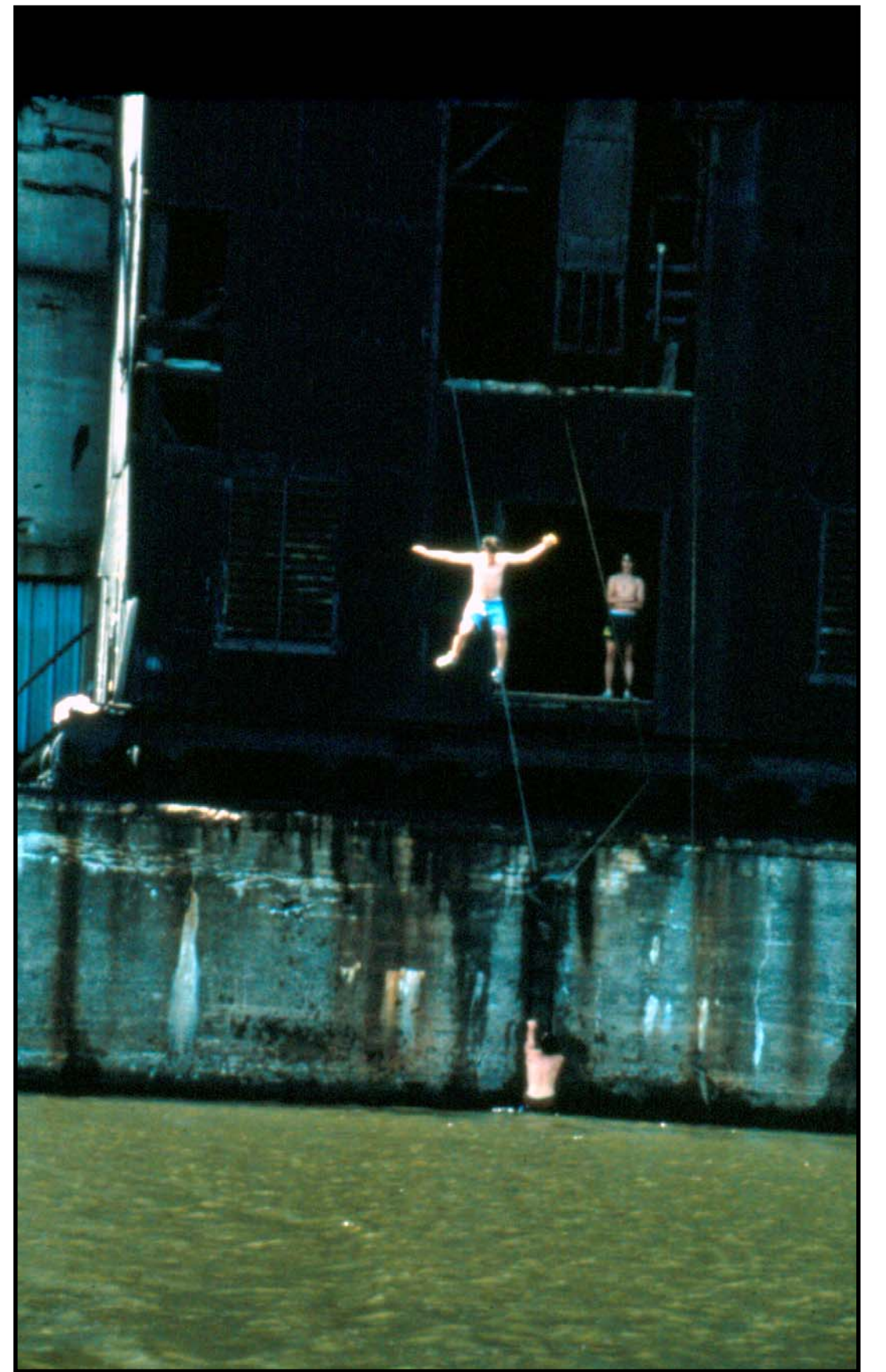


## Human Health Concerns

Underlying the efforts to restore the beneficial uses of the Buffalo River are concerns related to human health. While efforts to both delineate the extent of the environmental problems impacting the Buffalo River and identify options for restoring the river, the



community continues to utilize the river for a variety of recreational activities (pictures). Neighborhood children jump off the bridges and grain elevators into the river and boaters like the tranquil (though sediment-laden) waters of the river (note: this is even encouraged by the creation of a canoe trail along the river).



Anglers fish from the shore of the river (often just adjacent to CSOs, combined sewer overflows). Despite the NYS DEC issuing fish advisories (advisory recommends that no fish caught in the Buffalo River be consumed), many of the anglers admit to eating the fish (or, say that while they don't eat the fish, they know of others that do). The health impact of primary contact with the water and sediments of the river have not been fully assessed, nor have the health risks of consuming Buffalo River fish. This issue touches upon environmental justice as the neighborhoods

surrounding the Buffalo River include a high percentage of displaced steel workers, older residents, and less affluent neighborhoods.



**Figures above and right:** Anglers fishing from the banks of the river adjacent to a CSO (round concrete opening with blue grate).

