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Fifth Freedom, 1983-12-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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POLICE RAIDS

Mattachine Hearings

On December 4 and December 11, 1983, the Mattachine Society held open hearings to address the future of the organization. Among the topics discussed were the Fifth Freedom and a request by the Buffalo AIDS Task Force for a special counselor training program to train their personnel. During the discussion of the Fifth Freedom, several problems with the paper were brought up. Some of the more heated topics were the image of Mattachine in the general Gay Community, the problems of getting volunteers to produce the Fifth Freedom, the financial role of Mattachine to the Fifth Freedom as publisher, and the conflicts between the staff of the paper and the executive board. During the last topic, a motion was presented to cease publication of the Fifth Freedom as a tabloid newspaper and return to publishing a newsletter under the Fifth Freedom title. This motion was carried on a vote of 8-1-1. Also decided was to continue the discussion of Mattachine’s future at the next meeting, which was rescheduled for January 8, 1984, in lieu of the executive board meeting.

WGR Saves Face

WGR-AM Radio 55, responding to criticism of its two anti-gay programs aired on John Otto’s Extension 55 in May, hosted “Exploding the Myths of the Gay Lifestyle” August 19, the first such objective forum on any major Buffalo broadcast facility.

Facilitated by out-going Program Director Dave Mason, who’s been promoted to the Taft flagship station WGR-AM in Cincinnati, the first of what is hoped to be two such educational programs featured Val Eastman, the FIFTH FREEDOM Editor, and Dr. Ross Hewitt, head of the Buffalo AIDS Task Force.

During the first of the show’s four hours, Mason interviewed both Ms. Eastman and Dr. Hewitt about the numerous out reach groups in the Buffalo Gay Community, the impact of AIDS locally, and their respective gay lives pertaining to careers, family, and friends.

The “coming out” process, derivation of the word gay, and number of Gays in society were discussed with Mason, who worked with the Gay Community in 1981 during a similar anti-gay controversy with John Otto. Mason asked his guests to compare the Gay lifestyle with straight life and how a person knew he or she was Gay.

“I thought I was sexual when I grew up in Central New York State,” said Ms. Eastman, “I had affections towards women, but I suppressed them and ignored it then. The initial struggle was alone, and I had to work through my feelings.”

“My family knows. They always encouraged me to talk to them about sex,” reported Dr. Hewitt. “Mine was a different atmosphere from which Val experienced. I told my dad and he was supportive.”

Both Eastman and Hewitt covered sexuality and life, being adjusted and comfortable with one’s self, the issues of counseling, and job and housing discrimination. Mason asked about job security for open Gays.

About 32 calls were phoned into the last three hours of Extension 55, with a majority inquiring, asking for informative opinions and clarification. A small mi-

Buffalo’s Biggest Problem

In a move characterized as the worst in fifteen years, a dozen police officers, some with K-9 dogs, raided City Lights on September 1st. This unwarranted action resulted in the arrest of ten people, who were unable to show proof of age or identification. According to reports by theater district Precinct three Police Captain Frank Lueter, two people were arrested in the bar, as they had been sold alcoholic beverages even though they were under the New York State legal drinking age of nineteen.

Dave Gressman, WGR-AM Radio 55, stated “I haven’t seen anything like this since they closed the Old Stage Pit last fifteen years ago. Are we really living in the time here or what?” This reporter was standing near the dance floor when the raid started around one A.M. that night. The lights came up in the front bar area and a moment later officers could be seen walking up to customers asking for identification. No one could be produced; they appeared to have walked over to the front, read their rights, and put into police vehicles. The officers totaling thirty, turned the bar into someone who could prove their identity. All in all the raid lasted less than an hour.

Although the police were generally polite, it was evident that the situation was uncomfortable for them. It certainly did not appear that they wanted to be there. The mood of the nearly two hundred patrons in the club began as good-natured, then turned into disbelief. Later, it became controlled anger as the disturbing implications of the raid began to dawn on them. Police asked for identification from people of all ages, sexes, and races. It did not appear that that establishing proof of age was their only intention.

At approximately 2:30 that same morning, Theater District Police returned and arrested City Lights owner, John Little. He was charged with serving minors. Mr. Little told the Fifth Freedom that he was informed that the police wanted to talk to him. He was read his rights, charges were brought, and he was taken to the Theater District Headquarters. There, he answered questions, was released on his own recognizance, and asked to return at 3:30 to close. All charges against Mr. Little were subsequently dropped. He told the Fifth Freedom that when the raid started he was called to the front entrance, and upon hearing that it was a State Liquor Authority check, asked his full cooperation by turning the lights up and the music down.

Although the music was quieter, it mirrored the sentiments of the people in the crowd piecing the raid together in the early morning. It’s Raining Men,” “Searching-Gotta Find a Man,” and “She Works Hard for the Money” It was a clear statement that people were angry and were ready to resist harassment tactics as well as they could. Tones of voice were tense, almost snarling.

Despite contrary claims by police and city officials, there is a strong sentiment within the Gay community that this action is the beginning of an effort to rid the Theater District of its Gay bars.

Police Captain Lueter told Fifth Freedom reporter Ron Dickinson that he has received specific complaints, and that the police would not consider it a violation of the theater district orientation of its owners, staff, or patrons.

