

Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Monthly

Q.Voice

November • 1995

Men

(mĕn) *n.* 1. Adult male human beings. 2. Husbands, lovers or sweethearts. 3. having the qualities consistent with manliness.

at

(â) *prep.* 1. Used to indicate position or location: *at home; at rest.* 2. Used to indicate a direction or goal: *look at us.*

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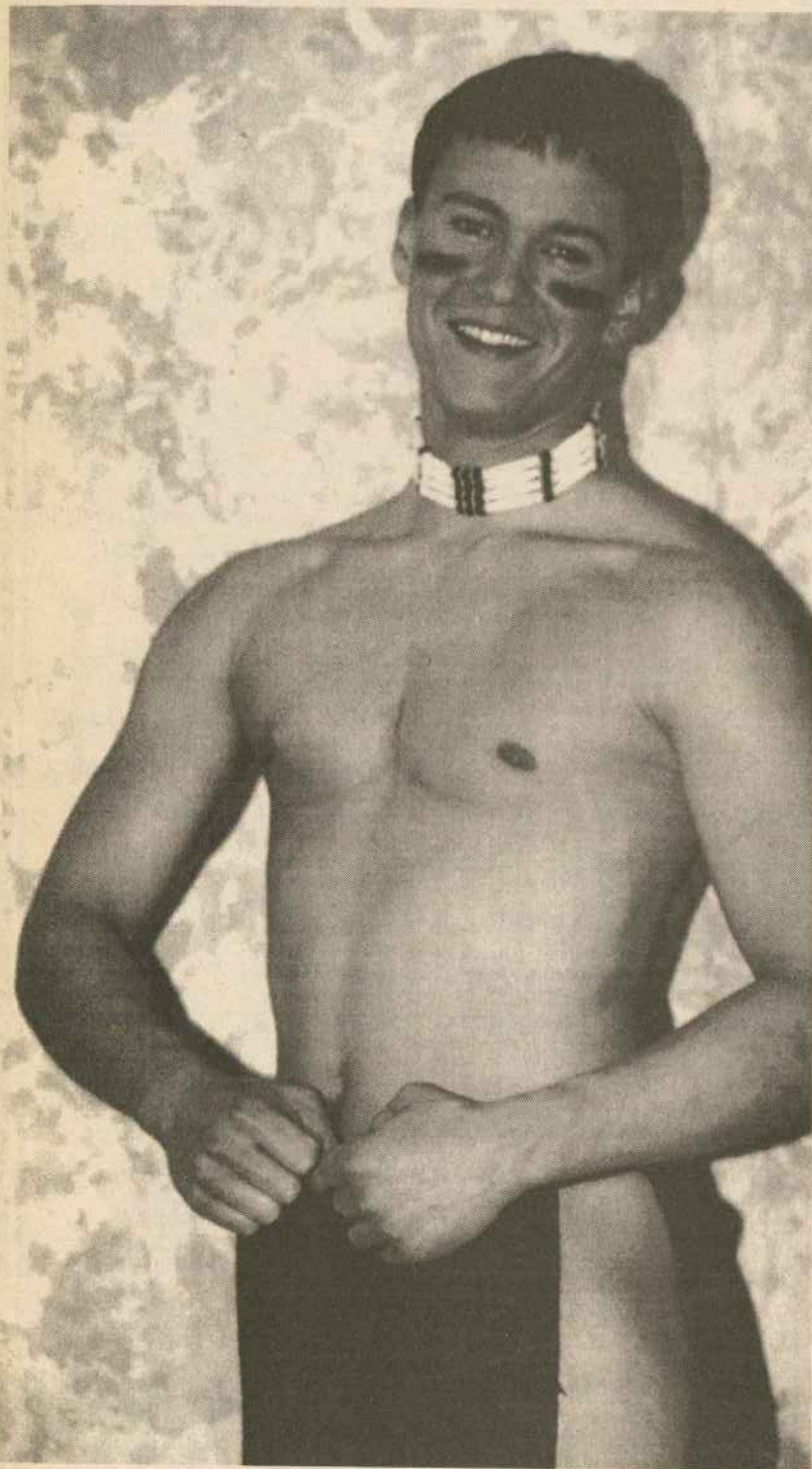
A program offered
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OUT Front

Guest Editorial by BJ Daniels

A Community of One's Own

The words "gay community" form an enigmatic phrase. It means many things to many people. In my own experience, the definition of the gay community has changed and evolved over the years—as I have. When I first *came out* in the gay bar scene of Madison in the late 70's, my community was defined by the disco. It was a safe, circumscribed way to explore not only gay sexuality, but gay social politics as well. My goal at that time was to be a **bar star**; it was the highest form of acceptance in my eyes and the only thing that mattered. Gender bending was the ticket for my ride, and I pursued a drag career with fierce determination.

In the early 80's, AIDS reared its ugly head and forced the community to change. Political organization gained prominence, and an awareness of the many facets of gay life filtered out to an ever-widening audience. Fragmented as we were becoming, my personal sense of community remained in the gay nite clubs of Milwaukee. I felt that the stage I performed on was becoming a useful and much needed tool for observing our far-flung gay community. While respected for contributing to political fundraisers and publicizing various causes, I realized that indeed I had come a long way from being a bar star of the less political, *feel good* disco era.

Growing pains are inevitable in any

community and ours is no exception. The late 80's became a time of struggle for a more definitive community that would gather all of the loose ends and tie it up into one nice little rainbow package.

Now that I have retired from the stage, my view has become much broader. Everything I thought I knew about the gay community has changed. I have come to the conclusion that it is a gigantic jigsaw puzzle where all the pieces create an incomplete picture. It is a picture that is abstract yet nonetheless beautiful. It is in a constant state of transformation, but the only definition that will make it clearer is one that realizes that the gay community begins and ends with our individual thoughts and deeds. That is, as the gay community becomes an infinitely heterogeneous collection of people, we need to focus inward to see how our own ideas and activities create particular, yet shifting, senses of community.

It is important to realize that as gays and lesbians, we don't have to agree on everything set before us—we can be comprised of fractions without being fractious. What we should agree on is that the gay community is what YOU make it; where you find it at any given time in your life will change, but it can be there—wherever YOU are.

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LETTERS

PREMIER ISSUE FALLOUT

It sucks. Nothing but rehashed stuff published weeks ago in the other papers plus a few pictures and an interview. Big deal.

Anonymous
from the Internet

Congratulations on your premier issue of Q•Voice. The cover with the color picture of Joe is very eye catching. The quality of the print and the half-tones are good too. I don't always find this type of quality in *In Step*. I saw the interview with Bill Attewell on the Queer Program. Nice job.

So, all the best in the future and count me in as a subscriber when you get that set up.

Dan Lagerman
Glendale

I would like to congratulate you on your new Q•Voice publication.

I found your premier issue to be informative, humorous and intellectual-



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ly stimulating. I appreciated your coverage of the local art scene in particular. I hope that in coming months you will expand this feature.

Patrick Farrell
Milwaukee

NO TOE ZONE

Wow! You outdid yourself! Renew my subscription! I was ready to subscribe to *The Onion* until I saw the premier issue. I glanced inside and didn't think I'd make it home. The premier issue kept me excited for weeks. The models were gorgeous. My only complaint is that there were no full feet shots. What's with gay photographers and feet, -they either crop off the photos at the ankles or leave off the toes! (Dan Fons pg 16). I suppose I'll have to replay *True to Desire* to get a glimpse of those magnificent appendages.

Tom Livieri
Milwaukee

(Please check out page 23 of this issue for partial toe photos or try hanging out at the Dr. Scholl's display at the new Osco)

-Editor

BOW WOW WOW

TO: Q•Voice
FROM: Pitbull (my Master's away, and asked me to paw you a few lines!); Master is Mark Behar
RE: Premier Issue Q•Voice

Hi Guyz!

My Master brought home a copy of the premier edition of Q•Voice and before he gets a chance to drop you a line, I thought I'd voice a few woofs, having read it while he was fixing something.

Except for that stupid piece about your dumb-ass cat "fluffy", it was pretty interesting! It's about time that *Light*

and *In Step* have a "competitor" publication, presenting another unique perspective so desperately needed in this town! My fuck-buddy Red Dawg (you may have seen him on TV) sure thinks so, and his and my poochy pals agree that there is a need for more communication and more viewpoints among all of us 4 and 2 legged mammals.

My Master, by the way, thought you may have totally lost your marbles, since he knows what an effort it is to pull together a whole new publication. He admires your efforts and asked me to heartily congratulate you. Now, for some specifics:

Andrew of America's piece was quite good. Me, myself, I didn't get it, but it did make me fantasize about going to the vet. Ughhhh. All those nasty cat smells. The interview with Danny-Boy Fons, the TV Boy was really wonderful. My master and I agree on that one. It was slick how you introduced the issue of alcohol and AA. The whole thing was sensitive and insightful, and brings an interesting "Advocatesque" approach to Milwaukee celebrities." Both Master and Pitbull really look forward to seeing more of these.

The Het-ro questionnaire was fun, but the alleged author plagiarized that from stuff Master said he'd seen back in the 1970s. "Everything that needs to be said has already been said, but since no one was listening, it all needs to be said again."

Home Sweet Home, Casual Observer, Digital Frontier,... all great pieces. The Casual Observer was the first time I can remember a real review that was constructively critical of a gay production of any kind.

Well, again both our congratulations of your work. Master said (but what does he know??) that he was proud to see your personal work at this level of professionalism and skill, and

just hopes you and your production team don't burn out on a deadly form of addiction— newspaper work!!

Pitbull

YOU GO GIRL!

I really enjoyed the first issue of Q•Voice. I especially enjoyed the "Heterosexuality Questionnaire". Why can't people understand that homosexuality is an interesting genetic occurrence that has existed since the beginning of time. Like a four-leaf clover, or a blue diamond- just another beautiful variation of natural- natural, yet special and unique, something to be treasured.

The "moral majority" has justified every prejudice ever inflicted on man. Ignorance is nothing new- it has also existed since the beginning of time.

But, the danger is to fall victim to the prejudice, and to give in to the constant taunts. Only when all gay and lesbian people stand up for themselves and their rights will the majority have to take them seriously.

Gay and lesbian people have the same right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as everyone else, But, sometimes you have to fight for what you know is right.

If you speak loud enough they will listen; if you stand close enough they will see you. If you ever think of giving up, or think that nothing will change, just look back to the south of the 1950's. Change does come, it just takes work and an unshakable belief in what is right.

In the final analysis, very few things stand the test of time. Fame is fleeting, youth vanishes in the blink of an eye, and friends move away. The one true measure of success in one's life is to find lasting love with another human being. The kind that can't be shaken. When two people find that love, only a

fool would mock it. Stop listening to fools.

I know its hard to stand up against such a formidable front as the "moral majority", but, it has to be done. Because whoever put the "moral" in "moral majority" obviously dropped one hit too many.

Why not declare January "Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Freedom Month" A month when all gays and lesbians get up the courage to go out on the town to the malls and theaters. To the city restaurants and the skating rink at Cathedral Square openly holding hands, kissing and expressing their love. A month to say "enough". A month to wander from the small, confined strip of land on the east side and claim the City. The light is flashing in the tower- it's time to move.

**Karen McKeever-Neithercott
Milwaukee**

MADISON UNITED'S ROLE QUESTIONED

It has been about six months since the United Board of Directors fired, then Director, Jane Vanderbosch. Jane had been doing an exemplary job in her tenure at the United. A few weeks prior to her firing, she received a unanimous vote of confidence from the United's Board of Directors for her superior service. Upon return from a short vacation, Jane was summoned into the United office, and for no stated reason was asked to resign or be fired.

While the current United Board of Directors has done everything to "hush up" and hope their action will go unnoticed in the community, there has been some fallout. There is a definite disunity and coldness in the air. Board members, when asked, decline to discuss the grounds for terminating Ms. Vanderbosch's contract. Some past supporters of the United have even

gone on record decline to support the organization for its mistreatment of Jane. Such an atmosphere of silence is not goo for Jane, the United or the Community.

To date, I am aware that no legal action has occurred. So, I have two questions. First, why does the United's Board of Directors continue to be silent on this issue? And secondly, why has the press not investigated this issue? If the United is going to continue to provide leadership for the community, it can not proceed, as it has, in a conspiracy of silence. The United must be up front with its constituents and the community if it is to maintain its integrity.

**Ed Check
Madison**

The Leader is Available

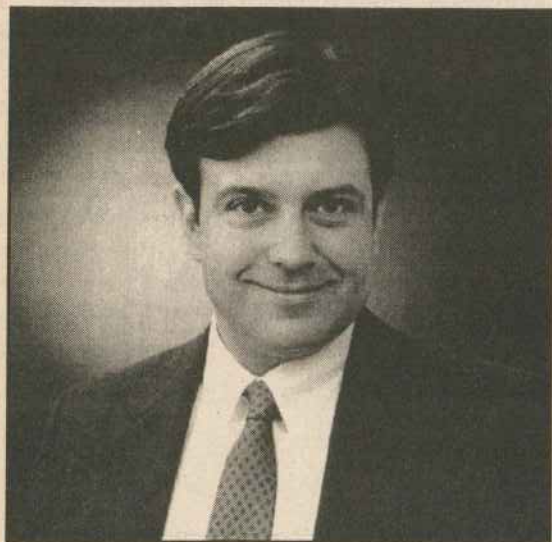
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"Quips & Quotes"

On Uranus

"Right job. Wrong planet."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., on the presidential candidacy of anti-gay right-wing California Congressman Robert Dornan.

Isn't that Richard Gere's Territory?

"You know, it's funny to think that people are looking at you and thinking, 'There goes a man who puts hamsters up his bottom.'"

—Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys to London's *The Guardian*

Try Some Lysol

"I made sure our lips were clean and everything. I made sure I got a little disinfectant, and we both did that. It wasn't fun, though."

