

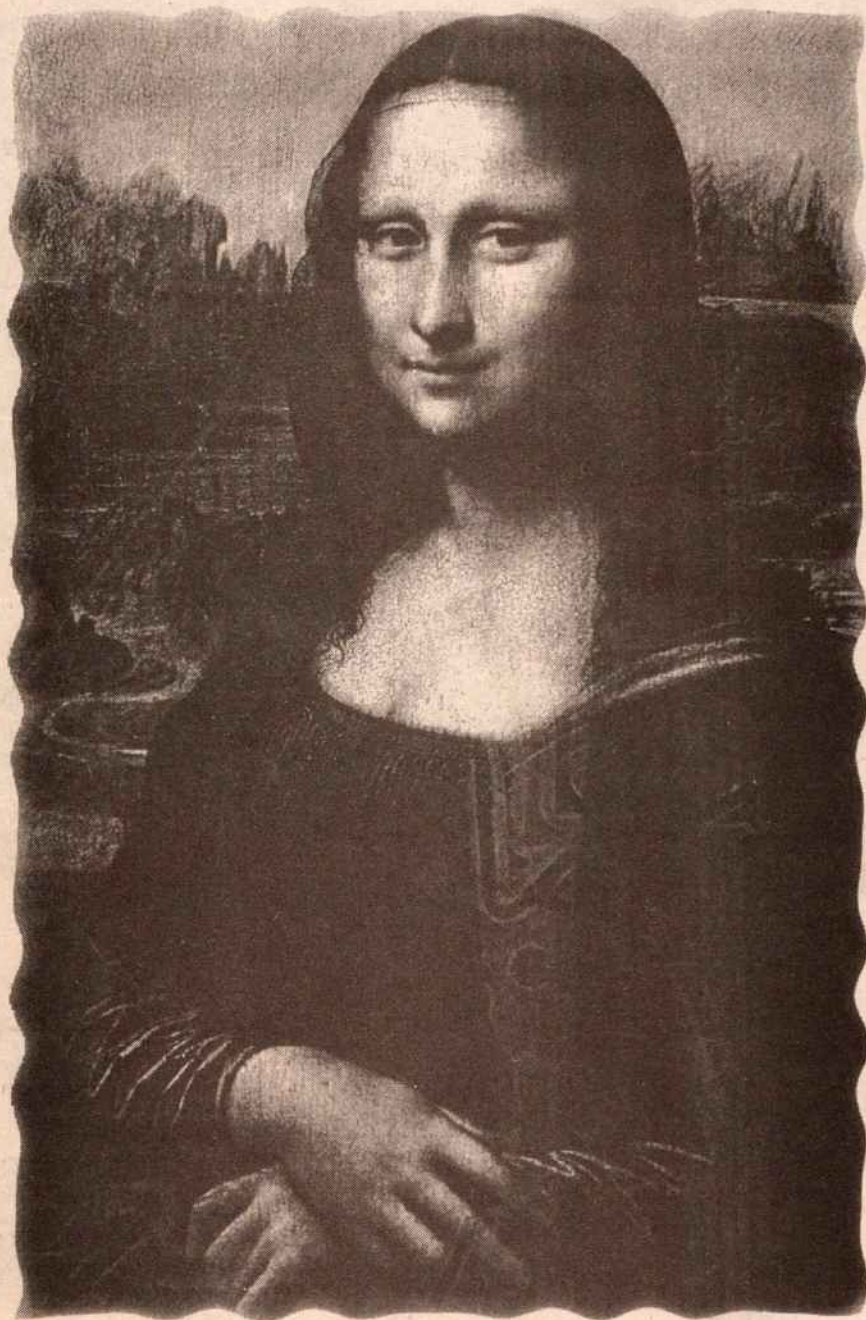
Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Monthly • October 1995

Q • voice

**Premier
Issue!**

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Make-Up: M.A.K.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome Aboard!

I clearly remember the excitement I felt as I plucked the very first issue of *In Step Magazine* from the top of a cigarette machine at the M&M Club. As I thumbed

through that premier issue, I noticed a call for submissions. Within days I had completed nearly three typewritten pages on gay and lesbian etiquette.

I was thrilled and scared to death as Ron Geiman silently read my submission. He liked it and to my surprise, actually wanted more! Naturally, I was even more excited to pick up that second issue in which my queer etiquette primer appeared.

By the time third issue hit the streets, I was an official *In Step* columnist and *Juicy Bits* by W.W. Wells was born.

As *Q•Voice* launches its premier issue, I feel that same excitement again. I hope everyone who picks up a copy of *Q•Voice* will discover that such excitement and enthusiasm can be contagious.

Our mission at *Q•Voice* will be to cover gay Milwaukee and Wisconsin in-depth and with style. We believe *Q•Voice* to be a unique publication, not only in Wisconsin, but the nation. Look for exciting new interviews and fiction every month. We'll feature individuals,

groups and businesses in our community and beyond. We promise to go beyond the press releases and news clippings and to never be boring.

Q•Voice is truly a group effort and labor of love. For an endeavor like this to truly succeed it takes the time, talents and input of many people. *Q•Voice* is blessed which many such talented, artistic individuals.

Finally, a grateful tip of the beanie to all those advertisers who have supported us in this venture. When I say, "Support our advertisers!" I really mean it, because without them *Q•Voice* can't exist. Enjoy the first issue, tell us what you think of it and we'll see you again on November 16, 1995!

Sincerely,

William Attewell

William Attewell,
Editor-in-Chief

Q•Voice

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William Attewell
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LETTERS

We haven't got any yet, but your feedback is more than welcome... that means you too Al Geiersbach! Anyway, if there's something you just need to tell us, jot it down and we'll probably print it.

How To Contact Q • Voice:

Snail Mail:
P.O. Box 92385
Milwaukee, WI 53202

E-Mail:
qvoice@aol.com

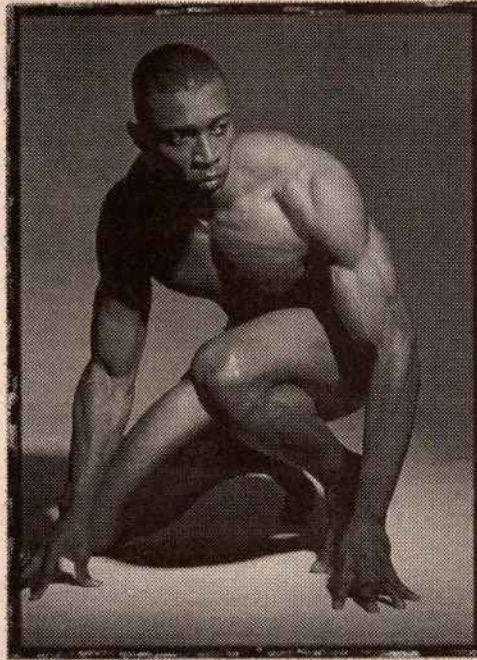
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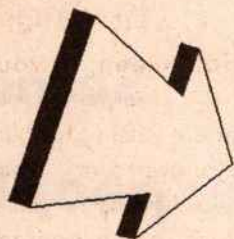
Wednesday
November 1
La Cage
10pm to 1am

Friday
November 10
Wreck Room
5pm to 8pm

Tuesday
November 14
Alverno College Health Fair
10am to 2pm

Thursday
November 16
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Watch "BESTD CLINIC LIVE!" each Thursday at 7pm on Milwaukee Cable Channel 47
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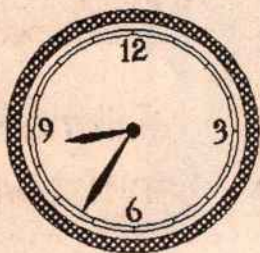


WHAT?

Since 1982 CREAM CITY ▽ FOUNDATION (CCF) has continuously provided:

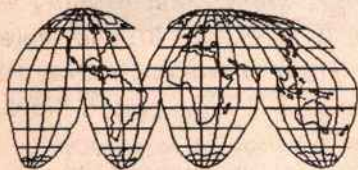
- ▽ monetary grants,
- ▽ scholarships &
- ▽ financial assistance/underwriting

to diverse non-profit Gay/Les/Bi groups and individuals who are dedicated in building a stronger and healthier Les/Bi/Gay community.



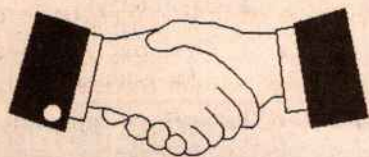
WHEN?

Grant applications should be submitted by the 15th of each January, April, July, and October. The \$1,000 John Cowles Memorial Scholarship is awarded in January. For applications or information please contact us.



WHERE?

As members of the community, we understand our own needs as no one else can. CCF has and will continue to demonstrate our responsibility for one another and fund both short and long-term solutions in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin areas.

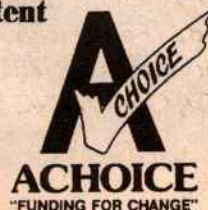


Your View = Our View

HOW?

- ▽ CCF exists thanks to YOUR kind contributions ▽
- We are a non-profit charitable organization recognized by the IRS.
- Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

CCF can also be designated the recipient of your workplace giving contribution through ACHOICE or United Way Donor Choice.



Hooray for Hollywood!

You might want to personally thank **Wong Foo** and **Jeffrey** as the major studios plan an onslaught of lesbian and gay themed flicks... then again, you might not.

Paramount has scheduled a November release for **Home for the Holidays**, produced and directed by Queer Nation most wanted poster child, **Jodie Foster**. Synopsis: A gay brother (**Robert Downey, Jr.**) and his straight sister (**Holly Hunter**) endure the Thanksgiving holiday with their family.

Plucked, an original comedy about a drag queen and his/her family getting reunited by his sister when she summons him to her trailer park to take care of her kids. Written by **Harvey Fierstein**, this film has yet to begin filming.

And no word yet on our personal hope for a big budget version of **Jeff Stryker's, Power Tool**.

Here Comes the Bride and the Bride

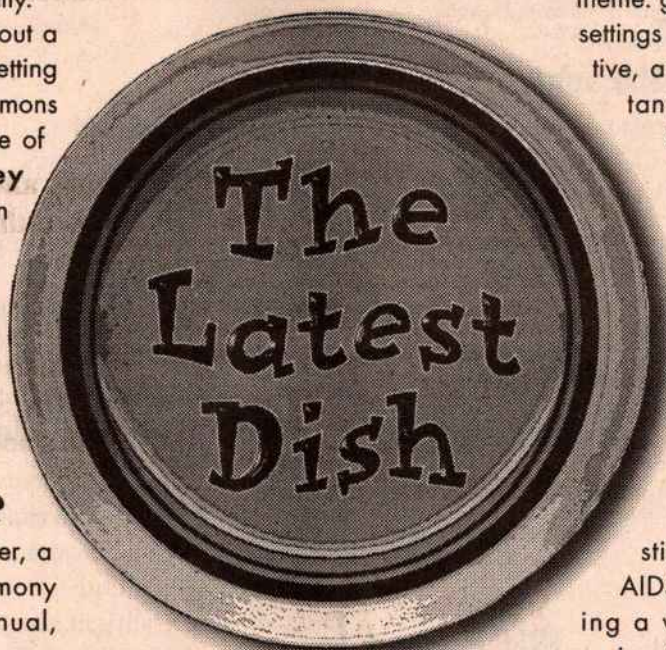
The Complete Gay Union Planner, a new same-sex commitment ceremony package. Complete with a manual, worksheets and schedules to keep your big day on track. Plus a resource guide which offers a listing of suppliers of gay union accessories; rings, caketoppers and gay friendly religious organizations. To round out the package a full color "marriage certificate" suitable for framing. Sounds comprehensive, but would Miss Manners agree that exchanged rings can be hung from pierced nipples?

The Complete Gay Union Planner is \$49.97 and is unconditionally guaranteed. For more info: Rainbow Marketing, Inc., 7501 Creekridge Rd. #107, Charlotte NC 28212,

Will Gays Drink to This?

The Coors Brewing Co. has implemented a new policy which extends medical, dental and eye care coverage to homosexuals who can show they live together and share financial obligations.

Said noted homophobe, **Rev. Fred Phelps** of the decision, "I'm kind of glad that they (the gay community) are hassling Coors, because they deserve it trying to straddle that moral fence... this



matter is not a matter that can be compromised in our view of things."

In the past, Coors has supported a motley assortment right-wing groups with anti-gay agendas and as recently as ten years ago, required prospective employees to take a lie detector test that included questions about sexual orientation.

Coors is changing, according to **Earl Nissen**, president of Coors Lesbian and Gay Employee Resource. The domestic partners policy is just an extension of Coors' support of a variety of homosexual efforts and donations to AIDS research over the past few years.