In an attempt to publish an article in the Buffalo News on Sept. 2, reporter Dan Herbeck wrote that Little was charged with “unlawfully dealing with children”. When the Fifth Freedom Dickinson attempted to correct the article by phone in an effort to find out why he had used the word “children”, Herbeck failed to respond and continued, “One of the beliefs of many people that his article’s tone was anti-gay.

From conversations with several individuals at City Lights, the Fifth Freedom has learned that the management and staff have received threats. Their newspaper, which years ago, always had good relations with city and Theater District officials, was asked to join the other papers in the boycott of City Lights. At the end of one conversation, Little stated “If it weren’t for the Gay Bars here, the Theater District would be dead. Most Straights who come downtown go both of them bars. Here is the only Gay Bars stay here after the theater. They police and city officials should look at it this way. City Lights has an average of two hundred patrons here every night. That’s people here making a crowd for others to feel safer in. City Lights brings people into the Theater District— this is true for the other Gay Bars, too.”

About the publication Freedom and the general topic of discrimination, Little stated, “We are different, but we are the same. We all have feelings, we all have rights, we all should be treated the same. That’s why I said ‘If it weren’t for the Gay Bars here, the Theater District would be dead. Most Straights who come downtown go both of them bars. Here is the only Gay Bars stay here after the theater. They police and city officials should look at it this way. City Lights has an average of two hundred patrons here every night. That’s people here making a crowd for others to feel safer in. City Lights brings people into the Theater District— this is true for the other Gay Bars, too.”
Editorial

The End of an Era

After over thirteen years of intermittent success, the Fifth Freedom is returning to its original role as the Mattachine Society newsletter. For many of those years, the Fifth Freedom has been Buffalo's only gay news source. In recent times, it has been difficult for the Mattachine Society to attract enough support to regularly produce as large an endeavor as the Fifth Freedom. A paper must appear on a regular basis, and the inability to publish with reasonable regularity has cost this paper its journalistic credibility. It has also left a wealth of local gay news unreported by Buffalo's own gay press. It is as a last resort that this action has been taken, but we, the Fifth Freedom staff, feel that this is best for both the Buffalo Gay Community, and the Mattachine Society. We regret that this action will leave the Buffalo area without its own source of news to the Gay Community. With this issue, the Fifth Freedom bids farewell to you, our readers. It is our sincere hope that some other organization, or group of individuals, will be able to produce a newspaper to replace the Fifth Freedom as Buffalo's Gay news source. We will ourselves be actively pursuing this goal in the near future.

The Entire Fifth Freedom Staff

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Buffalo AIDS Task Force in response to a cartoon which appeared in the July-August 1983 edition of the FIFTH FREEDOM. The cartoon in question depicted a skeleton character over which a slogan read, "The NEW AIDS Diet Plan -- You Lose!"

As you may well be aware, the occurrence of AIDS among gay men has engendered many societal response, some of which are bitterly hostile and insensitive to the lesbian and gay community. Many gay-sponsored groups are working hard to educate the public and to dispel homophobic myths about gay life.

The inclusion of this cartoon in the FIFTH FREEDOM was, in our opinion, an insensitive message concerning AIDS. While the use of humor can be therapeutic in dealing with certain frustrating conditions, the humor should not disgrace a particular target group. As of June, 1983, nearly 700 persons (mostly gay men) have died of AIDS, often after prolonged and painful suffering. The cartoon which you printed does not display sympathy or respect to these persons.

It is our hope that the FIFTH FREEDOM will exercise more editorial judgment in the printing of such cartoon messages. We would also like to encourage the cartoonist to direct his/her talent towards public education concerning AIDS, and is welcome to contact the Buffalo AIDS Task Force.

Towards the promotion of a healthy gay and lesbian community,

Lisa Bechtel
Buffalo AIDS Task Force

Counselor Training

Thirteen men and women have been participating in the current edition of the Mattachine Society's Counselor Training Program. The twelve sessions are the first to be conducted under a new plan that was developed by members of the Society's Health Committee over the past year. Facilitators are Claude Garry, James Haynes and Donald Licht.

Library Drive

The Buffalo Gay and Lesbian Library is organizing and is asking for donations of books, periodicals, articles and other written materials which deal with gay-related issues, history, and the like.

The Fifth Freedom has marked "Library Materials" at the gay and lesbian community Center for donations, or you may give your items directly to Peter or Carol. The Fifth Freedom is willing to make copies of any articles you may wish returned. The library will be housed at the Center and will initially be a reference library, with hopes of transition into a circulating library as the collection enlarges. Present intent is to catalog materials by subject or category for easy access instead of utilizing the more-continuing Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal systems. Please take a look at your bookshelves for any books or other items you feel you would like to share with the community and drop them off, between 7 and 9 PM, at the Center, 647 West Delaware. If transportation presents a problem, please call the Center at 886-1274 so that pick-up may be arranged.