—Actor Leonardo DiCaprio to *USA Today* on kissing another actor in the forthcoming film *Total Eclipse*

I Want Marty Burns Wolfe's Opinion

"The only people who will attend this PrideFest are bitter and unhappy... people who want to shock and lash out."

—WISN radio's resident homophobe Marc Belling on PrideFest's move to the Summerfest grounds

Sleeping with the Fishes?

"You guys think everybody's gay. You think Tom Cruise is gay. If Tom Cruise was gay, don't you think somebody would have told the tabloids they'd slept with him by now. You think he shoots everyone he sleeps with?"

—Roseanne to the mostly gay audience at her "Bitchfest" comedy show in West Hollywood.

"Oh, she's gay."

—Roseanne seconds later when an audience member yelled, "What about Jodie Foster?"

Think Safe Thoughts

"If I blow your mind will you promise not to think in my mouth?"

—from the Internet

Collected from my crack news sources around the world
along with the able assistance of Rex Wockner

Seen a good quip or quote? Clip it and send to Q • Voice,
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GAYS: RABIN WAS PRO-GAY

Tel Aviv- Israeli gays say the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was a blow also to the gay cause because Rabin was actively pro-gay. Rabin reportedly helped change regulations that barred gays from high-security jobs in the military, and once assisted a reserve officer Uzi Even, who had lost his security clearance because of his sexual orientation.

In addition, the Nov. 6 issue of the newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* noted that Rabin had helped a Palestinian gay man from the Gaza Strip achieve permanent-resident status in Israel so he could live with his lover.

The French gay group Homosexualities and Socialism, Nov. 6, sent a letter to Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres honoring Rabin for that move, calling it "a simple and grand gesture... showing his respect for life and love, this force that brings people together without any nationalities, borders, religions or conflicts."

BRITISH MILITARY BAN UPHELD

London- Britain's Court of Appeal Nov. 3 upheld a lower-court ruling retaining the ban on gays in the military. Three gay men and a lesbian who were kicked out of the armed forces had challenged the policy, calling it "absurd, outrageous, perverse and impossible to justify."

But Court of Appeal Judge Thomas Bingham ruled, "The existing policy cannot in my judgement be stigmatized as irrational at the time when these appellants were discharged."

Britain's Defense Ministry believes homosexuals undermine efficiency and

moral. The plaintiffs will appeal to the House of Lords, Britain's highest court, and, if they lose there, to the European Court of Human Rights.

Some 260 homosexuals were kicked out of the British military between 1991 and 1994, according to the latest figures.

ASSUIE'S STATE TO REIN IN TOILET COPS

Melbourn- The state police in Australia's New South Wales have issued a groundbreaking plan on policing of "beats," semi-public places such as toilets and parks where men meet for sex.

"When targeting offensive behaviour at 'beats' the first operational consideration

should be given to using marked police vehicles and uniformed police to achieve a high-profile prevention and apprehension role," Commissioner A.R. Lauer wrote. "There is little evidence to suggest covert operations carried out in 'beats' are an effective type of policing practice. Evidence suggests police may instead be faced with allegations of entrapment and agent provocateur, particularly when an arrest has been made of a person who claims they have been encouraged to make a sexual advance to the arresting plainclothes officer."

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NOTES & NOTICES

MAP Appoints Lishawa as Client Advocate

Milwaukee— Executive Director, Doug Nelson announced MAP has created a full time Client Advocate position designed to help resolve client problems and assure access to services. Jerry Lishawa has been appointed to the position while a formal search is undertaken.

Lishawa is a gay man living with HIV and a client of MAP. He has served as a Special Events Manager with the AIDS Resources Center of Wisconsin for nearly two years. According to a statement released by MAP, the Client Advocate will report directly to executive management.

"We are taking immediate action to solve client problems," Nelson said. "MAP provides a huge array of client services and it's clear from the gay and lesbian forums that some of our clients are having difficulty accessing them. That's unacceptable. The Client Advocate will break down the barriers, cut through the red tape and get quick action on client problems and concerns."

Currently, MAP serves 834 clients living with HIV or AIDS. Each client is assigned a case manager who is responsible for coordinating the services the client receives. Presently, each of MAP's ten case managers is responsible for more than 80 clients.

Some forum attendees stated they, or people they know, have had trouble reaching their case manager. According to MAP, the Client Advocate position is designed to assure that everyone who needs to get through immediately will be able to do so.

"The case manager will remain the clients' primary point of access to MAP," Nelson explained. "They are the professionals who know the systems and can get

things done. But, if there's a problem getting through to case management, or housing, or legal services, or health services, or any other program, the client advocate is the point person who will get resolution within 24 hours."

The Client Advocate can be reached by calling (414) 225-1595. Lishawa will answer all calls

St. Camillus AIDS Ministry Seeks Volunteers

Milwaukee— Saint Camillus AIDS Ministry has announced its development of an Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver's Program. The IVCP will represent an interfaith mix of faith congregations from within the community of Southeastern Wisconsin. Volunteer caregivers are caring persons of any age who seek the personal spiritual fulfillment by giving of themselves to people with HIV/AIDS in need of assistance.

The most common kinds of help given by volunteers will include: transportation, shopping, respite care, light housekeeping, personal care, assistance in paying bills and managing finances and meal preparation.

The volunteers in this program will assist persons in need, and their families without any restrictions of age, gender, race, income, sexual orientation or denominational affiliation; nor will they subject the people they serve to evangelization. Interested congregations and faith communities are invited to send a letter of interest to St. Camillus AIDS Ministry, attention Brother Stephen Braddock, O.S. Cam., 10101 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53226

Survival/Revival to Host Christmas Party

Milwaukee— Survival/Revival resale shop will host a Christmas party at the store on Friday, December 1 between 4pm and 6pm. Santa's elves will distribute small gifts to children under the age of 12.

Survival/Revival, whose proceeds benefit the programs of the Milwaukee AIDS Project opened on December 1, 1994. In honor of its first anniversary, selected items will be marked down up to 50% and a birthday cake will be served. The store is located at 246 E. Chicago Street.

Imágenes Contra Del Sida (II) at BESTD Clinic

Milwaukee— The second half of an art exhibit on HIV/AIDS themes by Hispanic artists is now on display at the BESTD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street. The 18 piece show will run through the end of the year. Part one of this unique show had been displayed earlier in 1995, and was recently shown at the United Community Center.

The entire exhibit has been made possible by the collaborative initiative and funding of the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, The Midwest Hispanic AIDS Coalition and the BESTD Clinic. The artists in this series are from Spain, Latin America and the Caribbean. Information, prevention, and building a sense of community around people living with HIV/AIDS are the three major goals of this exhibit.

Ross Walker, President of BESTD stated that the Imágenes exhibit is bound to inspire, help people modify their behavior, better understand and become closer to others.

The public is welcome to see the exhibit Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 9pm; and Thursday and Fridays between 10am and 5pm.

PrideFest to Move to Summerfest Grounds

Milwaukee- Milwaukee World Festivals, Inc., has approved PrideFest's request to use a portion of the Henry W. Maier Summerfest grounds for next year's PrideFest scheduled for June 7, 8 and 9. The vote by the twenty-five member board was unanimous.

A statement released by PrideFest co-chair, Bill Meunier read, "We are very pleased with this vote. It allows us to produce the best PrideFest yet. We will keep the community informed as our planning progresses and we will be providing more information about our relocation and our reasons for it in Mid-November."

The Summerfest grounds are leased to Milwaukee World Festivals by the City of Milwaukee. According to Ted Kellner, president of Milwaukee World Festivals Inc. the decision by the board is "a done deal."

Response to the board's actions at the Summerfest offices been mixed with dozens of phone calls coming from supporters and non-supporters alike.

Commenting on negative reaction by some to Milwaukee World Festivals board decision, Kellner stated, "Too much has been made of this. To me it's a non-issue. We're here to serve all members the community, this is part of our mission."

Marge Beil, assistant to Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist stated, "PrideFest has always been a wonderful festival and has a positive economic impact, adding money to the Milwaukee economy every year."

Beil added that the Mayor is always interested in making the very best use of city facilities.

PrideFest first began negotiating with World Festivals for use of the Summerfest grounds at the end of summer 1994 for the 1995 festival. Concerns over scheduling conflicts with other festivals, such as the 1998 Harley Davidson festival and timing constraints caused the PrideFest board to select the lakefront Veteran's Park site for the 1995 festival.

Due to rising attendance, PrideFest moved the annual June celebration from Juneau Park to the county's Veteran's Park in 1994. Attendance at the 1995 PrideFest was estimated at over 12,000 persons.

The 1996 PrideFest will not utilize the entire Summerfest grounds. Plans call for the festival to use the Miller Stage area of the Summerfest grounds as the main staging area of the festival along with adjacent Summerfest facilities as necessary.

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Homophobe Two-Step

According to San Diego's *Update*, local residents Kelly Quinn and Richard Westberg went to a local Arthur Murray Dance Studio to cash in a gift certificate good for one series of dance lessons, which included one private lesson, two group lessons and two parties. Owner and manager of the studio Chuck Carr, greeted the men and told them they were welcome to dance together in the private lesson, but that they would not be allowed to do so in the group sessions because, "It's just not normal for two men to dance together."

In a telephone conversation, Carr stood by his comments adding, "Why, do you know how many homosexuals I've taught here and in Hollywood? You can't imagine. Hell, send me 5,000 homosexuals. I'll teach them; but I won't let them dance together in the group."

In the future, Quinn and Westberg will be taking their lessons elsewhere.

It's Mom's Fault

According to a report by the Associated Press, scientists have found new evidence that a gene inherited from mothers may help make men homosexual, bolstering a similar study back in 1993.

The latest study does not identify a specific gene, but suggests such a gene resides in a particular region of the X chromosome, one of the microscopic thread-like structures that carry genes. Men inherit the X chromosome from their mothers.

Apparently there is no way to know how strongly the gene influences the development of homosexuality in men. Researchers looked for such an effect in women but found no evidence for it.

Channels 10/36

Where Are You When We Need You?

The Question of Equality a four-part series on past and current efforts in the lesbian and gay rights movement is airing on PBS this month, but not in Milwaukee! Call Bryce Combs, General Manager of channels 10/36 at



297-7661, or Channels 10/36 at 271-1036 and bitch up a storm.

Those of you with cable can catch it on Channel 21, from WHA in Madison. Mary Roder of programming was kind enough to give us the following information about the series. We've already missed part 1, so here's the rest:

Part 2, Culture Wars; airs on Friday, November 17 at 11pm.

Part 3, Hollow Liberty; airs on Friday, December 22 at 11pm.

Part 4, Generation Q; airs on Friday, December 29 at 11pm.

Does "CPW" Stand for Censored Park West?

According to a newsflash from the Hollywood paper *Variety*: CBS' nighttime soaper, *Central Park West* was originally supposed to include a gay male character, -an out staff member on the show's fictional magazine, *Communique*. But CBS, apparently got cold feet and worried that a gay character would alienate middle-American viewers. So CBS executives allegedly ordered CPW creator **Darren Star** to get rid of the character, who was then made into a heterosexual woman.

Sounds to me like a good topic for the next Ricki Lake Show; Prime Time Sexual Make-overs!