Things that Go Bump in the Night

This Halloween, if you're sitting around the campfire, telling ghost stories, about witches, goblins, escaped maniacs (or even scary tales about your crazy ex-lover) maybe you should take notes because Masquerade Books is seeking submissions for **Gay Ghost Stories** anthology to be published in 1996.

Submissions should have a gay male theme: gay characters, gay plots or gay settings and be sexy, beguiling, seductive, and bewitching. But most important of all, the stories should be **SCARY AS HELL!**

The deadline for submissions is November 15, 1995. For more information; contact: **WJ Mann**, P.O. Box 505 Provincetown, MA 02657

Talking Penis in Hot Water

Braulio, the talking penis has stirred up controversy in Brazil.

AIDS awareness commercials showing a womanizer arguing with his penis, nicknamed **Braulio**, were pulled from the airwaves in Brazil in part because children named Braulio were being teased.

The Health Ministry's department for sexually transmitted diseases also fielded at least 18 phone complaints from men named Braulio who were upset about the use of their name according to reports in the daily newspaper *O Globo*. Health Minister Adib Jatene ordered the ads pulled until a new name could be chosen.

Another name for a talking dickhead... how about **Jesse Helms**?



"Quips & Quotes"

Who Gets Top Billing?

"Wondering why that much lauded young actor, who usually makes high-profile pics, took a role under a studly, much-less-well-known fellow actor in a teensy-budget flick? Simple. The star's dying to get under this should-be-a-star-already-but-isn't actor. Advisers have warned the ardent star—who's no slouch in the pick-up department—that the film will do no good for his tarnished rep. But, hey, when you're in lust..."

—Hollywood Ink column in *Movieline Magazine*

The Money Spends Just the Same

"Gays pay like everyone else. We're glad they're here."

—Miami Beach Mayor, Seymour Gelber
commenting on gay tourism to *Time Magazine*

"I tell them, 'What do you need a gay hotel for? Everyone who works in the hotels is already gay'."

—Bob Guilmartin, owner of a Miami Beach
reservation service to *Time Magazine*

Beam Me Up!

"He's not bisexual—he is omnisexual!"

—Author Dennis William Hauck, quoted from
Captain Quirk, a new biography of *Star Trek's*
William Shatner

"...to my surprise, it's been put to me that I might be gay. There's a genuine body of opinion that I am. Well, I explained that I'm not as far as I'm aware."

—Patrick Stewart, (*Star Trek's* Captain Picard)
who plays a gay interior designer in *Jeffrey*

Hockey Pucker

"After the shoot, I'd rip that stuff off and go out and shoot guns, play football and hockey—and Latin people don't play hockey! I couldn't believe it. I'd see my wife and say, 'C'mon baby, I need to do it, PLEASE!'"

—Actor John Leguizamo on playing a drag queen in the
film *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie*
Newmar to *USA Today*

Don't Ask, Don't Tell

"I have completed my study, Sir. It appears that in order to make the military less appealing to lesbians and gay men, we must make some modifications, such as eliminating the following: Polished black leather boots, all belts, buckles, straps and uniforms generally, all short crewcuts and all fit, healthy, lithe young men and women, Sir."

—cartoon caption in *The Melbourne Star Observer*

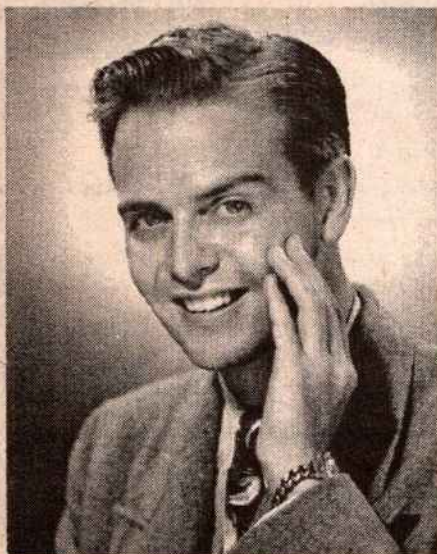
Now That's Scary!

I stopped by the Fango convention in NYC a couple of weeks back, specifically to see Clive Barker who was a special guest. A woman in the audience stood up and offered Mr. Barker her body. He said, "That's lovely darling, but I have a boyfriend." She said, "It's okay. I used to be a man!" He said, "Oh. Alright then. Let's go."

—from the Internet

Seen a good quip or quote? Clip it and send to Q • Voice,
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Mystery Date

is coming November 16, 1995!

THE WORLD IN BRIEF

73% OF DUTCH ENDORSE SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

Amsterdam - According to a recent poll, nearly three-quarters of Dutch people think lesbian and gay couples should be allowed to marry according to a Reuters news report.

"It's an extraordinarily positive response," said Henk Krol, editor of Best-based *Gay Krant* (Gay Times), which commissioned the survey.

Some 73% of respondents backed legal marriages between same-sex couples, with 44% supporting an extension of existing marriage laws to homosexuals.

Parliament is due to consider a marriage bill in September which would open the way for homosexual couples to tie the legal knot.

TAIWAN MAY BAN MAGIC

Taiwan - Health authorities in Taiwan say they have not yet decided whether to allow basketball great Magic Johnson, who is HIV-positive, to visit their country with his touring basketball team. By law, the government of Taiwan may prohibit people who have HIV or AIDS from entering the country. Johnson and his players were scheduled to arrive in Taipei on Oct. 30 and play a few exhibition games against the country's basketball team before leaving on Nov. 2.

GAY JOURNALISTS FACE PERSECUTION WORLDWIDE

New York- Gay and lesbian journalists face arrest, censorship and persecution by governments around the world, according to a preliminary draft of a report by a prominent journalists' rights group.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, based in New York, surveyed gay journalist and those who write on gay-related topics in Eastern and Western Europe and the Americas. The report will be released in October.

The committee's report includes more than two dozen examples of persecution. The most frequent government tactic is to charge journalists with pornography.

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NOTES & NOTICES

St. Camillus AIDS Ministry Names Deputy Director

Milwaukee— Brother Stephen E. Braddock, Executive Director of St. Camillus AIDS Ministry, has announced the appointment of Jeffrey G. Miller, RN, MSN to the position of Deputy Director. Miller will assume his new role on November 13.

"Jeff has been on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic from the very start. He is well known, respected and loved in our local community and statewide. His competence and dedication is of the highest level. Truly, Jeff is a gift to our program".

"I am really excited about the position," said Miller. "St. Camillus AIDS Ministry has made a lot of strides and I'm really happy to be back with them to help

expand their program".

According to Miller, he will facilitate on-going retreats and educational programs and will be looking at other needs that exist in the community.

Additionally, Miller's responsibilities will include assisting Braddock with the development, organization, implementation, delivery and evaluation of services to meet the needs of persons infected and/or affected by HIV disease.

St. Camillus provides physical, spiritual and emotional support services, including an In-patient Sensitive Care Unit and a residence for people with AIDS.

Workshop on Older Gay/Lesbian Adults

Milwaukee— SAGE/Milwaukee will co-

sponsor a full day workshop on Friday, October 27, titled, "Providing Access to Services for Gay and Lesbian Older Adults: Historical Issues, Current Concerns".

The workshop will be conducted by Arlene Kockman, Executive Director of Sage, Inc. of New York. While the workshop is targeted at professionals any interested persons may register and attend. Registration by October 20 is \$45. For registration or more information contact: Theresa Bellone, UWM, (414) 227-3310.

Free FLU Vaccinations Set for October 24

Milwaukee— Free flu shots will be offered at the M&M Club on Tuesday, October 24th from 7pm until 10pm.

Flu shots are recommended for persons who are HIV infected, their partners and caregivers. This third annual opportunity is made possible by the collaborative efforts of the gay and Lesbian Nurses Association, The M&M club, The Milwaukee Health Department, BESTD Clinic, *The Wisconsin Light*, *In Step Magazine* and *Q•Voice Magazine*. For additional information call the BESTD Clinic at 414/272-2144

BESTD Clinic Seeks Day Time Volunteers

Milwaukee— The Brady East STD Clinic is seeking volunteers to staff the clinic office and telephone lines weekdays between 10am and 5pm.

Flexible hours and training will be available for persons interested in volunteering. The BESTD Clinic is an all-volunteer health care agency which has been serving Milwaukee for over 21 years.

For more information contact: Erv Uecker at 414-353-4798.

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Cream City Foundation Encourages AChoice Workplace Giving

Milwaukee— The Cream City Foundation, an all volunteer Milwaukee fundraising organization can be designated as your ACHOICE or United Way Donor recipient.

Cream City Foundation provides monetary grants, scholarships, financial assistance and underwriting for wide range of non-profit gay, lesbian and bisexual groups and individuals. Recently, CCF has provided grants to PrideFest '95, The John Cowles Memorial Scholarship, Ujima, SAGE, The Fest Singers among many others.

The Cream City Foundation is recognized by the IRS and contributions are tax deductible. CCF can be reached at P.O. Box 204, Milwaukee, WI 53201 or by phone at 414/265-0880.

Q•Voice wants your press releases and news tips!

P.O. Box 92385, Milwaukee, WI 53202

414.272.7438 fax or e-mail to qvoice@aol.com



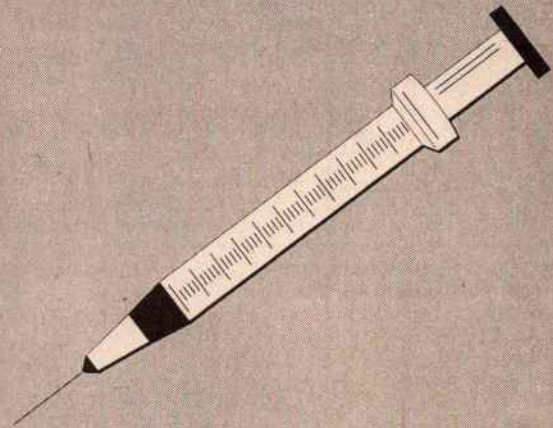
Local artisan, Charles Beringer at a party celebrating the 2nd anniversary of his popular eastside jewelry store, Out of Solitude.

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO TELL?

**Q•Voice is looking for writers,
interviewers and story ideas.**

Give us a call at 414.278.7524 or e-mail to qvoice@aol.com

FLU Vaccinations



Tuesday, Oct. 24th

7pm - 10pm

at The M&M Club (Upstairs)

124 N. Water Street

donations accepted

Recommended for HIV+ persons,
their partners and caregivers.

Sponsored by

The Gay & Lesbian Nurses Association,
The M&M Club, The Milwaukee Health Department,
The BESTD Clinic, The Wisconsin Light, In Step Magazine
and Q•Voice Magazine





HIV or Not HIV? That is the Question

ANDREW OF AMERICA'S *Easy Steps to* **SURVIVE A HIV TEST**

1. Have sex with someone who lies about their HIV status.

2. Go down to the local free health care clinic.

3. Make up a fake identity including ersatz social security number because big brother is watching you and testing is by state law "confidential" and not "anonymous." Be sure to write your lie on a 3 x 5 card or matchbook so you can remember it following the two weeks of interminable hell while you wait in limbo for your test results to come back late from the lab.

4. Roll up your sleeve.

5. Lie to the nurse about your risk group status. Tell them your Haitian.

6. Don't worry about lying. It didn't bother your sex partner.

7. Wait wait wait. Take up a hobby to pass the time. Photomicroscopy is good. Wait wait wait. How long has it been? Eleven minutes. Your test results are only a scant 19,876 minutes away. This leaves plenty of time for hating everyone you ever slept with, distrusting people at the supermarket, questioning the existence of God and reading self-loathing literature from Exodus International.

8. Blame people. Scientists, politicians, popes, your mother who made you this way, the psychologist who told you your mother made you this way, your self and everyone who ever slept with you.

9. Turn on the radio. Don't love songs

sound like big long lies set to music? Doesn't Rush Limbaugh sound sensible? Doesn't static sound best of all? Switch to a classical music station. Listen to the unspeakable longing in a Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto... all because he was queer and couldn't tell anybody. You're queer. Have YOU ever written a piano concerto? Better get to work. You might not have long to live.

10. Become paranoid of your own body. Don't share your soap. Don't let people drink after you because-you-could-have-micro-abrasions-in-your-mouth-because-you-just-brushed-your-teeth-and-they-could-have-just-accidentally-bitten-their-cheek-in-which-case-you-could-pass-bodily-fluids-that-could-kill-them. Better wrap your toothbrush in aluminum foil and bury it in your sock drawer just-to-be-safe.

11. Turn into a religious maniac. Then an

atheist. Then soften it to an agnostic just to be safe and not piss anybody off. Hide all sharp objects.