CALENDAR

THURS., DEC. 21 - 7:00 MCC Candlelight Christmas Services at GLCC
SAT., DEC. 31 - 9:00 P.M. MCC CC

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GLCC NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

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Come help us ring in the new year and celebrate the closing of our new home. Lots of food will be available from 7:00 PM to midnight. Door prizes will include a "basket of goodies" and a gift certificate. Lots of fun guaranteed. Admission $8.50 or $7.50 for current GLCC members. Tickets available at the GLCC or from EMMA, Mattakesh, or GLCC members.

SAT., JAN. 14 - 1:00 - 5:00 at the GLCC. A course on homosexuality and the Bible, presented by MCC. This will be followed by a spaghetti supper. For more information, call 889-0890.

DECEMBER 1983
News From Buffalo

by Samuel E. Loliig

Alleged irregular activities at City Lights, Buffalo's largest and most popular Gay bar, have spurred considerable interest and public concern in recent weeks.

Two early September surprise inspections at the bar by Bufalo Police resulted in the arrest of a number of underage persons being discovered on the premises according to reports. Allegations of unruliness and drug sales at the bar were countered by John Little and Walter Ward, owners, that police are conducting harassment campaigns against the bar and others.

Back at City Lights, Diane Duff's Little Club, The Villa Capri and the Morgan Sauna have all been visited recently by local police. All are located in the developing Theatre District, the source of "embarrassment" for the city according to Police Commissioner James E. Cunningham as quoted in The Buffalo News.

While Mayor James B. Griffin and Commissioner Cunningham maintain there is no harassment intended by the use of indiscriminate checking of ID and other actions, the City Lights owner's announcement of the enlargement of their facility provoked the Mayor to declare that he would ignore the term "gay bars." To me, they're not gay, they're fruits "gay means happiness." That remark caused widespread carryover. Local Gay leaders such as Dr. James Hayes and Tom Hammonds, publicly declared Griffin's statement and denounced an appeal from the homophbic Mayor. Letters to the Editor of The Buffalo News expressed dismay over both Griffin's remarks and those made earlier by Cunningham. The editor of The Buffalo News, Murray L. Light, wrote in his weekly column that he chose to print the Mayor's derogatory language in order that the community could understand the chief executive's attitude.

Last Saturday, eight members (a majority) of the Buffalo Common Council wrote a 700-word letter to the New York State Division of Human Rights which in its criticism of Griffin's "wholly unjustified attack" on the bar, noted that Griffin had specifically asked the Mayor to ignore the "crime" within the gay community for its discriminatory practices against blacks. Few formal complaints have ever been filed against the bar, however, because alleged victims were afraid to appear in court and action would expose them publicly.

Herbeck's article noted that the letter to his paper from the eight members of the Common Council did not mention the charges that City Lights was harassing people because they were gay. In futures, the charges are fount in a few days The Buffalo News editorially with the same omission characterized the letter as a "valid criticism" noting that "many disabled people have been accused by city officials cannot be condoned. The newspaper's "Editorial Board and the Council's "common courtesies" in issuing their letter during an election campaign.

S U N Y, at Buffalo's Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GAYLA) attempted to put together a panel discussion to暑假ize the situation in the GAYLA cemetery with the common council, but they did not appear. However, members of the panel did discuss the issues before a Sunday evening November 7 audience of more than 80 people.

The birth of the Buffalo AIDS Task Force (BATT) in July of this year represents Western New York's major organized response to the public health crisis of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Although BATT is born of concern within the Buffalo gay and lesbian community, it has and will affect more than just the lives of gay people. The BATT hopes to represent a broad-based coalition of activity, education, and service.

The initial 60 members of BATT serve a variety of purposes: from establishing ourselves as a not-for-profit corporation to the education of the gay and non-gay community about AIDS.

BATT, formed at a presentation on AIDS during Gay Pride Fest '83, has sponsored educational forums at three local gay bars, and has participated in other such forums sponsored by the Biology Department at Buffalo State and Roswell Park Memorial Institute. Other presentations are planned for CAFP, the student organization at UB, and for the Medical School at U-B. Please contact us if you wish a presentation for your organization.

In the realization of the pitiful lack of local resources for the gay and lesbian community with regards to health and AIDS information, we have begun to develop our own. Our first accomplishment was the publication of an informational brochure about the symptoms of AIDS. "Questions and Answers About AIDS" is available free on request.

Second, via a recent questionnaire distributed to approximately 700 Western New York interists, family practitioners, gynecologists and psychiatrists, we are developing a comprehensive medical referral list. The AIDS issue has opened the door for us, enabling us to talk to health professionals about the special needs of this community in general.

To educate both the gay and nongay community about AIDS, and assist persons with AIDS, the task force has developed an overall organizational agenda. The major objectives of this plan are to establish a number of important projects: an Educational Seminar Series FEATURING AIDS, including its clinical, psychological and social aspects, will be conducted through various organizations throughout Western New York. Second, the development of an educational AIDS Information Telephone Line, to answer questions and provide medical referrals. Third, the development of a Patient Services Program which would include psychological, medical, legal and financial counseling, home health care services, and other assistance.

In order to successfully develop these programs, we must accurately assess the needs of the local gay community and develop strategies to address the needs of the other high-risk groups in our area, and then develop the resources on which to base these programs.

While we have ascertained the needs of the gay community, we are now investigating the needs of non-gay communities. As our community grows in number, it will evolve a philosophy that the needs of the other high-risk groups in our area. We believe that there is no such community in Western New York (please inform us if we are incorrect).

