

Q•Voice

**INSIDE:
YOUR QUEER
GUIDE TO
NEW YEAR'S EVE!**

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Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Monthly • December 1995

If Jesse Helms really wants to do something about the homosexual problem, he should tell heterosexual parents to stop having so many homosexual babies.



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Juicy Bits

Can We Come of Age in Milwaukee?

Coming of age implies reaching a certain place of maturity where the entity has a sense of identity strong enough to recognize and relate to others as peers and partners. It is a growth process and necessitates going through infancy, childhood and adolescence.

Who is the we? It's the "community" that B.J. Daniels spoke about in last issue's guest editorial. A commonly accepted and identifiable name is still a work in progress. "Gay Community", "Queer Community", "LesBiGayTrans Community" are some attempts at inclusive labels. "We" includes *all* of us who identify in any way as lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered or transsexual persons.

Since coming to Milwaukee 13 years ago, we have seen our community go through various stages of childhood and adolescence. In fact, there have been a few moments of maturity, such as the post-Dahmer community response and some aspects of PrideFest. Unfortunately, these moments of maturity have been few and far between.

More often than not, responding to our adolescent need to self identify in fractious and egocentric ways, we have split ourselves into separatist groups. That alone is not enough, for we have also been combative and abusive of each other. We act like politicians who would rather tell us how terrible their opponents are rather than who they are and what they can do. The very acceptance that we dream of and demand from others is in reality our own judgments about each other. All of this adolescent behavior is nurtured by those who work to deprive us of our rights and push us back in the closet! In addition, our lack of maturity has deprived us of a strong, solid, unified voice that cannot only be heard, but more important listened to.

It's time for us to grow up and come of age! It's a holiday gift that we can and should give to ourselves and also to society. How can we do it? First, by becoming more comfortable with ourselves as individuals and small groups. Second, by reducing the

amount of judgment we inflict upon each other. The Rainbow Flag that symbolizes our community is the model of diversity living in harmony. Third, by recognizing the value of each other and affirming that each unique part is necessary for the whole to function in a healthy and effective functional way.

Sacred writings have talked about parts which attempt to make over other parts in their own image. It doesn't make for a healthy body! Unique parts meshing and working as a whole, never losing their uniqueness is the ideal of maturity.

We are aware of an opportunity that will soon be placed before *our* community that will require lots of maturity to pull off. It's a chance for *all* of us to take some infant steps toward maturity and

"We are aware of an opportunity that will soon be placed before our community that will require lots of maturity to pull off"

real community. Nothing less will work. The choice will be ours as gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals and transgendered persons, groups and factions. If we can pull it off, Milwaukee could be a rare model of what the gay community can be and accomplish. The united voice and power of our community will be heard and might even be an effective vehicle for positive change. It hasn't happened often, *but it could happen here in Cream City!* Can we come of age in Milwaukee?

The choice is not for someone else to make... it's a choice you and I must and can make if we want to grow up and come of age. If we don't, we can content ourselves with blaming others and complaining about our lack of acceptance, privilege and opportunity. Let's quit talking about it and simply do it!

Q•Voice

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LETTERS

BESTD REMAINS NEUTRAL

To the Editor-

BESTD Clinic as an Agency admires and applauds both Karen Gotzler and Steve Rose for putting their hats in the ring as openly gay and lesbian candidates in the Third Aldermanic District race. BESTD volunteers in many cases will personally support and work for one or the other, since choices must be made.

BESTD Clinic as a non-profit corporation, however, must and will remain politically neutral and silent in this and all other political races at all levels. While the Clinic appreciates recognition and fund raising efforts on its behalf by others, including political candidates, this must not be viewed as BESTD support or an endorsement.

Even though choices will be made, it is our hope that, especially within the

Queer Community, they can be made without divisiveness or hostility. When the race is over, winners, losers and all of their supporters should be able to unite toward strengthening and supporting OUR Community. It takes everybody to get the job done!

Ross B. Walker
BESTD Clinic President

WASWO WOWS 'EM

To the Editor-

Thank you for the two well-written articles on artists in your first two issues by Waswo, *Punk Artist: Randy James* and *Whatever Happened to Peter Dimond?* As someone who not only appreciates art in Milwaukee but also helps document it (I've interviewed over 300 artists on-location on my national and local award winning weekly television series, *Where The Waters Meet* since 1991 and have also written art criticism for *Art in Wisconsin*, *Art Muscle*, *East Side News* and *RAA World*) I know that living artists receive very little attention and feedback in contrast to music and film stars, yet they are an integral part of the production of the mass subconscious that comes to constitute our culture. Without the work of individual artists we would have no culture.

Therefore I'm glad that your publication includes an article about an artist in each issue, and I hope that you continue these articles by Waswo as a regular feature. Is the public also aware that Richard Waswo is himself a well-known artist and photographer? How about an article on his artwork?

Christina Zawakiwsky
Milwaukee

MORE KUDOS FROM TOM THE TOE GUY

To the Editor-

Your November issue is one of the best I've seen. Every model is absolutely incredible! I especially want to thank you for that gorgeous model Bobby Bixby. The shot of his butt in those Levis is so hot that I can almost taste and smell his muskiness right on the page. And those rock hard nipples... give me more!

Tom Livieri
Milwaukee

P.S. Thanks for the full frontal feet shots, but what's with the "live long and prosper" thing with his toes.

JUSTICE FOR WUORNOS

To the Editor-

We are writing to remind you of the case of Aileen "Lee" Wuornos, a lesbian currently on Florida's death row for killing six men who attacked her. Recently four of her six appeals were denied; two still await judgment. The second set of appeals is being prepared now.

Lee was working as a highway prostitute when she was attacked. Prostitutes are much more likely to be raped than women in other jobs. In fact, prostitutes in one study testified that they were raped an average of thirty-three times a year.

The issues of violence against women and our right to self-defense were obscured in this case by sensational charges that Lee was a man-hating serial killer. Call her a serial killer, and you can sleep well at night knowing the highways are safe... for men.



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Call her what she is, a woman who killed before submitting to rape and possible death, and you are forced to wonder whose life is valued? As Lee said, "Who's supposed to die? Am I supposed to die because I'm a prostitute?"

Unsurprisingly, Lee did not receive a fair hearing of her case. In her only trial, the dead man's history of sexual violence was not allowed as evidence. Her overworked public defender had never tried a capital case; sixty references to self-defense were deleted from her videotaped confession; Lee's background of chronic abuse was not acknowledged as a mitigating circumstance, and the list of injustices goes on.

As feminists, we feel it is important to raise our voices to demand that Lee receive justice, and that women have the right to freedom from violence and the right to protect ourselves when violence does occur.

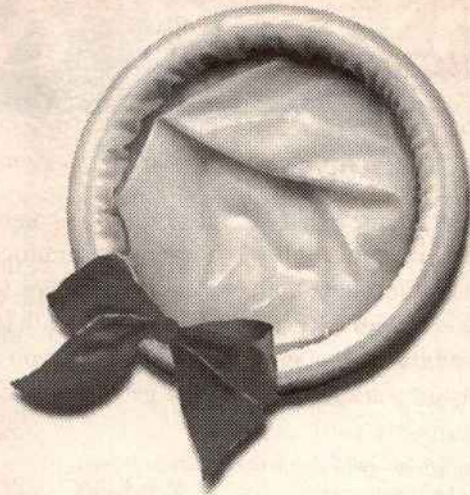
We urge you to demand justice for Lee Wuornos.

Write postcards to the Florida Supreme Court, 5th Judicial Circuit Court, 300 Beach St., Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Demand a new trial.

Speak to your friends and family about Lee's case. Write letters of support to Aileen Wuornos, A#150924, DR1, Broward County Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 8540, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024

**The Aileen Wuornos
Defense Committee
San Francisco, CA**

Q•Voice encourages everyone to write and express their opinion. Please be brief. We reserve the right to edit letters. We will print your name unless you specifically ask us not to. Letters must include a street address and phone for verification only.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
and Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy New Year!

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“Quips & Quotes”

Only in Beverly Hills 90210

“Another sign Hollywood’s not that far out of the ’50’s comes from that highly publicized, highly trumped-up romance between the co-stars of a TV show, both of whom just happen to badly want to dive into movies once the show fades. The truth is, he’s gay and she’s ambitious enough to be willing to put on a beard on him for a while. And guess what? The general public’s buying out.”

—Hollywood Ink Column in the December issue of *Movieline* magazine.

Do You Prefer Collie or Poodle?

“You are in the voting booth. Your hand is on Clinton’s lever. Imagine him, all smiling and chatty, as he grinds your face into dog shit. That is what his kind of words and compromises have done to you. Go ahead and flip the lever, but only if you believe that you and all other gay people are worthless scum.”

—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign philosophy Professor Richard Mohr, who syndicates an opinion column to gay newspapers.

Lettuce, Turnip and Pea

“I feel like I am so fucking alone in this world right now. I feel like I’m the only vegetarian left, the only vegan in the world left. I feel like all the lesbians are starting to fuck men. All the straight girls want to be lesbians. I’m feeling very alone.”

—k.d. lang to *Out Magazine*.

You’ve Got Two More Wishes

“I wish more people in Hollywood wouldn’t be afraid to come out of the closet.”

—Elton John to *Frontiers Newsmagazine* when asked for his Holiday Wish List.

Sure... But Does Barbra Know?

“I could have spent months trying to find high-school classmates and old boyfriends, but I just felt that this wasn’t a biography of Jason Gould. What was fairly public knowledge was fair game, but I didn’t want to pry into Jason’s life because he is very private, and has not really come out. He’s only openly gay because he was outed [by the tabloids].”

—Author James Spada, who just completed an unauthorized biography of Barbra Streisand, discussing her son in Cleveland’s *Gay People’s Chronicle*.

Method Acting?

“I was going to play him in a pink tutu.”

—actor Bob Hoskins to *People Magazine* on his portrayal of former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover as a lecherous, openly gay man in Oliver Stone’s *Nixon*.

Who Reads Gay Magazines Anyway...

“The new gay magazines... *Out*, *Genre*, *Men’s Style* and *10 Percent*... gloss over the problems of a subculture ravaged by AIDS, splintered by ideological differences, and frustrated by political stagnation. The editors of these magazine... are betting their readers won’t notice.”

—From an essay by Daniel Harris in the December *Harper’s Magazine*.

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, P.O. Box 92385, Milwaukee, WI 53202

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ACROSS AMERICA

Gay Marriage a Revenue Base

Honolulu— If Hawaii becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriages, \$4 billion in revenues would be generated in the next few years by couples coming to the Islands to marry and honeymoon. This means that a same-sex marriage tourist industry would eliminate Hawaii's current budget deficit.