12. Judge people. Judge straight people for being so insensitive. Judge gay people for being so promiscuous. Judge Judge Judge. Grow a beard so you will look like Lance Ito. Drive up to the McDonald's pick up window and overrule the cashier. What are they gonna do? Put you in jail?

13. Keep a diary. Your entries might look like this:

DAY 1. Dear diary, sorry I have waited until now to keep a diary.

DAY 2. Haven't started on the Piano Concerto yet.

DAY 3. Rained all day.

14. Try to figure out what all that James Joyce business was about you never quite got in college.

15. Unplug the phone. Unplug the computer. Withdraw. Do not unplug the TV. It is your only friend. The TV loves you. Watch O.J. Talk to him through the TV screen. Tell him you know exactly how he feels. Watch 7 hours of post-verdict analysis so that night you can dream that you finally finished renovating your Victorian house and O.J. Simpson and your father disapprovingly come to visit in some sort of daylight savings time twilight world cocktail party with cajun blackened chicken and honey mustard pasta and most of the guests are dressed in blue seersucker except for O.J. whom you grab by the lapel of his brown Armani suit and pull him to you and begin to weep: "I don't know if you are guilty or not but I just wanted to tell you that growing up it was important for *me* to have a black role model *I* could look up to..." and as you say this O.J. breaks down and cries and you hug each other close and his warm tears fall into *your* eyes and fill them like teacups before spilling down your face and running down your neck. You get an erection but you cannot tell if he has one or not. He reaches down to squeeze your thigh and you cup his buttocks in your hand before he turns abruptly to walk out of the room and before he reaches the door frame turns back semi-silhouetted and says "I wasn't impressed." The rest of the night you dream that you spend the rest of the night telling everyone you know that O.J. came to visit.

15. D-Day arrives. You go into the clinic and sit in cold

polyurethane molded chairs in a sterile white environment and look for something to read. There are no magazines so you take to reading the oversized posters warning you of the risks of a Pandora's box worth of diseases with long Latin names. The desk clerk calls you up. You pass a pink, crumpled slip of paper through the partition in the glass booth that serves as her cubicle. You expect her to respond with some routine gibberish about having a seat and waiting but instead her face blanches white as mayonnaise and she recoils in horror as if she were a bank teller just handed a stick up note. "I'll be right back." She says and disappears through a maze of glass partitions each no bigger than a living room aquarium.

You stand there in silence as all the other nurse/clerkoids nervously look down in a vain attempt to appear busy and you can feel the hot breath of the man in dirty overalls and a baseball cap behind you as he holds his daughter waiting for her immunization. "Don't cry Latisha, don't cry girl, c'mon." After 8 minutes, the nurse returns. The doctor will see you in a minute. 135 minutes pass as you numbly watch the sun set over the observatory dome on the college campus across the street. You think back to the first time you saw that view when you were tested 7 years ago and you ask yourself why you just didn't join a monastery then. The Trappist Monks at Conyers were so nice.

It's your turn. You don't recognize your name at first because it's not *your* name but the one you made up for the test: "Malcolm McDougall." You rise slowly and you feel the gaze of the half dozen others in the room and wonder if they think your zits are Karposis Sarcoma. You walk through the open shower glass door like a zombie and float down the hall like a drugged sheep entering an avatour. You envision rotating knives from the walls at the end of the hall whizzing into your flesh and sending you into sweet midnight after a brief sting of pain. "Have a seat." The doctor is young, pretty and black.

You wonder where she went to school. Is she friendly? Will she bite? Will she hate you? Will she explain things? She stares at the slip of paper she has in her hands inquisitively. "Is this your name?" Your voice stick in your throat, "Yssgh." She looks down at the paper and asks, "what's your social security number, address and home phone?"

You recant the list of fictitious digits as if saying the haggadah from rote or some secret code of salvation memorized by hours of inculcation. There is no answer. You see sweat on her upper

“Judge people. Judge straight people for being so insensitive. Judge gay people for being so promiscuous. Judge Judge Judge. Grow a beard so you will look like Lance Ito.”

lip. You feel sweat on the palm of your hand blotting the ink on the 3 x 5 card of incognito information tattooing your fist like some concentration camp serial number hoping you gave the right answer...

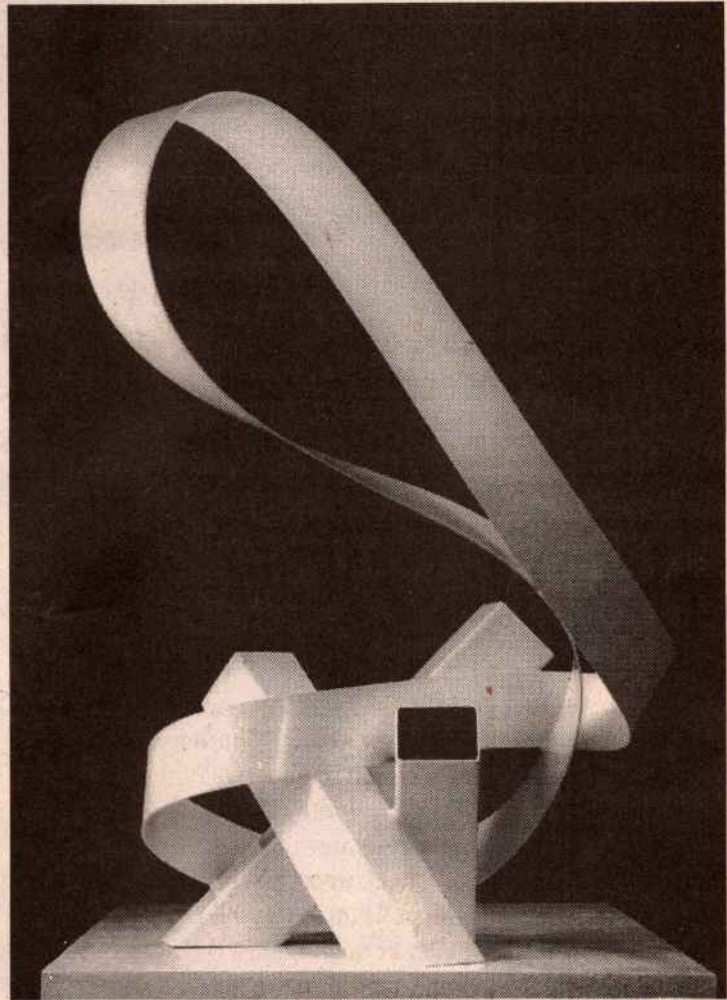
16. The doctor sighs and tells you you are **NEGATIVE, NON-REACTIVE**. The test indicates you do **NOT** have the antibodies for HIV. The room seems to get very light as your thoughts of freedom and the buzz of the fluorescent tubes drown out her spiel about wearing condoms. Of course your not infected. Of course you are okay. **THAT** only happens to other people. You take two bags of condoms and go on your merry way with your pink slip of proof that you are immortal, invincible and will live for ever. You have not killed your current boyfriend and your ex-boyfriend has not killed you. You can live a carefree and happy life at home alone, locked in a chastity belt and strapped to a piano bench where you will compose concertos of unspeakable love to men of great youth and beauty. You are roused from your world of halcyon dreams by these words:

YOU MUST GET TESTED EVERY SIX MONTHS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

17. Shampoo. Rinse. Repeat.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: *In 1993, ANDREW OF AMERICA received word from the county health department that a former lover had tested positive for the HIV virus. ANDREW underwent two years of testing at six month intervals. He was *not* infected. He credits "God and condoms" to this end. The above passages were adapted from his journals.*

Sculpture by **Roan**
Paintings by **Waswo**

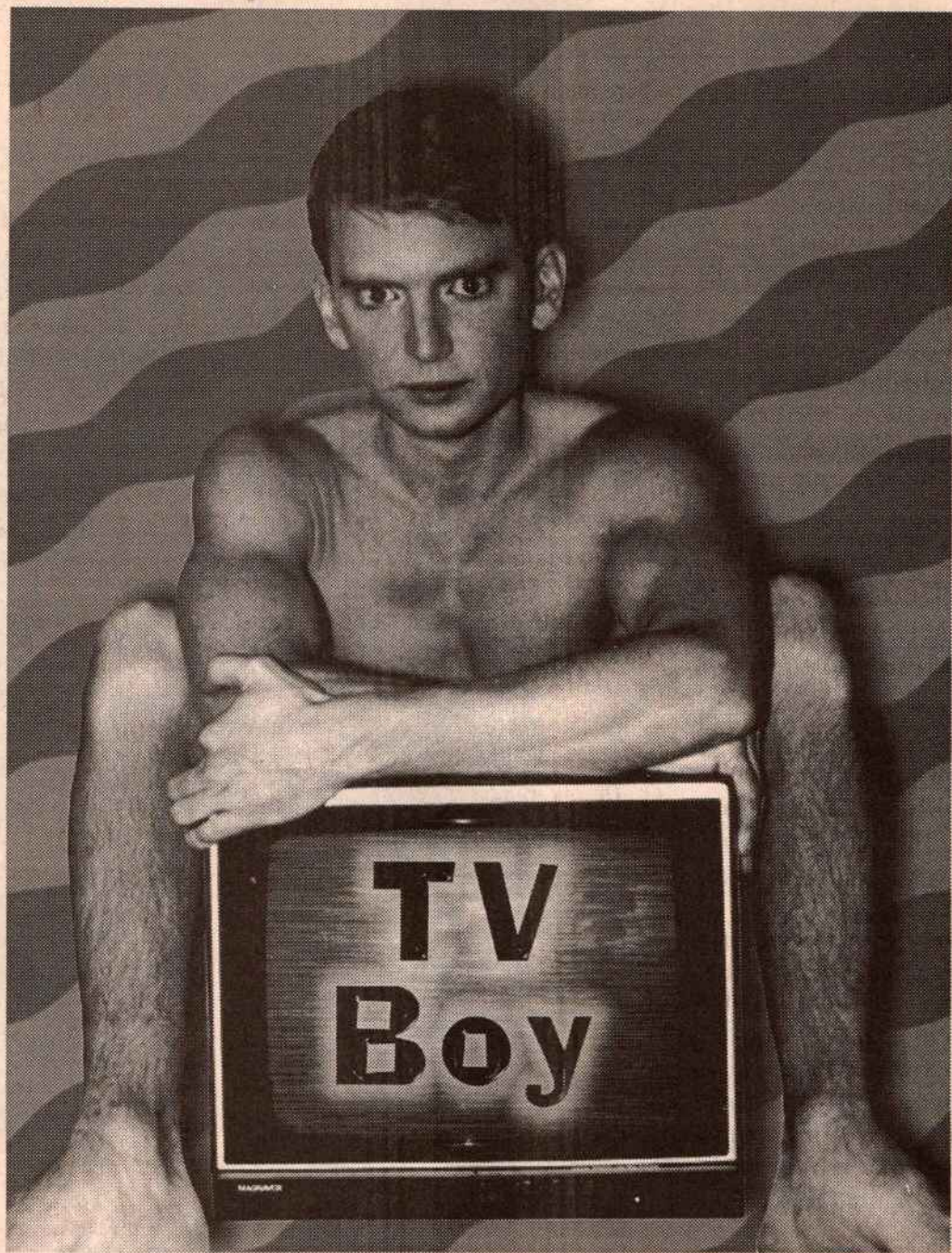


"Malibu" 39" x 26" x 26" - polychromed steel

**Opening Friday,
November 3**

Gallery 218

277-7800



Is Dan Fons the Most Visible Gay Man in Milwaukee?

Interview by William Attewell, Photographs by Jorge L. Cabal

As co-host of Milwaukee's *Queer Program*, Dan Fons may well be one of the most visible gay men in the state. Every week he and *Queer Program* co-host Michael Lisowski are beamed by Warner Cable into over one hundred thousand homes in the Milwaukee Metro area.

His likeable, soft spoken nature and innocent choirboy looks often seem at odds with his strong opinions and queer activism.

His brother Christopher's struggle with AIDS received wide coverage in Milwaukee's mainstream media and it seems just recently that Dan Fons has begun to emerge from the shadow of loss to chart his own course in the public eye.

During a recent Saturday morning, I sat down with Dan at the Q • Voice conference room/my kitchen table. The following is the interview that followed.

Q: The first and more important question we need to ask is where do you get your t-shirts?

A: I get them all over the place... I buy them when I go to marches and things nationally, I get some of them here when go to Designing Men of AfterWords Bookstore. And now sometimes people scout out t-shirts and tell me where they are.

Q: These t-shirts are your trademark.

A: It's become that way, yeah. On the show we really do it because unless we're doing something really outrageous, people will just flip right by and not even watch us. If we don't have something gay on right away, people might not even know it's a queer show. Michael (Lisowski) might have more than I do though.