While we have begun to develop necessary resources as previously mentioned, we must now develop both a pool of counselors and mental health professionals and a pool of volunteers. We need volunteers who are dedicated to social service and allied health professionals, and we hope to work through their respective professional organizations to accomplish this. Lastly, we must develop a broad-based coalition of organizations that are in a position to provide important and necessary service to potential AIDS victims. Weekly community discussions with such organizations are currently underway.

BATT has begun to raise the necessary funds to...
Several calls from Fundamentalist Christians were deemed inappropriate by Mason, since neither Eastman nor Hewitt were specialists in that area. It had been agreed, prior to the Equal Time show, that such calls could be discouraged.

During the course of the evening, Mason indicated it would be more appropriate to schedule an Extension 55 with qualified Gay religious spokespeople from the numerous groups in Buffalo, such as the Metropolitan Community Church, Dignity/Buffalo, and Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons New York/Ontario Chapter.

Throughout the show, callers were encouraged to seek more information via the new Gay & Lesbian Community Center at 647 W. Delevan Avenue and the Mattachine Society’s Gay Hotline counseling service.

Some calls were from members of the Buffalo Gay community — open Gays and closeted Gays — talking about Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, MCC, their relationships, and experiences with straight society.

Many straight women called, expressing support and anger about the abuses Christianity has aimed at Gays and Lesbians. Some talked of concern for their children being Gay and criticizing religious fanatics for tagging AIDS as God’s revenge against the homosexual community.

One straight father wrestled with his prejudice and conditional love concerning his Gay son. A Gay father called about his six children, understanding wife, and occasional flings. Only the straight men callers ever termed being Gay as abnormal, sick, or a disease. Eastman shared experiences of being harassed by neighborhood teens and street kids downtown while talking about losing an apartment for being Gay. She listed statewide efforts to pass protective legislation in housing and job discrimination.

Dr. Hewitt received the most criticism from male callers, one saying he could tell Hewitt was Gay just by the sound of his voice, and another asked what, in a man, turned Hewitt on. Mason cut short the first and cut-out the latter.

The final call accused Mason of being Gay, asking him if he was coming out of the closet and said what a waste of four years they had put them through. Mason was the Gay Community met with Mason and John Soller, Vice-President and General Manager, in July seeking rectification for John Otto’s two anti-Gay programs aired in May. An organized letter-writing campaign to WGR-AM, Taft Broadcasting, and the Federal Communications Commission sought equal time status.

Soller said the station would welcome public-service orientation programs promoting the Gay community concern widening-ranges events that would attract a majority of WGR-AM’s listening audience — like the annual Gay Pride Fests.

Both Soller and Mason addressed John Otto’s former association with the station as past history now that the controversial host is at WKSE-AM, which is farthest down the Arbitron rating list than third place WGR-AM.

Initial reaction from a majority of the Buffalo Gay Community was positive and upbeat, as leaders from different groups hoped for a second opportunity to reach the larger, straight community in Western New York and Southern Ontario.

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**Book Review — Continued from Page 6**

This few lines do not do justice to the complexity of Katz’s arguments. His case is carefully, albeit sometimes tedioulsly propounded, about the way conceptual language has been responsible for the abysmal state of the social sciences. The question Katz raises is why people think about those whose sexual preferences are toward persons of the same sex as gay if gay is treated (as above) trivializes the essential meaning involved. Thus, in the conclusion, Katz introduces an interesting and speculative argument which has considerable passion that gags many in danger of losing some of the magic of his style by not recognizing their own ultimate value as human beings.

The redefinition of sex as play rather than performance, as consumption rather than production, frees it from the old burden of spirit of seriousness which condemned it to be heavy, heavy. The reduction of sex only to “fun” insulates life equally from profound ecstasy and deep pain (p 170).

At a time when fears about AIDS have led to some re-examination of the “gay lifestyle,” this is a position that requires serious discussion. It is this pain that is also reflected in some of Katz’s comments about the state of the art of gay identity — given his concern with the uses of terms, he generally minimizes reference to the word “gay,” despite its appearance in the title of his book.

He finds the search for social acceptance defective in the way that it has proceeded from one form to another in the route of advocating group separation. Instead, he argues for the use of homosexual identity as a means for overcoming the need for identity separation itself as an important criterion for identity generally. This posture, which is one possibility inherent in any success gay liberation movements may achieve, leads to a greater freedom of choice, for as Katz writes:

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The surprising result of uncovering, for some of us, has been the discovery that we are essential or peripheral, according to the different social contexts in which we find ourselves (p 172).

Indeed, what Katz is reaching for is an interpersonal set of relationships which overcome altogether the homosexual heterosexual categories created in the first era he has documented.

For the reader looking for light reading this is not the book. Katz’s own arguments are complex and sometimes difficult to follow. But it does do justice to the major points. It is a book to be studied and reread, particularly in the interest to any particular reader. It is also a book that presents the reader with a particular story, in particular, they are frequently tedious if not read with a cultural historian’s eye. In particular, Katz has studied the volume with book and theater reviews from the NEW YORK TIMES, which is useful from the perspective of information where the subject is concerned. He also notes the era stood, there are many, extracts from medical sources which contribute to the understanding of the psychological profession in respect to its treatment of sexuality. More rewarding are the occasional flashes of sexual connection by those rare individuals who were willing to var their sexual feelings to print.

