.

Dr. Tronolone hopes that a large research proposal, one that would involve many more Western New York gays, and based on this smaller effort, can be submitted for major funding later this year.

A suggestion to thank his volunteers publicly through an ad in the FIFTH FREEDOM has also not been acted on by him. He is afraid that future research will involve more volunteers from our gay community, productive dialogue can be set up between the professional community and the gay community.

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The Fifth Freedom

June 1983

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June 1983
CITY LIGHTS SPECIALS

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Fri. & Sat.
9:00 - 12:00
80¢ BAR BRANDS & LOCAL BEER

All Cocktail Hours Now 1/2 Price

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CITY LIGHTS 'BEAT OF THE NIGHT' MAGAZINE
FOR THE LATEST NEWS.
Crossroads Grand Opening

by Joe Schuder II

A fresh-looking, nattily-dressed crowd of more than 130 joined Darwin McKinney and his staff on May 4th in celebrating the grand opening of Crossroads. Located at the corner of Allen and Delaware in the heart of Buffalo’s Allen Town district, Crossroads is Buffalo’s newest Gay Bar.

Beginning with hot and cold hors d’oeuvres at seven in the evening followed by a magnificent and well cooked buffet, the food and fun-filled evening went until closing.

Reflecting Crossroads’ universal appeal was the fact that many people from the neighborhood’s nongay community came to join in the fun.

This is the first time McKinney has been in the bar business, having run other gay businesses in past years. His aim is to have “a quiet, talk-bar. A place where people can sit down and enjoy themselves without going hard of hearing. While I recognize the need for places full of loud music, I also know that people like a change of pace,” he states.

The atmosphere at Crossroads is cordial, clean, and bright without being brash. The attentive staff is well trained to keep tables and standup bar areas dry and clear of empty glasses. Ventilation, even on a crowded night, is excellent thanks to good air conditioning. High ceilings and ceiling fans. Large round tables with bentwood captain’s chairs in the dining area are conducive to relaxation and create an easygoing, non-threatening atmosphere.

The dining area also contains a small raised parquet dancefloor edged in soft white lights. It is here that designer/operator John Pawlowski has installed his latest sound system creation. It is characterized by his ever present desire for low distortion, deep-throated bass and inner voice music distribution. The music is varied, and one can even dance to big band numbers if he or she so desires.

On the food and drink side of things, Crossroads serves Friday fish fry, Saturday night dinners and “Sunday Madness”. One can have two-for-one on drinks, or dinner and drinks on a budget.

Also featured are a Sunday Champagne Brunch starting at noon and half-off girlie till closing. The attentive staff is there to serve you.

Saturday from 4 PM to 7 PM and Tuesday night Two-for-One from 9 PM to closing. “Rusty, Scooty and all the gang” invite you to stop in for a few the next time you’re out and about downtown.

Crossroads

Sunday Madness

all drinks 1/2 price 12 to 7 pm

serving buffet to you inventory

Tuesday

all drinks 2for1 9pm-4am

DINNERS served friday

SUNDAY champagne served from 6-9 pm served from 12-4 pm $3.75

Cocktail Hour

mon.-sat. 4pm to 7pm all drinks half price

881-9803 563 Delaware Ave.

Gay Supporters

Deserve Support!