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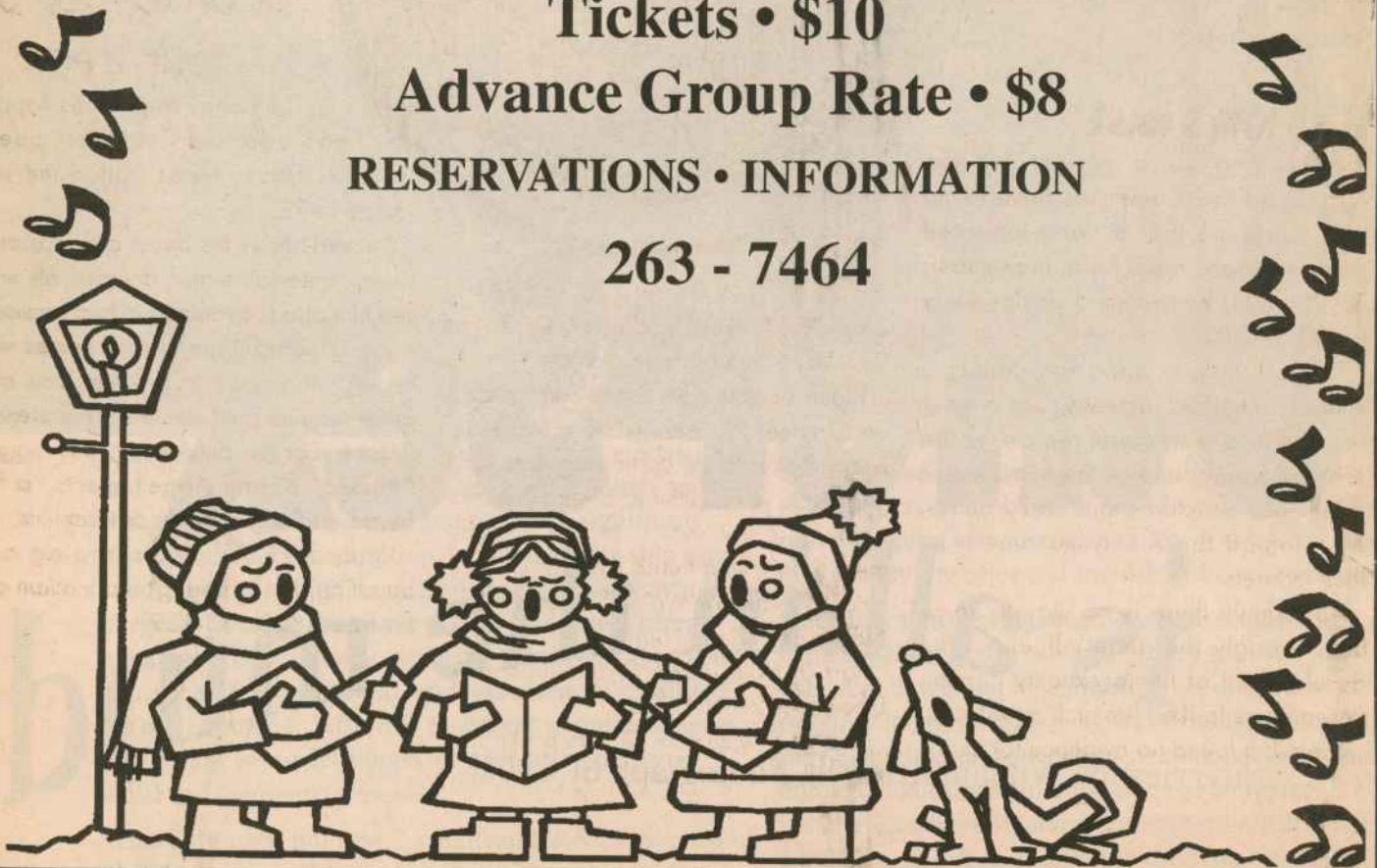
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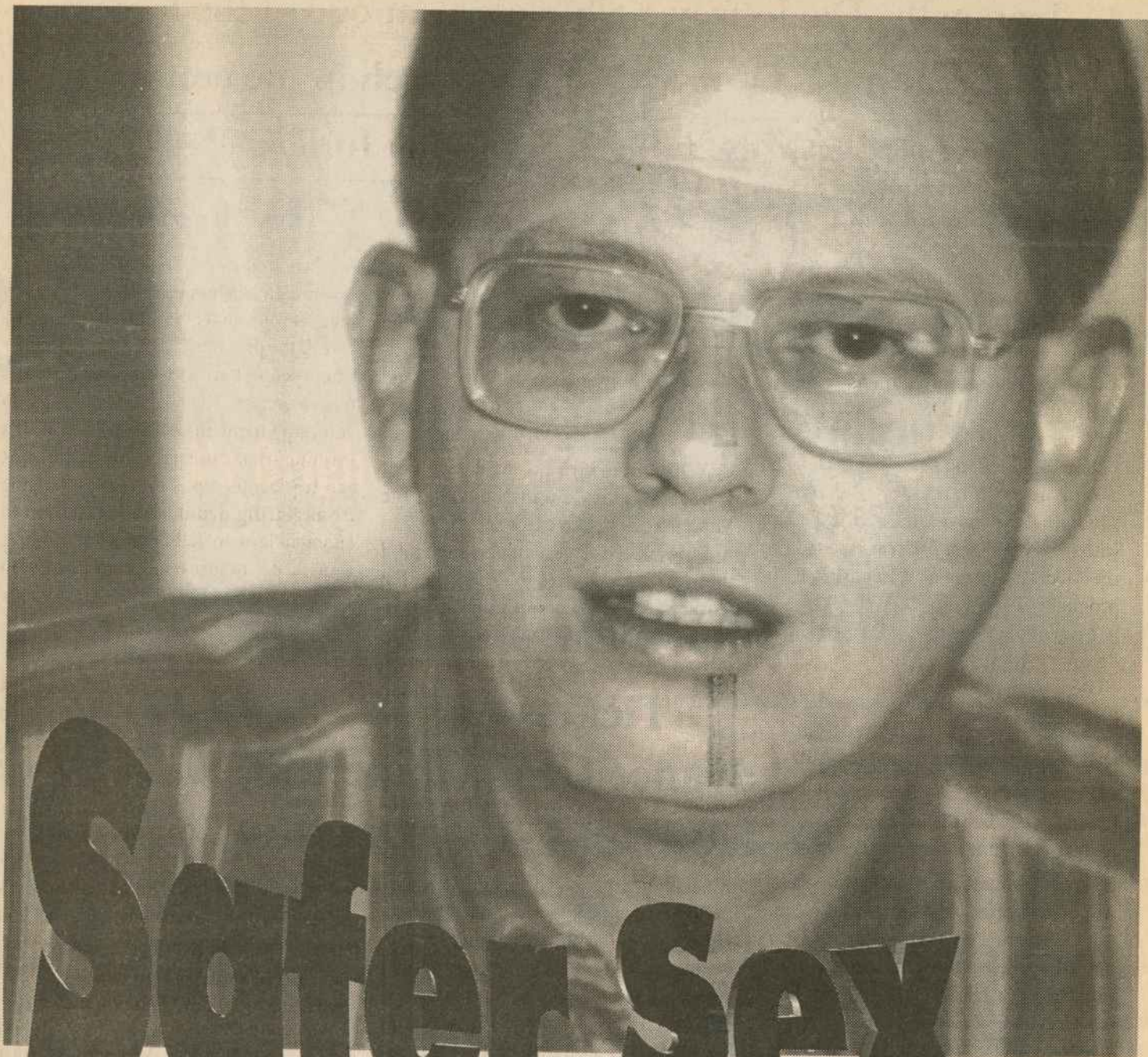
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Safer Sex is all in the mind.

Interview by William Attewell, Photograph by Cabal

Ironically, Dr. Jeffrey Kelly's office at one of the largest centers for HIV prevention research in the country overlooks Milwaukee's notorious Juneau Park.

Kelly, heads the Center for AIDS Intervention and Research (CAIR) which conducts numerous behavioral research projects designed to develop improved strategies in dealing with the AIDS epidemic and for HIV prevention.

Born in Cleveland in 1948, Kelly earned a Phd in Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine. He moved from Mississippi with his lover almost five years ago to head the Medical College of Wisconsin's CAIR program.

I recently sat down with Dr. Kelly in his Prospect Avenue office to discuss AIDS, HIV prevention, his relationship of nearly 25 years and coffee houses.

Q: So how many people work at CAIR?

A: About 45 people.

Q: And you're like the big cheese?

A: Yeah (laughing)

Q: What is your focus here?

A: We're the best kept secret in the country. There are three research centers funded by the National Institute of Health with the focus being HIV prevention. One is in New York) at Columbia University. One is in San Francisco at the University of California at San Francisco and one is here. We're one of the three centered here between the two coasts. What our job here is, is to find better ways to do AIDS prevention, to look at what's going on out there now and then say we're not doing good enough, how can we do better. We're funded primarily by the National Institute of Health to do these projects that basically try to advance from first generation to

second generation to third generation; always taking what the norm is right now in how we do AIDS prevention and saying it's not good enough, what can we do better; then testing ways to do it better. And then, when we find approaches that are better, we communicate them to the field.

Q: What have you found the best approach is for doing that, taking the Milwaukee as city for example?

A: Milwaukee is a very interesting and, I think, important place to do this kind of work; because it's a second-tier city in respect to AIDS. HIV came here later than in New York or San Francisco. Infection rates are still relatively lower. In San Francisco half of all gay men right now have the HIV infection. In New York City it's about 40%. In Milwaukee it's a lot lower. The question in a place like Milwaukee is what can we do to keep it that way? Let's try to avert infections and take that money and direct it toward taking care of people with HIV. The issue isn't AIDS education anymore, it really isn't. Everybody already knows everything they have to know. You'd have to do a survey on Mars to find somebody who doesn't know the essential facts. But the question now is how to we get people to put that knowledge into effect, and then how do we help people to do it consistently. And how do we get people to do it in a way that they are proud of and feel good about, rather than being afraid and frightened, which isn't very good.

Q: So, you do part of that by personal contact and your Men at Work program. What is that all about?

A: There have been about 500 participants in our Men at Work project, so a lot of gay men in Milwaukee have been there. The core of the program is a one-day workshop where people have a little tiny bit of education to preface. The whole focus is how do you implement the change. Part of it is learning what can trip you up. And what can trip people up is everything ranging from getting drunk and messed up to falling in love or "falling in like" as people actually do; to just really being lonely, to really really being horny. And they are different for everybody.

Q: How often does that go?

A: We had been doing it most weeks, most Saturdays, for example. It is sort of spaced out now and it is going to be phasing down probably towards the first of the year.

Q: Phased down, or phased out?

A: Not sure. A lot of the people who wanted to participate have. And by the way, it's about 40% African-American men. You know, a lot of programs do a real good job at reaching 40 year old white guys and that's not where the epidemic is anymore. The epidemic is an epidemic of youth, it's an epidemic of color. Another piece that we focus on is how to negotiate being safer. Risk always happens when two people agree indirectly, or directly, to do something that is risky for one or both of them.

Q: What do you find to be the most frustrating in communicating that?

A: I think the frustration that I have is that we have sort of convinced ourselves that

AIDS prevention is AIDS education and then we've kind of let go. I think we've underestimated how hard it is to change behavior and how hard it is to maintain change in behavior. And, we have to develop models that go beyond giving out a brochure.

Q: The change is more on a personal level?

A: Yes. We have to develop approaches that don't treat everybody the same. It's a very different situation affecting the young guy that's meeting people and survives by having commercial sex versus somebody who's very middle class and doesn't have very much going on his life. They are different cultures, different issues.

Q: How do you successfully reach such diverse groups?

A: We talk to AIDS organizations who say, "Gee, we'd like to do workshops on safer sex, but no one will ever come anymore, it's not 1984." In '84 everybody came because everybody wanted to know. Now, nobody will come because they already know. There's another issue with our prevention approach, and that is what we're really focusing on, which is why should someone come to Men at Work. Well, one reason is to protect themselves, but there's a bigger reason which is to learn how to talk about it with other people and help them protect themselves. There is an enormous amount of altruism and concern in wanting to help our brothers and sisters stay safe. The idea isn't to come to this because you're doing risky things in 1995. The issue is to come to this so you can learn some real substantial strategies so that the next time you're out drinking you can talk to your friends and maybe save some of your friends lives.

Q: It's almost an evangelistic approach?

A: We want people to be expert resources to their own friends. You know, the first approach is the face-to-face kind of workshops, but we're not going to stop AIDS by putting everybody in mental work

groups. There is a bigger issue, which is how are we going to change the community norm. How do we make staying safe to be the accepted, expected thing to do in your circle of friends.

Q: Almost like how smoking has become stigmatized?

A: You can go that way and say unsafe sex

"You know, a lot of programs do a real good job at reaching 40 year old white guys and that's not where the epidemic is anymore. The epidemic is an epidemic of youth, it's an epidemic of color."

-Dr. Jeff Kelly

is really bad, or you can go the other direction and say being safe is really good. People who are being safe are not only doing the right thing, they ought to be heroes, and people who are being safe and then talking other people about being safe are *real* heroes. That's an approach we've taken in another project that we actually did in 19 cities across the country. We did this through gay bars. We went to bars in fairly small cities, 1/2 a million. We met with all the bartenders in all the gay bars and asked the bartenders to watch the crowds for a couple of weeks and to jot down just the first names of the people they thought were popular, very well liked people. We matched all the bartender lists together and we could identify this core group of what we call "opinion leaders". Interestingly they were not always gay men, 1/3 of the people were women. We asked the opinion leaders, "Do you want to be part of something that can stop HIV infections in your city?" And, everybody

said yes. We had our opinion leaders go through a four-session program where we taught them exactly how to do it. How to convey useful recommendations and implement change to their own friends. How to say in words, 'this is something I've taken seriously and this is what I'm doing about it, I'm not perfect... but I'm trying'. This group of key people would go out and start conversations with everybody they knew. Hundreds and even thousands of these conversations. What we're trying to do there is a process that resets the norm. The most popular, well liked people, your buddies, are saying, 'not only it is okay, but it's good to be safe'. And what we find when we do that is the risk behavior levels in the population of people who go to clubs in those cities is down by about a third.

That's a huge change. A third of the people who formerly were having unprotected anal intercourse with people they didn't know very well, stopped doing it.

Q: How did you get to such heavy involvement with AIDS and HIV research?

A: When AIDS came along I didn't believe it. I said this is something that the Reagan administration has concocted to create a bad image of the gay community and well... I was wrong. And a lot of the work I'd been doing involved skills and interventions. We teach people to be assertive or to manage people. What can you do other than hit them. The idea is of building interpersonal skills to handle things. It occurred to me... that knowing something isn't enough to motivate behavior changes and I became interested in that.

Q: The course of your life has changed because of that.

A: Sure, everything I do. I work 12 hours a day, every day of the week.

Q: Do you get afraid of burning out?

A: A lot of what we do is prevention. And prevention, especially if you've got things that work is inherently optimistic. I think that if I were seeing patients with AIDS, seeing these people all day long, I think I would have burned out a long time ago... it's not so much burnout from emotional things, it's this incredible urgency... it's like there's no time; 80,000 people a year are contracting HIV now, after we've been doing prevention for fifteen years.

Q: What do you think the stumbling block is?

A: We have a whole lot of stumbling blocks, and they are political and involve the failure the policy makers of the country to care early on. I think right now the obstacles are cutting spending... let's not spend anything on prevention, let's not spend anything on services.

Q: What does the future look like for this epidemic?

A: Epidemics take a while to build up steam. This has been around for many decades and it was never noticed... you don't notice something until many years after its been there. But here's a couple of scary things, a quarter of all new HIV infections are occurring for people under 21. We know that young kids and young adults are contracting HIV pretty much at the same rate that their older brothers were ten years ago... this is not okay. There are some real unique issues for AIDS prevention among young people. One is kids never have any peers with AIDS because if you're 18 and you contract HIV you probably won't get sick until you're 28 and you're no longer a kid. It's all hypothetical to them... it's not hypothetical in older people. So how do you help people change in the face of something that is very hypothetical.

Q: You've just written a new book, what the title?

A: Changing HIV Risk Behavior

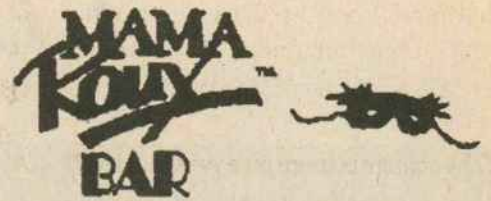
Q: Is this coffee table reading or is it kind of dry?