This is the conclusion of Professor Jennifer Gerarda Brown (Quinnipiac College of Law) in an article published in the *University of Southern California's Law Review*.

In her study, Brown details how same-sex marriages would boost tourism, generate a wealth of new jobs and businesses, and increase tax revenues in the state. Hawaii is geared to handle such a market and no additional governmental investment or infrastructure would be needed. All that would be required is that our state stop discriminating against same-sex couples.

Brown's conclusion is based on conservative estimates that gay men and lesbians are 1 percent to 3 percent of the general population, that gays and lesbians will marry at one-third the rate of the general population, and that each marriage would generate \$6,000 of in-state spending.

First Lesbian Credit Union in Pennsylvania

Philadelphia— Triangle Interests, a national non-profit organization concerned with lesbian's financial issues, is

in the final stages of opening the nation's first credit union exclusively for lesbians and their immediate families according to a report in *Philadelphia Gay News*.

Triangle Interests Federal Credit Union in Manayunk, Pennsylvania recently receive a charter from the National Credit Union Administration and will open for business in January.

MTV Plans Gay Date Show

New York— According to a report in the *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Singled Out*, MTV cable channel's relationship game show, will have an all-gay audience for one show, giving one man and one woman the chance to land a same-sex date.

Fired Gay Man Wins Appeal

Denver— A lawyer fired after his law firm learned he was gay may keep the \$90,841 lawsuit judgment he won in a Denver lawsuit, the Colorado Supreme Court recently ruled. Robert Borquez also won the attorney fees and court costs he was denied by the lower court.

Ruling on Boy Scouts to be Appealed

Trenton— The attorney for a gay former Boy Scout says he will appeal a state judge's decision to uphold the Boy Scouts of America's ban on admitted homosexuals.

Superior Court Judge Patrick J. McGann upheld the ban in a ruling against James Dale. The Scouts have won every legal battle challenging their exclusion of homosexuals.

The judge said the Dallas-based Boy Scouts of America is a private organization and has a constitutional right to decide who can belong.



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The World in Brief

with Rex Wockner

GRIM AIDS PREDICTIONS FROM AFRICA

Washington— AIDS will dramatically reduce life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa, says a new report from the U.S. National Academy of Science's National Research Council.

By 2010, the average lifespan in Zambia will have dropped from 66 to 33 years, in Zimbabwe from 70 to 40, in Kenya from 68 to 40 and in Uganda from 59 to 31, the report said.

Other hard-hit countries include Botswana, Burundi, Malawi, Rwanda and Tanzania. HIV infections in the region are 80 percent due to heterosexual sex and 20 percent due to male-male sex, the researchers said.

PORTUGAL'S LEADER SUPPORTS GAY MARRIAGE

Portugal— Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres, a Socialist, recently told reporters he has no problem with the con-

cept of gay marriage and legalizing it "is not out of the question."

In other news, Portugal's first gay newspaper is scheduled to appear in January, independent from any gay organization.

And the Portuguese Quilt Movement has been launched —headed up by Jorge Almeida, whose lover died of AIDS.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OFFERS RUBBERS

Leuven— Belgium's Catholic University of Leuven has sparked controversy by installing condom dispensers on campus.

Student Relations spokesman Prof. Dirk van Gerven called the move a responsible approach to AIDS, but others have noted that Catholic doctrine forbids any sex act that is not open to the possibility of pregnancy.

AUSTRALIAN PRISONS WILL DISPENSE CONDOMS

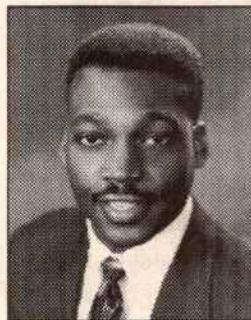
New South Wales— Three prisons in the Australian state of New South Wales will install condom-dispensing machines on a trial basis in February.

Corrective Services Minister Bob Debus told the Australian Associated Press, "Experts in communicable diseases are quite emphatic that condoms will help stop prisons becoming a pool for disease which then spreads through the community."

New South Wales is the first Australian state to make such a move.

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ACTIVIST NAILS THESES TO ABBEY DOOR

London— Gay activist Peter Tatchell of London's OutRage! group nailed "Four Theses Against Church Homophobia" to the door of Westminster Abbey last week during the Anglican Church General Synod.

"What's needed is a new Reformation to eradicate homophobia from the Church of England," Tatchell said. "Anglican endorsement of anti-gay discrimination is a corruption of morality and a violation of the dignity of lesbian and gay people."

The document demanded the church "stop persecuting openly gay clergy in honest and loving relationships, end the Children's Society ban on lesbian and gay foster parents, withdraw support from anti-gay cults which attempt to 'cure' queers of their sexuality, [and] sack the bishops in the House of Lords who voted against an equal age-of-consent" for gay and straight sex.

In 1517, the Protestant Reformation was launched when Martin Luther nailed "Ninety-Five Theses" to the Catholic cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany.

LATINAS STAGE LESBIAN PUPPET SHOW

Buenos Aires— Argentina's Lesbianas a la Vista group staged three outdoor lesbian puppet shows in Buenos Aires' historic San Telmo neighborhood Dec. 3.

"The public reacted mostly with surprise, interest and respect," the women reported. "A few people were indifferent but nobody was aggressive."

"Our two objectives —to bring lesbian created lesbian images to the streets for everyone to see and to raise the public's awareness about the rights we do not

enjoy as couples —were widely reached," the group said.

"The performance ended with the sunset and everyone dancing in the street: puppets, lesbians, gays, mothers, teenagers."

LATVIAN GAYS LAUNCH RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Latvia— The gay Latvian Association for Sexual Equality says it is going to become more aggressive. Although Latvia legalized gay sex after splitting from the Soviet Union, the nation also has banned gay marriage and police are raiding gay bars and cafes, sometimes closing them down for minor infractions and often humiliating the patrons, LASE said.

People outside Latvia can help by writing letters calling for gay equality, including the right to marry, and for the addition of the words "sexual orientation" to Criminal Code Paragraph 69, an anti-hate crimes law.

Write (1) President of the Republic of Latvia, Pils laukums 3, Riga LV-1050, Latvia. (2) Parliament of Latvia, Jekaba iela 11, Riga LV-1811, Latvia. (3) Parliamentary Human Rights Commission, Parliamentary Juridical Commission, Jekaba iela 16, Riga LV-1811, Latvia. And (4) Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia, Brivibas iela 36, Riga LV-1050, Latvia.

AIDS SCARE AT RUSSIAN HAIR SALONS

Odessa— Officials in Odessa, Ukraine, have shut down 34 of the city's 133 hair salons charging that improperly sterilized scissors and razors could spread AIDS.

"Theoretically it is possible for people to get AIDS through pedicures, manicures

and shaves," Ukrainian AIDS specialist Larysa Bochkova said Dec. 7.

"The instruments often become dull from the sterilizing fluid and for this reason [it is] not very popular with hairdressers."

Odessa's AIDS caseload jumped from 369 to 572 in November alone. None of the new cases were attributed to hair salons. 788 new cases of HIV have been registered nationally this year compared with 44 in all of 1994.

SWISS GAYS FIGHT FOR MARRIAGE RIGHTS

Bern— Swiss gays and lesbians will gather in Parliament Square in Bern in January to mark the one-year anniversary of their petition to Parliament demanding that same-sex couples be granted the rights of marriage. The petition contained 84,000 signatures.

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I'll take a Gallon... No, Make that Two Gallons

Pennsylvania researchers have discovered a topical application of synthesized male pheromones which increases the sexual attractiveness of men to their partners according to a report in the *Medical Tribune*.

Researcher Winnifred Cutler, Ph.D., stated the odorless, clear alcohol-based liquid contains a chemical copy of natural substances given off by healthy virile men in their 20's.

In a study of 38 men, who added the new pheromone to their own after-shave for eight weeks reported they were busier sexually than before the study. Engaging in more hugging, kissing and sexual intercourse. Those who added a placebo to their after-shave reported no change in their sex lives.

The pheromone-alcohol solution comes in a small vial; one adds a few drops to regular aftershave. A companion product for women is also available. To order call 610/642-3073.

Interview with Colonel Klink?

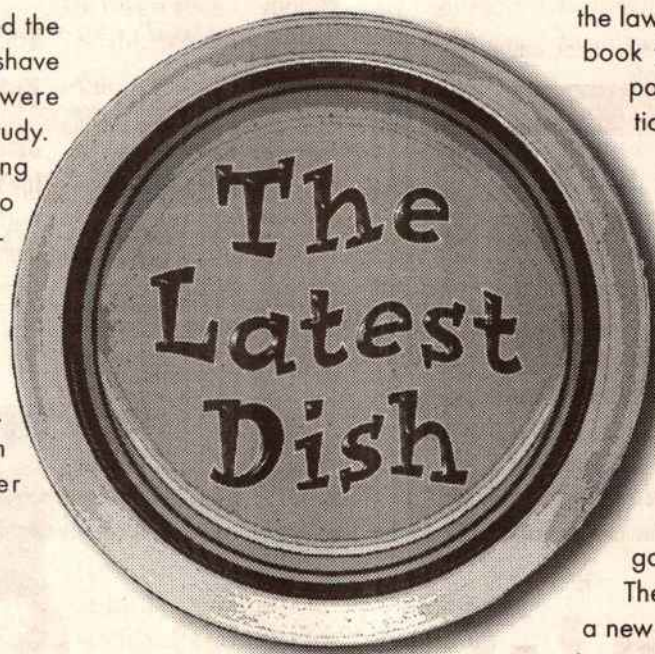
A film version of the 1979 Broadway play "Bent" is once again in the planning stages. The play featured **Richard Gere** as a gay man in a Nazi concentration camp, and the film version was to reunite Gere with his "Yanks" director, the openly queer **John Schlesinger**.

Now *Movieline* reports that Broadway director **Sean Mathias** is expected to direct the film with **Tom Cruise** and **Brad Pitt** sought to star.

Norman, Is That You?

Anthony Perkins, the late actor who became famous for playing sexually ambiguous nut cases in *Psycho* and scores of other films, was as kinky in real life as he was onscreen, according to a recent article in *Honcho Magazine*.

Although he married a woman later in life and produced offspring, Perkins



was secretly gay and took the "casting couch" route to advance his fledgling career, according to **Brian O'Dowd**, Perkins' dresser on *Psycho II*, *Psycho III* and others.

"Tony went down on everything but the escalator at William Morris," O'Dowd reported. "Tony himself told me that. He used to laugh about it."

O'Dowd revealed that Perkins was fond of the rough stuff: "He used to like to box with guys. When the blood would start to flow, that's when he'd get sexually stimulated."