THE FIFTH FREEDOM

JUNE 1983
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<th>SUN.</th>
<th>MON.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EVERY SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dignity Prayer group</strong></td>
<td><strong>M.C.C. Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>Worship service sponsored by M.C.C.</strong></td>
<td><strong>AN EVENING WITH VIRGINIA APOLLO</strong></td>
<td><strong>W.M.S. BUFFALO CRUISE</strong></td>
<td><strong>AN EVENING WITH GAY FRIENDS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Service, 8:30 pm, U.A.</strong></td>
<td><strong>M.C.C. Worship, 6:30 pm, U.A.</strong></td>
<td><strong>GLCC General mtg., 7 pm at GLCC</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dignity/Buffalo on being gay-identified and Catholic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Glcc General mtg., 7 pm at GLCC</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gays and Lesbians Celebration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EVERY FRIDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dignity Worship Service, 3 pm &amp; Business mtg #</strong></td>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>Workshop</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mattachine mtg., 7:30 at U.U.C.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>&quot;Issues in Gay Parenting and Denying Incest&quot; by KANEKA</strong></td>
<td><strong>&quot;Abuse in Women's Music as They Speak to Women&quot; presented by C.C.G. (women only)</strong></td>
<td><strong>&quot;Homoerobic and The Bible&quot; by M.C.C.</strong></td>
<td><strong>&quot;Gay and Lesbian Dance&quot; sponsored by the Women's Dance Committee (women only)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Women's Summer Solstice Retreat (see page 10)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>BARBER SHOP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>&quot;Gay and Lesbian Dance&quot; sponsored by the Women's Dance Committee (women only)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Abbreviations have been used in the calendar for the following locations:</strong></td>
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<td>A.S.: Ascension Church, 16 Linwood Ave</td>
<td>C.F.S.: Child and Family Services, 330 Delaware Ave (entrance off Tracy St, ring bell)</td>
<td>G.H.: Columbus Hospital, 300 Niagara St, 2nd floor Board Room</td>
<td>GLCC: Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 97 Rhode Island St, off Niagara St</td>
<td>G.L.C.: Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 97 Rhode Island St, off Niagara St</td>
<td>U.U.C.: Unitarian Church Elmwood Ave at W.Ferry</td>
<td>W.S.C.: Women's Studies College, 108 Winthrop Ave</td>
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Going Out Is Getting Better

Welcome to the Aural Column and this month's Gay Pride Edition. As the Western New York Gay Community once again commemorates the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, I also celebrate an anniversary. That of my association with the Gay community.

My reason for this undertaking was to address audio issues from a gay standpoint — a standpoint which I am ever more committed to those Mattlechine concepts of freshness and the development of a cogent alternative lifestyle philosophy.

In keeping with this renewal idea, I thought I would show you how the Gay Clubs in Buffalo have been doing spring cleaning and sprucing. There is hardly a one that hasn't done something new to upgrade its atmosphere and serve our needs when we are out and about. There is no way I can touch each topic or change, and I hope all concerned will cut me a little slack if I misquote or miss a point or two.

Car course the final option is yours to make as a consumer. So go taste, feel, smell and see.

CITY LIGHTS

A major expense has been incurred in lighting and acoustico treatments to the extent that even we would perceive at first glance. Namely turning the object (whenever it may be) into a political music to love relationships around into different lights and re-examining it from new, different and certainly valid perspectives.

As I begin my third year with this paper and the enterprise of developing Gay Consciousness, Political Clout and Economic Power in the Western New York area, I am ever more committed to those Mattlechine concepts of freshness and the development of a cogent alternative lifestyle philosophy.

Unfortunately, the addition of Todd to our DJ staff has been a boon. So if you've heard that Compton's is strictly a women's bar, put aside your preconceived notions - this is Gay Pride Fest! Let's get away from some of this prejudice crap.

THE VILLA CAPRI

There have been a lot of rumors flying around that the Villa is in trouble because of heavy competition. But as I am sure you all know, the Villa is in the process of a major expansion and improvement. The Villa has been cleaned up and is now in pristine condition.

BUFFALO'S NEWEST BAR AND A WEEKEND RESTAURANT TOO

The Villa is the result of a long time planning and preparation. It was opened to the public on Friday, June 10. The Villa is located at 420 Main Street, Buffalo, and is open daily from 4 PM to 2 AM.

The Villa is the perfect place to unwind and relax after a long day at work. The Villa has a large dance floor, a full bar, a private room for special events, and a选择: 24Hrs.

At the Villa, you can enjoy a variety of foods, including pizza, sandwiches, and wraps. In addition, the Villa offers a full-service bar with a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. The Villa also has a pool table and a dart board for those who want to stay active.

The Villa is the perfect place to get away from the stress of everyday life and enjoy yourself. Whether you are looking for a place to have a drink with friends, or a place to celebrate a special occasion, the Villa has something for everyone. So why not stop by the Villa and see for yourself what all the excitement is about.

There you have it. Spring cleaning. The beginning of Summer. The beginning of Gay Pride Fest. Have a ball. Have several. Until next time remember -- Aural clean. Columns standing.