Q: Who's idea was the *Queer Program*?

A: It was Michael's idea... Michael had been on *Tri-Cable Tonight*, which became *Queer TV*. He heard about this new studio where monkeys could operate it... it was only three buttons... told me about it and we decided we could do a show. We were almost the first show to be in that studio... it's call the Impact Studio. We don't have camera people, we don't have different angles, it's just cutting back and forth. But it's simple and we can put on an hour show without exhausting ourselves.

Q: Are there any Dan Fons/*Queer TV* groupies? People who call every week?

A: We have people who call every week... there's probably some groupies there. We really started the show to have some openly queer people on TV. There are very few queer people who are actually queer in real life on TV. There's a few characters on mainstream TV... but the goal was for people to be able to turn on their TV set see what we feel are strong representations of thoughtful queer people.

Q: Do you wonder if anybody is actually watching?

A: (Laughing) We wonder that, we don't assume they are... we always kid there's only a couple of viewers. But, when I go to events like PrideFest or MAPfest people are always stopping us and telling us they watch and give their opinions, no one's

shy in giving opinions. And I know for everybody who comes up and says they're watching there's got to be a lot of the closeted people we're really trying to reach who watch... you know I don't really know how many for every one... maybe a 100 other people who watch the show. I think we're reaching a lot of people.

Q: What was your first episode like?

A: We show parts of the first show on our anniversary show and I look like a deer caught in the headlights. My eyes are very wide and I can barely talk. Michael was pretty seasoned because he'd been doing it for five years on a different show.

Q: You've definitely become more comfortable as you've gone along...

A: Yeah, I think people would be pretty surprised to find I'm really pretty shy and I don't really like to speak in front of groups and things considering that I'm so involved in being public so much.

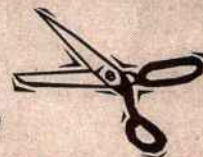
Q: How many call do you take per show?

A: We try to take 15 to 20 minutes of live, unscreened calls per show. It's always and exciting adventure.

Q: Do you get scared by all the homophobes who call the show?

A: The negative callers we get don't bother me or Michael one bit. We really don't even thing about them when the show is over. Unfortunately, when we talk to

Handy Clip 'n Save Homo-Vision Guide



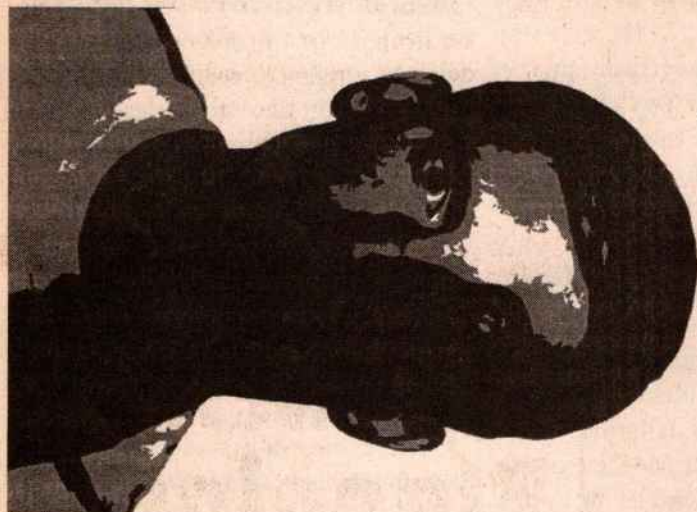
The Queer Program, is cablecast live every Tuesday starting at 7pm, and replayed Thursday at 4pm and Saturday at 11am via Milwaukee Warner Cable Channel 47.

In fact, Channel 47 carries a full buffet of gay programming each week with Tuesday night now billed as GAY-BC. The 3-1/2 hour queer viewing block starts at 6:30pm with a replay of *BESTD Clinic LIVE!* At 7pm catch co-hosts Dan Fons and Michael Lisowski live it up on *The Queer Program* followed at 8pm by a replay of *Gay by God's Will*. Then grab your bon-bons because *True to Desire*, Milwaukee's very own gay soap opera starts promptly at 9pm.

people who watch the show that's often what they remember. We don't think about it for a second after they are off the phones. So I hope people at home don't continue to worry about that. It doesn't bother me. I mean in Queer Nation and ACT-UP I used to get death threats and calls at home all the time. You just can't worry about it.

Q: How would they threaten you?

A: Threaten to blow up my house, blow up my car. All kinds of things.



Q: Were you afraid.

A: No.

Q: You didn't think it would happen?

A: No... no. They're idiots. You can't live in fear of that kind of stuff.

Q: When you get these callers, how do you stay so calm? Because you seem to handle it well...

A: For the first year or so we tried out different methods of handling the abusive callers and we really figured out how

to handle that just right. We really don't give them the time of day, we treat them like the idiots they are. Michael and I sometimes have this disagreement about whether we should have caller ID on the phone.

Q: So are you "pro" Caller ID?

A: I am very "anti" Caller ID. I think there are a couple of advantages to taking the unscreened calls. I think if we had caller ID, many of the closeted people who call us now would never call us again.

Q: Do you feel like a role model

for all these closeted people?

A: In a lot of ways. I think it's very unfortunate that Michael and I might be the most visible queers in the city.

Q: Why is that unfortunate?

A: Because we aren't that visible. We aren't that well known. I think it's pitiful in Milwaukee that there aren't any powerful business or political leaders, anybody who's out of the closet. There's plenty of gay and lesbian politicians here and political leaders. I'll use Senator Kohl as an example of

somebody who I believe to be, and many other people believe, to be a gay man. If he were to come out of the closet, what effect that would have on the community is extraordinary. I think that an openly gay man who owns the Milwaukee Bucks, is helping save the Badgers, is such a successful businessman and a senator... it would be a great role model for kids who are coming up gay or lesbian. It would be great for the community and great for people to see how successful gay people can be. But, instead he's teaching us that no matter how obscenely wealthy or powerful you are you need to stay in the closet because there's too much shame and potential loss associated with coming out.

Q: So are you an activist or a TV personality?

A: Well I'm both. I'm not really a personality I don't believe. I don't know if I come across that way. I don't try to be a personality. Michael and I try to be extremely casual on the show.

Q: I saw your semi-nude promo for that new cable show... what is it?

A: *True to Desire*... was that casual enough for you?

Q: Have you gotten lots of feedback on that?

A: I've gotten lots of comments on that. People see it as something very out of the ordinary for me. And it really was, but I guess it's not now.

Q: So describe that whole situation... what were you doing?

A: Well, I appeared in a promo for a soap opera/drama that's being filmed by Brandon Marsh Entertainment for Milwaukee Cable TV, it's called *True to Desire*.

Q: Are you in it?

A: I am in it. I originally was petrified at the idea of being in it and there's no way I'd ever have a speaking part and I agreed to go in and be in the background on a beach scene one day. Then the producer asked me on the spot and said that there was a scene with a character known as "the slut" that's not his name, but... the slut character in the soap opera. The person he's supposed to start out in bed with in the series had canceled and backed out of it. And they needed somebody to sleep with this guy the next day.

Q: How did you rehearse for that?

A: Well, I went home and slept with myself... over and over. And at first I thought, no way am I going to do that. Then I thought, what the hell... I'll do it. So, I went the next day and it was a very strange day. Filming with this person I'd never really known before and he was very attractive, I thought. We ended up having to lay in bed together for four hours.

Q: Sounds like torture.

A: (Laughs) It was awful.

Q: So did he spring a boner or something?

A: I don't know, he always had a blanket over him. But it did get a little playful at times. We

had to be careful. But it was out of the ordinary for me, I did enjoy it. It was exposing me in new ways.

Q: How would you describe your co-host?

A: Michael? Michael is a fountain of information and opinions. I've known Michael a long time and I used to work on the GPU

"I DON'T FEEL LIKE THERE'S ANYBODY IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW WHO UNDERSTANDS WHO I AM AND WHERE I AM AT AND WHERE I'M GOING. I'M SORT OF ON MY OWN."

Hotline which he operates out of his home. I've known him a long time through mutual friends.

Q: So what do you think gay Milwaukee should know about Michael Lisowski?

A: (Laughs) What should they know? I wish I would have thought about that one. I can't think of anything too risqué or anything. I think everybody knows Michael. Michael is involved in everything.

Q: So you see a bright future for the show? How long do you think you'll be doing it?

A: Sure... I think we'll be doing it for at least one more year. We renew in October for 1996. I don't know after that.

Q: Any changes in the show for next year.

A: I want to do more man-on-the-street stuff this year. I want to go out with cameras. I want to go out on the street and talk to people about the *Queer Program* and see what they think about different issues. I've always wanted to do that.

Q: You're 32, I was surprised by that... do other people think that you're younger than you actually are?

A: They do.

Q: Do you like that?

A: Yes

Q: Why?

A: (Laughs) Because I just became single again too.

Q: So, you're single? Your available?

A: I am available for anybody, parties... catering.

Q: Well, I'm sure Milwaukee's glad to know... catering too?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: If you could pick a topic on the Ricki Lake show, what topic would you pick?

A: What would I pick? I don't know what my topic would be. What do you think my topic should be?

Q: Didn't you just broke up with your boyfriend?

A: Oh that kind of thing! I'd say, "EXs who have no idea what they want out of life, before or after they break up with you".

Q: So was it a dramatic break-up?

A: It was very sudden. Very unexpected. Still not clear why. It comes on top of a couple of years of loss in my life. I lost my best friend, Louie Stimick and mentor and my brother Christopher, who I used to do activism with and was very close to. And a number of other people in my life. I really feel like right now I'm starting back at square one.

Q: What do you find you miss most about your brother?

A: I miss just being able to talk to him. He and my friend, Louie both of them were my people who I would judge how I was doing by. They were both good mentors in what I felt was important in my life. They were incredibly harsh critics, good or bad.

Continued on page 38



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Q Musts & Maybes

Your monthly planning calendar.

►Friday, October 20

Randy James: Truth/Order/Justice

When was the last time you went to a gallery opening? If you haven't met this month's quota check, out the new Randy James exhibition (if you can't go, at least check out the interview on page 32 of this magazine). Opening party starts at 6pm at the Grava Gallery, 1209 East Brady Street. For more information call: 277-8228

►Sunday, October 22

2nd Annual Concert for the Heart, Heartstrings

If it is half as good as last year's concert it will be (to coin a phrase) FABULOUS! This benefit concert for Raphael House

for PLWA's features some of Milwaukee's most well known performers. Starting at 3pm at the PAC's Vogel Hall, tickets are \$12.50. For more information call: 273-7206

►Friday, October 27

Pandemonium III

Start the Halloween festival off right with the third installment of Pandemonium —where nasty, scary classic movies are set to original music, then catch the party that follows. Starting at 8pm at Pitman Theatre at Alverno College. For more information call: 383-6150

►Saturday, October 28

8th Annual Halloween Dance

A womyn's only dance and costume contest sponsored by Full Moon Productions. We can guarantee no OJ costumes will be found here. Starting at 8pm on at the Transit Center Harbor Lights Ballroom, 909 E. Michigan Ave. Tickets are \$7

►Tuesday, October 31

Halloween

National Coming Out Day may be the official gay holiday, but Halloween is the one gays and lesbians get all dressed up for. Expect the usual array of pageants and parties and hit has many bars as possible to get the full effect... then call in sick on Wednesday.

►Sunday, November 5

The Pageant

Celebrate the tradition... experience the dream and make your reservations early. If you've never attended the crowing of Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin make this year the year... it's as close we get to the Miss America Pageant! Cocktails start at 5pm, Dinner at 6pm and Pageant at 8pm at the Hilton Hotel (former Marc Plaza). For Tickets call: 264-1155

STUD MUFFIN?

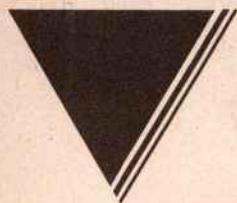


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Heterosexuality

1

What do you think caused your heterosexuality?

3

Is it possible your heterosexuality is just a phase you may grow out of?

4

Isn't it possible that your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?

2

When and how did you first decide you were a heterosexual?

5

If heterosexuality is normal, why are a disproportionate number of mental patients heterosexual?

6

If you've never slept with a person of the same sex, how do you know you wouldn't prefer that?

7

Isn't it possible that all you really need is a good gay lover?

8

Why do you insist on being so obvious, and making a public spectacle of your heterosexuality? Can't you just be what you are and keep quiet?

9

Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?

10

How could the human race survive if everyone were heterosexual, considering the menace of overpopulation?