This review suggests that the book is all heavy going. That is not the case. Some documents drawn from the experiences of gays are touching, or hilarious, depending on one’s own perspective. Some touch of “madness” of the medical profession are equally absurd and sad at the same time. It is a book which requires the attention of Dr. Graeme M. Hammond in the JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASES (January 1920)Untouchables (Katz, p. 387-60).

These absences of being harassed are beautiful and very moving account of the capacity among humans to be free and happier, and the difficulties society has placed in the path of loving relationships, whatever its form. The human of Duncan, perhaps the most provocative document of all for me is the autobiographical statement by Robert Duncan written in 1894 in which he carries on an internal dialogue about identifying with the struggle of other gays and yet recognizing the “culinary times, makes Gays to claim not only a different culture but one that is superior to the rest of mankind, one that is the editor’s own feelings about the “place” of gays are visible, for, as he writes:

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To affirm the human, Duncan argued, required one to “down.” He does this in terms of his essay the ‘special’ and the different were considered second in the human race to an violently attacked that emotionally alienated cult of superiority and difference adopted by some homosexuals and second social desirability. On the other hand, few other works have this same a forthrightly defended homosexuality ‘as but one of the many facets’ of the human. (p. 581)
It seemed like another typical Saturday night at "Our Bar." Renee, the woman who would later welcome the guests to dance, drink, play a little video, and gaze at women. Mostly they were shy, but to them Beth came alone. She and Amy had argued just hours before, and Jan left in disgust. Maybe here she could forget about being part of a couple and just dance. Everyone here seemed to be either with someone or hoping to meet a new soulmate, but Beth, who was a bit more reserved, couldn't remember the last time she had been on a dance floor. Everyone seemed to be either with someone or hoping to meet a new soulmate, but Beth, who was a bit more reserved, couldn't remember the last time she had been on a dance floor.

"Yes, even Beth was part of a threesome tonight. Kelly had taken her out for a nice steak dinner and movie. Normally, Beth seemed nervous, but Kelly thought things were going along very nicely.

Candy strolled in wearing a knotted tee shirt and gym shorts. She seemed to raise a few eyebrows. She was a regular for a grand entrance. Kelly asked Beth to dance. "Oh yes, I've been waiting for you to ask," Beth said. As she led her to the floor, Kelly whispered, "You know, you could have asked me just as well."

"Well, you do live together," Kelly replied. "I thought that meant you liked to be around each other. Man, that was wrong. Ah, shit!" she cried as her last player was shot out of the game. "Get a quarter!"

"Sure." Jan volunteered, "but only if it get a dance later.

"You can have anything later -- just make with the quarter now." Jan produced two and said in close to play. Candy's arm went around her to touch the other buttons even though it wasn't really necessary. Jan was glad she had decided to come alone after all.

A tall redhead named Sheila noticed Candy as she cruised the bar. "Hey you with the legs," she called over to Candy, "can I buy you a drink?"

"Honey, I'll take anything you've got," Candy answered. "It's all yours," Sheila replied, and then went for the drinks. Candy smiled for the first time all day. It was going to be a much better evening than the day had been. She had received several letters from her, so she felt fantastically, but not this time. Sheila was a gorgeous ice, not with those avalanches. The only woman Candy had truly been in love with. Being on tour had to be exhausting, but today's letter had brought some so much small talk. Candy decided right then that she had to pick up somebody fast -- hence the skinny outfit this evening. She only hoped Sheila didn't want to party here all night. She wanted somewhere a bit more private. Sheila returned with the beer. "Want to play a little video?" Candy asked all the while stroking the front of Sheila's blouse ever so delicately. "I've got a great touch."

"Um, so I see," Sheila sighed, "As soon as that one is empty."

"Alright! Another good one! It looks like we get to add our initials to the screen.

"Well, I always had you were good," Candy said slowly. "Come dance with me. They walked to the floor arm in arm.

Candy and Sheila stepped in, Sheila in front with Candy ever so close behind. While Sheila played, Candy didn't stop grinding into her. She tried hard to concentrate, but when Candy started licking her ear it was a lost cause. She spun around and fell into her arms.

The "senior citizens," Fred and Ines, were sitting in their usual center table with a good view. Ines was sipping her pink squirel and watching the comedians and going at the machines. "Fred dear," she asked sweetly, "Do you have a quarters we can play the pinball game?"

"There aren't pinball games anymore," Fred stated, and tapped her on the shoulder for emphasis.

"But that one -- oh, you know what I mean -- that one over there. It seems to be attracting the women to the other side."

"Oh yeah," Fred said. She turned just in time to see Candy and Sheila back against the machines, flashing all around them, "I'd like to play that game, all right?"

They laughed.

"Sometimes I think you'll never grow old," Ines sighed. "Only on the outside." Fred answered as she adjusted her jacket for quarters.

Kelly was beginning to open Beth up to talk about herself. She had already guessed that Beth was experienced with women. It made for refreshing conversation. Soon they found that both own one of those green cars, and liked winter and Barbra Streisand. "I really like her," Beth thought. "I hope we'll get to be good friends."