A: It's kind of dry. It was written for people who somehow do HIV prevention, and basically what's the science with what we know about how to do this. How do you translate the science of face-to-face counseling, and how do you translate this into community interventions and things like that. It's not quite serious enough to be an academic book and it's not quite light enough to be a popular book. I'm not planning early retirement on this. The way these things go is you get your royalty check after a year and cash it in a Coke machine.

Q: How many books would you be happy selling? How many did they print?

A: I don't really know, a couple thousand. I think its going to be who reads it that makes me happy. If the book is read by gradu-

Continued on page 41



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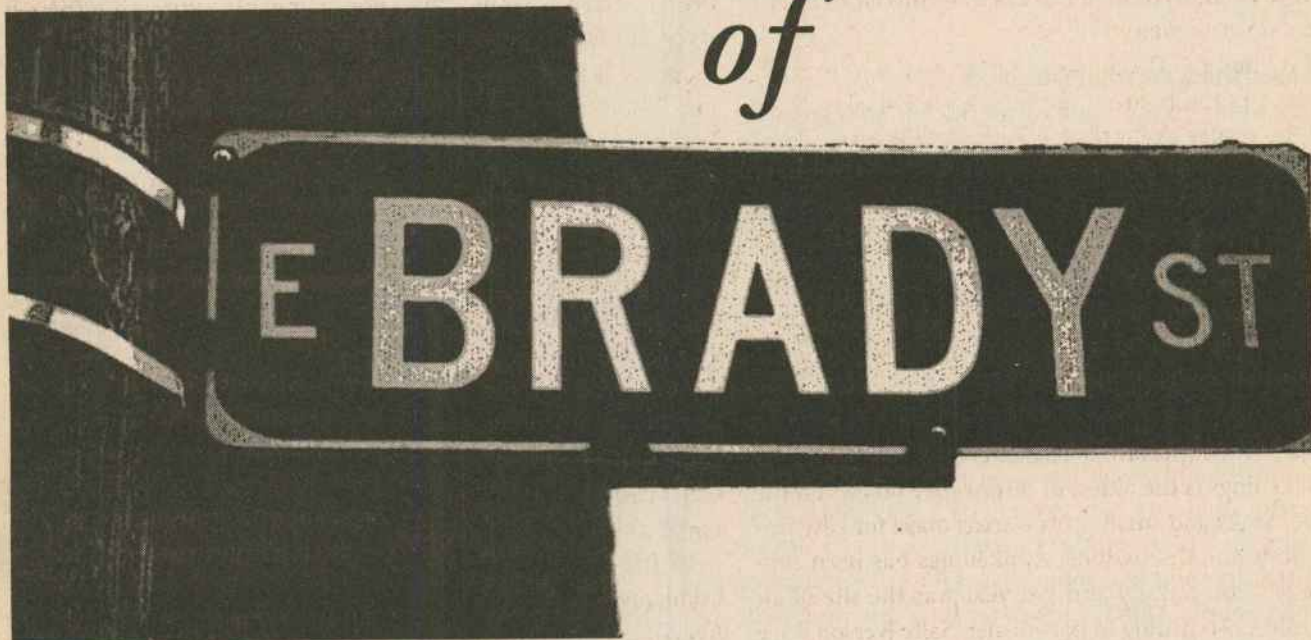
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The Gaying of



**Will community owned
and supportive businesses
turn this popular eastside
strip into Milwaukee's
version of Castro Street?**

By William Attewell

It's no big secret the East Side of Milwaukee has an abundance of gay owned and friendly businesses along with a diverse ethnic, social and racial mix. But, with the recent \$1.6 million remodeling of Brady Street and the influx of new gay owned and gay friendly businesses, the street is finally experiencing its long anticipated rebirth.

The heavy work on the street is nearly complete with only finishing touches yet to be added. Complete are the new streets, curbs and sidewalks. The city has installed new harp lights and planted trees. Kiosks, benches, stylistic trash cans and etched sidewalk art have yet to be added.

The unique green wavy concrete sidewalk and crosswalk strips were designed to reflect the street's connection with the waters, the Milwaukee River at the West and Lake Michigan at the East end of the street.

The Brady Street STD Clinic has been a longtime solid resident of the street, first opening its doors there in 1982. The exterior of the building has been restored to conform with its original 1985 appearance and ongoing interior remodeling has recently been completed.

The renovation has allowed The BESTD Clinic to offer two

upstairs meeting rooms for community use. The space has been utilized by such groups as PrideFest, Different Drummer Theatre, SOS and other support groups. Gay Youth Milwaukee and a Gay father's groups will take up residence there in January. In fact, PrideFest has moved to permanent office space above the Brady East STD Clinic in July.

When asked about their new offices, PrideFest co-chair Bill Meunier commented, "We love it, it's very convenient. The BESTD Clinic was very generous to us."

Erv Uecker of the BESTD Clinic also serves on the New Brady Street Area Association board of directors. He believes Brady Street turned the corner about three years ago, "Businesses have finally started to come in rather than move out."

One of those new businesses is City Grill, opened in August. The restaurant anchors the west end of Brady and is across the street from the recently remodeled Giovanni's. City Grill features "California Cuisine" and has received positive reviews for their use of fresh ingredients and multi-ethnic influences in their dishes and it is a smoke-free restaurant.

City Grill welcomes Gay and Lesbian diners and according to owner, Tip Rojas, "It's important to us that everyone is welcome."

Brewed Awakenings is the oldest of three coffee houses on the street. Intimate nooks and small private areas make for easy private conversations and discussions. Awakenings has been supportive to the gay community and last year was the site of an ACT-Up fund-raiser. According to part-owner, Sally Iverson, "We treat everyone the same, we've very non-judgmental."

The Nomad too, welcomes gay and lesbian coffee drinkers. As a coffee house/bar, Nomad bills itself as a "travelers pub." It features world music and often has live entertainment.

Just a short walk off Brady and north on Humboldt brings you to Milwaukee's first eastside gay pub in over 11 years, Mama Roux. The river front bar has made a commitment to the community. In fact, this year Mama Roux had the largest AIDS Walk team among all gay bars in the city.

Joe St. Clair, bar manager, explained everyone is welcome at this neighborhood bar. The clientele ranges from gays and straights to drag queens. Mama Roux features an eclectic selection of music from jazz to alternative and serves up unique menu of pub food which ranges from Cajun to Creole to Mediterranean.

After a long bout of parking chaos, businesses in the area are starting to see people come into the area just to shop. The recent closing of The Oriental Pharmacy has been a boon to The Brady Street Pharmacy whose in-store diner has become home to some the Oriental's refugees. And consumers can hope to benefit from competition between the new Osco Drugs and

Walgreen's.

Tie Me Down is no stranger to Brady Street. Opened in June of 1991, the popular piercing and leather accessories store moved east down Brady to its present location about three years ago.

The store is very open to all lifestyles and according to store owner Melissa Strobe, will go out of their way to make people feel comfortable, even arranging private fittings for more bashful people. Stated Strobe, "We support people expressing themselves any way they want."

Strobe is pleased with the changes on Brady Street commenting, "More people are venturing out here who never came to Brady Street before."

The Three Fates located at 1233 East Brady features a wide range of New Age books and items on subjects ranging from astrology, to tarot to aroma therapy. Owner Ellyn Tatro explained that while don't carry anything specifically targeted to gays or lesbians they do have plenty of books and items of interest of to the Pagans in our community.

The Grava Gallery at 1209 East Brady is right next door from gay owned floral shop, TT Tulip. The Grava Gallery, specializes in framing and posters and has been host to shows by gay and lesbian artists including Richard Waswo, Sue McAvey and the current Randy James exhibit.

While popular eastside CD wholesaler, The Exclusive Company carries only a small section of women's music, Jesse Averill, store manager says, "Without question we are gay friendly... if you don't see what you're looking for, we can special order it for you."

Purr-Fect Pets, Video Adventures, Brady's Bunch Antiques and Changin' Times are all gay friendly or gay owned and the Emperor of China has long been a favorite for those with a craving for Chinese food.

Joe and Mimma Megna, owners of popular Italian eatery Mimmas Cafe (currently undergoing another renovation) have helped spearhead redevelopment in the area and currently have several area projects in the works. They are well known for their support of people in the gay and lesbian community. The Brady Street Square project on the site of the old Nicolo's is scheduled to break ground soon and will feature businesses, office space and residences.

Brady Street may never rival San Francisco's Castro as an area completely dominated by Gays and Lesbians, but it is a street where we can feel comfortable and welcome and isn't that's what a healthy society is all about.

Q Musts & Maybes

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►Thurs. - Fri, November 24 -25

Holiday Invitational Tournament

Come one come all to the 17th annual HIT Tournament where over 250 queer bowlers from across the country converge on Red Carpet Regency Bowling Lanes. For more information call Jeff at 383-7969

►Friday, December 1

St. Camillus Remembers World's AIDS Day

Saint Camillus AIDS Ministry will commemorate World's AIDS Day with an evening of prayer, music, song and drama. Persons of all faiths and non are invited to attend with a reception to follow. The event will begin at 7pm in the

Camillian Room at San Camillo, 10200 West Bluemound Road. For more information call: 259-4664

►Saturday, December 9

New Frontiers Christmas Party

Madison gays can ring in the Holiday Season once again in gayla Frontiers style with a festive party and dinner. Cocktails at 6:30pm, Dinner at 7:30pm. Contact host, Larry Kneeland at 244-8675 for more information.

►Sunday, December 10

Christmases Remembered

Milwaukee's Cream City Chorus presents a reflection of holidays gone by. A collection of songs performed at previous holiday concerts. While you're there you can buy the memories on cassette. Starting at 3pm at the PAC's Vogel Hall, Tickets are \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance. For more information call 344-WCCC

►Sunday, December 10

Many Times, Many Ways

Celebrate the spirit of the season as the Fest City Singers present an eclectic holiday show featuring a medieval mystery play, music of the season and caroling on Downer Avenue. Starting at 7pm on at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2308 E. Bellevue Place. Tickets are \$10 for adults. For more information call 649-2176 or 265-8224

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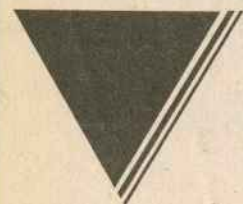
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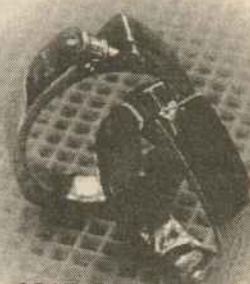
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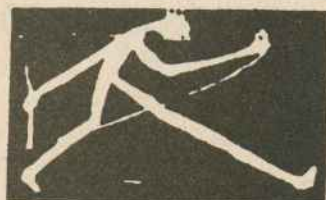


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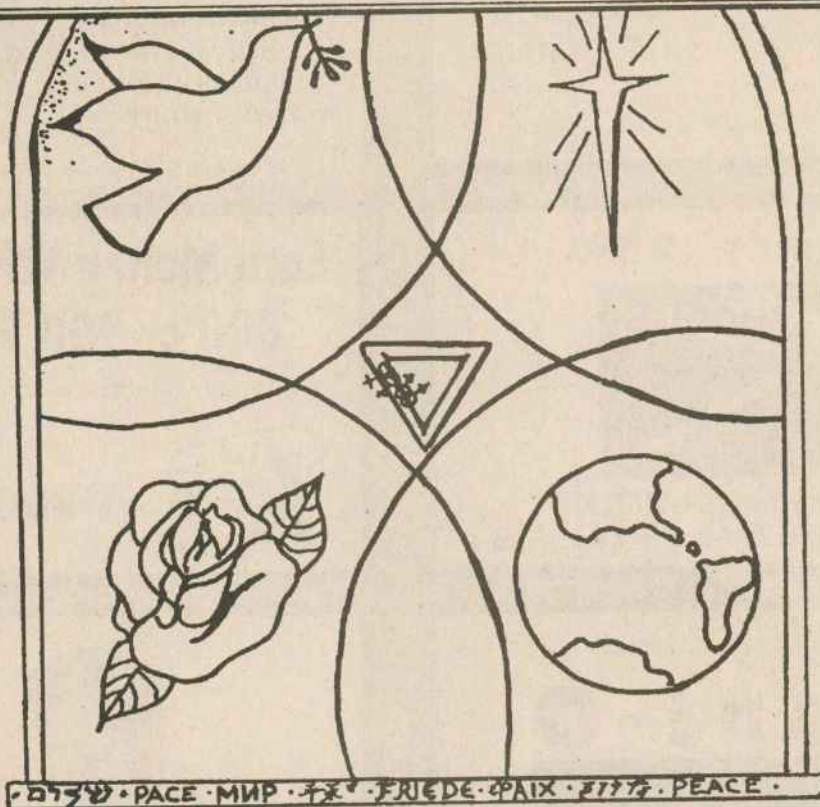
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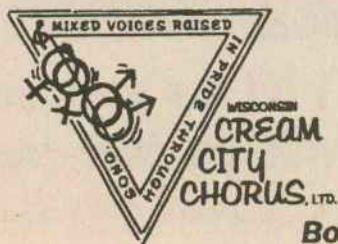