11

Do heterosexuals hate and/or distrust others of their own sex? Is that what makes them heterosexual?

14

To whom have you disclosed your heterosexual tendencies? How did they react?

13

The great majority of child molesters are heterosexuals. Do you consider it safe to expose your children to heterosexual teachers?

12

Your heterosexuality doesn't offend me as long as you don't try to force it on me. Why do you people feel compelled to seduce others into your sexual orientation?

Questionnaire

by Martin Rochlin, Ph.D.

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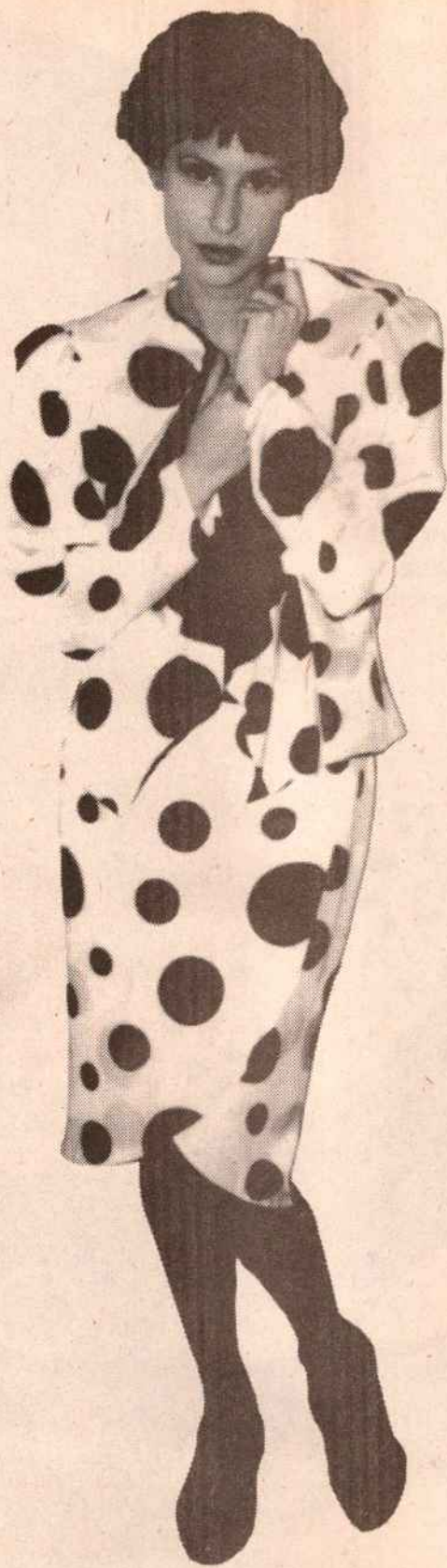
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OUT of the Closet

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Home Sweet Home

Raphael House Offers Hope and a Home
to Those Living with HIV and AIDS.

by William Attewell

The need for the Raphael House is clear to Brother Stephen Braddock, executive director of the St. Camillus AIDS Ministry, "I saw through my own experience, a real gap in the continuum of housing for those living with HIV and AIDS... we came to the conclusion that the large scale warehousing of people with AIDS is not working, it's not manageable and it does not provide any dignity for the residents."

The recently opened Raphael House is unique to Wisconsin since it provides continuous care for a small number of residents. In contrast, The Bonaventure House in Chicago houses 34 residents. According to Braddock, The Bonaventure House recently had 7 deaths in a week and a half. Dealing with such large losses in such a short time can devastate the morale of residents and care providers alike.

As place for those who are too sick to be at home, but not sick enough to be in the hospital, the Raphael House is comfortable and spacious. With room for six residents, individuals can furnish their own rooms, or furnishings can be provided for them. There is a



from left to right: Bill Godsell, Kevin Grayson, Brother Stephen Braddock and Terry Palzer

guest room for visitors, laundry facilities, a massage room, sun porch, weight room, in addition to other common areas.

Residents have full access to facilities and services offered at provided St. Camillus Heath Care Center, a 192 bed skilled nursing facility. Many have outside jobs and participate in volunteer work on the St. Camillus campus.

Built in the 1950's as a residence and later converted to offices, the entire house has been remodeled, repainted and redecorated. Much of the materials and work have been donated. According to Braddock, even Raphael House members have been involved renovations. Resident Terry Palzer found working on the house "rewarding" and recently completed the bathroom remodeling and continues to work on finishing touches despite being hooked up for daily IV treatments.

According to Palzer, who lived with his family before he came to Raphael House "People didn't understand the AIDS thing. If I wasn't feeling good, people just wouldn't understand that."

Another resident, thirty-four year old, Kevin Grayson, shuffled between friends and relatives before moving to Raphael House about four weeks ago. Despite some early concerns before arriving, he felt at home almost immediately.

"The first day I came here I felt a sense of calmness, I felt comfortable... totally comfortable and totally at home," said Grayson of his first impressions, "I was able to fall asleep right away, which is unusual for me because it usually takes a few days to get comfortable in a new place."

A common story among individuals with HIV, Grayson felt isolated and wasn't comfortable discussing his diagnosis or condition with others. That changed once he moved to Raphael House.

"It's been great to be here, I feel a sense of belonging," explained Grayson. "By coming here I've come out of the shadows and can now discuss my HIV status with

other people who have the same thing I do... I've become more informed about the disease."

Bill Godsell, the first to move into Raphael House has become the self-described "poster boy" for St. Camillus. He has remained asymptomatic for over a

“Sometimes, people who are infected don't want to seek support because they are too afraid to be pointed out at La Cage or M&M and have people say... oh that one, and that one and that one.

-Bill Godsell

decade with the philosophy of "as long as it doesn't bug me, I don't bug it."

Reflecting on how times have changed Godsell recalled, "When I was first tested they told me don't tell anybody, don't tell your partner, don't tell your family, don't tell anybody... because at that time they were burning down people's houses."

Before coming to the house, Godsell lived alone in a Greendale apartment. Godsell's desire to help combat his sense of isolation spurred the move. Since his time at Raphael House he's felt healthier emotionally than at anytime in the past eight years.

According to Godsell, "Sometimes, people who are infected don't want to seek support because they are too afraid to be pointed out at La Cage or M&M and have people say... 'oh that one, and that one and that one.'"

According to Braddock, A strong sense of community and a sense of spirituality and giving back to others has been shown to increase the quality of life and increase the life expectancy for those living with AIDS and HIV.

The Raphael House already has a waiting list, and requires only that residents

have an income of less than \$10,000 per year, can benefit from the services the house can offer and have a willingness to contribute to a common life.

The house is funded by the Order of St. Camillus and through fundraising events, donations are gratefully accepted.

Braddock says he continues to fight rumors about The Raphael House and St. Camillus Health Care Center. According to Braddock there are no entrance fees and you don't have to be Catholic or even religious to benefit from the services provided. Persons in need of help

are encouraged to contact St. Camillus.

Braddock hopes that other support groups, church organizations and parishes will recognize the cost effective and manageable scale of the small group home model and come together to start similar small groups homes across the country.

"The AIDS Ministry has benefited us as a religious community more than we could ever give back and The Raphael House has brought life to this campus like we've never had before."

Living life to the fullest seems to be a credo of the House. According to Bill Godsell, "I think the biggest misconception people will have is that it's just a house of doom and gloom and that we're all just sitting here with the bomb ticking, waiting to go off and that's just not the case."

But, added Braddock "There's no denial of reality here".

Randy James:

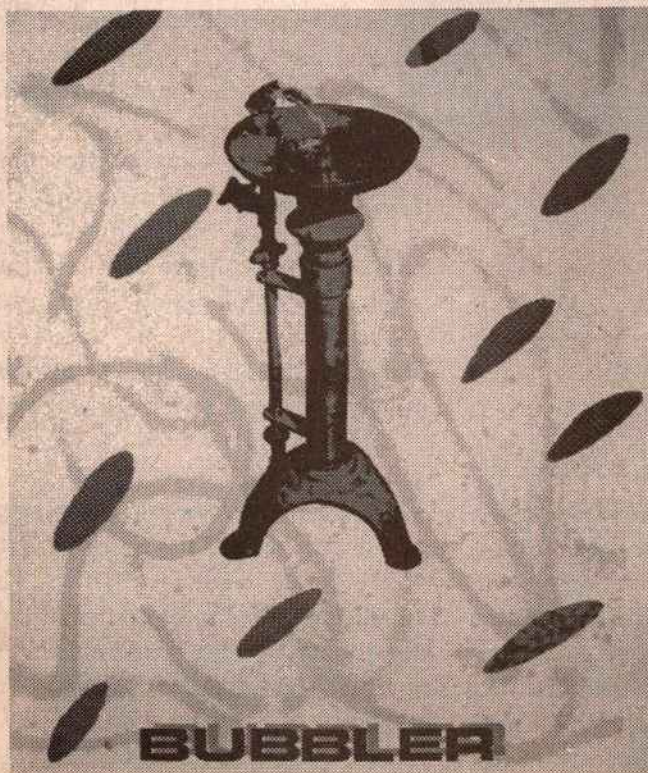
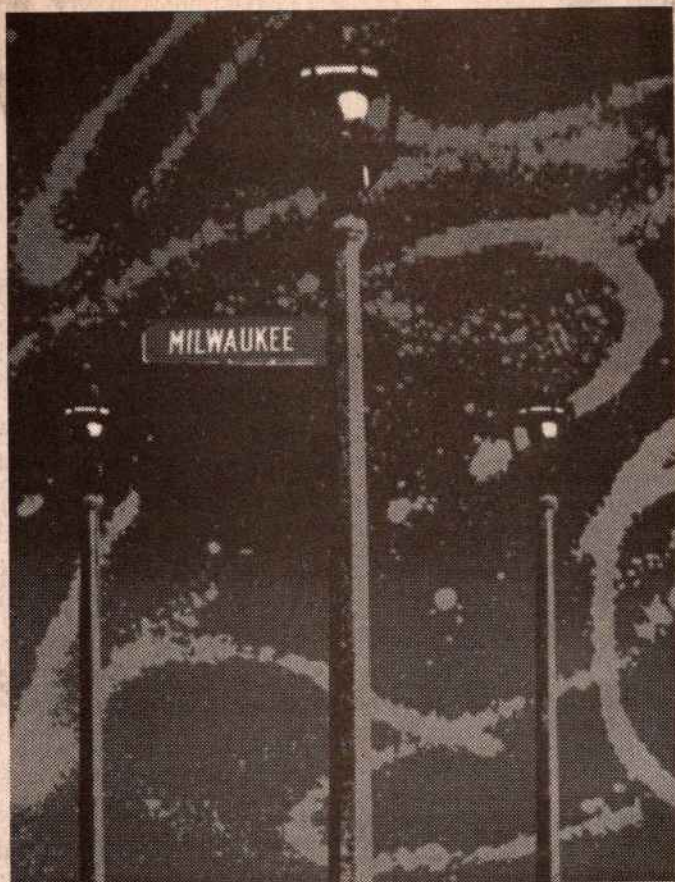
Punk ARTIST

Randy James is without a doubt one of the bad boys of the Wisconsin art scene. Perhaps those ger-eel folks who are regularly treated to his colorful serigraphs as they dine at the Cafe Knickerbocker are unaware of this.

While his Warhol-like screen prints of bubblers and harp lights capture the quintessential icons of Milwaukee, Randy James can be a punk. Anyone who caught his last show at Grava Gallery in 1993 knows his art can have an in-your-face immediacy that doesn't so much confront the viewer as accosts them.

It is when Randy James is bad that he is often at his best.

by Waswo



Having lived in Milwaukee for the full forty years of his life, James has become like bubblebers and harp lights, a too often overlooked fixture on the Milwaukee scene. He studied print making at Layton and The Milwaukee School of the Arts and developed after years of work in the industry. The tiny screen print shop that once stood on the second floor of the now legendary gay bar, The River Queen was home to Randy's labors for years. Some know him as "Butch", the tattooed bartender who for three years served up drinks at the Boot Camp Saloon. But those who keep up with Milwaukee's art scene know him as a talented image maker, a craftsman, and a social provocateur.

I visited Randy at his eastside apartment and we talked about his new show. With his heavily tattooed arms and snakeskin boots he seemed like a man after my own heart—the very picture of a rebel artist. Above him one of his more familiar works: a picture of the drag actor Divine emblazoned with the words "SHE DIED FOR YOUR SINS".

"I use to go to the old Irving Galleries on Wisconsin Avenue," begins James, "I'd hang out there. Of course I was influenced by Warhol. I was influenced by all of the Pop artists. And Op artists like Vasarely as well. I like to mix Pop and Op. I think that's when I'm most successful."