"I think I can turn her on," Kelly thought to herself. "But I'm afraid to try anything."

"And when she kissed me last week I saw stars," Beth continued in her mind. The lights dimmed and a slow, sultry number came over the speakers. "Let's dance," they both said, and melted against each other.

At the evening went on, Kelly decided that she couldn't ask Beth to come home with her yet. But then, when anything really happened. Part of the excitement would be getting her to say yes. They started by holding hands, and then doing another set of slow songs. Kelly held her close after one of them gave her a long, passionate kiss. To her surprise, Beth leaned into it instead of backing off. Perhaps she would try after all. Kelly knew she had to act fast. The lights would be up and the music blasting in a second. "Would you like to come to my place?" she whispered.

"Oh, don't know," she muttered. Kelly's eyes met hero again. "It's up to you," she said. Then her hand began to slowly trace a heart on Beth's jeans.

"Yes," she breathed. "Yes, very much."

They left the floor as the music pounded disco again. The video games were between the dance floor and the bar area.

"Hey before we go," Kelly stopped her, "Got a quarter?"

Next episode: Beth is in love at last; the video game is out of order.
SElections

by Samuel E. Loliger

ACKNOWLEDGING A ROLE FOR MATTachine

A company of five players in Washington, D.C. has, for the past few months been performing a musical review entitled 'MATTachine.'

One of the musical numbers has two of the male performers singing 'The Mattachine Society Masquerade.' They reminisce about each meeting during the past several years, about the growers and subsequently falling in love with each other. They also mention the group has enjoyed the large membership it has gained in its first year of existence.

My partner and I have been members of the local Mattachine Society for the past three years during which the organization has not enjoyed the large membership it did in the early years. I feel the group -- to my personal knowledge -- has not exceeded 100 persons and regular meetings have not attracted even half of the official membership. During the same time period, the local group sustained its second fire in recent years, for I learned in the fifth freedom and maintain the Hot Line telephone service.

In the same years other gay groups have been founded, flourished, and disappeared to be more successful than Mattachine. Buffalo's oldest lesbian and gay organization in fact, founders of some of the newest gay groups have their gay or lesbian activists roots in the local Mattachine organization which is not unprecipitated.

Indeed, Buffalo Mattachine Society often tend to see what is described above as a shift in allegiance, or in one sense a phenomenon which has been a shift in involvement shifts to the GLCC in Buffalo claims to be the largest organization in the state of New York and claims to be the most probably accurate in making this statement. With its broad based volunteer membership and many-announces unprecedented capital fund's campaign the GLCC has staked out a course that blanches many in the sheer ambitious optimism. The AIDS Task Force is an example of one of the goals has taken place, the MSNF has assumed a new role, and this may be the time to look to the future. The role will really be to be to once again be the parent of some of the newer groups and to help them reach the stage of viability. The importance of good parent encourages their developing independence, leaving home, and becoming successful on their own. And in the process of developing the heir, it has made positive contributions in ways it has influenced its children.

BOOK REVIEWS


As one might expect from Jonathan Katz, who authored Gay American History (1976), this is a volume of impressive scholarship. It brings together documents of the two periods in American history: the years from 1670-1740, when the grounds for cultural values were laid in the society, and the period from 1880-1980, when the modern sense of identity was formed. Katz, in two long introductory essays, Katz makes clear how recent the origins of contemporary homosexual identity really are. While homosexuality has assisted in colonial America and was enforced as a violation of religious teachings, the condition was not always recognized as such. Indeed, a good parent encourages their developing independence, leaving home, and becoming successful on their own. And in the process of developing the heir, it has made positive contributions in ways it has influenced its children.

UNITED CHURCH COALITION ELECTS COORDINATOR

Sam Loliger, vice president of the local Mattachine Society, was elected as male national coordinator of the 46-member United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns (United Church of Christ) at its Third National Convention meeting in New Orleans. The male counterpart is the Rev. Loey Powell from Berkeley, Calif.

Following Loliger's election, many Coalition members remained in Pittsburgh to be trustees of the United Church of Christ, biennial General Synod. They were successful in shifting the interest of the United Church from homosexuality to concern about homophobia.

RAIDS - Continued from Page 1

Queried about the club's relations with its neighbors in the district, Ketz said that he's always cooperated with police officials in checking out complaints. "We've helped the Precinct Three people and other Theater District people with whatever they needed for the advancement of the Theater District and, to a great extent, a number of Precinct Three have always treated us like gentlemen in the past. Our bookings have had the same officers if there's been any trouble at the club - and not just the occasional troublemaker who tries to get in here either. Our sidewalks are the first to get shoveled in the winter. My bouncers will always keep an eye on you if you think you might have trouble or be accosted going to or coming from your car.

Why don't the cops protect others like that in the Theater District? It's only been since late last year that we started to have problems Now, you tell me why."

The Fifth Freedom is interested in hearing from anyone who thinks they were harassed in any way during the raid. It might have been in the bar or down at police headquarters. Perhaps you felt your identity as a Gay person was compromised when you had to call someone to establish identity. We further advise that if you feel that a Theater District police officer has hassled you, cooperate at the moment, but get a name and badge number. Contact the Gay Hotline at 881-5035 to report the incident. People who feel harassed should also write or phone Mayor Griffith's office or Elliot District Councilman Pitts' office.