Official Gay and Lesbian Guide on Where to Live

Tired of Wauwatosa? The first, and to date, the only guide to identify cities and towns across the United States which are both "gay friendly" and "gay supportive" has just hit the streets. One hundred thirty three cities and towns are profiled from a gay, lesbian, and bisexual perspective. If you have friends who dream about living in a more gay-positive, lesbian-accepting city, a place where same-sex couples aren't breaking the law by their very existence this is the book for you. Its 348 pages are jam packed with truly valuable information on every pertinent aspect for the best places for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to live nationwide. To order call: 1-800-872-4178

Fairy Boat Sold

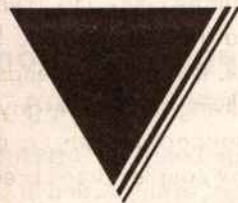
RSVP Travel, a popular gay owned travel business has sold its cruise ship to broaden its range of services to gay travelers.

The 100 passenger *SeaSpirit* found a new owner after three years of carrying gay travelers for RSVP. The company claimed the *SeaSpirit* was billed as "the world's first and only gay-owned and operated cruise ship." Its port of call included the northwestern United States, the Caribbean, and Alaska.

"We had our most successful season ever this summer on our Alaska sailings, but we received an offer for the *SeaSpirit* which was substantial," said Kevin Mossier, the chief executive officer of RSVP.

PROFESSIONAL MARKETPLACE

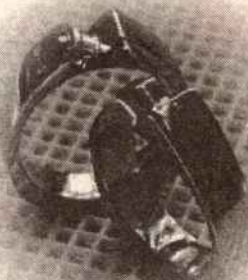
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NOTES & NOTICES

Gay Father's Support Group to Begin Meetings

Milwaukee— New Fathers Group Starting In January. In recognition of the large number of gay men who have fathered, and who father children, a new support/discussion group is starting up on Milwaukee's East side. This bi-weekly group will provide a friendly and supportive environment in which gay fathers can meet, socialize, explore issues and share individual experience, strength and hope with others.

Beginning Monday, January 8th, the group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 7:30-9:00 P.M. in the meeting facilities on the second floor of the BESTD Clinic, 1240 East Brady Street (Use the side entrance door). The group is open to all interested gay fathers. For further information: Call Tim C. at 372-8008.

BESTD Clinic Elect Officers and Directors

Milwaukee— Four directors were elected by the volunteers of the BESTD Clinic and took office at the annual meeting on December 4th. Seated for three year terms were Pat Cline, Helen Anne Quint and Ralph Resenhoft, with Bruce Daly taking a one year term.

Officers for 1996 are: Ross Walker, president, Pat Cline; vice president, Jerry Warzyn, secretary; Ralph Resenhoft, financial secretary; Erv Uecker, treasurer and Mary Rita Hurely, member of the executive committee.

The Clinic's Board of Directors also honored retiring directors Jeff Buckles, Karen Hogan and Bob Schmidt with appreciation and a BESTD watch. A fourth director, Ty McKenzie Barnes left the

board earlier in the year to take up residence in California.

Aurora Health Care also presented BESTD Clinic with the 1995 Partner in Care Award for Community Leadership in Collaborative HIV Care.

Executive Director of Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project to Retire

Milwaukee— The executive director of the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP), Bill Houtz, will retire at the end of December, after more than seven years of running the project which he helped to start. SEWAP, which serves the counties of Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth, was founded in early 1988 under the umbrella of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW). With Houtz's leadership, SEWAP has grown from a one-person operation with about twenty clients to a project with 13 employees and approximately 130 clients.

"We face some of the same issues in our area now that we faced when we started," said Houtz, "Including the misperception that AIDS is not a problem in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties. In fact, it is a problem, and there is a great need for prevention education, particularly among the teenage population."

Houtz came out of an earlier retirement from his long-time job as president of the Kenosha Youth Foundation to start SEWAP. "I'm extremely proud of the way our staff has worked together to provide economical delivery of services to our clients," he reflected. "I hope the community and school boards will address the issues intelligently. We can't stick our heads in the sand." Houtz's replacement is anticipated to be hired in January of 1996. SEWAP offers life care services to people

living with HIV and AIDS and prevention education and outreach services through its office at 6927 - 39th Avenue in Kenosha. SEWAP's telephone number is 414-657-6644.

SAGE to Begin Telephone Reassurance Program

Milwaukee— The Board of Directors of SAGE/Milwaukee (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) recently announced that SAGE will offer its first service oriented program to members in the near future. There will be a telephone reassurance program consisting of a daily telephone call by volunteers to members who are shut in or live alone and wish to be contacted daily. Accordingly, SAGE is planning to hire, on a part-time basis, a person to recruit, train, and supervise volunteer callers. Experience in social services, or program development preferred for this position. Persons interested in applying should send a resume to SAGE, P.O. Box 92482, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

St. Camillus Offers HIV/AIDS Retreat

Milwaukee— St. Camillus To Hold Retreat For Persons Living With HIV/AIDS. St. Camillus AIDS Ministry invites persons living with HIV/AIDS to register early for "Embarrassing The Mystery: HIV/AIDS And The Spiritual Life;" a retreat experience designed to help participants to refrain their often negative experiences of living with HIV disease. It is open to anyone living with HIV/AIDS without regard to race, sex, religion, sexual orientation or age. There is no fee required for participation, but enrollment is limited. Please call 259-4664 to register or receive further information.

ART'S PAGE

Danceworks to Premier New Age My Ass

Milwaukee— Ring In The New Year With Danceworks: Ed Burgess Premieres *New Age My Ass* *New Age My Ass*, a solo work by Ed Burgess, rings in the new year and the Danceworks Spring Season. A theatrical blend of movement, satirical role playing, and social criticism, *New Age My Ass* takes the form of a schizophrenic nightmare. Irreverent and cynical, *New Age My Ass's* characters include, among others, a pop singer, a psychotherapist, and a yoga instructor. The piece takes a humorous look at the difficult balance between wellness and neurosis and at those who are not quite sure how to recognize either in themselves.

Some of the topics addressed by the characters who make up NEW AGE MY ASS include aging disgracefully, addiction, the conservative political agenda (yes, there will be an NEA tirade), sex (yes the word faggot may be spoken), depression, and community politics. In short, a perfect way to ring in the new year.

Performances at Wehr Theater, Alverno College, 3401 South 9th Street, Milwaukee on Friday and Saturday, January 26 and 27 at 7:30 P.M. Tickets: \$12 general admission, \$8 students/seniors For reservations call Danceworks at 481-2010

Live Bait Milwaukee to Debut *Girls! Girls! Girls!* in January

Milwaukee— Live Bait Milwaukee presents the Milwaukee premier of the outrageous comedy, *Girls! Girls! Girls! Live on Stage, Totally Rude*. Veteran theater director Robert Soffian returns to Milwaukee to direct what will surely be one of the most memorable productions of the year.

Choreography will be done by gender illusionist and local celebrity B. J. Daniels. The play was written and developed by Sharon Evans, Artistic Director and playwright at Chicago's LIVE BAIT THEATER. It is the most successful and longest running show in LIVE BAIT's history. Evens penned the play in response to the 1990 censorship and funding controversy at the National Endowment for the Arts. The play contrasts the world of a blue-collar strip joint with the snobby, elitist perspective of a performance-art student.

Performances are scheduled for Thursday and Sunday at 7:30 P.M. and Friday and Saturday at 8:00 P.M. beginning January 26th.

The Walker's Point Center For The Arts, 907 West National Avenue, Milwaukee. Tickets: \$10.50 for all shows. For more information or reservations: Call Live Bait Milwaukee at 332-4882.

Boulevard Ensemble to Stage Larry Shue's *Wenceslas Square*

Milwaukee— The Boulevard Ensemble, Milwaukee's premier studio theater, will continue its Tenth Anniversary Season by producing Larry Shue's rarely-staged play *Wenceslas Square* on Wednesday, December 20th through Sunday January 14th at the intimate Boulevard Theater. Shue, author of the popular comedies *The Nerd* and *The Foreigner*, worked as an actor and playwright at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater for many years before being tragically killed in a plane crash ten years ago. Although best known for his well-crafted comedies, Shue ventured into more dramatic fare with *Wenceslas Square*. The play adroitly weaves the threads of comedy and drama in telling the story of an American professor and his younger

academic colleague as they return to Czechoslovakia to update the professor's forthcoming book dealing with the Czechoslovakian arts community and the issues of repression in the late 1970s. Their visit is fraught with personal complications, as both Americans discover that many individual fates hang upon the decision to publish or not to publish the book. This delicate comedy of the human spirit will be directed by Maureen Kilmurry, and features Pamela Brown, Jim Gallagher, Bill



—Jim Gallagher, Joseph Weber appearing *Wenceslas Square*.

Clifford and Joseph Weber in the cast.

Performance: Wednesday, December 20th at 7:30 P.M.; all Thursdays at 7:30 P.M.; all Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 P.M.; Sunday December 31 (New Year's Eve) at 9:00 P.M. There is NO performance on December 24, Christmas Eve.

The Boulevard Theater is located at 2252 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, Milwaukee. Tickets range from: \$9.00 to \$15.00. For reservations call 672-6019.

Q Musts & Maybes

Your monthly planning calendar.

► Friday, December 22

Mrs. Fun at Cafe Melange

Take a break from last minute holiday shopping for some FUN...two beautiful ladies perform original jazz seasoned with plenty of sugar and spice. Starting at 9:30pm, \$4 at the door. Cafe Melange, 720 Old World 3rd Street.

► Friday, December 22

Sass's Green Bay Christmas Benefit

A Christmas benefit show for children with AIDS will be held at Sass's Green Bay. The \$1 cover charge will be donated to Camp Heartland. The show will be hosted by Ronnie Nyles and Doc. Anyone interested in donating their talents as a performer should talk to Ronnie or Doc or a Sass bar

tender. Your involvement would be greatly appreciated in helping out this worthy cause. For more information call 414/437-7277

► Thursday, December 28

Holiday Punch '95

The special 1995 new edition of Dale Gutzman's *Holiday Punch '95* will be presented at Vogel Hall of the Performing Art Center in Milwaukee. Show time is 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$16.00. There will be two special New Year's Eve Shows on December 31, with show times at 8:00 and 10:15 p.m. Tickets for these shows are \$22 and include a champagne toast.

► Sunday, December 31

Galano Club New Year's Eve Party

For a alcohol and drug free New Year's there's no place like the Galano Club. Featuring a DJ, dancing and midnight buffet starting at 9:15pm, \$3 suggested donation. Contact the Club at 276-6936 for more information.