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OUT of the Closet

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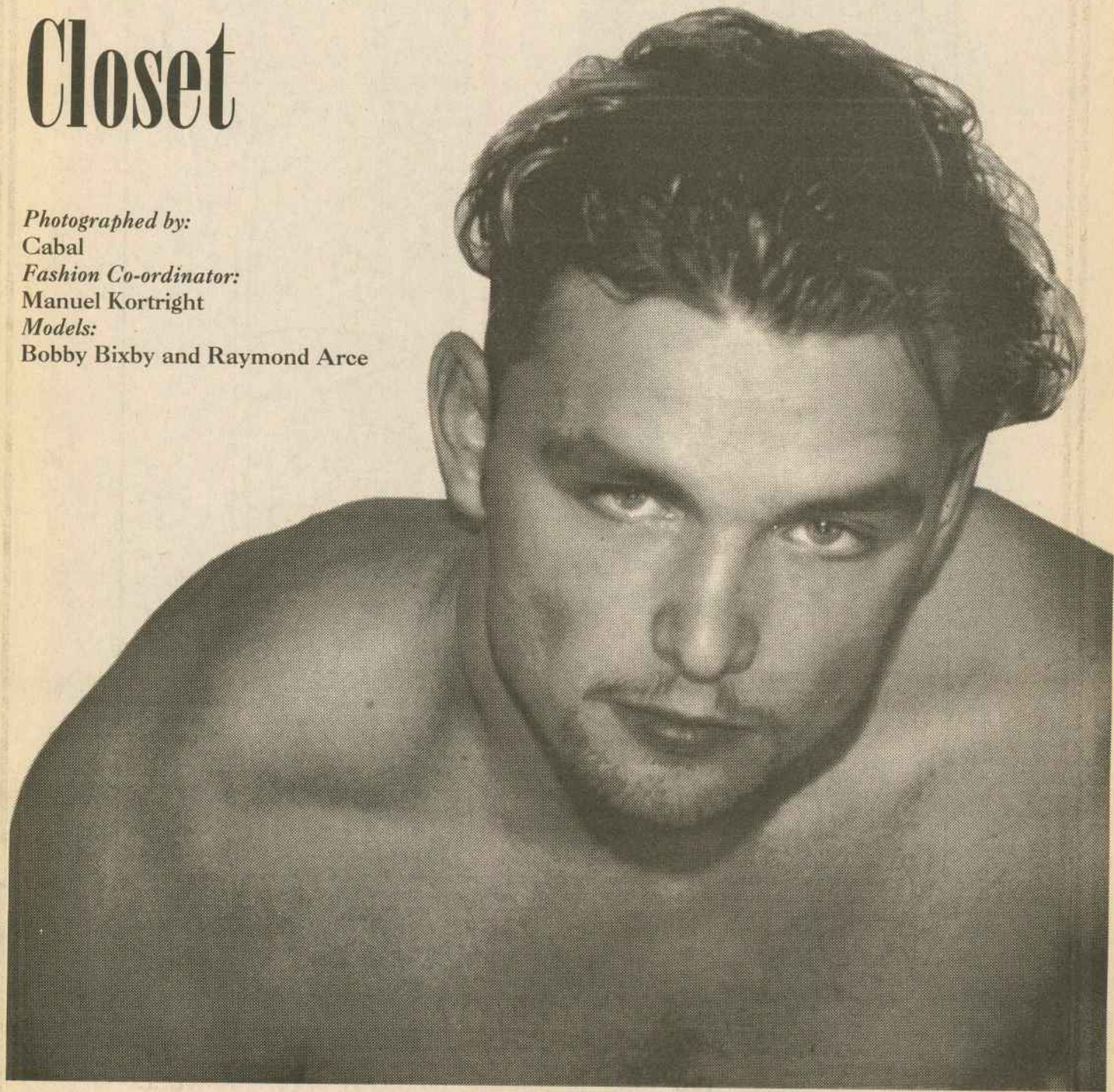
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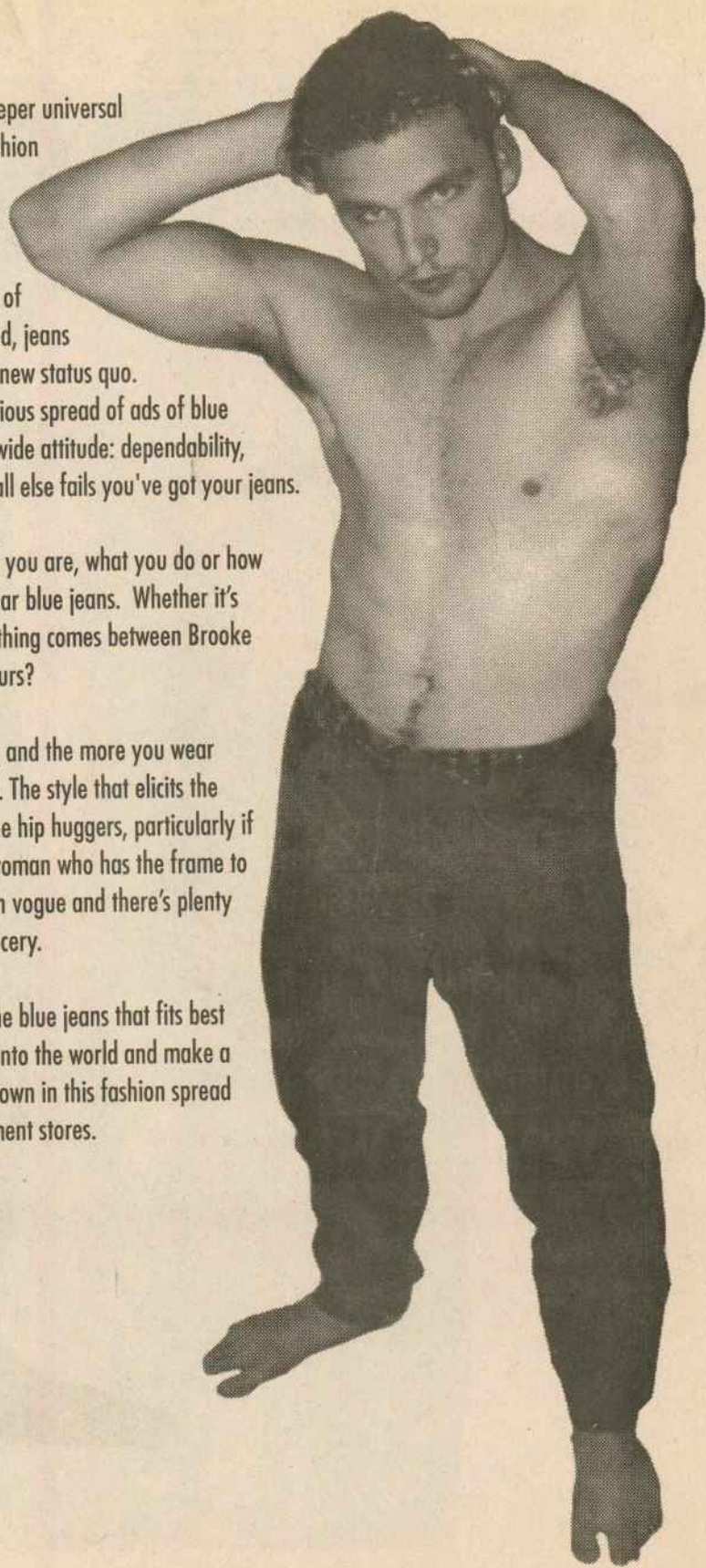


Blue jeans have taken on a deeper universal fashion appeal. It was the fashion statement for iconic rebels like James Dean and Marlon Brando in the 50's. When Calvin Klein tapped into the BLUE mine of an industry that Levis Strauss dominated, jeans and their fashion designers achieved a new status quo. Marketing ingenuity launched a contagious spread of ads of blue jeans which gave birth to a new world wide attitude: dependability, comes in the form of blue jeans, when all else fails you've got your jeans.

It doesn't matter who you are, how old you are, what you do or how much money you have, anyone can wear blue jeans. Whether it's American Levis to Emporio Armani. Nothing comes between Brooke Shields and her Calvins, what about yours?

Jeans can fit a person just like a glove, and the more you wear them the more it feels like second skin. The style that elicits the most favorable fit for either sexes is the hip huggers, particularly if it is a snug fit and worn by a man or woman who has the frame to support it. The baggy look is current in vogue and there's plenty of room in those jeans to bag your grocery.

Like a canvas, you're the artist, find the blue jeans that fits best and create the look you want. Go out into the world and make a statement. The brand of blue jeans shown in this fashion spread can be purchased in most fine department stores.





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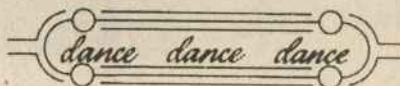
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The King and Queen of Gay Wisconsin

Interviews by Timothy Neithercott

The 1995 Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin Pageant was filled with talent from all over the state which captivated the audience from beginning to end. But, when it all came to that end, only two could leave the evening with the titles of Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin 1995. Jeff Jennings, Mr. Gay Wisconsin, rightly won his

title as he is a dedicated, intense yet fun-loving, diverse and interesting man. Mary Richards undoubtedly earned her title as Miss Gay Wisconsin with her spirit, professionalism, and unbeatable talent. Together, they make a great pair to aid in representing the gay community in the year ahead.

Q: How do you feel being voted the sexiest gay man in the state?

A: I am happy with how I did and it's flattering, but I don't necessarily think that it meant the sexiest. I think of it as being a more well rounded person; as a gay representative.

Q: How long have you been singing, you have a wonderful voice?

A: Thanks, I love to sing but I was always chicken until almost the end of college and did it once and I guess I did it well so I started to pursue it... I am to the point where I am actually pursuing it as a second career

besides teaching.

Q: What do teach?

A: I teach fourth grade.

Q: Do you like it?

A: Love it. If the music thing doesn't work out, I could easily teach fourth grade for the rest of my life, as I just love that age and I like teaching.

Q: Tell me more about your music career... what type of music do you sing?

A: There is nothing I don't like so I sing it all. If I were to make it, to be honest, I think my

best shot would be in country because I am getting older. And, I write music too... so that could be an immediate way to get my foot in the door.

Q: Preparation for a pageant like this must be long and hard, exactly how long and hard is it?

A: As far as the talent goes, I was lucky because I knew the part. It didn't matter what I was going to do, it was what song I was going to sing and I just picked one that has worked for me in the past. But, the working out finding a white swimsuit in November, there is a lot that goes into it, more time than somebody might realize.

Q: Do you have a boyfriend?

A: Yes.

Q: How long have you been going out?

A: Six years... we just purchased our first house in Green Bay and he got promoted, so we've moved to Bloomington and gave them a commitment of three years. So we commute, he's up here every weekend, I go down there every other weekend and I am looking forward to him coming back very soon.

Q: Tell me about your favorite hobby.

A: I love athletics, all athletics. I play basketball, run, swim... I love music, playing the piano and singing. Those are probably my two top hobbies.

Q: Now that you've won your title what is next in the near future?



—Jeff Jennings, Mr. Gay Wisconsin 1995

A: I'd like to continue to perform and support the gay community and represent them, but first from September to June is my job.. because the kids deserve that, they like me and I want to give them what they deserve, a good teacher.

Q: How do you feel that you are a role model as Mr. Gay Wisconsin 1995?

A: I think because I am a teacher, and I can reach the kids daily, and a lot of the parents know, and they've found out, and they support me totally. Kids will be kids, so they've heard maybe I'm gay, but when I am with them, they like me and when they mature, they are going to realize that they liked me before they knew I was gay and and it didn't change anything.



Q: How do you feel now that you have won the title of Miss Gay Wisconsin?

A: I'm ecstatic! It's been years of hard work to get to this point. I entered 2 times before and was 1st runner up, and I knew that this time I would have to come very prepared in order to take the title. The hard work paid off!

Q: Who, or what do you plan on doing next?

A. Going to bed, taking off these hose, my feet are killing me. I've been in drag since 8 o'clock this morning.

Q: Do you have a boyfriend?

A: I have a boyfriend, he's right here, his name is Scott. This crown is like if we could cut it in half, half would be his.

Q: How long have you been together?

A: We've been together for about two years.

Q: How did you meet?

A: Through a friend, we should have met a long time ago. We exchanged glances. I don't remember exchanging glances, but her remembers -at La Cage, many times. But, it's something that finally happened.

Q: How did you get interested in performing as a woman?

A: I was originally a theater major, and a

roommate of mine dared me to enter a lip-synching contest at Club 219. You should never dare a theater major to get up on stage, especially in a dress. It was BJ Daniels who pulled me aside and said, "If you want to be a serious performer, it's in you." BJ was the first one to see that in me.

Q: What did you think when you heard that?

A: I can do that, if somebody of BJ's stature would have that much faith in me, I can do that.

Q: Tell me about your best experience on stage.

A: My best performance would have to be winning the title of Miss WI-USA because I didn't lip-synch. I did an interpretive piece with Christopher, my first runner-up. It was so well received that I won for best talent in my group.

Q: What was your worst experience?

A: Oh my goodness, that would be when I was doing Dee-Lite at Club 219, and my red wig fell off, and the whole place just went off -it was pandemonium, but I totally played it off and it was just funny.

Q: What do you do when you put your heels away and mister is back in play?

A: I'm a manicurist for a male technician at Beauty, that's what I do.

Q: You said you were a theater major, would you like to pursue that?

A: I would love to get into performing new things. We are really fortunate that we got into the Theater-X thing, and I hope that they call on me again to do something maybe as a boy, or even in drag -that would be so much fun to perform in a speaking role, not only doing lip-synch.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?

A: Talk on the phone and read magazines. Oh my God, in *USA Today*, the purple part, that's like my favorite section. I have to read that and know all the gossip and dirt. I read *Entertainment Weekly* from cover to cover,



—Mary Richards, Miss Gay Wisconsin 1995

and every fashion magazine is in our house -I've got to know everything.

Q: How important was it to you to gain the fabulous title of Miss Gay Wisconsin?

A: It was very important. When I was first runner-up it gave me a taste of it, a year for it. I wanted the whole thing. I've been fortunate to be Miss WI-USA and Miss W Continental, but Miss Gay Wisconsin is a tradition. It's been here for over 25 years. When I look back on the past winners and see names like Ginger Spice, Mimi Mark and BJ Daniels, I am so gagged that my name is going to be among these people!

Q: What advice would you give to a those who one day wish to be in your high heels?