Hair That Looks and Feels Like Your Very Own: A Reality From High Technology

Comb it. Brush it. Wash it. Wear it the way you would your own hair. If it fits and matches so perfectly, who's to say it isn't more of you? This micro-thin transparent base is sheer second skin -- and which ever way you part it the hair is as if actually growing from the scalp. Inspect this advanced non-surgical method of hair replacement today. Call for a no- obligation appointment in a relaxing situation. Client privacy is of first importance. Ask for Joseph.

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DOMINQUES

Open under new management, they say. Dom's famous jukebox still represents the state of the art in disc cleanliness and offers a special feature every night! An Hour! The one thing that hasn't changed is its lounge type atmosphere which makes conversations of a more intense nature possible.

M. C. COMPTON'S

Recent audio equipment abuse has caused the system to a bit less than what it was when I reviewed it last fall. Sherrill has since taken over an ear's tour, pointing out the new power amplifiers, added image enhancer and lots of replacement high frequency drivers.

By the Gay Pride Fest is underway, the DJ's at Dom have completed their course of instruction in music presentation and lighting operation which will highlight the festive atmosphere which has been Compton's hallmark since it opened nearly two years ago.

Add their sports mindedness, Thursday evening live piano (on Marion Healy's old instrument from Murphy's Organs), and their suitable for framing monthly calendars highlighting all the special events, and you have an idea of M. C. Compton's commitment to the functions of this community.

Rusty's — It's not just a bar. So if you've heard that Compton's is strictly a women's bar, put aside your preconceived notions - this is Gay Pride Fest! Let's get away from some of this prejudice crap.

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Roman Sauna
109 North St.
454-1074
Rochester, N.Y.
If This Is Normal, I Don’t Like It

Let us give our imaginations free rein for a few minutes as we get set to enjoy Gay Pride Fest ’83. Consider the following succession of headlines in a hypothetical local newspaper: “Citizens Urge to Observe Annual Pride Fest!” “Gays and Lesbians Schedule Downtown Rally;” “Candelight Rally Creates Sparks in Downtown Area;” “Quiet Celebration Turns Up, With Numerous Arrests Made During Night;” “Homosexual Rioters Calmed and Community Back to Normal.”

As a teaching sociologist I must work with my students on the concept of what is normal in society. I find I am most comfortable dealing with the concept in the classical sense of considering that which occurs regularly in society as being normal. Neither majorities and minorities, nor moral judgments of “good” and “bad” have a place in conclusions to be drawn from such a definition. Thus “Father” Durheim could state “suicide is normal,” his reference being the phenomenon of suicide, rather than a comment about the mental state of the person who got to the point of personal destruction.

So what would “normal” mean in the hypothetical headline above? What are the conditions the mythical community would have returned to? What would some of the features characterized as “everything’s okay, business as usual...nothing has changed, it’s all like it was before things got messy”?

Moving now from a make-believe situation to real life, I want to make a few selected observations of current gay history in the making. They indicate just how far we really have to go personally and collectively toward the goal of Gay Liberation and daily feelings of gay pride.

Trying to reach official Buffalo and Erie County in the persons of Messrs. Cunningham and Arcara is proving to be very difficult. My intention is to interview one or both about their plans to enjoy Gay Pride Day, the February 15 York State Court of Appeals action in regards to the loitering statute. I will not interview them for the FIFTH CREATIVITY without their knowing what kind of publication will be printing their comments. Why open ourselves up unnecessarily to the smear attack? Meanwhile, the stumbling block to normality is there as it has been for some time. They talk about the gay community in a manner that does not want to talk about it with gay and lesbian people themselves. Thus their (lack of) response is it normal.

Two important bodies have recently made pro-gay moves. Both the National Council of Churches and the New York State Assembly had it within their grasp to take positive strides toward equality for all. The NCC chose not to admit the Metropolis Congregation to its membership in spite of the MEC’s having met all requirements of a gay congregation. And the State Assembly decided against including “sexual orientation” as a feature of that state’s Civil Rights Law which it(void qualities upon which discrimination cannot be based. So what is

**SElections**
by Samuel E. Loliger

“news” about these two separate legislative events? Nothing, and that is my point. Both church and state again acted NORMALLY.