► Sunday, December 31

Boulevard Ensemble Benefit

For a socially aware New Year's join the Boulevard Ensemble's staged readings of Holiday stories benefitting Hope House Homeless Shelter. Starting at 6:30pm with refreshments and a suggested donation of \$10. Seating is limited and reservations are encouraged. Call 672-6019, the Boulevard Theatre is located at 2252 South Kinnickinnic.

► Sunday, December 31

Rod's/New Bar New Year's Eve

In Madison, you can launch the New Year with a stop at these popular night spot(s). One cover charge to get into the whole complex. With hats, horns, champagne toast at midnight all for \$5. Rod's is located at 636 W. Washington. Call 606/256-3360 for more information.

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► Fridays, December 23 & 30

Formation of Gay Men's African-American AA

Ujima will host the formation of an African-American Alcoholics Anonymous Men's Group at their headquarters located at 1422 North Farwell Avenue, Suite 602. The first meeting was on December 9th and the group which will explore taboo subjects concerning Milwaukee's Gay African-American men who face issues related to addictive behaviors will be based on the 12-Step approach of Alcoholics Anonymous. Future meetings will be held on the above dates from 7:30 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. For more information, please call Ujima headquarters at (414) 272-3009, or contact Veral at (414) 933-9317.

► Thursdays, December 24 & 31

Formation of Het-Heru Hetep for African-American Lesbians and Bisexual Women

Ujima announced the formation of Het-Heru Hetep, at the Ujima headquarters on December 10, 1995. This group for African-American Lesbians and Bisexual Women within Milwaukee's African-American community will focus on issues surrounding gender, oppression, pain and life choices. The group meets from 3:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. on the above dates. Preregistration is required. Please call Ujima at (414) 272-300- and leave a message. All calls are treated confidentially.

► Saturday, January 13

Calling All Interested Country Dykes and Wannabes

RDA of Madison will have its monthly potluck and work/play party on Saturday, January 13, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Bring a vegetarian dish to pass and meet other country dykes and wannabes. Sleds, warm clothes and stories to tell/exchange will be needed. Come and join us! Please call (608) 437-8018 for the location and directions.

► Friday, February 2

kathy dawn (need we say more?)

It's time to start thinking about getting tickets for k.d.lang's "all you can eat TOUR", to be held at the riverside theater on February 2. What a Valentine's present for someone. Tickets are available at Select Piggly Wiggly Stores, Boston Stores, Crossroads, Mainstream (S 22nd and N 82nd) or Charge-By-Phone: (414) 276-4545. Those of you with computers access to the World Wide Web on Internet can log on to: <http://www.ticketmaster.com> for their on-line information.

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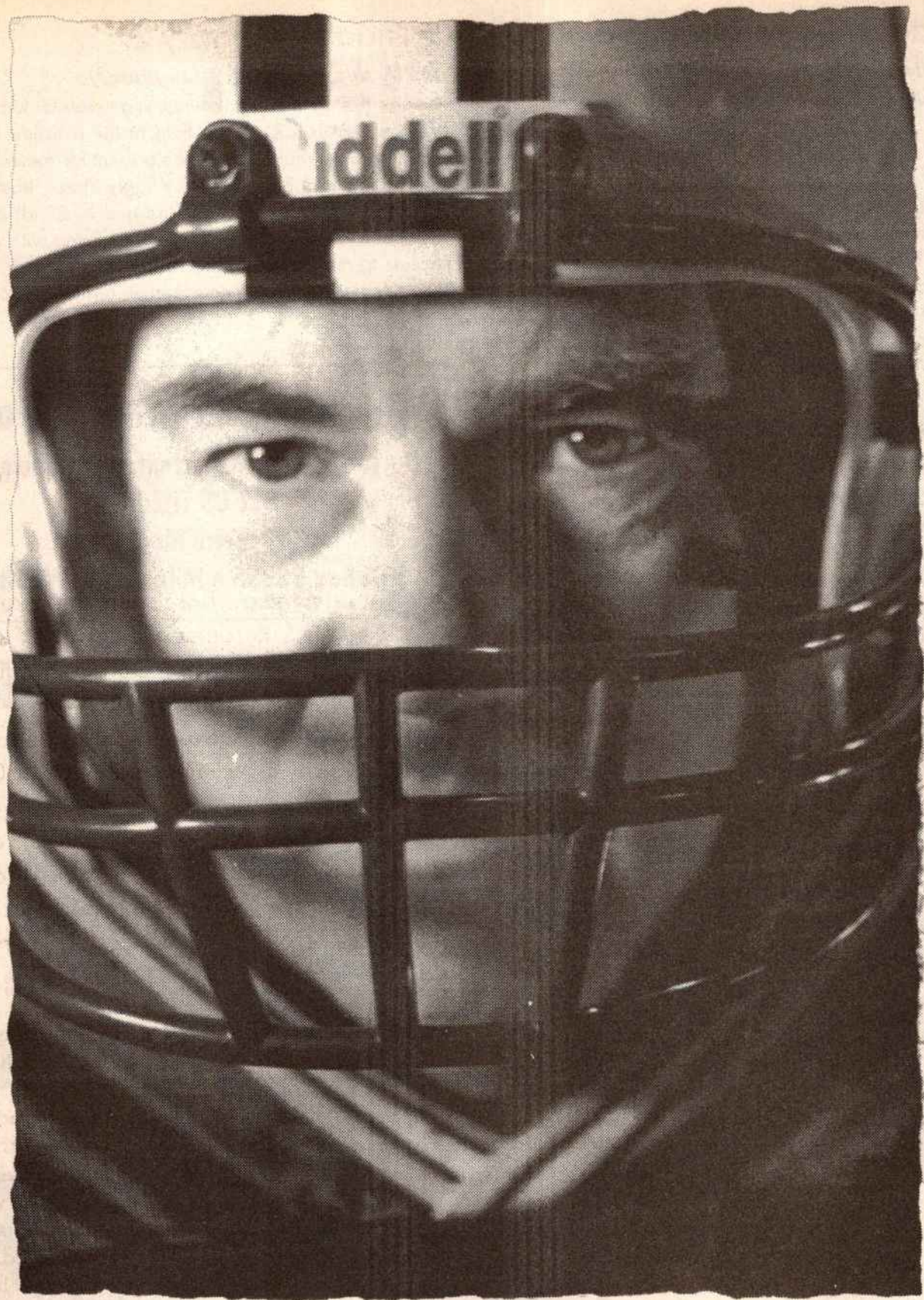
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Doug Nelson Tackles the Tough Issues

Photographs by Cabal, Interview by William Attewell

Q: Do you remember what your first memory of AIDS was?

A: Right from the beginning I was aware of it. I think it's rare for a gay man not to remember the threat even as it came out in 1981. I can remember reading the first news accounts of it. I wasn't real connected in the gay community or certainly in the AIDS community back then, but I remember reading information as it developed in '82 and '83.

Q: What was your reaction?

A: It was a frightening prospect and, I think, debilitating for me. Personally, at that point in time I was fearful. I think I was overly restrictive in my sexual activity and think ultimately in my potential for relationships. In those early years, I don't think we were as knowledgeable or well organized in terms of getting messages out about how sex is still erotic and healthy and fun if you know how to protect yourself and remain HIV free.

At age 48, Doug Nelson has been the Executive Director of The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), for nearly eight years. During that time he has seen the AIDS case load explode. ARCW has grown from seven employees in 1988 to over 92 full time positions statewide serving close to 1,300 clients with nearly 1,000 of those in the Milwaukee area.

I sat down with him recently in the "Dan Gordon Conference Room" at his downtown office. We discussed recent criticism of MAP's Client Services, his personal losses to HIV and AIDS and his love of the Green Bay Packers.

Fourteen or fifteen years ago it was a fearful, socially restrictive kind of thing. I look at what I'm doing now, and it's like night and day in terms of an understanding and intelligent response to AIDS, rather than one that's a knee jerk reaction.

Q: So, your fear may have helped to keep you alive...

A: Fear and luck. The luck piece is what a lot of gay men can relate to. It also is a function of the injustice of AIDS. I think in almost any other human endeavor we always have this philosophy that everyone's entitled to one mistake. With AIDS, I've had several friends who have had one mistaken episode of unsafe sex and they became HIV infected. I've had many other friends who have had many

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mistakes of unsafe sex and are HIV free. That's the injustice of AIDS ... that one episode can launch you on a journey with HIV and AIDS. So, when I look myself back in those early days of the epidemic, I think that combination of fear and luck is why I'm here today.

Q: How did you get this job?

A: One of my great friends is David Clarenbach. I met David when he was in the State Legislature and I was a lobbyist. David is someone who was a great mentor in my life. He certainly helped me come to grips with my sexuality and helped me understand how to affirm that. He was the one who called me up; I was at my cottage up north and he said, "Doug, the Milwaukee AIDS Project is looking for an Executive Director, I think this is the job for you." My initial reaction was, "That's health care, I've done enough of that and I just don't think it's what I need to do." Several days went by and he called back, he was the one that ultimately talked sense into me about what the opportunity meant and he was right. What the Milwaukee AIDS Project was looking for at that time was someone who could step in and lead the agency and build it. They definitely were looking for someone with leadership capabilities and political savvy.

Q: Did you recognize that you could do that?

A: Yes, to me, the job as it was presented to me, was perfect. I had the health care background ... I knew the health care system well. I had the political background ... I knew what advocacy was. I had the deep personal interest in the issue of AIDS. What it came down to was I was pretty well suited for that, and what a tremendous opportunity to help gay men or my community, and to address the worst epidemic of the century. So, I really sat down and thought about it deeply, I thought there was not anything more important I could do.

**"We are not a
bureaucracy
here. This place
operates very
efficiently."**

—Doug Nelson

Q: Did you have a vision of what you wanted MAP to be?

A: No. I had not been involved in any way with volunteerism and AIDS. I was really disconnected from the whole AIDS community. I came into this much like I've come into many things in my career, and that is with an ardent feeling that in order to make any progress, there would have to be very strong and hard political work to get things done. That's something I've always been attracted to. Whether it was being attracted to and pulled into the protest movement of the Vietnam War or some of the political work I did. I was just always drawn into an advocacy role that I enjoy. My first few weeks on the job here ... there were about seven people on the staff and a budget of \$500,000. Primarily what the Milwaukee AIDS Project was doing back then was education. It was very much of an AIDS education and AIDS awareness type of thing. I think there was one social worker among the seven who was doing case management work, serving people who had AIDS. It became clear as a bell to me, that if MAP was to have meaning, if MAP was really going to make a difference here, that we would need to build a client services program. There was no money for that, so one of the first things I did was, which is sort of symbolic of how friendships and connections help you out, I went over to Madison and met with Clarenbach and said, "We've got to get a legislative initiative to fund these kinds of services." David and I formed an alliance on this and really through his leadership in the State Assembly we got passed a \$1.5 million initiative to support what we called "Life Care Services" for people with HIV. That enabled MAP to establish a

fundamental foundation in services and case management.