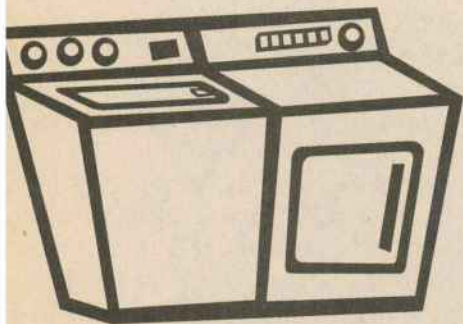
A: Get a really high paying job, because it really expensive. Its one person who get crowned Miss Gay Wisconsin, but there are hundreds who help you become Miss Gay Wisconsin.

Q: Is there anything you'd like to add?

A: I owe such a lot of gratitude to so many people, from my dancers to my costum designer and especially my best friend Jason, and my boyfriend Scott.

My Mother's Move

by Lesleá Newman



When Flash and I were evicted, I immediately called my mother. I don't know why. I wanted sympathy, I suppose. "It's our home," I railed in a voice not unlike a five year old's. "I want my mommy."

The trouble is, I don't have a mommy. I don't have a mother. A mommy gives you milk and cookies and makes you feel all better. A mother means well, but misses the mark. A mother says, "Your room is always here if you need it," as if the last twenty years can be dismissed with the wave of a hand.

My mother likes that Flash and I have to move. This is a normal thing that happens to people other than lesbians. Better yet, this is something my mother feels qualified to give me advice about even though she hasn't moved in thirty-four years, and I, in typical dyke fashion have lived in twenty-three different apartments since 1985. She is the expert.

"Have you looked in the paper?" she asks, as if I am an idiot.

"Yes, I've looked in the paper," I answer in my most condescending voice, as if she is an idiot.

"What about calling a realtor?"

"Ma, we need first and last month's

rent, and moving money. We can't afford a realtor."

"You'll never find anything without a realtor."

Weeks pass. Finally Flash and I find a fabulous apartment with six rooms, wood floors, french doors, two porches. I call my mother, feeling smug. All this and without a realtor, too.

"How did you find it?" she asks.

How do I explain the dyke grapevine to my mother? Flash took a walk one night and bumped into the pitcher on her softball team who'd heard from her chiropractor who'd heard from a client that her ex-lover's hairdresser had an apartment. Would my mother understand this?

"Word of mouth," I translate and of course she has to have the final say, "I told you not to bother looking in the paper."

We move in, reconnect the phone, and get our first call: my mother. What she's calling about surprises me.

"What should I get you and Flash for a housewarming present?"

"I don't know," I say, and make a joke. "How about a washing machine?"

"Okay," she says, and I almost fall over.

"It was a joke, Ma."

"What joke?" she asks. "Do you need one or not?"

"I guess so."

"Fine."

Disbelief makes me brave. "Do we get a dryer, too?"

She thinks for a minute. "The washing machine will be your housewarming present and the dryer will be for Chanukah."

I am floored. This is the woman who,

when I came out to her, called me selfish, self-centered, and self-absorbed. This is the woman who, convinced I was under someone's influence said, "You never could think for yourself. If they were walking up Fifth Avenue stark naked, you'd be the first in line." This is the woman who had never given up hope that someday I would return to my childhood bedroom and sleep like a virgin in that single bed until Prince Charming arrived to sweep me off my feet. This woman was buying her only daughter and her lover a washer/dryer so that their underwear, bras, socks, pants, and pantyhose would toss and spin side by side happily ever after?

Of course I had to listen to a lecture on spin cycles, bleach dispensers, gas hook-ups and the like. Of course I had to go to Sears, pick out the machines I wanted, write down the numbers, and call them in to my mother for her approval (she picked out a different dryer). Of course now we have to talk about the washer and dryer every time my mother calls.

"How's the washer?" she asks me.

"Fine," I answer. I mean, how can it be?

"And how's the dryer?"

"Fine." I am tempted to say it had a slight cold last week, but I know better.

"It's drying?"

"It's drying."

"Are you using fabric softener?"

As I listen to her advising me on detergents (after all, she has been a housewife for forty years) all I can think of is you've come a long way, Mommy.

Thank you.

Imagine growing up in a traditional Puerto Rican family on Milwaukee's near south side community in the mid-1970's. Now, imagine yourself shy, clumsy, gifted and queer. Unless you used your creative imagination to take you outside the boundaries of the barrio the way David Figueroa has, you may not make it out alive. But David is more than a survivor of a time when the words "diversity" and "racial equality," let alone symbols of the rainbow flag and Stonewall 25 existed. He is an individual who has earned the name Tenacity the way most artists have – through honesty and dedication for his craft: mime, dance, performance art, film, acting, writing, teaching, and most importantly, being human. What separates David from most artists and men is his ability to persevere and to do his work his way through his experiences as a Gay Latino from the Midwest.

I met David for the first time in mime class at the Guadalupe Center's summer school arts program. Who would of thought the tall and lanky nine year-old kid in white paint and kinky hair expressing himself through his body, would go on to become this city's foremost Latino artist and New York City's latest addition of sought after talent? I did. Which is why 15 years later when David and I were reunited on stage in Milwaukee (with actor Ric Oquita) to perform his farewell piece *Queer Quinceanera: A Coming Out Story from the South Side* it was childhood magic all over again!

This month, David returned as a guest performer in Wild Space Dance Company's *Romantic Options* giving a memorable performance in high heels, a trench coat, and in nothing at all. I had an opportunity to meet with David to reflect on his career since the early days as a performer with Nancy McCuaig's Milwaukee Imagination Theater Company.

"Nancy was the first person who recognized talent in me and encouraged me to continue performing. She introduced me to theater, and I began taking classes and workshops in theater and dance, all the while thinking I would become an actor."

A self-described "nerd" who tried to fit in amidst a predominantly white heterosexual culture of cheerleaders and jocks in high school, movement gave David an outlet that he understood he could communicate with...and with whom. When the doors to the High School for the Arts opened at West Division, David and his community of friends – emerging young artists, outcasts who were dubbed "strange and weird," discovered a refuge. Here, he also found his role models: artists doing what they wanted, living it,

supporting themselves, and being out.

It wasn't until David was in UW-Milwaukee's Professional Theater Training Program that he realized he was dancing all the time and not acting as much; and all the while wanting to dance more than he wanted to be acting. One of the founding members of Wild Space Dance Company, David joined his dance instructor Debra Loewen in 1987 and hasn't stopped dancing since.

Like most queer's of our generation, David's life changed dramatically when he met Chris Fons, and insisted this interview would not be complete without mentioning him. "Before I became an activist, I didn't feel the Gay community and the Hispanic community connected. One had prevalent racism and the other had homophobia. It was hard to get into the Gay community, too because it was so centered around the bars, not too mention I was underage." Act Up placed

David with people his own age and people of color interested in having a voice.

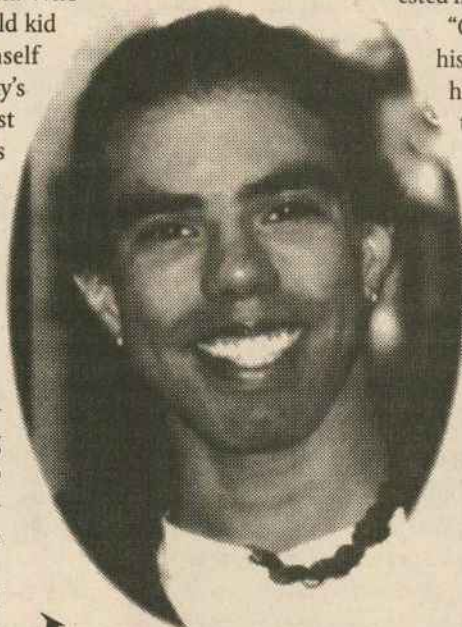
"Chris' life was all about building bridges. One of his problems with AIDS in this country, the reason he said it spread so quickly, was how segregated this country can be! Which made people think the idea about AIDS: "It can't happen to me!" It was Fons' ability to vocalize what he felt that really influenced David. As a Gay man, he was encouraged to be OUT there; and as a dancer, he emphasized the importance of telling his stories.

"My [personal] work focuses on being queer, Puerto-Rican and a southsider from Milwaukee. Although I have done work that doesn't say, "I'm this and this," I have a lot to say and I'm not ready to give up saying these things."

David's work combines all his studies in separate forms: a mime, an actor, a dancer and a visual artist (David not only designs his costumes, but his sets as well). He has spent the past four years trying to create bridges between all parts of himself as an artist and a person with a message. Currently, David is at work performing monologues written before he left Milwaukee in 1992, which he says, "being here for 26 years, I just had to move."

After two years of living in New York, David's relationship to dance has changed. "I'm not completely a dancer. There's more to it for me and I have to be true to that."

From what I recall, being true to himself is what artist, activist, lover and friend David Figueroa is all about.



La Tenacity: A Homecoming Interview with David Figueroa

by Carmen Alicia Murguía

Whatever Happened to PETER DIMOND?

by Waswo



Above: Peter Dimond, Photo by Waswo, facing page: *Rescue* (detail) by Peter Dimond

P

eter Dimond's art opening in May of 1994 was not an easy experience to forget.

The brick walls of the gallery were transformed into what appeared to be the walls of a medieval monastery. Small votive candles encircled shrine-like artwork that had all the feel of religious icons. Large, billowing cloths hung from ceiling to floor. Actors who dressed as if they had walked off of a Shakespearean stage accosted viewers with irrelevant questions. A green Robin Hood crouched in the corner. The buffet table was elaborately set with silver looking like the sort of table Dracula might welcome his guests to. On large trays the guests were served Jell-O.



W

elcome to the world of Peter Dimond, the forty-one year

old artist who appeared out of nowhere onto Milwaukee's art scene last year. His show at Gallery 218 generated praise from the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, a two page feature story in *Art Muscle* magazine, tidbits in gossip columns, and more than a little respect from Milwaukee's art community.

Then, as quickly as he appeared, he was gone. More than a year has passed since Peter Dimond's show. What is he doing today?

It is easy to imagine Peter as a modern day Van Gogh; shy, reclusive, absorbed in his own reflections. His art has been a sort of autobiography. We are treated to chapters on the conflict between his homosexuality and his Catholic upbringing. We are shown the trap of alcohol and drug addiction. His is an art that is not always pretty, but is most definitely spiritual.

I tracked Peter down at his small, antique filled apartment in South Milwaukee. Not far from his apartment is the studio he shares with friend and collaborator Kim Haueter.

Though Peter received all the media attention for the show, he never fails to point out that it was Kim's show too, "Kim and I both worked together for about a year on that show. We have known each other since Junior High—we're really close, there is a special bond. We critique each other's work. We influence one another, yet I think we maintain our individuality. We were introduced to the technique of collage in High School. It is something we both just clicked with. We've been doing it ever since."

There is a timeworn aesthetic to Peter's collage. It is the aesthetic of Grandma's knickknack shelf, lifted to the level of high art. Disparate objects juxtaposed to create a meaning greater than themselves. "I look through magazines, the newspaper, old books, I find things on the beach, in the

gutters, things at thrift stores and rummage sales or things my Mom had. When I have an idea for a piece the objects sometimes just appear, they seem given to me."

"Sometimes there are some political overtones, but I'm not real aggressive with that kind of thing. I try to keep the political aspect of it softened, and let people take what they want from it."

Gay Ban is such a piece. In an antique frame we see the smiling faces of sailors (plaster dolls) cavorting in a sunny (Polynesian?) paradise. In a very camp way they bring to mind gay buddies on leave from military service. The title becomes ironic and humorous. It pokes fun at the military's often failed attempts to keep gay people from serving, and it also seems to poke fun at the sort of military mind that attempts to stifle basic human joy-gaiety.

"I gave *Gay Ban* to Kim's brother, who works for a very big ad agency in New York," says Peter, "He had a housewarming party and Harvey Fierstein came to the party. Harvey was just really captivated by *Gay Ban*. He was asking all kinds of questions about it. Who did it? Where was it from? Hearing that Harvey liked *Gay Ban* motivated me a lot. It helped to have feedback from someone who's that sensitive and intelligent, and has that sort of stature in the gay community".

One of my personal favorites is a small collage entitled *Apache Dancer*. The title refers to a uniquely French dance, filled with sadomasochistic overtones. Performed in French cafes, "The male dancer would sort

of beat up the female, slap her and twirl her around and hit her, but it was part of the dance. She would end up groveling at his feet, I used a paper maché head of an apache dancer I found in a thrift store—I think they were made in the thirties or forties. They were little figurines with beret and scarf. The body came from a print of a Greek sculpture, a bronze. I think it all came together very successfully."

The head of the apache dancer rests on a perfectly sculpted Greek body which leans upon what seems like ancient ruins. The penis is incredibly large, with real corn silk making up the pubic hair. I see Querelle, Genet's tough homosexual/hustler transported through time

to ancient Greece, or the Rome of Petronius. The work seems to be a comment on the whole history of homosexuality. The hustler of today no different than the hustler through the ages. Peter says "Homosexuality is as old as mankind. The original head to the Greek bronze is lying at his feet"—the face has changed, but the situation remains the same. "I think that gay people throughout history have always had a certain theatrical quality. We've always had to be

masked to a certain extent."

Peter Dimond's art, like the opening to his show, is a sort of antique surrealism. The shrine like collages lit with votive candles deal with his difficulty growing up a homosexual in a very Catholic environment. "I still consider myself a Catholic today, but not a practicing Catholic. There's a certain amount of culture involved in it, Catholicism has influenced the whole world

...Harvey Fierstein came to the party. Harvey was just really captivated by *Gay Ban*. He was asking all kinds of questions about it. Who did it? Where was it from?

—definitely the art world. I'm not in agreement with the stance on homosexuality and other things, but basically I'm still a Catholic."

"I try to take from my faith the best things. But I've always felt somewhat a second class citizen. The church sanctions heterosexual marriage where one or both of the parties are sterile—a fruitless marriage. That sort of relationship is still allowed and blessed. So why not a gay relationship?"