I attended a day-long meeting a few Saturdays ago and wrote one of my gay slogan buttons: “Yes, I’d Had Mel Earlier in the Day Suddenly was Spouting ‘Sodom and Omorrah Stuff’ in a Question-and-Answer Session Associated With a Group Sitting as a Deliberative Assembly. Not one to sit idly by and just listen quietly, I asked him if he realized gays and lesbians were already part of the group he belongs to. I also pointed out to him the slogan button on my sport coat lapel. He was not moved in his attitude (at least not for the time being), and frankly his homophobia came as no surprise to me. Homophobia is NORMAL.

The A.I.D.S. emergency is regularly being proclaimed in the press, and NEWSWEEK featured it as the cover story a few weeks back. Recognizing the problem, the federal government has allocated $7.9 million for research. I cannot get excited over such a paltry sum. It is only a small percentage of the cost of the Reagan MX missile project. If so, are we dealing with a mentality that is similar to the endings of early gay novels, which had the heroes or heroines getting what they desired — separation, accidental death, suicide, or natural death? American history shows that the government has not been on the side of the powerless very often. So I suppose this chapter is typical; it is NORMAL.

If these conditions I have described are normal, I guess I don’t like normal. If we gays and lesbians are as powerful as we say, our half our numbers might suggest, we can make some changes in the name of Gay Pride. We can change what is considered normal. But we must begin now.

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Women's Summer Solstice Retreat

The Second Women's Summer Solstice Retreat at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake occurs June 17 - 19. Registration begins Friday at 4:00 pm with a potluck all evening. Saturday workshops and recreation feature an evening concert with Madeleine Davis and Leah Varnick, from Rochester. The retreat includes vegetarian meals, swimming, and boating. Craftswomen are welcome, interpreters are available for the hearing impaired, and the facilities are wheelchair accessible. The weekend rates: $25 pre-registered, $35 at the gate. $10 children. Funds to benefit the New Age Land Community (women buying land for free, safe, peaceful space to share). Contact NALC, 112 Oxford St., Rochester, NY 14607, (716) 275-0193.

Villa DJ Reviews U2

A cry against war rang out as three banners of peace flew near the rear of the stage at the Shea's Buffalo Theater on Monday, May 16. U2, an Irish Quartet, made its point for peace not only in the white banners and their music, but also with security guards who were asked to leave the crowd alone. "There's never any trouble at a U2 concert," singer Bono Vox stated as he stopped the music during the band's first encore, requesting that security guards leave the stage.

A feeling of peace and togetherness generated throughout Shea's as Bono broke down the barrier between band and audience. "We're going to make this large hall seem small," he announced, and that he did. Throwing himself into the audience while singing, the crowd moved him about the hall, lifting him above their heads from one to another, finally setting him back on stage. Applause roared, people danced and a sense of oneness united all.

During the hour long set, the band promoted their most recent album "War" with familiar cuts such as "New Year's Day," "Sunday Bloody Sunday" and "Two Hearts Beat As One." Other familiar hits included "Gloria" from the "October" album and "I Will Follow" from the "Boy" album. All in all, U2 put on a tight show, revealing not only their musical abilities but the personalities behind the music. What would have probably been a slow and uneventful Monday evening, turned out to be a great night with U2.
The Fifth Freedom's

GAY DIRECTORY OF BUFFALO

INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

THE GAY HOTLINE: (716) 881-5335. Counseling help with gay life. Information on the gay community. Staffed by trained volunteers of the Mattachine Society. Hours Mon.-Fri. 7-10 PM, weekend hours vary.

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER: (716) 881-3845. Can help you find your way to the gay community. View the maps. Hours Mon., Wed., Fri. 11 AM and Sat., 2-6 PM. Information about GLCC and gay community. Answering machine provides info about GLCC and records messages at all times.

ORGANIZATIONS

AFFIRMATION (NY/ONTARIO CHAPTER): c/o Tall Fins, 388 Grover Road, East Aurora, NY 14052. Contact: Roman Searl Jr., 651-1303 or Ken Rafferty. A non-profit group. Meets monthly in a social/spiritual environment, non-denominational. Meetings are open to men, women, and children. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS FOR GAY MEN AND LESBIANS: "Open Mind Group of AA," PO Box 315, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14225. Contact: Betty A., PO Box 90, Buffalo, NY 14225. An organization for Gay Mormons. Meets monthly in a social/spiritual environment, non-denominational. Meetings are open to men, women, and children.