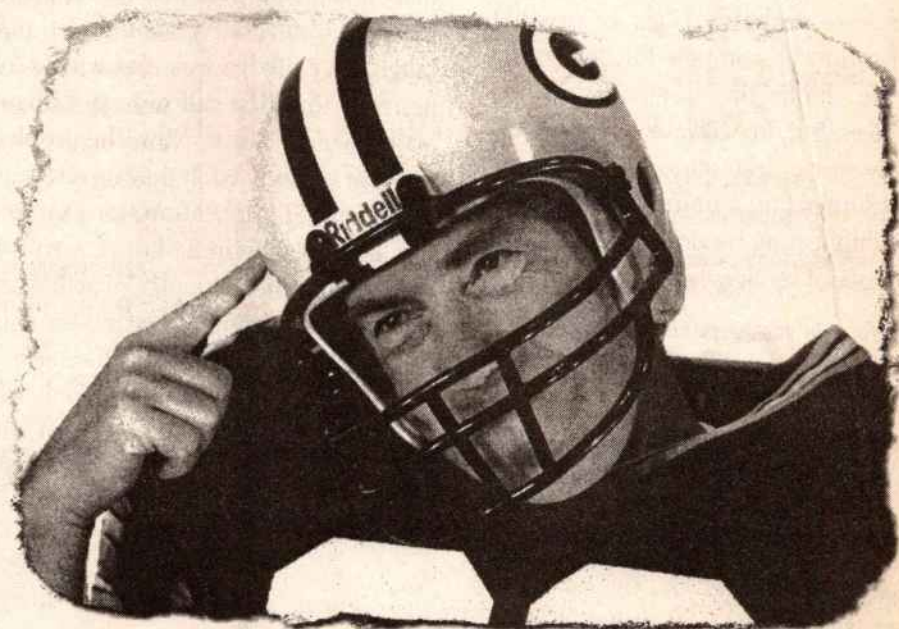
Q: MAP's Client Services have come under fire lately ... I'm thinking of criticism you received at MAP's Community Forums and a letter-to-the-editor recently published in In Step Magazine. Are you happy with MAP's Client Services?

A: We're not perfect here. The letter in the In Step is an example of an episode where the case manager did not work well. I would call it a failure of case management in this instance. We are addressing that with this individual. I think there is a tendency to focus in on a few areas where perhaps we know that we need to make some improvements. When you look at what we really have here, case management is a big foundation, but we literally have almost a small law firm with two lawyers and a paralegal. We have over 700 open law cases where we deliver excellent, free legal services to clients from two outstanding lawyers. We have a housing program where more than 130 people are provided with

housing on a permanent basis. We're constructing, thanks to a grant from the federal HUD Department, a six unit housing structure for families with HIV, which will meet another critical need.

Q: When will that be complete?

A: We are hopeful to break ground this coming summer and open probably in the beginning of 1997. That will add to the housing program. We have a huge rental assistance program. We'll be delivering over \$100,000 in rent assistance to clients this year and about \$25,000 in emergency financial assistance. In addition to that we have the food pantry where we're delivering over 100 tons of food to people. In this coming year, we're going to be doing hot meal delivery to people who are home bound. Come January, we are going to essentially rescue the HIV Dental Clinic out at Doyne Hospital, Doyne is closing down; it had become one of the primary sources of dental services for the AIDS community. Froedtert didn't want it, The Medical



College didn't want it, so we will be moving the Dental Clinic down here to MAP. One thing I think is so important that we don't publicize enough is that we have a Wisconsin Based Community Research Consortium. It's a clinical drug trial program here and it's the only one in the state. We have created that, we staff it. We essentially recruit drug trials from drug companies. The bottom line is that it brings experimental drugs into Milwaukee. It enables people with HIV and AIDS to access those experimental drugs. The approval a couple of weeks ago of 3-TC, the new anti retro-viral, that now the FDA has approved... we've had 3-TC in Milwaukee for the last two years. People with HIV and AIDS have been able to access it through the drug trials that we operate. So, when I look at the whole array of client services we have here it is profound. I interact a lot with my colleagues around the country and there is nothing like this in Detroit or even in Chicago. There's not any single agency that does as much as what we do here in Milwaukee. There are little agencies that take bits and pieces. In Chicago there are probably 17 or 18 organizations; they all compete for dollars; they all are duplicating some administrative services. But, in Milwaukee, we've kept it really sort of lean and mean in terms of not duplicating administrative expense, not duplicating services and broadening the base of services here.

Q: How do you respond to critics who say MAP has become a bureaucracy?

A: We are not a bureaucracy here. This place operates very efficiently. I've been in corporations and in government that are real bureaucracies and this is not a bureaucracy. If someone is trying to call their case manager and their case manager is the phone to another client and they get the voice mail recording, and

that can be frustrating. But is that bureaucratic? No, it isn't. We had someone say on our feedback forms, "We hate your voice mail system, we want to talk to someone real on the end of the phone." If we didn't have voice mail and you called and your case manager is talking with one of the 100 other clients that he or she has, you'd get a busy signal, and that would be even more frustrating. At least with voice mail you can leave a message and someone can get back with you.

Q: Is that part of the reason why you appointed Jerry Lishawa to the Client Advocate position, is that working out?

A: Yes it is. The Jerry Lishawa appointment was going that extra step to make sure that if someone really is aggrieved, if someone really feels that either a case manager or a nurse or whatever may not have responded well or in a timely way, that there is someone here who can be called, who will immediately see that action is taken. Our pledge was that within 24-hours of that first call to Jerry Lishawa action will be taken. Now, the problem may not be resolved. It may take longer to file an SSI application, for example. But, at least within 24 hours, Jerry will see to it that there is a plan of action and that action is going to occur. Our commitment has been first and foremost to the AIDS community and to people who are clients here. And to be honest with you, the calls that he's received have been very, very low. Extraordinarily low. So, what we need to do is publicize his availability and his phone number.

Q: Do you take the recent criticism of MAP personally?

A: I'll answer that in two ways. Professionally, we decided we had to go out into the community, get feedback and to get ideas. It wasn't that we had to do that, we wanted to do that. Perhaps it

"Come January, we are going to essentially rescue the HIV Dental Clinic out at Doyne Hospital..."

goes back to that charge of bureaucracy. Real bureaucracies don't do that kind of thing. We know that we've gotten large. We're doing a lot of things here, so that there are a lot of people, a lot of volunteers. It's a big place. The strategy of going out and having community forums, of providing an opportunity for input and feedback is something we really wanted to do. We were prepared. We were psychologically prepared for the fact that anytime you do that primarily you'll get criticisms. Is it hard to do that personally? Yes it is. Everyone who works at this organization works extraordinarily hard, far beyond a traditional 40 hour work week. People are working very, very hard here. We're battling. AIDS is a crisis, and we're battling a crisis week-in and week-out. Everyone wants to do more. It's hard to find the time and resources to do more. And the death and dying; I think we all know in Milwaukee that we have arrived at a

point in this epidemic where the death rate is very high, we're all losing friends and loved ones and we deal with that every day here. The case managers in particular are on the front lines. When you go to a forum and get the intense criticism we received, personally its hard to take because you want to do the best that you can. On a personal level its difficult.

Q: How do you personally deal with the death and dying aspect?

A: This sounds melodramatic, but isn't there a line in *Gone with the Wind*, "I'll cry tomorrow" or something like that?

Q: Like healthy denial?

A: (Laughing) That's very good. Again I go back to the crisis, this siege, this epidemic. In my mind, the day will come when I can step back from this. I can take that deep breath and say I've done my part, I can't do anymore. At that point, I suspect my emotions will be profound. When you're in the middle of a battle, you really don't have time to do that. The other reality is that while its going on, I've lost some very close friends and you can't defer that or deny it. What I've found is ... my anger level is intensified when I've lost someone who's close to me and it charges me to try to do more and to be better and to work harder. Some of the staff here get pissed off at me at times when something bad has happened and someone has died that we've all known and my expectations and my demands go up. It's probably the way I respond to this, that has helped me maintain a certain amount of sanity.

Q: There's a picture of Christopher Fons on your office wall...

A: Well, I have Christopher's photo on the wall. Christopher and I were not close at all. He and I were more at odds

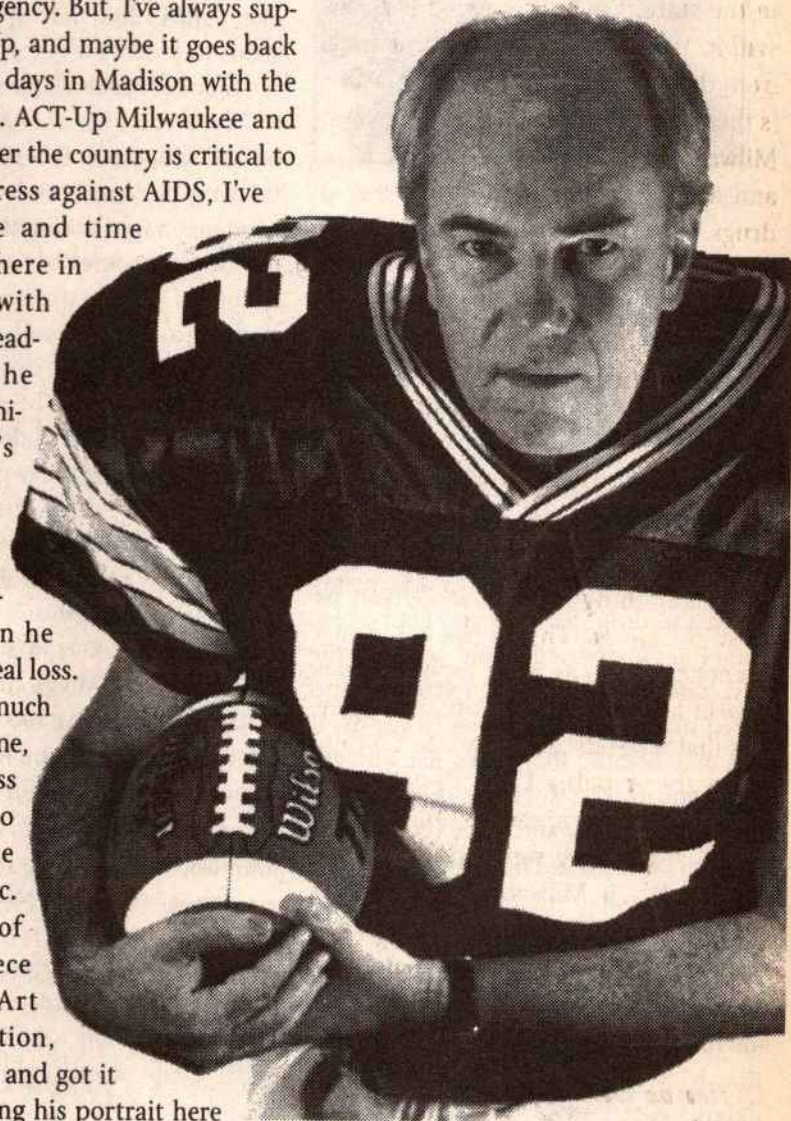
with each other lots of times. He was a real effective leader of ACT-Up Milwaukee and I had many meetings with Christopher. He was on my back before we started the Needle Exchange Program. He would say, "Why are you waiting so long when people's lives are at stake?" and really aggressively criticizing me and the agency. But, I've always supported ACT-Up, and maybe it goes back to my protest days in Madison with the Vietnam War. ACT-Up Milwaukee and ACT-Up all over the country is critical to making progress against AIDS, I've seen it time and time again. Even here in Milwaukee, with Christopher leading ACT-Up he kept this organization on it's toes and kept me on my toes and he made a big difference. When he died it was a real loss.