"Not everything I do is a screen print. I also paint in acrylics and aerosols. I start with my photos. Then I add textures and patterns. And of course a well chosen caption brings it all to life."

Randy's last show at Grava consisted of a variety of portraits of very public characters, such as Divine, Tammy Faye Baker, and also people not as well known such as Randy's own mother.

"The first piece in the show was an image of a skull. It carried the banner that was the title of the show: ALL IS VANITY. I hoped that it would invoke thoughts of the idea that we are all going to die. We go through a lot of painstaking applications each day to make ourselves look wonderful. But in the end we're all going to die. In my show I was trying to explore all of the ways that people are really vain. It was more or less a joke on vanity."

Mike Wavra, owner of Grava Gallery, remembers the show as being "simply

**"We go through a lot of painstaking applications each day to make ourselves look wonderful, but in the end we're all going to die".
-Randy James**

wonderful". But in true James style the show did not pass without incident. One of the prints portrayed a former heavy-weight in the local art scene—a prominent gallery owner and socialite. Across her face were the words JEW BITCH.

"I never hated her," explains James, "It was done in the spirit of fun. But the gallery received a visit from the Jewish Anti-Defamation League. I had a picture right next to it making fun of Adolf Hitler, hoping people would realize I wasn't anti-semitic. Yet people would come into the gallery and be offended that I hung a picture of Hitler next to JEW BITCH. They just didn't get it. It is a sad comment on some people's aesthetic illiteracy. I'd like

to reinforce here that I am NOT anti-semitic."

Grava Gallery refused to bow to overzealous political correctness. Mike Wavra kept the picture hanging where it was, and the whole incident has now become a minor legend.

So what of the new show? Titled TRUTH/ ORDER / JUSTICE, James seems to be exploring a variety of themes in his signature Randy James style. In Valerie Solanis Strikes Again James confronts his own mentor, Andy Warhol. The image is one of a Warhol self-portrait first used as a poster for Vidal Sassoon. But this particular poster found itself in Wyoming being used for target practice by a group of red-necks. Andy's face is disfigured by the bullseye that is his left eye. James has added the words I LIKE YOU FOR YOUR LOOKS and ANDY ASS-HOLE/A.K.A. DRELLA. The Valerie Solanis of the title is of course the woman who first, and in real life, used Warhol for target practice. Randy explains that though at first Warhol was a strong influence he now resents the inevitable comparisons.

"Warhol didn't invent screen printing! Lots of other artists were using it at the same time as Warhol. And lots of artists continue to use it to create images. Why should we all be compared to Warhol? Besides, Warhol wasn't bad enough. He did his skulls and Chairman Mao and the Death Series. But in the end Warhol was mostly into the Marilyn Monroe thing."

In another of the new prints we see girls and motorcycles and the words SO YOU WANT TO BE A BIKER CHICK?. The punch line seems to be the title: Role Model. In yet another print groupings of muscular young men compete for our attention.

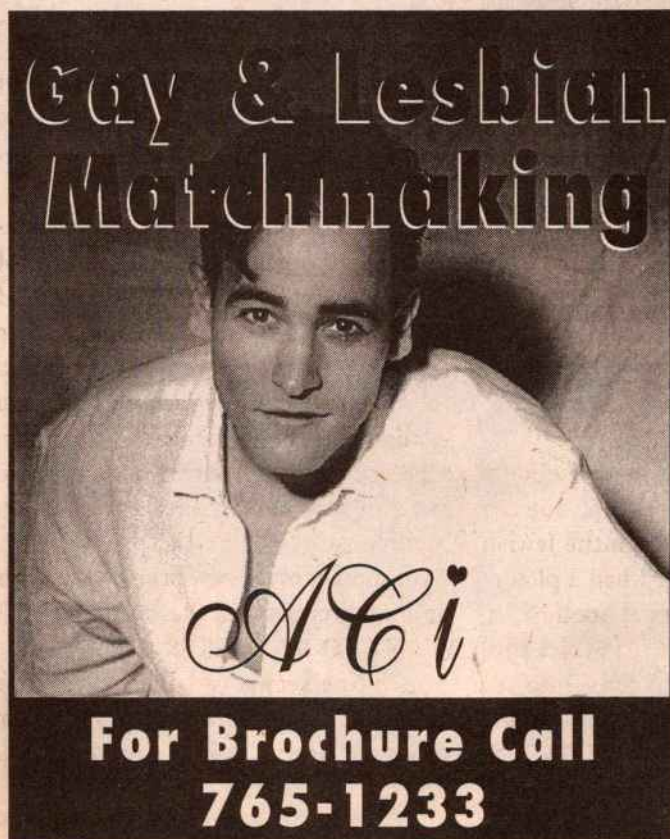
The caption: GENTLEMEN PREFER

GENTLEMEN--DIAL NOW GUYS ARE WAITING.

Some of the new works comment on personal stories and events in Randy's life. An image of a chain saw wielding madman with the caption WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO GET YOUR HEAD CUT OFF? is entitled *Susan's Mother Said So*. It refers to a personal anecdote. Randy's friend Susan got her first tattoo. Upon showing it to her Mom, Susan's mother said: "Why don't you just go get your head cut off?" Maternal concern at its very best. This may be the one failing of the new show; the viewer sometimes feels that he is being told private jokes that he is not privy to. But James insists that "People are more receptive to different things these days, the art scene in Milwaukee has definitely gotten better. And I've gotten better too."

There is no doubt that James always pushes limits. His Picture Film Strip, a serial self portrait of himself undressing, was included in a male nudity show at the University of San Francisco. Even his show at the rather austere Milwaukee Library featured a picture of the "Jesus Car" --the black hearse plastered with bible quotes and homophobic slurs that cruises Milwaukee's downtown streets. The caption? ONLY IN MILWAUKEE--THANK GOD. At age forty Butch Randall James remains one to watch. And one to watch out for.

*Truth/Order/Justice opens October 20th through November 30th
at the Grava Gallery, 1209 East Brady Street*



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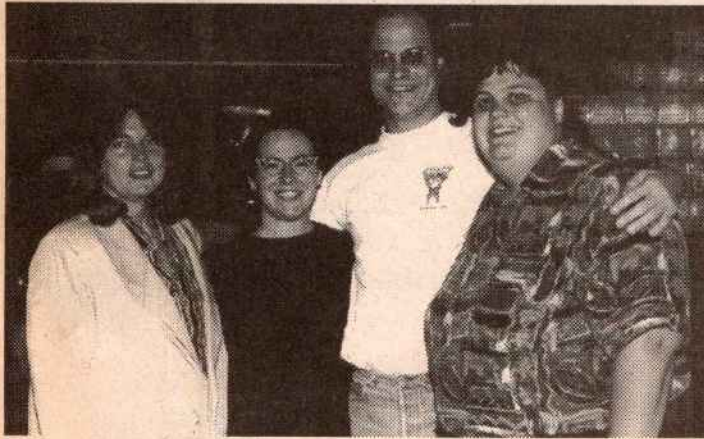
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Snap!

with Thom Moran



A big bowl of condoms at the Coming Out at the Bars event held this year at La Cage. Notable attendees SNAPPED below



Karen Gotzler, Kate Leman, Scott and Stephanie Hume



Janice and Ashley



Corky and B.J. Daniels



Wendy and Elaine

MUSIC FOR A QUEER PLANET



by DJ Mags

October has been designated National Lesbian and Gay History Month and with much-awaited new material from many old favorites and breakthroughs by several interesting debut artists, it's sure to be a big spending month for the music fanatics out there.

This month's featured album, *Out Loud* (Knitting Factory Works), includes many old favorites, friends of the community, up and coming new artists and is well worth the purchase price.

It's a seventeen track benefit compilation culled from last year's Out Loud concerts series staged at New York's famed Knitting Factory Club during Stonewall 25. Proceeds from the record will go to The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, making this collaborative effort between two sibling, Julie and Michael Dorf (Julie is the executive director of IGLHRC and Michael is the owner of the Knitting Factor label and club) the first to unite the pop music industry in the global battle for queer rights. Performers range from major label heavies like the **Indigo Girls**, **U2**, **Throwing Muses**, and **Everything But the Girl** to women's music circuit innovators **Girls In The Nose**, **The Gretchen Phillip**

Experience, the **Billie Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet** and **Betty**. Thirteen of the cuts are previously unreleased, making this eclectic queer project a must have for all serious collectors and fans of queer music. (Available by mail order through the Damron Company, 1-800-462-6654 or ask for it at your local music store).

Morrissey, the witty literary singer of **Smiths'** fame (and of no sexuality in particular) rocks out with his latest, *Southpaw Grammar* (Reprise). Longtime fans won't be disappointed and those who lost interest in *The Whining One* a while back may return to the fold after hearing this effort. Sounding a little more psychedelic than I can ever recall, **Morrissey's** long time backing band really stands out on this record. Providing the perfect sonic backdrop for **Morrissey's** lyrical ingenuity and trademark

vocal delivery. "The Boy Race" and "Dag-enham Dave" are the first singles to be released and the opening and closing epic-length cuts are highlights of the album. Be on the lookout for a tour later in the year and for die-hard fans, check out the new home video *Introducing Morrissey* (Warner/Reprise Video) which features excerpts from recent live performances.

Although you'll have to wait until next time for a review of her anxiously anticipated new album, *All You Can Eat* (Warner Brothers) **k.d lang's** new sound can be sample on the much buzzed *Friends Soundtrack* (Reprise) where her lush "Sexuality" is one of many highlights. **Joni Mitchell's** dancefloor-ready remix of "Big Yellow Taxi" wins as my favorite pick. Other choice contributions are made by

R.E.M., the **Pretenders**, **Lou Reed** and, of course, **The Rembrandts**.

In the singles file this month: a few months ago, the grunge/punk band **Babes in Toyland** did a clunky funky cover of **Sister Sledge's** "We Are Family" on their album *Nemesisters* (Reprise). Well now they've done an impressive, full-fledged club remix of the '70's classic, wit the help of legendary dance music mastermind Arthur Baker, complete with house beat and sans the grungy guitar. **Erasure's** first single, "Stay With Me" (Mute/Elektra) from their forthcoming self-titled album is surprisingly a moody ballad. There's one uptempo house remix on the single, the New York mix, but it's predominantly instrumental.

In the gender bending department: We don't know much about newcomer **Lisa**



—Babes in Toyland

Moorish, yet, except that she curiously chose to cover the **Wham/George Michael** hit "I'm Your Man" (ffrr/London) without changing any lyrics—and she managed to get George to sing back-up. The album version is a down-tempo jeep-style hip hop groove, and the house remixes were done by **Todd Terry** and **Cajmere**. I, for one, definitely look forward to hearing her full album in early '96.

Willing to say anything how I was doing things. And I miss just being able to call and talk about what's going on.

Q: Has your outlook on life changed as a result of your losses?

A: Yes, yes it has. I'm currently redefining who I am and what I'm doing. I learned a lot working in partnerships with my friend and my brother Christopher. But at the same time having those harsh critics looking over my shoulder all of the time in some ways constrained me. Now, I sort of feel like I'm out there on my own with nobody really watching what I'm doing. I can really define my activism, my activities with the show, without anybody saying whether or not it's good or a bad thing.

Q: So you feel like you're maturing more?

A: Oh, definitely. But it's sort of an out there alone sort of feeling too. I don't feel like there's anybody in my life right now who understands who I am and where I am at and where I'm going. I'm sort of on my own.

Q: Is that sad for you?

A: It's sad, but I'm starting to get over that long bout of sadness I've had for a couple of years. I'm really kind of invigorated lately, now that I'm trying some new things. I'm dating a lot and having a lot of fun.

Q: You said on your program that you quit drinking about five years ago.

A: Six years ago. July 12, 1989.

Q: How come?

A: I was blacking out, not knowing what I was doing. I had tried many times to quit drinking or to moderate my drinking and I was able to quit for a month. I think this is a common story... I would quit for a while, but once I went back I would progress into drinking too much. I didn't drink at home. I didn't drink alone. When I went out to the bars, when I was drinking, I would drink way too much.

Q: So, did you go to A.A.?

A: No. I just quit. Quit overnight. I was so scared by what I did one night, I wasn't sure if I'd done some things where I could have risked my life as for as AIDS and HIV. It scared the hell out of me and I was finally embarrassed enough and scared enough to just stop. I stopped the next day, I didn't stop going to bars. I'm sort of an unusual story. I don't find it hard to be around alcohol. Just for me, I decided that was the end of it. I expected that the only impact it would be was that I would just stop drinking, but what I discovered over the years that followed was that my life changed entirely because I wasn't drinking. That I was dealing with things directly and not hiding behind drinking. I hadn't realized I was hiding behind drinking. I was better able to talk with people, face to face. I became able to express myself. I used to think if I drank I would be able to pick up some cute guy I liked. But actually when you're drunk, you just sit there like an idiot and stare at people. I feel more confident. My whole life changed because I quit drinking. I got out of a bad abusive relationship. A psychologically abusive relationship because I quit drinking. It's still having ripple effects.