The Fifth Freedom urges you to carry ID on you at all times this can protect you from a potentially bad situation. Even though all charges against John Little were dropped, we learned he was ready to fight for a dismissal of the charges leveled at him rather than coping a plea to a court battle. Little states: "We're here to stay in the Theater District. Other bars are too. Gay people want to be able to come down and have a good time. They want HEFE. We're staying - and we're expending."

BATT - Continued from Page 3

began the development of its resources and programs. With the cooperation of our local gay and lesbian bars, we raised over $3,000. The most recent that has been used in the $20,000 recently passed by the state legislature for community-based AIDS assistance programs -- we are, after all, the organization responsible for a number of the state's second-largest metropolitan areas of the state, we are presently testing this possibility by submitting a third. With eventual exemption status, we hope monies from areas private foundations will also materialize. Of course, personal contributions are always and will always be the most important form of financial support.

We are responding to a very formidable challenge to address the special health needs of an invisible minority in the metropolitan area. We especially need your help, your expertise and your support. Please contact us at:

BATT
PO Box 98
Bidwell Station
Buffalo, New York
14210 (716) 886-1274 and leave message

Ross G. Hewitt, M.D., President.

TELEPHONE 837-6670

KAY PATTERSON, M.A.
PERSONAL COUNSELING

465 CRESWELL AVE.
BUFFALO N.Y.

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The Fifth Freedom

GAY DIRECTORY OF BUFFALO

INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
THE GAY HOTLINE (716) 881-5535 Counseling helps with gay life information on the gay community. Staffed by trained volunteers on the Fifth Freedom Office: Hours Mon-Fri, 7-7 PM, weekend hours vary.

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER (716) 886-1274 on Mon, Wed 7-9 PM and Sun 2-4 PM. Information, Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Answering machine provides info about GLCC and records messages at other times.

PUBLICATIONS
THE FIFTH FREEDOM PO Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14025. Tel: 881-5535.

ORGANIZATIONS
AFFIRMATION (MULTINATIONAL CHAPTER): c/o Tall Pines, 380 Grover Road, East Aurora, NY 14052. Contact Hampton Searl Jr, 635-1936 or Ken Russemer at 627-3423. The 3rd Sun 8 PM at Wyoming. Meets monthly in a spiritual/religious environment, non-gays and non-normals welcome.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS FOR GAY MEN AND LESBIANS "Open Mind Group of AA": PO Box 385, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14025. Meets every Wed, 8:30 PM, at Columbus Hospital, 300 Niagara St, 2nd floor board room. "Live and Let Live AA Group," c/o Ascension Church, 16 Linwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209. Meets every Fri, 8:30 PM at the church.

BUFFALO AIDS TASK FORCE (BATT): PO Box 36, Bidwell Station, Buffalo, NY 14212. Call 386-8349 for information. The GLCC BATT seeks to educate the community about AIDS, provides counseling and, especially, to assist persons with AIDS personally. Donations are gratefully accepted. For the time and place of the next meeting, please call the GLCC at 886-1274.

COUNTRY FRIENDS: PO Box 104, Claremont Center, NY 14030. Gay women's ad hoc group. Gay women of all ages welcome. Meets in Buffalo and suburban areas. Write for dates and times.

DIGNITY/BUFFALO: PO Box 72, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14025. Call 778-8519 for information. An organization for Gay Catholics and Christians. Meets once a semester. Worship services 1st and 3rd Sun of each month, along with a potluck dinner the 1st Sun and a business meet the 3rd Sun. GAY FATHERS OF BUFFALO: For time and place of meetings, call 986-4246 or the GLCC at 886-1274.

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE (GALA): 111 Talbot Hall, Amherst Campus, SUNY, 14260. Tel: 882-2803. Regular meetings and cancellations till fall semester.

GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH OF BUFFALO INC (GAYBY): Ages 16 to 11. Meets every Saturday 2 to 5 pm at the GLCC. Contact the Hotline at 886-1274.

SELF-ESTEEM: A self-help group for gay men and women, and the gay people who wish to grow and feel better about themselves and others. For more information, contact the Hotline at 886-1274.

TRANSVESTITE SUPPORT GROUP (ANARCHOGYN): Social and support group for gay men and non-gay cross-dressers. Send a BAE to 14205 for information. Phone number will get a confidential return call.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER (GLCC): PO Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14025. Tel: 886-1274. Located at 647 W. Delaware, Buffalo. Meetings held the 1st and 3rd Tues each month, 7-9 PM, everyone welcome.

GAY LAW STUDENTS ORGANIZATION (GLSO): Room D-1207, Western State Campus, SUNY, 14260. Tel: 592-2161. Regular meetings cancelled till fall semester.

GAY PROFESSIONALS (GP): PO Box 75, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14203. Social group for gay men and lesbians who prefer an organization with a low profile. Meetings held the 2nd Sun of each month. Contact Tom Hammond for location and information; 842-2750 days or 835-0287 evenings.