A loss not so much personally to me, but it was a loss for all of us who are fighting the AIDS epidemic. This picture of him was a piece of art at the Art for AIDS Auction, and I bid on it and got it and I like having his portrait here because it reminds me to fight harder. So, did Christopher have a big impact on me? Absolutely ... I will never forget him. And we miss him, we miss him terribly.

Q: Are there other clients or an individual with AIDS whose passing has made a

major impact on you?

A: There are other people with whom I've been more personally attached to. We're sitting in a conference room which I took the liberty of naming the Dan Gordon Room. Dan Gordon was the first director of finance here. I didn't



know him before I hired him but ... he was a sweetheart, just a sweetheart, and we became really good friends through his work here. I'll never forget when we

Continued on page 46



Meeting Moses

by Lesléa Newman

My parents, who live in New York, visit my older brother, who lives in Miami Beach, once a month. My parents have visited me, their only daughter, who lives in Lesbianville, a northeast city which is a whole lot closer than Florida, once in the last twelve years. Not that I'd want my parents to drop in on me and Flash every time I get my period, mind you, but the discrepancy seems a bit extreme. And when my parents did come to see us, it was only because they had a Bar Mitzvah to attend in Hartford, so they figured they'd come early and drive the extra 35 miles to say hello and have a little nosh.

So, what does my brother have that I don't have? Besides the obvious —that thing between his legs —and the only-slightly-less-obvious —his six figure salary —my brother has produced the one thing that has rendered him God-like in my parents eyes forever: a grandchild. And not just any garden-variety type grandchild. A grandSON. Since everyone treats the little tyke like God, Flash and I have taken to calling him Moses. Not that we see him that often since I have visited my brother even fewer times in the last twelve years than my parents have visited me. But my mother, who can't imagine that

Flash and I are less than fascinated by every move her heir apparent makes, sends us videotapes every so often so we can monitor his development and growth.

Have you ever sat through a thirty minute video of a five month old infant swaying back and forth in one of those wind-up, musical swing-things planted on the floor of somebody's kitchen? And I thought David Letterman was boring. I wanted to send my mother a videotape of our two cats snoozing in the sun, but Flash thought that would be rude. Flash also thought it would be rude not to send the little messiah a birthday present when the occasion arose a few months later and every year thereafter as well.

The first couple of years were easy. Flash and I picked out a tiny playsuit, miniature sneakers, a cute little jacket. Last year when Moses turned four, Flash said he was getting too old for clothes. "You don't want to be his least favorite aunt, do you?" she asked. "Get him a toy." "But I don't know what he likes," I whined.

"Guess who does?" Flash asked, handing me the phone.

So I called my mother, ever the expert, for advice. "He likes cars, trucks, anything with wheels," she said, her voice oozing with pride. God forbid my mother's grandson would like dolls, pocketbooks, anything with rhinestones. We sent him a set of one-hundred miniature vehicles which were a great success with him, though my sister-in-law made it clear she didn't appreciate having to pick them up from behind the couch, under the TV stand and between the stove and refrigerator on a daily basis. In a move that would

make Miss Manners proud, my brother broke a three year silence to call me and put Moses on the phone to say thank you. "Tell Aunt Lesléa how much you like your new cars" my brother said. After a few minutes of garbled baby talk, my brother got back on the phone. "Wait," I said to him, "Let Moses thank Auntie Flash."

"The rates are really high right now," my brother said, fooling no one since it was Sunday afternoon. "Some other time."

Flash and I finally met our nephew at my mother's 65th birthday party, which was quite a gala affair. There was enough food to feed all the lesbians in Lesbianville and Park Slope combined, as well as a one woman band, whose rendition of "Sunrise, Sunset" brought tears to everyone's eyes. We sat at a table with my parents and my brothers and their wives, and of course little Moses, who got even more attention than the birthday girl. He was very into dancing, and Flash and I were impressed at how he would ask anyone to dance, male or female, grown-up or child.

"When do you think he'll learn that it's not okay to dance with boys?" I asked Flash, right after a waiter had said to her, "Another beer, sir?"

"With your brother? I'd say before the night is over," Flash replied, taking another bite of Chicken Kiev.

"Oh c'mon, Flash, he's not that bad."

"Wanna bet? Stand up," she said, taking my arm.

"Where are you going?" my brother asked, looking up from his London broil.

"Out there," Flash gestured to the middle of the room. "To dance."

"With each other?" My brother dropped his fork. "You're not serious, are

you?" he asked, his eyes darting frantically, his complexion instantly pale.

"Cool your jewels, Brother. We're just going to the ladies room," Flash said, steering me away from the table. She had proven her point.

A few days later my mother called to discuss the party. "Your nephew can't stop talking about you," she said. "He keeps saying to your brother, 'Aunt Lesléa and Aunt Flash live together, just like Grandma and Grandpa, right?'"

"Smart kid," I said to her. "So what should I get him for his birthday this year?"

"He's very into books right now," my mother said. "He won't go to sleep without two bedtime stories."

"Two, huh?" I asked, relieved that my problem was immediately solved. I didn't have to choose between *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Gloria Goes To Gay Pride*. I could give him both.

"What do you think?" I asked Flash. "Is Moses old enough for Heather?"

"Sure," she said. "Too bad your brother isn't."
Too bad, indeed.

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Rihab Aras, Kosti Helou, Au Bon Appetit
Janine Arseneau, Sexual Assault Treatment Ctr.
David Baldridge, Psychotherapist
Richard Jerome Bennett, Music Therapist
Steve Brondino, Attorney
Steve Byers, Attorney, Legal Aid of Wisconsin
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**The Staff of BESTD Clinic Live!, Jeff Buckles, producer; Erv Uecker, host
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Thursday, January 4th:

"Q-Voice that New Voice" with Bill Attewell and Jorge Cabal

Thursday, January 11th:

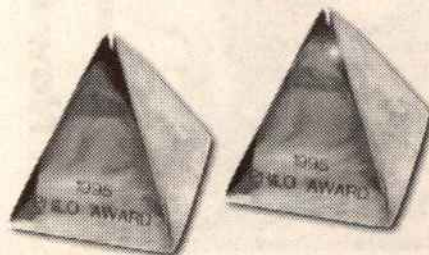
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OUT of the Closet

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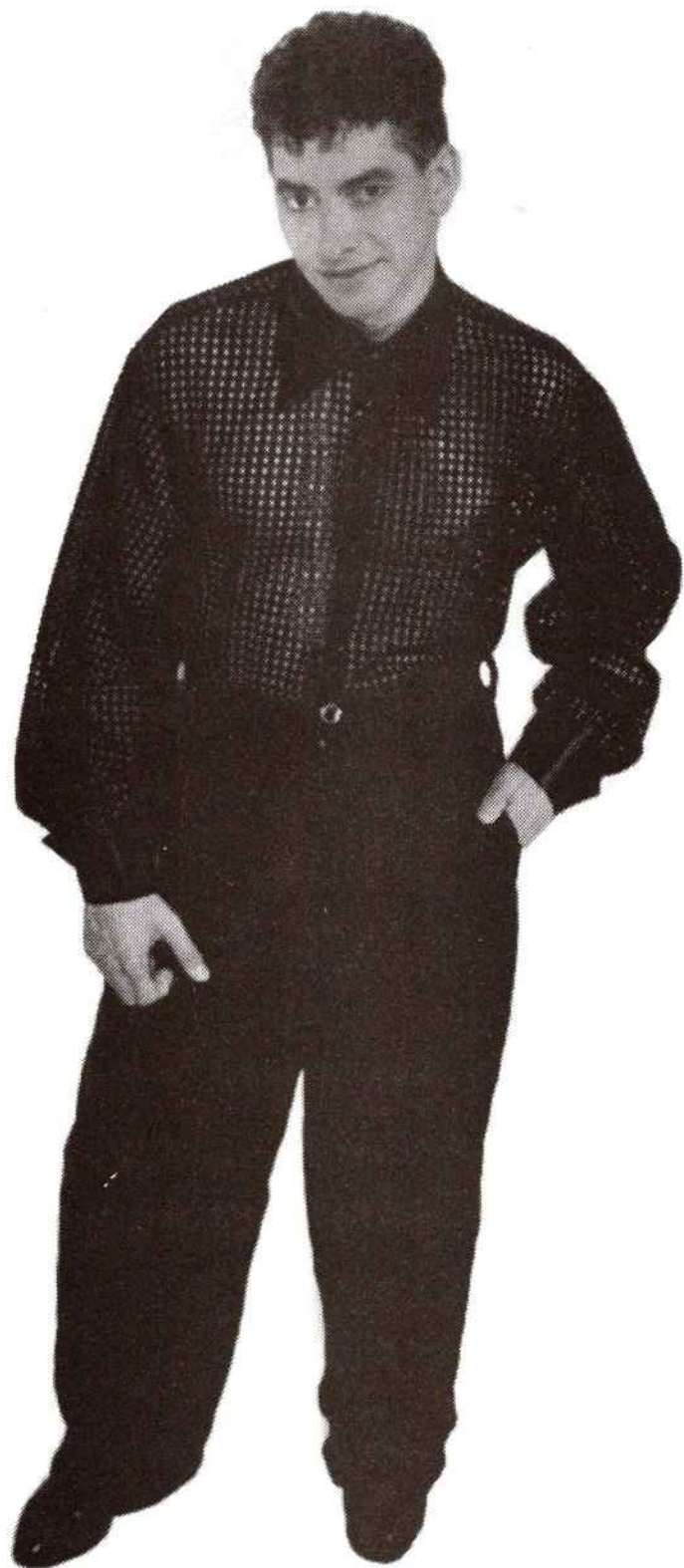
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Manuel Kortright