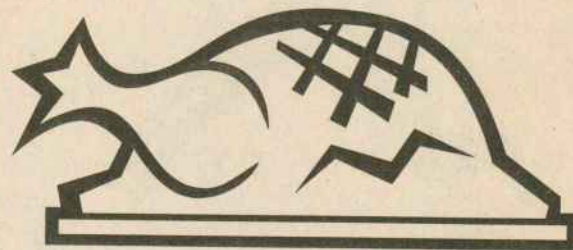
Other works were created while Peter was still addicted to drugs and alcohol. *Detention* crawls with the lizards and spiders of delirium tremens. Peter now is a member of the Galano Club, a social meeting place for recovering gay alcoholics. Looking back Peter says, "there was very little gratification for me in the bar experience. I played that game. When I was in it I always remained aloof. I wasn't really present. I was sort of a character in the bars, but not my real self."

So, whatever happened to Peter Dimond? He has been busy at work. He is the sort of artist who doesn't exhibit often. His works take time and craftsmanship. The two large cross shaped collages from his last show were in the making for over ten years—a running biography of his life. Peter says that he and Kim will be doing another show soon, perhaps next year. For those of us who love his work it will be a long wait.

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Snap!



The drama, the suspense, the glamour, the drag queens! Noted celebrities and such arriving at this year's Pageant held at the Hilton Hotel in Milwaukee. Snapped above: Jackie Roberts



Ken Rohde and Mike Miller



Jeff and Chana



Fat Helene and Sympha Rosa



Kyle, Steve and Alvin from Madison



Vanessa Torrez



Miss Elaine Ous



Cassie and Lisa from One Star Productions



Victor Kondos and Jim Klabecek



Richard Gagnon and Sympha Rosa



Dana, Aagia and Lisa

Star Patrol



with your astro cowboy, andie jaye

aries • (march 21 to april 20)

This is your best time of the year to start a new diet or exercise program, to buy new clothes, get a new hairdo -in short, to turn over a new leaf for yourself.

taurus • (april 21 to may 21)

Now is an excellent time for self-examination, private thoughts and introspection. Use this time to clear the cobwebs from your inner mind. In fact, your thinking abilities and reasoning faculties should be at their yearly peaks. The last Tuesday of November is ideal for brainstorming all matters.

gemini • (may 22 to june 21)

This period is excellent for cultivating friendships, allowing them to blossom and benefiting from their existence. Now is a good time to turn over a new leaf in social matters and the nurturing of platonic situations.

cancer

(june 22 to july 22)

If you are out of work, now is your best opportunity for finding employment. This job boost is also splendid for furthering your existing job, progressing in your employment status and receiving always for hard work. This upbeat cycle will last until December 2nd.

leo • (july 23 to august 22)

If you are in the mood to travel, follow your hunch and launch a trip. In fact, this is your best time of the year for travel and education and secret romance.

virgo • (august 23 to september 22)

No doubt about it, you've been wrapped up in an entangle-

ment with other people's money. If people owe you money, now is the time to collect successfully. If a financial partnership has hit a snag, now is the time to iron out a budget.

libra • (september 23 to october 22)

Libra is the sign of partners, and since you function best with someone else, now is the best time for you to plow the fertile soil of love. You can either deepen an existing romance or make a commitment to a trusting and honorable new admirer.

scorpio

(oct. 24 to nov 21)

You are in a positive cycle for health matters. Treatments taken during this period will be successful and restore you to good health.

sagittarius

(nov. 22 to dec. 21)

The time for romance has arrived. In fact, this is the best time of year for Sagittarians to date. You will have far better luck snagging admirers because your intuitive charm is at its peak. Your vibrations act like a magnet drawing others to you. Go forth and partake because this romantic cycle lasts until December 14th.

capricorn

(dec. 21 to january 19)

Take advantage of a homeward cycle to enjoy your surroundings. It's also the best time of the year to move to a new address, to deal in real estate and to allow your domestic creativity to enhance your surroundings.

aquarius • (jan. 20 to february 19)

You instinctively know how situations are going to end. Now is your best time of the year to lead others. This period lasts until December 8th.

pisces • (feb. 20 to march 20)

It's time to start a new financial chapter. You are in a cycle when you can begin to make money matters jingle, in your pocket's favor, and success comes when you can make good progress with your budget.

MUSIC FOR A QUEER PLANET



by DJ Mags

It's been a banner month for queer music, and topping the list of the highly desirable is **k.d. lang's** newest, *All You Can Eat* (Warner Brothers). This is one of those records that you'll want to give a few listens to before coming to a final judgement. It may, at first, appear a bit light and fluffy, and very commercial—but give the woman more credit than that! kathy dawn very intentionally chose this stylistic path, and her "new" sound will grow on you.

"The approach I took on this album is completely different than anything else I've ever done... more ambient and ethereal," k.d. explains.

The more I listen to this album, the more I like it. The music is perhaps less grand, but a little more funky. The lyrics are less metaphoric, more "direct and sexual" (in her own words), telling tales of love and lust—while the vocals remain strong and sensual, if a bit more relaxed. Choice cuts include "Sexuality" and the sultry "Acquiesce". While my personal faves are "Get Some" and the cocky "I Want It All." "If I Were You" is the first single and video to be released; it will also be given the remix treatment by none

other than New York's queer King of House music, **Junior Vasquez**.

HiNRG fans will want to take note of the long-awaited release of **Karel's** full length album, *Dance...Or Else* (Orbik Records). Once called "a male Bette Midler" by LA Style, and often compared to famous falsetto **Jimmy Sommerville** and his good friend, the late great **Sylvester**, Karel spans the dance music spectrum from house to a classic retro disco sound, showcasing his dynamic vocal range throughout this, his first album project. The first single from the record is a haunting remake of the **Madonna** ballad "Live To Tell;" it's given new meaning by the accompanying video, in which HIV+ actor **Al Earl** depicts his character's struggle and eventual triumph over his sero-status.

"All my friends with HIV seem to have a knowledge to share...that life is worth living each and every day and that it is a precious gift. That's the secret they have learned, their tale to tell," **Karel** explains, of his intention with the video. **Karel** collaborated with long-time friend **Thea Austin** (of Snap fame, the voice of "Rhythm Is A Dancer") on "Live to Tell," "Turn It Up," and "Free Love," and with **Eddie Holland** (part of the Holland-Dozier-Holland writing trio that established the Motown Sound) on the forthcoming single "Get It Up," featured on his Double Exposure cd-single and on the full album. Look for a future collaboration between **Karel** and **Steve Bronski**, of Bronski Beat, down the line. But in the mean time, check out **Karel's** project, and Dance or Else!



—Boy George

Quick Notes: **The Indigo Girls** resurface with a live double album entitled *1200 Curfews* (Epic) and a much-anticipated video collection, *Watershed* (Epic Music Video), directed and edited by long-time **Indigo Girls** friend Susan Lambert. Containing eight of their little-seen music videos, behind-the-scenes concert and tour footage, an interview, and excerpts of Amy and Emily's home videos, this one hour program is a long-overdue treat for their legions of dedicated fans.

Boy George returns with his big come back album, *Cheapness and Beauty* (Virgin Records), a glam-rock adventure far from what most have come to expect from The Boy. Coinciding with the release of the album is his tell-all autobiography, *Take It Like A Man* (Harper Collins), which he co-penned with British journalist Spencer Bright. It chronicles all of George's 34 years, from his childhood, through his climb to fame with **Culture Club**, to his heroin-laced fall from grace, and subsequent recovery. And synth-pop's dynamic duo **Erasure** are back with a new self titled album (Mute/Elektra), but you'll have to wait till next time for the final verdict on that one.

The Singles File: This month sees a juicy trio of tasty underground house releases from Radikal Records. **Mixmaster** gives us the campy "In the Mix (Homo Friendly Music)," with the incessant queeny banter of diva **Darleen Luv** ("dance in those spikes, girl...work it, bitch!"), over a hard, deep and dark, electronic house beat. And for those partial to a more industrial sound, **David Bowie** surprises us with "The Hearts Filthy Lesson" (Virgin), sounding like he's been hanging out a whole lot with **Trent Reznor** of **Nine Inch Nails** (he is currently touring with him).

HANG-OUTS

1100 Club

1100 S. 1st Street
647-9950

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

3B's Bar

1579 S. 2nd Street
672-5580

Western-style neighborhood bar with Country-Line Dancing, square dancing and jukebox filled with retro and country music.

Ballgame

196 S. 2nd Street
273-7474

Tried and true neighborhood hang-out where everyone knows your name and the names of your last three boyfriends.

Boot Camp

209 E. National Ave.
643-6900

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

C'est La Vie

231 S. 2nd Street
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.

La Cage

801 S. 2nd Street
383-8330

The Death Star of Milwaukee's queer clubs. Four bars, fancy sliding doors & serious butt shaking at Dance, Dance, Dance on Friday and Saturday Nights.

Mama Roux

1857 N. Humboldt
347-0344

This bar and grill sports a wildly diverse crowd. Popular pit stop before and after hitting the club circuit.

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.

Zippers

819 S. 2nd Street
645-8330

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ate students and academics, I won't be happy because it won't do what its supposed to do. If it gets read by somebody who volunteers at the Brady Street Clinic and does post-test counseling with somebody who ought to have been positive and wasn't, and the counselor wants to know what should I really do with this person, then I'd be happy.

Q: You and your partner moved here from Mississippi... how long have you been together?

A: Twenty-four years... 25 in the spring.

Q: Are you going to have a big party?

A: Probably not, because I don't think we remember exactly when it was. We know we met in the spring. I was living in Kentucky at the time, he was in Cleveland and we just met... there's no formal date.

Q: How will you celebrate your 25th then?

A: I have no idea. I'll tell you what I do every night. I write. I do it every night except Christmas Eve and that's literally true. No matter where I am, I find a place. I don't write at work, I don't write at home. Actually, I hang out in fast food restaurants and coffee houses that's where I spend four hours a night, every night. So, probably that's what I'll do.

Q: So your partner is pretty comfortable with that routine... you've been together that long? What do you think your secret is?

A: What's my secret? Oh I don't know. I met him six weeks after I came out and I just feel fortunate that I met somebody who wanted a relationship. We work together, he works here.

Q: What kind of work does he do?

A: He's a research librarian. He does all the background searching and computer searching and everything. Part of what we do here is stay in touch with everything; all the literature that comes out on AIDS. He's our connection with the information highway. His name Allan Haugh.

Q: How do you feel about being together so long?

A: I feel incredibly lucky. I think there are some people who are relationship people, and I think there are some people who aren't. I don't have any idea what determines that or anything but there are some people you just know are going to be in substantial relationships for a long period of time.

Q: Now, you go to coffee houses and fast food restaurants every day and write. What do you write about?

A: The work that we do.

Q: Where are your favorite hangouts?

A: I'm searching for one... actually when I came here, the health writer from *The Sentinel* took a picture of me writing at McDonald's one night and printed it on the front page and they

called what I did "McResearch" and I never did quite forgive them for that. Actually last night I tried The Comet. Have you been there? It's open now.

Q: Oh, it's open now?

A: Yeah, it opened yesterday, by the Fuel people. It was nice.

Q: What criteria do you look for in a place?

A: They have to let you stay there for hours. I prefer places where they don't wait on you because I always feel guilty when I'm taking somebody's table.

Q: So, your still searching for that special place?

A: The Comet was good.

Q: Do you go out to bars or anything to socialize?

A: Yes, my routine is I'll write and then I'll stop out for a beer.

Q: Where do you go?

A: The Boot Camp... the owner is one of my best friends.

Q: What do you think people would be surprised to know about you?

A: Something that surprises people is the unbelievably regimented, predictable nature of what I do.

Q: What will you be doing in the future? Anything you think people should know that they might not know already?

A: There are certain things we don't look for, the College would kill me, but we don't look for money... we're supported by grants and we're probably one of the better uses for your tax dollars.

Q: Do you think there is a misconception about what goes on at CAIR?

A: We're a little bit hard to get a read on, because on one hand we're a research program, but on the other hand, our research benefits our participants. I don't think someone from Men at Work is going to say, "Gee, I was a research participant." What they are going to say is I went to a program and it was really good.

Q: So, maybe that's a key, you're really a research facility?

A: Yes, that's right. But it's not an ivory tower. We do our research in bars and homeless shelters or on the streets because it has to fit with the community or its not worth it.

Q: Do you feel your funding is secure?

A: Yes... I think so. Who knows what's going to happen in Washington. People have asked me, "Are you really worried about reductions." And, this is going to sound immodest, but I think our people here do the best HIV prevention work in the country and I think that everybody knows it. I think they know it in Washington, I think they know it on the East Coast and West Coast. As long as we're doing excellent work I can't believe it's not going to be supported. ▼

The Casual Observer

by ED-NA

Remembering the Big Bird and Other Thoughts

I had two friends who lived out among the Welsh hills of southern Wisconsin. They are both gone these many years, but I have fond memories of gathering weeds in the long meadow and surrounding woods to help decorate the house for Thanksgiving and the coming holiday season. Tall, slim, dark stalks of mullein and tawny milkweed pods, bright berries of bittersweet, and garlands of ground pine were placed in a large basket in the kitchen to be made into arrangements. Nuts from the woods were heaped in a chopping bowl on the big, bleached oak kitchen table that expanded to seat 18 . . . more if we crowded ourselves in a little. Edward Harris Heth was a writer and his lover, Bill Chancey made pottery.