GAY RIGHTS FOR OLD WOMEN (GROW): A support group for lesbians 28 years and older. Meetings held every other Fri at Women's Studies College, 100 Vinny Ave. Contact GLCC for information.

GAY TRAILS: An organization that conducts hikes along the Bruce Trail in Ontario. Canada. Box 1599, St. Catharines, ON, L2T 3B3, or call (613) 685-9431 before 9 AM weekdays.

GAY UNITY NIAGARA (GUN): PO Box 685, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 4V5. Canadian Gay organization for the Niagara Peninsula.

LOCKPORT GAY SUPPORT GROUP: PO Box 146, Lockport, NY 14040.

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC: PO Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14025. Tel: 881-5535. For more information, call 881-5535. An organization for the gay and lesbian community which provides services including the Gay Hotline and the FIFTH FREEDOM. Meets the 1st and 3rd Sun each month at 7:30 PM at Unitarian Church of Buffalo at West Ferry St.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BUFFALO (MCC) PO Box 114, E. Amherst, NY 14060. Contact Rev. Sherry L. Kennedy at 658-0480. An interdenominational Christian church offering worship, witness, and fellowship to the gay and lesbian community. Services every Sun, 8:30 PM at the Unitarian Church of Amherst, 9139 Main St., Williamsville.

PRESEYTERIANS FOR LESBIAN & GAY CONCERNS (PLCG): The Buffalo chapter of this national organization needs members, support, education and advocacy. Gays, lesbians, their families, and all concerned are welcome. For information, call David McFarland at 632-2222.

RAINBOW DEAF SOCIETY OF WNY: PO Box 9356, Midtown Plaza, Rochester, NY 14604. Support group for gays with hearing impairments and friends.

RELATIVES & FRIENDS OF GAYS: Support group for non-gays who have gay or lesbian friends or family members. For information, call Tom Hammond, 842-1081 days or 835-0287 evenings.

UNITED CHURCH COALITION FOR LESBIAN/GAY CONCERNS: Support group for persons committed to lesbian and gay concerns within Protestant Church. Call 836-7503 for information.

RESTAURANT
ALLEN RESTAURANT, 16 Allen Street, Buffalo, NY 14207. Tel: 881-5596.

BARS
CITY LIGHTS, 728 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14207. Tel: 885-3630.

CROSSROADS, 563 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14208.

DIANE DUFF'S LITTLE CLUB, 750 Main St, Buffalo.

DOMINIQUE'S, 20 Allen Street, Buffalo, NY 14207.

M.COMPTON'S, 1329 Niagara St, near Breckenridge, Buffalo, NY 14011.

VILLA CARPI, 926 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14207.

BATHS
CLUB AMHERST, 44 Almeda St, Amherst, NY 14226. Tel: 607-7071.

MORGAN SAUNA, 655 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14207.

OUT OF TOWN BARS
ELVE BOYS, 520 Niagara St, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

BIG MIKE'S CAFE, 101 Winnet St, Jamestown, NY 14701. Tel: 480-9257.

LIZZY BORDEN'S, 3412 W. 12th St, Erie, PA 16504. Tel: 814-833-4666.

VICTOR'S, 1101 State St, Erie, PA 16502. Tel: 412-752-7706.

BOOKSTORES
EMMA, BUFFALO WOMEN'S BOOKSTOR. 168 Elmwood Ave, near North St. Tel: 885-2185 Lesbian and select gay books and other items.

TALKING LEAVES, 3144 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14207-8554 Gay periodicals, gay novels, books of poetry, magazines.

VILLAGE BOOKS AND NEWS, 3102 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217. Large selection of gay magazines, tabloids and pocketbooks.

GAY SUPPORTERS
Deserve Support!

Fifth Freedom WANT ADS

$2 for first 15 words, 10-cent each additional word. Send to FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205.

Housekeeping, yardwork, reasonable rates, references available. Call Chris 831-7615.

Pelicans need love too. Let them know you care The Whammy is coming to Canby's.

HELP wanted: applications for employment taken at Morgan's Baths. 55 Main St. No phone calls.

Thurs Well. I'll be damned, here comes your ghost again but that's not unusual, it's just that the moon is full! And you happen to call? Ten years ago I thought you were ghostly! You brought me something! We both know what memories can bring! They bring diamonds and rust. Benji.

Snowflake! When you look at your picture, you don't know the tape that course through me, like acid blood; the sorrow that rips me in so many ways, to the lost, the horrible...loss of you Silvertip.

Bob & Jerry. Thanks for everything! I will be forever in your debt. You never knew who your friends are until you need them. Jeff.
MCCompton's

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31

Elaborate Hot & Cold Buffet
Champagne Toast at Midnight
Door Prizes – Drink Specials

Breakfast Buffet
Hats and Noisemakers
2 DJs All Night Long

8pm - 6am

$13./PERSON
$25./COUPLE

Champagne Toast at Midnight
Door Prizes – Drink Specials

Starring from New York
MADAME X
with Dee, Cybil, Michelle Duke,
& Special Guest JENIFER STORM
An evening full of impersonations
and entertainment

Tickets $3 Advance
$4 At the door

$13./PERSON
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Christmas Eve & Christmas Night
OPEN AT 9:00

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