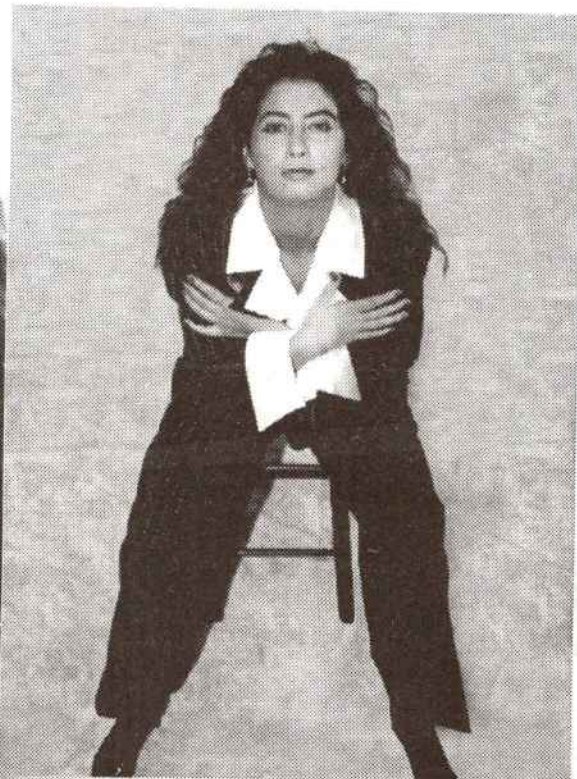
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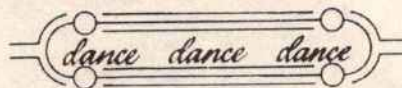


Winter 1995-96

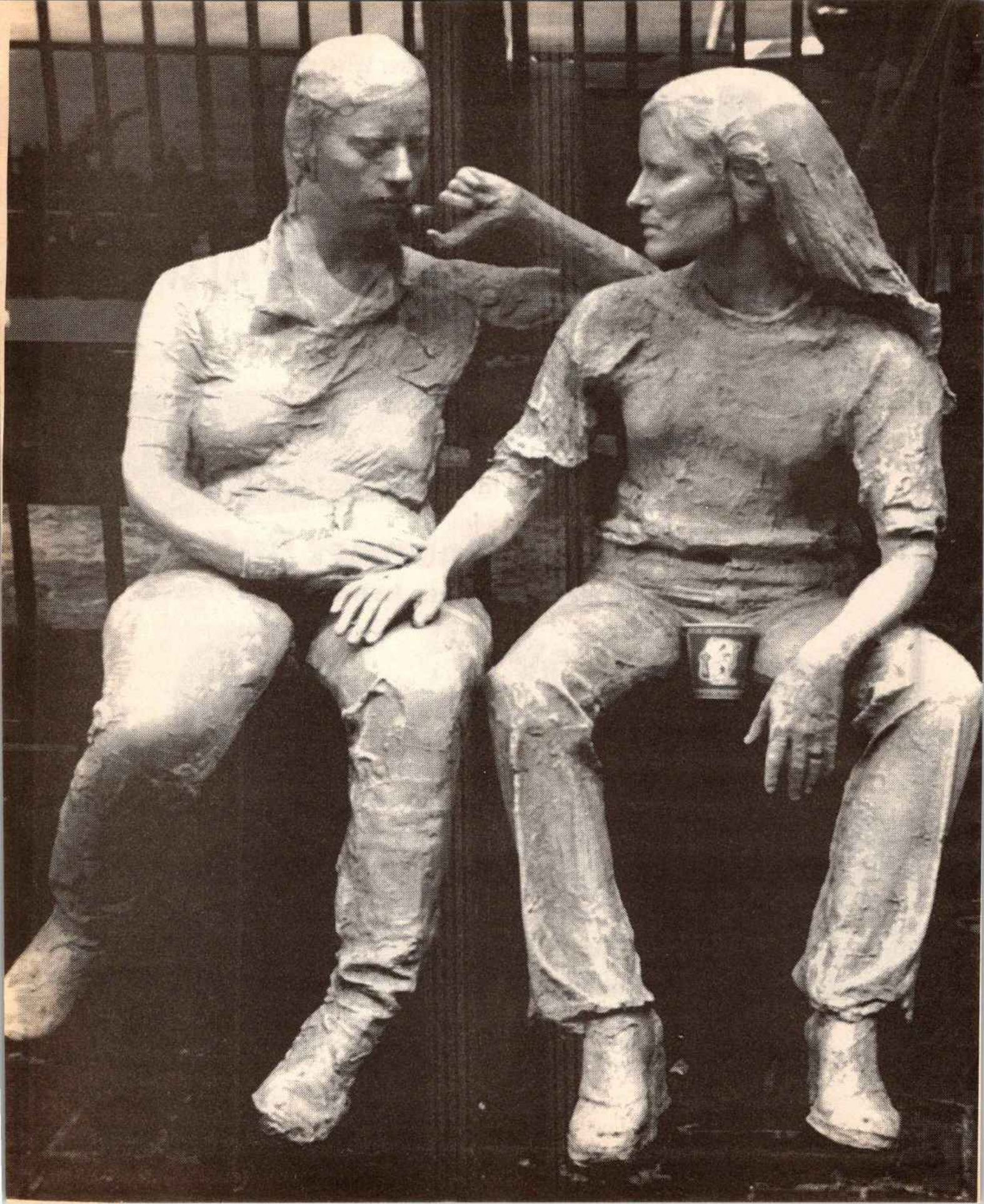
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Report from

NEW YORK

[in which WASWO gives some rambling observations on the city, the food and Robert Mapplethorpe]

Newt Gingrich and crew have a tendency to dismiss New York as emblematic of all that is wrong with America. Like the campfire cowboys in that notorious barbecue sauce commercial who scream "get a rope!" when they discover they're eating a New York product, there are those who think the best thing for New York City is for it to be lynched out of existence. Remember that grade-B film, *Escape from New York* where Manhattan has literally been turned into one huge prison camp? This seems to be some people's fantasy. Let's just wall Sin City away from the rest of this God-fearing country.

As the cliché goes; you either love it or you hate it. Those who hate it tend to sight crime, graffiti, over-congestion, dirt and

rude people as chief complaints. These days they are apt to mention foreigners as well. Walking in midtown Manhattan and being surrounded by a cacophony of Yiddish, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese, can make some people wonder where all the "Americans" have gone. It's not like this back in West Bend— or Waukesha for that matter. For some the whole thing about welcoming folks to our shores with the Statue of Liberty has obviously gone too far.

But there are those of us who love New York. We love it for many of the same reasons others hate it. We see vitality, competitiveness, and diversity, the amazing symbiosis of different cultures. We see not only graffiti, but incredible monuments, sculpture, architecture, museums, theaters

and restaurants. We hum to ourselves Frank Sinatra tunes and enjoy a city that never sleeps. Or we stroll Central Park and think we'd just adore a penthouse view. Like Eva Gabor says, it's not the chores, it's the stores!

If I can get to New York but once a year it is not really enough. Soho always beckons the artist in me, as does the Village. Every part of Manhattan offers something unique. From the green expanses of Central Park to the upscale Upper East Side, or the still somewhat sleazy 42nd Street and Times Square, it seems that New York has it all. In the heart of Chinatown you will find Little Italy. Limousines cruise in sleek elegance past homeless beggars. If you can't find it in New York you have probably not looked hard enough. A million signs, posters, and flashing lights will attempt to guide you.

The East Village staunchly maintains its iconoclastic image, exhibiting little of the yuppification the Village proper has undergone. An advertisement for the Crow Bar defiantly proclaims "Fats, Fems, and Druggies Welcome". This East Village gay hangout features no sign to help the traveler find it; just pictures of crows painted on the side of the building. On Monday nights there is the live taping of *The Hedda Lettuce Show* for local access television. The live audience sits on an assemblage of thirty or so folding chairs in a room painted black. On this last visit I was treated to a stunning reenactment of Madonna's 1993 tour. It is not easy for a drag artist to do Madonna. Exposed waistlines and navels tell all. Raw energy and

Facing Page, (detail) Gay Liberation sculptures by George Segal in Christopher Park, photo by Doug Krimmier

skill is needed to master punishing choreography. But at the Crow Bar it was "pulled off" perfectly. Flanking Madonna were two healthy young muscle studs who were even more amazing in their gymnastic abilities. The whole event (a benefit for the Gay Men's Health Crisis) was a night to remember.

Another highlight was a play entitled *30,000 Pigs Roam the City*. This was performed at the Wings Theater on Christopher Street. "Pigs" is a light-hearted

Christopher Park stands just outside the Stonewall Inn. This spot is without a doubt the symbolic epicenter of the gay liberation movement. What began with the riots at the Stonewall Inn in the summer of 1969, is now commemorated with a George Segal sculpture in white painted bronze. Two men stand, while two women sit on a park bench, representing open and unashamed gay and lesbian love. This little park has become a tourist destination for gay

restaurants, bars—it is all there. If you're planning a trip to New York, don't forget this other gay strip.

Tasty eateries and chic restaurants abound in New York. My favorites are found in the Village and Soho. When every slick Italian diner wants to call itself a "tratoria", Pesce Pasta on Bleeker Street truly lives up to the name. Marinated zucchinis, squid and fresh mozzarella with olive oil and basil beckon from the windows. It is the sort of restaurant run by family. Mom and dad work in the kitchen, sons and daughters waiting tables. The room is quaint, less expensive than most, and the food and atmosphere right out of Florence. If you want to spend a little bit more money, Raoul's on Prince Street in Soho is small, tasty and French. Ask to be seated in back. You will be walked right through the kitchen to an intimate back patio. For those who know French food is more than escargot, this is a must.



musical dealing with two roommates. One, a promiscuous young pretty boy forever searching for a new experience. The other a conservative and somewhat moralistic young man searching for the "Mr. Right" with whom he can begin a monogamous relationship. Strangely these two roommates have more in common than not. They form an odd couple relationship that by the play's end hints at becoming more than just roommates. The whole piece is cleverly done and well written, the acting superb. "Pigs" provided more than a little insight into the positives and negatives of the gay community.

people world-wide. There is seldom a moment when some couple is not posing for the video or snap shot with the sculptures. Sidewalk cafes and gay taverns are plentiful in the immediate area, and the whole atmosphere is at once charged and charming. As gay public sculptures the Christopher Park statues are rivaled only by Amsterdam's *Homomonument*.