Q: Do you consider yourself to be an alcoholic?

A: I guess so. Yeah... I've never used the word much, but sure.

Q: Do you feel alcoholism is a big problem for gay people?

A: I think it's a big problem in every community. I've heard statistics there's more of it in the queer community and that would make sense just because of the oppression and the fear and the hiding that people go through. Definitely, at the bars it's a problem. I think alcohol allows people to hide. I don't preach against drinking, that's not my style. But I can tell people all the benefits that I had. I don't see any reason for people to drink. I can't imagine why people would drink. I watch

them at bars, they tell me what it is they're looking for out of the evening and I don't see them getting it because they're drinking. So, I think people would be a lot better off if they just stopped.

Q: So when you go out, where do you go?

A: Honestly, sometimes I go out on Saturday nights, I'll stop at C'est La Vie to watch the dancers that can't dance.

Q: John Clayton will be glad to hear that.

A: That's right. I go to Triangle, La Cage. Which is real funny because I wouldn't go to La Cage for years. Because it was very much a pretentious bar. But now it's a fun place to stand around and then look around.

Q: So, back to the show for a minute, who was the most interesting guest you've had on?

A: That's a tough one. We've done so many interesting things over the years. A real good show we did was when we interviewed Wilson Cruz, the openly gay actor who was on *My So Called Life*. We interviewed him by phone. But he was real interesting. He was much more personable than we expected and honest about his personal life and his attempts to commit suicide when he was a teen. It was a really good show because when we took calls a lot of queer teens who were watching called in to talk to him.

Q: Do you feel a responsibility that type of viewer?

A: For me, the best thing we can do is reach those people who are still in the closet... who have no outlet and just stumble on us. We must be to them, a tremendous resource. I think if I were a young person who stumbled on the show, where openly gay people are talking about themselves just having fun and feeling good about themselves I would have dropped over. I would have done everything I could to see it every week. ▼

Book Review

Susie Bright's *Sexwise:*

America's Favorite X-Rated Intellectual Does Quayle, Catharine MacKinnon, Stephen King, Camille Paglia, Nicholson Baker, Madonna, the Black Panthers and the GOP.

by Margaret Maree

It's probably a significant sign of the times that uncorking closed minds these days often hinges on having the good sense to relish more than the bubbles.

"I certainly was influenced by the women's movement, which took my feminine body/beauty ambitions to task," writes San Francisco-based author Susie Bright in her new book *Sexwise* (Cleis Press). "My imagination was captivated especially by gay liberation, which teased apart my apprehension about sexual desire."

Bright, the former editor of *On Our Backs* magazine and author of two lesbian primers, is known within both the queer and the mainstream press as a pioneer of sexual liberation and education.

Double daring readers to crash the party with her is what Susie B. does best, and fans of her earlier work won't be disappointed in the crossover from sexual mechanics to boisterous social commentary.

She challenges with eyebrow arched, "Andrea Dworkin is a sex symbol, as is Jesse Helms. I frankly don't think they have any business talking about other people's preferences if they can't uncloak their own."

With the muscle-memory of an athlete, Bright holds interest on a wide range of thorny issues that sprang from disparate decades, proving it takes a steady vision—not to mention patience—to rearrange the social order: Jimi (Hendrix), we hardly knew ya'. Gaydar and porn's female gaze. Racism, classism and homophobia. "what is it like for your identity to be defined by your relationship to a man? she boldly queries Angela Bowie.

Made for a woman but strong enough for a man, *Sexwise* pumps out some fairly sound advice: that confinement shrinks the brain and dulls the senses; that there's no window where one can view life without also being seen.

Blending wit with wisdom, some essays suggest the driving

heartbeat to high anxiety is people who are

unconnected and thus a danger

to themselves and others. Anti-porn despot Catharine MacKinnon is righteously blasted—though hardly incinerated, "If I believed that her cause was simply to make the world a safer, egalitarian place for women, I would take her aside and whisper, 'I think you've overlooked a few things.'"

Certainly the most dangerous trip is the one purchased with freedom and dignity; and the dramatic shift toward the less conventional may equal something less threatening. But some might quibble that it's one giant leap to equate sexual happiness with autonomy over ambiguity or neglect; that double standards explain an unfulfilled love life.

Ultimately, however, *Sexwise* send resonant notes from the frontier... yes, leave the flashlight-under-the-covers mentality behind with puberty, and, no, erotic freedom is not perverse. It just feels that way sometimes.

Alas, recurring hopes for the future stand in sad contrast to the present: "Sexual bigotry is still very much a religion, and the extent to which zealots and defenders of the faith fight for their prejudices is always mind-boggling."

Now say a little prayer for anyone caught on canvas by Susie Bright's word painting; it's about all they'll have to shroud themselves in. "Frankly, I'm sure my sex life could be better—so much better than I could possibly imagine—if their hands had never been around my throat."

Amen.

Cleis Press, \$10.95 Paper, \$24.95 Cloth



HANG-OUTS

1100 Club

1100 S. 1st Street
647-9950

A friendly, mixed G/L Leather-Levi crowd more Levi than leather.

38's Bar

1579 S. 2nd Street
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Ballgame

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Boot Camp

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643-6900

Infamous Levi-Leather cruise palace. Pretty, hairsprayed boys need not apply.

C'est La Vie

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291-9600

No-frills queer landmark bar. Drag queens and go-go boys can be spotted on weekends.

Club 219

219 S. 2nd Street
271-3732

Drag Queen Central on Sunday nights. Plus male go-go bunnies every Wednesday.

Fannies

200 E. Washington
643-9633

Popular Third Ward women's bar.

Just Us

807 S. 5th Street
383-2233

Proud to be your mixed bar. Boogie oogie oogie on the weekends and even a Friday Fish Fry.

M&M Club

231 S. 2nd Street
291-9600

Bona fide cocktail bar with regular live entertainment. It's also a lovely restaurant for you and your significant same-sex partner.

This Is It

418 E. Wells St.
278-9192

The famous Eastside "wrinkle room" features a diverse crowd of various ages plus a nifty jukebox.

Triangle

135 E. National Ave.
383-9412

Offering world-class cruising, videos, and an absolutely fabulous menu of tasty bartenders.

Wreck Room

226 East Erie
273-6900

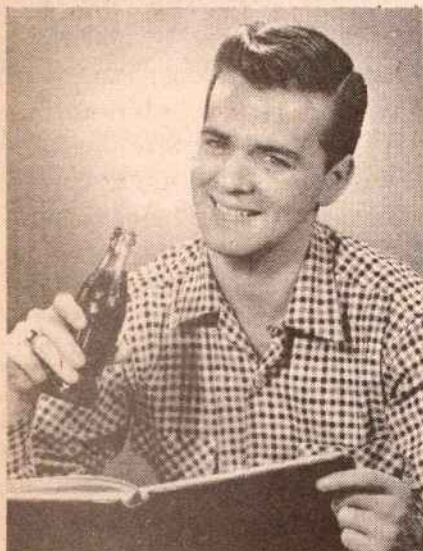
The Granddaddy of Milwaukee leather bars has a friendly attitude and busy back bar pool table.

Zipperz

819 S. 2nd Street
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If the name don't get you the drink specials probably will. A drinking man's bar with pizza sandwiches and pool tables.

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"To Die For" Is

Movie Review by Jorge Cabal

"To Die For," is Nicole Kidman's break through film. This will pave her path towards the multimillion dollar scenic route that Demi Moore is currently traveling. What's refreshing is that Nicole Kidman has kept her clothes on. Kidman will gain her own identity as an artist and will not just be known as Mrs. Tom Cruise.

The film was quick-witted and skillfully written by movie veteran and parodist Buck Henry. "To Die For" is satirizing America's vivacious appetite for the media, especially television. Now-a-days gratifying your growling stomach for sensationalism is as easy as tuning into the dozen or so talk show that are currently on the air. They usually begin in the mid-morning and go on through the late afternoon. The subject matter ranges from "grandmothers who bake cookies by day, C.I.A. death militants by nights," to Fat owners, thin pets." What's mind boggling is that in a time span of thirty minutes to an hour, any kind of problem presented will be resolved and neatly shelved until next time.

"To Die For," takes place in a small town Little Hope, New Hampshire. A series of headlines news from different publications is flashed across the screen apprising facts of a heinous crime.

Kidman plays Suzanne Maretta Stone. Suzanne Stone when on camera. She's a

young meticulous strawberry blond wanna-be Jane Pauley. Suzanne on the outside appears like a fine bone china porcelain doll perfectly dressed in Barbie-Doll couture and conscious of her weight. On the inside she's a manipulative iron whip ready to do whatever it takes to get what she wants, a spot as a national anchor on the evening news like Jane Pauley. Her ambition has distorted her perception of reality.

Matt Dillon, plays her loving Italian husband. Dillon plays the role in a charming, slightly offbeat way. He gives life to a rather subdued role. The role is a departure of the troubled teen and a new venture to adulthood for Matt Dillon. His aspiration is a normal, happy family, and to work at the family business. Eventually his aspirations clashes with his media driven wife's. Suzanne soon learns that her husband's vision is obstructing her up and coming future and like a bad TV movie, she will change the channel.

After landing a job in public access television as a weather girl, Suzanne decides to branch out as a reporter and film a documentary on "what's on teen minds now-a-days". She meets three detached, socially unaware teenagers for her project: Joaquin Phoenix, Casey Affleck and Alison Folland. Joaquin Phoenix, the younger brother of the late River Phoenix, gives an honest performance as an awkward teenager stuck in a monotonous life. His world is turned around once he meets and

falls in love with Suzanne. Phoenix's smile toward Suzanne depicts a gleam of hope for a clean new world. Phoenix also delivers a strong realistic performance in a scene where he's simulating the ecstasy of oral sex being administered. It was reminiscent of his brother's performance in "My Own Private Idaho," another Gus Van Sant film. Suzanne affects the three teenager's lives much like a commercial that promises a new way of life after you use their deodorant.

"To Die For," keeps your attention from start to finish. It's intrusive style lures you into the scene just like your watching Oprah. The original score by Danny Elfman sets the tone for the film, you almost got the impression that you were watching one of those bad science fiction movies about a TV monster from hell terrorizing the small town of Little Hope.

One line that sticks in my mind from the film is "you're not anybody in American until you're on TV: How true is that line today?"

Nicole Kidman is worthy of an Oscar nomination, her performance was outstanding and comically charged, echoing Kathleen Turner's bravura performance in John Water's "Serial Mom".

Gus Van Sant's film "To Die For", is.



Rating: 4 stubs out of 4

The Casual Observer

by ED-NA

MAKING SOAP

A review of *True to Desire*, which had its debut on MATA - Channel 47 at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 1995. Episode 1.

The usual rating system: ★★★★★ to :(:(:(:(:(:
(4 stars to 4 yucky faces)

This monthly LesBiGay soap opera/series produced by the Brandon Marsh Entertainment Group (BMEG) promises "community exposure to positive role models as well as entertainment, highlighting new LesBiGay music artists, and providing just plain fun. The majority of the actors and production staff have extensive experience in TV and public performance."

First things first: Everyone involved gets an 'E' for effort. I know the amount of planning and work that goes into producing something like this. It ain't easy folks!!

I, among many in our community, was all primed and ready to go. The TV, and VCR were all ready to record. I was taping this show as a favor to a friend who doesn't have cable. What with 10 episodes to go, its going to be a labor of love.

The series begins with some preparatory scenes. We start with a morning-after-the-night-before sex scene, followed in quick succession with stills and the title page (not bad, but it should have come first); a scene at Cindy's apartment where Andy gives her the news of the mugging; a hospital close-up view of the victim with a flashback of the mugging (tastefully in shadow) and a return to the hospital room; and then, we go through an interminable arrival sequence (I assume that was Milwaukee, or are we keeping it a secret?). WHEW!! We were introduced to the main characters who represent about every aspect of the community except S&M. Maybe that's to come later. No one, so far, seemed to be that positive a role model. We certainly got a liberal dose of a young, oversexed, Sissy Mary, and I didn't find THAT positive! The lesbian representation at this point is questionable except for the character of Cindy, played by

Cheryl Sullivan who seems to know what she's doing on the set. The characters of Andy and Jamie, played by R.E. Manville and Ron Zamora respectively, both seem to be caring and show some promise. Future episodes will tell!