Shortly before he died, Ed wrote a wonderful cook book, *The Wisconsin Country Cookbook and Journal* (now out of print). I include his description of his mother's method for serving up the big bird:

"The ritual of roasting the turkey began when my mother steamed the turkey, and this perhaps will shock today's cooks. But it is also the secret of keeping the meat moist and flavorful. In the enormous, tightly covered roaster, it bathed in a quart of steaming water for half an hour over a moderate flame. Then the water was drained off, and the turkey was dried as neatly as a baby (with snowy dish towels still fragrant from the icy wind in which they had flapped dry on wash day). Then it was rubbed with salt and lavishly spread with butter, at least 1/2 pound of it. The water in which it had steamed was hoarded to be used later for basting. And the turkey, seeming to groan with satisfaction, then was shoved into a HOT oven and basted often with the melted butter. Who cared about losing a few pounds from a thirty-pound bird, if a brisk fire meant added richness of flavor and skin as crisp as parchment. Only later, when it began to brown as richly as autumn leaves was the heat lowered. Now endless basting began with the water saved from the steaming. Incredible aromas filled the kitchen. A turkey previously steamed does not take so long to roast, remember; and if it becomes too brown it should be cov-

ered, but the cover should be removed at the end to allow the skin to become crisp. At last came the moment almost too suspenseful to bear, for it meant that soon the crisp, hallowed bird would be borne to table. It came when my mother poured a half-pint bottle of light cream over the turkey about 15 minutes before it was done. Later, flour thickening and the remaining steaming water was added to the gravy which bubbled to a golden deliciousness. The waiting was agonizing, it still is today, for we stuff and roast our turkey precisely, and with as delectable results, as my mother did."

It was wonderful to be included in his group of friends. Artists, writers, just plain folk and myself, who lived not far away in another small town. As we all sat around the ruined table with celery tops, drops of gravy, and a blob of cream from the pumpkin pie scattered over the good linen cloth, we talked about friends who were no longer with us. Everyone helped with the cleaning up around the steaming sink and the talk turned buoyant. We were weary, but gratified by the rites we had so earnestly and properly celebrated that day.

Now, I have another pair of friends who live not far from where Ed Heth had his house. Their house, too, is on the top of a hill and they have been together for over 25 years. We go to there to celebrate the seasons, and it is a joy to do it. Everyone helps with decorating the house from the woods down the hill and the new prairie meadow they have planted over the past few years. We all bring something to share (Esther always manages to bring some outrageous Jell-O creation. One year it was a mold made of lemon Jell-O, cottage cheese and crushed pineapple. It looked like a brain. It's our fault for giving her that cookbook one Christmas. Joke gifts can come back to haunt you.), and there is always room for "one more person". We remember friends who are no longer with us, we have hope for the future, and we are full of joy.

The holiday season is upon us, and that means, for some of us, mass paybacks for all the invitations we accepted, even against our better judgment. Why not search through your memories, get out your cookbooks, gather some friends together, and share a bird, be it large or small. Remember those who are gone and be grateful to have known them. I know I am.

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN...

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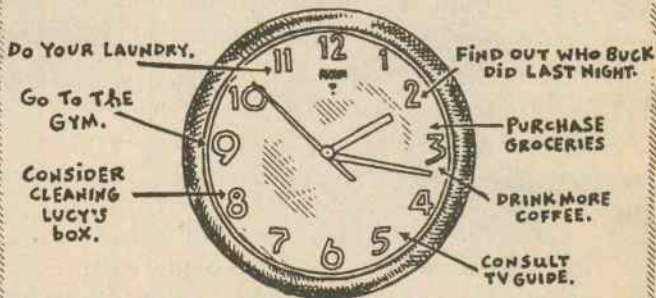
SUMMERS ARE FOR BEING SINGLE. WINTERS ARE FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS AND HIM CLIMBING BACK INTO BED WITH THE PAPER.



HE SMELLS SWEET. LIKE SWEAT AND FLANNEL. THE RADIATOR PIPES ARE KNOCKING. HE WRAPS HIS LEGS AROUND YOU. HIS FEET ARE COLD.



THE TWO OF YOU REMAIN IN BED UNTIL THE DAY'S DEMANDS CAN NO LONGER BE SUCCESSFULLY IGNORED.



ACTUALLY THOUGH, HE ISN'T WITH YOU. BECAUSE HE ISN'T YOUR LOVER ANYMORE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE'S EIGHT BLOCKS AWAY BEING SOME ONE ELSE'S LOVER.



THINGS BEING THUSLY BLEAK, YOU THINK MAYBE YOU'LL LET BUCKY CONVINCE YOU TO GO WITH HIM TO THAT PARTY IN MONTREAL.



by Eric Orner

Q•Voice

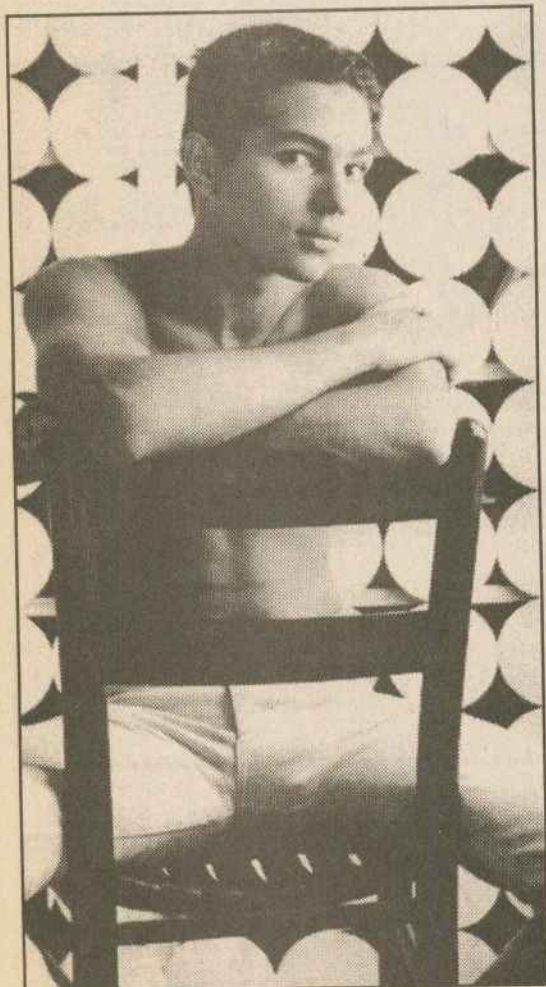
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☎ 45000

GWM, 32, 6'2", 185lbs, seeking slender G/BiM, race open, under 39, who shares my fetish scene. Latex, spandex, leather, pantyhose, high heels, Kinky, uninhibited, clean, slim guys only, please.

☎ 45002

GWM 40 hairy, mustache, 6ft, 189#, seeks any age hairy GWM for fun times friends, rub fur together, walks, movies, dining, quiet times at home. Good sense of humor. Cute.

☎ 45004

Warm, focused, handsome & humane GWM, 35 seeks compatible 20-42 Y.O. friend & companion, someone who offers and also values quality,

integrity, affections and depth in a man.

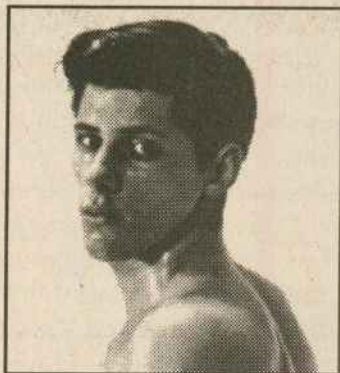
☎ 45012

Unusual, eccentric, GWM, 23 with blue hair seeks wierd and friendly alternative type for friends or more

☎ 45008

WM 5'4", 135, dark hair. You are tall, hairy bear, single in shape likes working out, dancing, moderate drinker, drug free, open, caring. Possible relationship. Serious only please, thanks. #45016

☎ 45022



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☎ 45028



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Juicy Bits

by W.W. Wells III

Alphabet Soup

In a small, bustling office on the tenth floor of a nondescript New York highrise, surrounded with glowing computer terminals adorned with yellow Post-it squares and mountains of gay and lesbian publications, is the group responsible for creating and assigning the politically-correct acronyms and buzz words required for gay groups, organizations and most importantly, the 1-900 telephone sex lines.

Gays United to Label Programs (GULP) is the central clearing house and creative force behind the names selected for most gay and lesbian organizations and enterprises. The staff consists of mostly old Wheel of Fortune contestants, crossword puzzle fanatics and out-patients from rehabilitation hospitals who are being treated for Scrabble addiction.

On a recent trip to the Big Apple, I had the opportunity to tour GULP's headquarters with its director, Patty O'Furniture. A rotund, freckled man whose thinning shock of red hair belies his Irish heritage.

According to O'Furniture, their first big success came when they assigned the initials (BWMT) to Black and White Men Together. It was followed with two related labeling triumphs; Black and White Men Together in Foreign Guppie-mobiles (BWMT & BMWs) and Black and White Men Together in Foreign Guppie-mobiles who like Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato Sandwiches (BWMT+BMWs & BLTs).

By far, the bulk of GULP's clients are the 1-900 phone lines. In fact, GULP is responsible for creating a string of popular Dial-A-Hunk numbers, including; 1-900-HUNK, 1-900-BEEF and the gay gossip line, 1-900-DISH. However, there have been failures and O'Furniture is quick to take responsibility for them.

"We arranged to name a chat-line for chubbies and their chasers, 1-900-LARD," confessed O'Furniture, "It was deemed offensive in test marketing groups and dropped. We've had other ideas for telephone lines torpedoed as well."

After punching up a file on his computer, O'Furniture delivered a litany of failed names and labels. "There was that phone line for gay Satan worshippers, 1-900-EVIL, and the first draft for Silence=Death was Silence=Quiet, not very catchy. We've had our successes too. Few people realize that before we intervened, the AIDS Quilt was going to be called the HIV Bedspread."

"The activist groups," he continued, "Were really good at this stuff, they came up with some great names before we came along; ACT-UP, GLAFT, GLAA. Hell, they even made one anti-defamation group sound like some sort of happy trash bag, I mean who can resist something called GLAAD?"

"Now, ACT-UP has a new splinter groups which we've named, CLEAN-UP," he added, "It's a radical group comprised solely of employees of gay cleaning services and promises to support gay rights by washing Rush Limbaugh's mouth out with soap every time he make a homophobic remark. ACT-OUT is another new group, consisting primarily of gays and lesbians still in therapy, who instead of internalizing hetero-phobic anger, take it out on those around them... acting out."

Other new group names recently approved by GULP include; Gay Hairdressers Offended by Straight Stylists (GHOSTS), Gay and Lesbians Obsessed with Big Ugly Lovers Exclusively (GLOBULE), Lesbians and Gays Opposed to Obvious Nelliness (LAGOON), Straight Acting and Appearing Lesbians and Gays Against Homophobia (STALAG) and Lesbians and Gays Together Trying to Make Babies (LGTMB).

As we headed for the elevator, a harried worker hustled over, handing O'Furniture a phone message scrawled on a yellow Post-it square, "By the way," he asked, "Did you know that a gay-owned company will soon market politically-correct pink Post-it triangles?"

You can bet GULP will find just the right name for the little buggers!



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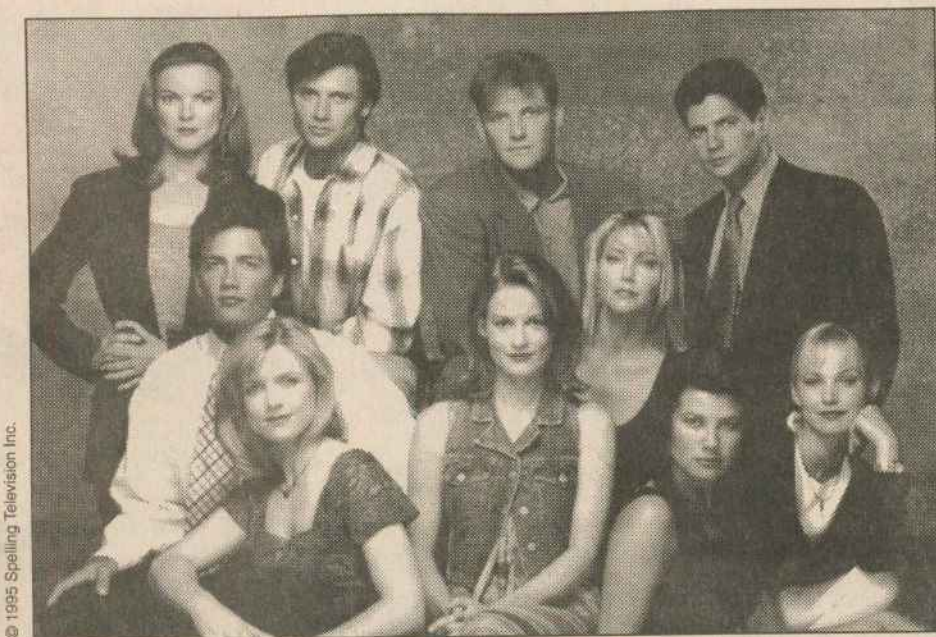
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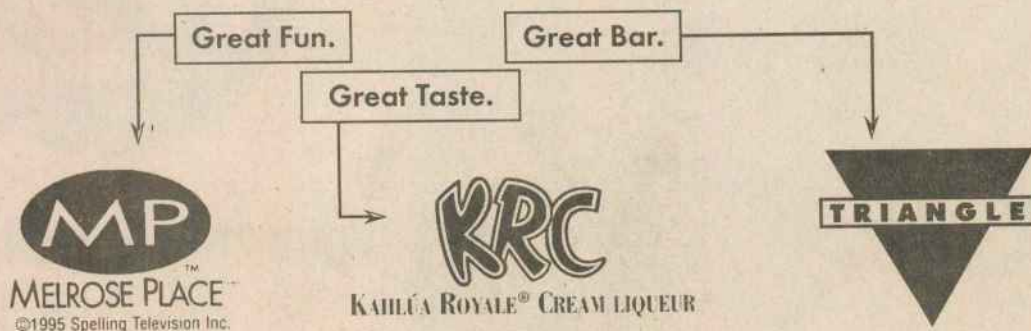
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