DIGNITY BUFFALO: PO Box 75, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14025. Call 874-4339 for information. An organization for Gay Catholic and Christians. Prayer meeting every Sun at 1:30 PM. Worship services let and third Sun of each month, usually with a potluck dinner the let Sun and meeting the 3rd Sun.

COUNTRY FRIENDS: PO Box 306, Clarence Center, NY 14032. Gay women's social group. Gay women of all ages welcome. Meetings in town and vacation areas. Write for dates and times.

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE (GALA): 111 Talbot Hall, Amherst Campus, SUNY-Buffalo, 14260. Tel. 836-3003. Regular activities and meetings cancelled till fall semester.

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER (GLCC): PO Box 1956, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14225. Tel. 886-1274. Community center. Meetings held the 1st and 3rd Tues each month, informal coffeehouse every Fri 7-10 PM. Everyone welcome.

GAY LAW STUDENTS ORGANIZATION (GLSO): Room 116, O'Brien Hall, Amherst Campus, SUNY-Buffalo, 14260. Tel. 836-3851. Regular meetings cancelled till fall semester.

GAY PROFESSIONALS (GP): PO Box 73, Niagara Frontier Station, Buffalo, NY 14282. A social group for gay men and lesbians who prefer an organization with a low profile. Meets held the third Wed. of each month. Contact Tom Hammond, 520 West Main St., Buffalo, 442-2750 days or 885-0287 evenings. Inquiries welcome.

GAY RIGHTS FOR OLDER WOMEN (GROW): A support group for lesbians 22 years and older. Meetings held every other Fri at Women's Studies College, 100 Vineyard Ave. Contact GLCC for information.

GAY TRAILS: An organization that conducts hikes along the Bruce Trail in Ontario, Canada. Box 1023, WPO, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2N 7A3, or (call 818) 881-4631 before 9 AM weekdays.

GAY UNITY NIAGARA (GUN): PO Box 692, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 5W5. Canadian Gay organization for the Niagara Peninsula.

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.: PO Box 135, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14225. For more information call 881-5335. An organization for the gay and lesbian community which provides services including the Gay Holttine and the FIFTH FREEDOM, Meals, etc.

MORMONS: Meetings 1st and 3rd Sun each month at 7:30 PM. Meetings help gay and lesbian Mormons. Meetings held by pot luck dinner at 6:30, at Unitarian Church, Elmwood Ave at West Ferry St.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BUFFALO (MCC): PO Box 114, E Amherst, NY 14226. Contact: Rev. Sherry L. Kennedy at 689-8830. A church devoted to helping gay and lesbian interdenominational Christian church offering hope and healing to the gay and gay community. Services every Sun, 6:30 PM. At the Unitarian Church of Amherst, 8250 Main St, Williamsville.

PRESETIERS FOR LESBIAN & GAY CONCERNS (PLG): Buffalo chapter of this national organization. Meets second Wed of each month. All interested persons are welcome. Typical meeting includes discussion, reading, and a light refreshment.

RAINBOW BOOKS: 875 E. Main St., Buffalo, NY 14204. Support group for gay men and lesbians. Meets every Sun at 8 PM at the Buffalo, NY 14204. Support group for gay men and lesbians. Meets every Sun at 8 PM at the Buffalo.

RELATIVES & FRIENDS OF GAY: Support group for gay and lesbian families and friends. Meet Mon. at Buffalo Presbyterian Church, 207 E. Main St., Buffalo, 885-4110. Regular meetings cancelled till fall semester.

SANDYWORTH: Contact: DIANE WANTED: 1544 Miami St., Buffalo, NY 14221. Regular meetings cancelled till fall semester.

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GAY SEX: This enlightening new book shows positions seldom ever considered. Must be read in the library. Submitted Aug 14 93 to Quality Pub, Dept. 104, Box 542, Morongo Valley, CA 92256.

Dear Benji - Please take me back. I need you now more than ever. T'hyra

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