The mugging victim, who was in a coma, was on a SATIN PILLOW in the hospital. The lover was allowed to sleep over, draped on that pillow like Desdemona. It certainly wasn't like any hospital I've ever seen. AND . . . the doctor at the hospital was UNbelievable. Did you check out that DO? I'd have run like the devil was after me. Is this supposed to be CAMP? If it is, I'm sure we can do better than that.

We met a Bisexual female character, a straight(?) male character, a gay daddy and (surprise!) his gay son, including other supporting cast members. All in all I found that most of the players mumbled. A LOT!! The music was like some dreadful grade 'D' porno flick. The filming/editing was sporadic, wandering, and jerky. I find it difficult to understand why, if one is sending a positive message, that the poster in the bar that promotes "SAFE SEX IS HOT SEX" is only photographed from the bottom. They cut it in half! A small incident to be sure, but an important

"WHEW!! We were introduced to the main characters who represent about every aspect of the community except S&M. Maybe that's to come later"

message... these days! And, I know that was supposed to be an ARTY shot in the bar before the son and daddy meet. It wasn't. All that stop action. JEEEEEEZ!

The commercials, (yes, I watched those too) were fine except for the PETA one with River Phoenix. Didn't that one die of an overdose of some kind? Again, not a positive role model. I'm sure BMEG could have edited that out. I thought that the AFP (teen suicide) and America Responds to AIDS commercials were important to our community. And, that reminds me, I didn't see one condom used, or even talked about, in that apres sex scene at the beginning.

In conclusion, I think that this cauldron of SOAP needs a lot more cookin' before it will wash. :(:

Digital Frontier

Cool and Not-So-Cool home pages we've visited this month:

The Marilyn Monroe Home Page

<http://www.ionet.net:80/~jellenc/marilyn.html>

This binary shrine to the queen of dead female icons is chocked full of really cool, downloadable Marilyn graphics with obligatory filmography and mini-biography. A must stop for Monroe addicts and the curious alike and nowhere near as tacky as Elvis sites we've seen. *Our Grade: B+*

Urban Desires

<http://desires.com/issues.html>

This bright and beautiful, Big Apple based e-zine bills itself as "An Interactive Magazine of Metropolitan Passions". Past issues feature short essays on topics ranging from kids with AIDS, to S&M, to the social-sexual impact of the Ken and Barbie dolls and more. Original web-art and photographs along with fun, insightful writing and neat-o graphics make Urban Desires a hit. Semi-regular Miss Vera runs Miss Vera's Finishing School for Boys Who Want to be Girls and could have given Wesley Snipes a few pointers. *Our Grade: A*

Gay & Lesbian Star Trek Home Page

<http://ccnet.ccnet.com/gaytrek/>

Use you modem to beam aboard the *USS Harvey Milk* and explore the strange new world of *Stonewall* as Gay and Lesbian Trek-0-Philes share commentary, reviews and stories about their favorite sci-fi show. Sorry, no explicit sexual fantasies about Data or speculation on Kirk and Spock's secret love affair. But, you can sign a petition asking for a positive gay or lesbian character to be featured on Voyager. A must stop for G/L Trekkers, for the rest of us, set phasers on yawn. *Our Grade: C+*

The Safer Sex Page

<http://www.cmpharm.ucsf.edu/~troyer/safesex.html>

Got a hot date tonight? Before you hit the sheets, download a convenient safer sex guidelines cut-and-fold display for your nightstand, view a video on how to put on a condom or visit a multimedia exhibit on safer sex from the comfort of

Other Points of Interest:

Queer Infoservers: Health & HIV/AIDS

<http://www.cmpharm.ucsf.edu/~troyer/safesex.html>

OUT Magazine

<http://www.out.com/>

Rainbow Mall

<http://www.electriciti.com/~rainbow/page1.html>

OutProud

<http://www.outproud.org/outproud/>

Digital Queers Home Page

<http://www.dq.org/dq/>

X-Man Homepage

<http://minuteman.com/xman/>

GLAAD

<http://www.datalounge.com/glaad/glaad.html>

Deaf Queer Resource Center

<http://www.hooked.net/users/dqrc/>

Condoms of the Month Club

<http://netcenter.com/netcentr/adult/condom.html>

your PC. While there's no pornography there are hot links to scores of AIDS and HIV resources around the globe, access to brochures, important phone numbers and businesses. This is a must stop for serious AIDS educators and professionals, Doug Nelson are you listening? *Our Grade: A-*

Know a great web site?

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.....

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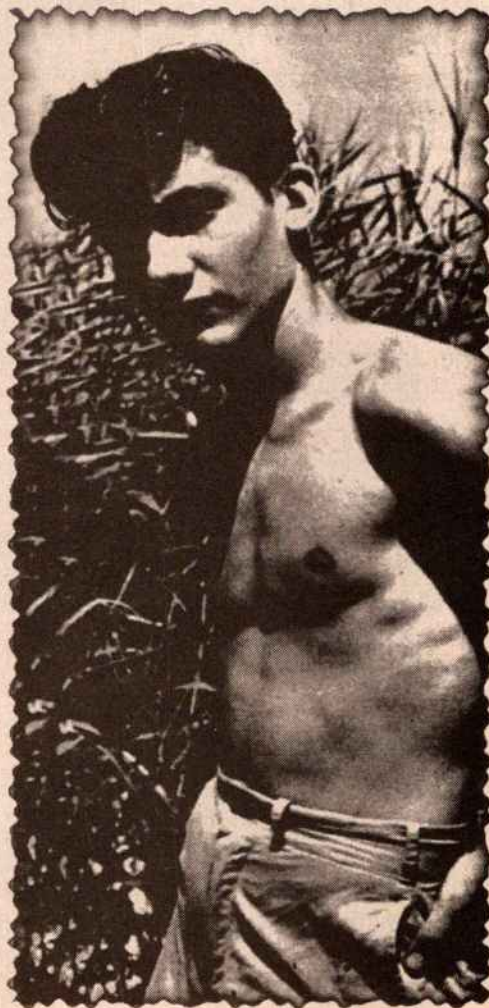
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Star Patrol



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aries • (march 21 to april 20)

Lady Luck is on your side. You'll be able to unlock secrets and be a sly detective able to solve your problems. You will benefit this month from behind the scenes activities and conversations. What you secretly plan in October will yield success in November.

taurus • (april 21 to may 21)

You will benefit from friends who will show you the way, open doors and point you in the right direction. Be at social events and parties where important people can meet you. Luck comes through others this month.

gemini • (may 22 to june 21)

Your usual mental alertness is even more intense and probing this month. No one will put a fast one by you this month. Quick vacations yield fun.

cancer

(june 22 to july 22)

Focus on health matters this month. See a doctor now for an accurate diagnosis and quick recovery. Matters with co-workers can be quickly smoothed out. In fact, through your career peers, you advance.

leo • (july 23 to august 22)

The stars bring you luck in love affairs. Cupid's arrows hit the mark and admirers seek you out. Enjoy the attention now as this romance cycle ends by December.

virgo • (august 23 to september 22)

A serious romance takes shape. If you are starting a romance your relationship will be blessed. Partners will be more

dependable and agreeable this month. If single, the hunt for a serious relationship heats up.

libra • (september 23 to october 22)

You'll have good luck involving other people's money. You're in a good tax period. Money-savings tax planning taken into control now can save you big bucks on next year's taxes. As a sidebar, you should be lucky in love and feeling very sensual this month.

sagittarius

(nov. 23 to december 20)

Now is a good time to decide the fate of your education and solve your schooling problems. An upcoming vacation will be pleasant and hassle free. It's a good month for self reflection.

capricorn

(dec. 21 to january 19)

Phone calls, letters, signing important papers and agreeing on contracts are all blessed by the stars this month. It is a good time for quick jaunts with close friends.

aquarius • (jan. 20 to february 19)

You will find the right job soon. If you are having trouble with your boss, a good compromise can be worked out this month. Also, someone is not telling you the whole truth.

pisces • (feb. 20 to march 20)

Luck on the homefront helps with all real estate matters and affords you the opportunity to find a new place to live and prevents any major hassles with your current residence.

scorpio
(october 23 to nov. 22)
The coming two week cycle is ideal for stimulating your own creative energies, for starting any personal projects such as new beauty, health or exercise program and for recapturing that old magnetism. Your personality is now your biggest asset, don't let all that charm go to waste. Existing relationships can now be improved & deepened

Me and My Cat

Fluffy

I am convinced cats were conceived, not only as the official gay pet, but as Mother Nature's very own Safer Sex monitors as well. To illustrate how felines perform this function, let's look at how I spend a typical Saturday. I'd been preparing for a date all day long (it took nearly four hours and a quart of styling gel just to sculpt my hair into the PERFECT hairdo) Ben was set to arrive at 9:00 pm. Dinner to be served promptly at 9:30 and, if things went according to plan, PASSIONATE, HOT sex would begin by 11:00 pm. The following minute by minute diary chronicles the events of that day.

12:30PM I come home from the grocery store with the ingredients for dinner. Fluffy greets me at the door purring. He falls to the floor at my feet and rolls over, paws in the air. I plan on being that submissive for Ben tonight!

1:00PM Fluffy decides it's dinner time (his stomach obviously ignoring his usual 5:00 pm feeding) he yowls, dances, rubs against me and finally, in desperation, bites a golf ball-sized chunk from my calf. It must be 5:00pm in cat hours.

1:01PM In self-defense, I bribe Fluffy with a kitty treat.

1:02PM He swallows it whole.

1:03PM As though re-enacting that scene from *Alien*, Fluffy throws up the treat wrapped in a nasty, damp hair ball. Can cats be bulimic? I make a note to ask the vet.

1:04PM Jumps on dining room table, cleans himself, leaving enough fur on the table cloth to make a small sweater. Heads upstairs, afternoon nap.

4:48PM I open a can of cat food, Fancy

Feast's "Tender Liver and Chicken Banquet with Walnut Glaze". My mouth begins to water, it smells better than the meal I'm cooking for Ben.

4:49PM With the whirr of the can opener, he careens down the stairs (apparently breaking the sound barrier as evidenced by a loud "sonic boom") he bolts into the kitchen, knocking over his water dish. He carefully avoids the expanding spill and throws me a condescending look, making me feel like I'm the captain of the Exxon Valdez or something.

5:01PM Tender Liver and Chicken Banquet with Walnut Glaze is completely devoured.

5:02PM As he cleans himself, I discover that "sonic boom" was actually my new crystal vase filled with flowers, now destroyed. Fluffy yawns on his way back upstairs.

9:06PM Ben arrives!!!!

9:15PM Fluffy stalks downstairs, leaping from like Carl Lewis from the 13th step. He soars 17 feet to my lap, claws digging painfully into my thigh. The impact COMPLETELY collapses my hair-do! He begins purring immediately.

9:16PM Ben screams, "What in the hell is that, a badger?"

9:17PM I explain that Fluffy is my cat and just a bit on the heavy side (he weighs close to 25 pounds, the vet says he should go to Overeaters Anonymous or people will start mistaking him for a throw rug) I introduce them, "Ben, Fluffy.... Fluffy, Ben." BEN HATES CATS, and Fluffy isn't too thrilled with Ben either.

9:30PM Dinner is served.

9:31PM Fluffy feels left out and decides to join us. I "shoo" him off the table, but not before he sheds a handful of hair all

over Ben's pasta. Ben's appetite is ruined, mine too. While Ben orders a pizza, I lock Fluffy in the bedroom, he is not amused.

10:02PM The pizza arrives! The cute delivery boy seems familiar. Suddenly, I remember he has a birthmark shaped like Nevada on his butt. I quickly tip him entirely too much and shut the door.

10:32PM The pizza is gone, the mood more romantic... we're finally alone! I've set the volume on the CD player to 9 in order to drown out Fluffy's whining.

11:00PM Right on schedule, foreplay begins!

11:02PM We decide to move the action to the bedroom. I have completely forgotten about Fluffy. This is a big mistake.

11:04PM I nearly fall down the stairs after getting my ankles tangled in my underpants.

11:05PM In the bedroom there's no sign of Fluffy, but I notice my new satin sheets to ripped to shreds.

11:10PM HOT and HEAVY. Suddenly, out of nowhere, Fluffy appears at the end of the bed, glowing eyes piercing the darkness. Ben notices, wilts. He says he can't possibly get, well.... excited if that "hateful, voyeuristic hell creature is going to sit there and stare at him, it's sick!". Ben suddenly remembers an early morning appointment and must leave immediately. He'll call. Right.



As you can see, Fluffy did promote Safer Sex simply by not allowing us to consummate. It's hard to be angry with him when I'm sure he had my best interests at heart. Anyway, who ever heard of a gay man who didn't like cats?



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