

# Fisher professor says brother wrongly fired

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Driving his points home with a booming voice, author and professor Lou Buttino gave a stirring synopsis of his new book's subject matter during a St. John Fisher College Alumni luncheon last Wednesday, May 12, at the Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St.

The book's theme is unprecedented, since it deals with the first openly homosexual person ever to be fired by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The issue is also intensely personal since that person happens to be Buttino's brother.

A *Special Agent: Gay and Inside the FBI*, published by William Morrow and Company, is due out June 1 at bookstores nationwide. With his brother's literary assistance, the 48-year-old Frank Buttino, who now resides in San Diego, Calif., is bringing his plight to the public.

Lou Buttino, 49, who has won numerous writing awards while also serving for 18 years as a journalism professor at St. John Fisher College, emphasized his latest project's personal significance when he told the audience that this "was the most profoundly moving experience of my life."

The lecture served two purposes: to chronicle Frank Buttino's life up to the present, and to give Lou Buttino, who is heterosexual, a forum to air his criticisms on the FBI's policies and this country's harsh treatment of homosexuals.

Lou Buttino painted a picture of his brother as a tenacious high-school football player in their home town of Canastota, N.Y., located near Syracuse. Yet even though Frank "dated the prettiest girls," Lou "sensed a certain reservedness about him."

Frank went on to become an FBI agent in the late 1960s, excelling in his

work. "His ratings were never less than excellent or superior," said Lou.

As years went by, Frank became more accepting of his sexual identity and practiced a discreetly gay lifestyle.

In 1989, Lou asserted, "the FBI tried to harass and humiliate my brother into resigning" when the bureau became aware of Frank's homosexuality. Frank was fired in the fall of that year.

Rather than take his firing quietly, Frank has chosen to fight for his reinstatement. The trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 13 in U.S. Federal District Court in San Francisco.

Frank Buttino was the person who came up with the idea to utilize his brother's writing talents and raise public awareness of his situation, the Fisher professor said. They began collaborating on the book in 1990.

To publicize the book's release, Frank Buttino will make an appearance in Rochester June 18-20, as part of a 10-city tour. In addition, Lou Buttino told the *Catholic Courier* that his brother is scheduled to appear on Larry King's television and radio shows as well as Joan Rivers' talk show.

On the negative end, the journalism professor noted that he and his brother are facing the reality of potential threats from anti-gay groups.

Lou Buttino concluded his luncheon remarks by making a plea for greater compassion toward homosexuals.

"I want to know why we marvel at the infinite diversity of the world, but cannot accept diversity in the human family," he commented.

Then, breaking into tears, he said, "Frank Buttino is not only my brother, he's your brother. And he belongs at the supper table of humanity."

EDITORS' NOTE: Lou Buttino's May 12 speech will be broadcast on WXXI AM-1370 Radio in early June at a date yet to be determined. Call 716/325-7500 for details.

# Mourning little victims



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## Ground broken for rose garden

Francis Rudolph wipes away a tear during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Children's Memorial Rose Garden at Rochester's Hall of Justice May 10. The garden will contain one rose bush for each of the children slain in the Rochester community since 1980. The event was organized by Nazareth College of Rochester in cooperation with the Office of the Monroe County Executive, the Office of the Mayor of Rochester, the Rochester Police Department, and Audrey Smith, founder and president of Families and Friends of Murdered Children.

## Recognizing...

★ William J. and Dorothy M. DeRosa, parishioners of Most Precious Blood Church, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 13, 1993.

★ Father Robert C. Bradler, director of the Diocesan Missions Office, the Holy Childhood Association and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, who attended the organizations' Sixth Annual National Conference, held in Washington, D.C., April 26-28. In addition to discussing current trends in mission animation, attendees marked the Holy Childhood's 150th anniversary.

★ Tiffany Evans, a freshman at Nazareth Academy, who was awarded a bronze medal at Nazareth College of Rochester May 3 for her biology project on the effects acid rain has on vegetation. The award was given by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The program is known as S-WISE (Students Working in Scientific Exploration).

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## Pro-life

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which limits federal funding for abortion through the Medicaid program.

FOCA is currently stalled because Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) has said he will not release the bill to the floor unless amendments are prohibited and debate limited.

But even some of Congress' pro-choice members are not comfortable with such limitations, Alvaré said, because the proposed legislation would prohibit states from enacting any regulations concerning abortion — such as parental notification, 24-hour waiting periods or prohibiting abortion for gender selection.

"I think that if pro-life people continue to do their work and educate their (congressional representatives),

and if (Congressman) Foley keeps his word, I think we'll prevent it from ever being voted on," she said. "I think our chances are fair to good, if we work our tails off."

As for the Hyde Amendment, Alvaré said that the attempt to repeal the 1976 law will serve as an indicator of what will be contained in President Bill Clinton's health care plan.

Strong resistance to repealing the amendment could force the president to eliminate abortion provisions from the plan. If the health care plan does contain abortion provisions, the Catholic Church — and its network of hospitals — will oppose it.

In addition to focusing their attention on FOCA and the Hyde Amendment at this time, the U.S. bishop are waiting to see the exact nature of the Clinton administration's health care plan before they decide whether or not to support it, Alvaré said.

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