While the heart of New York's gay community may still be Christopher Street according to tradition, in reality Eighth Avenue is becoming more and more the vortex of things gay. I have sometimes counted more rainbow flags on Eight Avenue than on Christopher Street. Shops,

Gallery and Museum going is at its best in New York City. Suffice it to say that the Joel-Peter Witkin show at the Guggenheim blew my mind. Claes Oldenburg, the Dutch sculptor who made a career out of making monumental sculpture out of everyday objects was also at the Guggenheim. Viewers were treated to giant clothespins, meatballs, and a stick of lipstick that protruded like a missile from a tank. Oldenburg sarcastically proposes to replace the Statue of Liberty with a giant electric fan blowing out to sea: the answer to a xenophobes prayer.

But the highlight of this last visit was found at the International Center of Photography. The show *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, juxtaposed images by Robert Mapplethorpe side by side with images by Edward Weston. It is currently fashionable to speak disparagingly of Mapplethorpe's work. Critics and biographers alike have done an about-face. Whereas six years ago, in the aftermath of the Jesse Helms/NEA battles,

Mapplethorpe was treated by the art community as a modern master, today he is presented as little more than a shrewd hustler with a talent for self-promotion. It is unfortunate that the pendulum of opinion swings to such extremes. Edward Weston is unanimously considered one of the greats of art photography. Living as a bohemian heterosexual in California during the '20's and '30's, Weston's images are every bit as erotic and sensual as Mapplethorpe's. The amazing thing is how well Mapplethorpe's work corresponds to Weston's. In the comparison, Mapplethorpe often comes out the better of the two. It seems to me the current bout of revisionist put-downs of Mapplethorpe stems not from aesthetic judgments, but from a cowardice in the art community to face down right wing politics. After all, if Mapplethorpe is judged a modern master, then he must be given museum shows and validation. Few museum directors in the United States seem to have the guts to mount Mapplethorpe shows in these puritanical times. It has become safer and easier to simply devalue his work. But, if the ICP show is any indication, the sheer strength of Mapplethorpe's imagery will eventually win him a respected and lasting place in photographic history.

Such is New York; controversial but chic, tasty, sensual, provoking and gritty. If you've never been there, don't believe the negative stories that have become Midwestern folk tales. See for yourself. Chances are you will love it.

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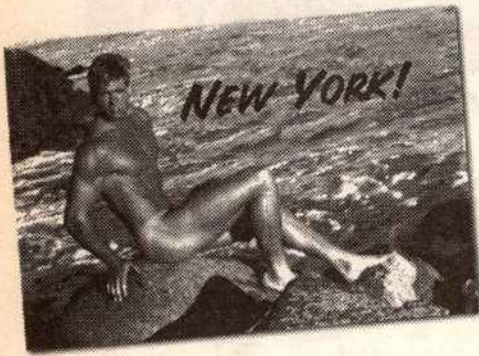
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The Casual Observer

by ED-NA



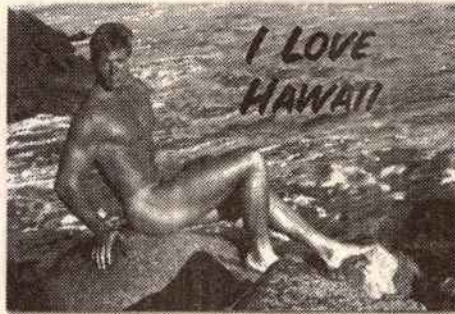
Postcards from the Net

Turkey day in the country was wonderful. I got caught up on all the news; who had been where, and who was on their way to some place exciting. I saw pictures and videos of London and Venice that turned me green with envy.

In the days that followed, post cards have begun to arrive. One was from my friend in Chicago. The Face Model; he's in Cancun (Playa del Carmen, actually... it's cheaper), working on his winter tan. The card was a picture of some hunk on a rock, and I've gotten the SAME card a few times over the past few years from different friends in different parts of the U.S. of A. That's got to be a PORTABLE rock. FM reported that after he had returned from a day at the nude beach, he had a wonderful traditional

Thanksgiving dinner on the deck of the Chicago Sports Bar & Restaurant while he watched the sun setting on the Caribbean Sea. He has two more weeks left of relaxing, riding scooters to the local Aztec ruins, visiting Cozumel, and just hanging-out with some very compatible people at the Dragon Bar. The next day another card arrived. This time, from two friends who are finishing up a two-week visit to Spain. They are staying in Barcelona at a friend's apartment while he is in the Greek isles. That's hard to take!

My actor/dancer friend from South Carolina, who has been in almost every major Broadway musical... EVER... and on lots of road tours (he loves Milwaukee), is off to NYC for a three week stay with a series of friends. He



wants to get caught up on what's happening in the Big Apple. Jimmy has wild tales to tell (you should hear the one about his dancing with Cyd Charise in the 1971 remake of *Damned Yankees*). He will go on for hours dropping names and stories; one funnier than the next. There

will most likely be a late-night, wildy-dishy, group-phone call, and I'll be able to talk to some friends. But, it won't be like being there.

All this activity has prompted me to log on to the World Wide Web and check out some of the destinations offered on the International Gay/Lesbian Travel Association's Home Page. It seems like every home page I've found on the Web has lots of other areas to "click" on and you can go in as many layers as you want and browse away the hours. First, I found "Men On Vacation" (MOV). Get this: You can take a jet boat ride on the Overshot River in Queenstown, New Zealand; dive in the warm tropical waters of the Great Barrier reef in Australia; or, ride the Trans-Siberian express in Russia, all with other Gay male travelers from all over the world on one of their group tours. Also, you can have your own custom-designed package created. They have tours to Spain and Hawaii among others. To register with MOV, call 1-800-959-4636, or e-mail them at MenOnVacat@aol.com.

The second group I found was ADVance-Damron Vacations' Caribbean Windjammer 6-day, 6-night cruises aboard their flagship vessel S/V Fantome. ADVance-Damron advertises "100% Pure Adventure for Gay Men": Costume Parties! Wildly Fun Excursions! Campy Evening Extravanzas! Dance Parties on the

Beach! Faaaabulous Food! Faaaabulous Fun! Faaaabulous Drinks! And, Look For Surprise Entertainers! Who knew?? Well... you can. Call 1-800-695-0880, or e-mail them at adv@advance-damron.com.

I'm exhausted. I still have Christmas cookies to bake... I promised! I've put this vacation stuff



on the back burner for far too long to do it at this point anyway. There may be a spur-of-the-moment charge-my-credit-cards-to-the-MAX-trip in my future, but for now, I'll just surf the Internet and look at my post cards. Besides, I'm off for my first visit to the Electric Beach.

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ANDREW OF AMERICA'S



**Gay Glossary
Word Du Jour**



FAG STAG

ANDREW OF AMERICA here, with today's **NEW** gay glossary word:

FAG STAG (n. Am., Andrew of Am., 1994) Handsome straight males who enjoy or prefer the company of gay men to their hetero pals. A male "fag hag."

Fag Stags may be found roaming the North American continent in droves. They are easily detected by their James Brown T-shirts, dreamy doe eyes and boyish good looks. Fag Stags love to tell gay men about their girlfriend troubles, appreciate a shoulder to cry on and someone who can whip up spaghetti prima vera from items found in any hetero hunk's sadly deficient refrigerator and/or tackle box.

This symbiotic relationship thrives in an environment where the gay "host" can provide a free haircut the night before the stag's job interview in exchange for copying a Madonna concert tape or the privilege of giving the open-minded male a much needed shoulder massage.

The gay male is careful to sublimate his sexual desires claiming that the stag is like the "brother he never had." The stag returns the compliment saying you "remind me of my sister" or if he's lucky: "If ever I had sex with a guy—though I'd NEVER—it would be you."

The gay male pretends he knows nothing about cars to play upon the stag's need to assert his masculinity under the hood of a Toyota Celica. The straight male pretends he knows nothing about doing laundry.

The gay male claims to understand the mysteries of women. The straight male pretends not to understand the erotic attraction of men to men.

The straight male says he is out of after shave and would the gay male help him pick out a scent his girlfriend would like. The gay male never tells that him *he* dumped the Stag's Aqua Velva. The Stag's girlfriend sends the gay male flowers and a thank you note.

The gay male lets the stag sleep in his bed and cry when his girlfriend dumps *him* for her tennis instructor. The next morning, the stag pretends he was drunk the night before.

The stag will patiently teach the fag how to fish like "one of the guys." The fag will nearly amputate his fingers in snarled fishing line.

The straight male will spot the gay male at the gym. The gay male will spot his sweatshorts.

The straight male will explain endless hours of football. The gay male will pretend to listen as he watches the straight males Adam's apple bob up and down.

The gay male always pretends to be subservient to the needs of the stag. Deep down the stag knows that his gay friend is in control... and deeper still, he likes it.

The gay male will lie awake at nights wondering if the stag knows his true feelings. The stag lies awake wondering the same thing. This male bonding will progress to almost Greco-Roman proportions until the stag meets a flight attendant named Debbie.

The queer will dial his fingers to the bone. The stag will answer, Debbie and I aren't here right now, but if you'll leave a message..."

The gay male will sit by the phone like a cocker spaniel, watching spiders spin their webs.

The stag will take Debbie scuba diving in Cancun.

The stag will have a stag party with strippers dressed like "I Dream of Jeannie." The fag will ask softly the next day, "Why did you think I wouldn't want to be invited?"

The stag will marry and name his third child after the fag.

On cold rainy nights, the fag will name his left hand after the stag. Remind you of anyone you know?

ANDREW OF AMERICA was asked by several fans "kudo-heads" if this piece was in some sense autobiographical to which he replied: "Straight boys never kiss; I never kiss and tell."

YOUR NEW YEAR'S PARTY GUIDE!

Just Us

Starting with a Chinese Buffet at 11 a.m. Just Us closes at 4 a.m., but reopens at 10 a.m. to kick off the Monday Pajama Party. Show up in pjs and get a free drink and feast on a Breakfast Buffet.

Station 2

From 9 p.m. to midnight enjoy a \$5 beer bust or pay \$10 for rail drinks & wine. Serving a delicious buffet including chicken wings and swedish meatballs at 12:30 p.m. On New Year's Day juice drinks, like Bloody Mary's are only \$1.50 after 9 a.m., and hot ham sandwiches are free throughout the day.

Kathy's Nut Hut

Tap beer is free from 11 p.m. until midnight, when party favors are given out to everyone. On New Year's Day, hors d'oeuvre will be served and beer is \$1 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., and spicy cold mugs of Bloody Mary's are \$1.75 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Triangle

No cover charge. Patrons will receive party favors and there is free champagne at midnight and a wonderful buffet afterwards. Just another way in which Rob thanks everybody for supporting the Triangle over the years.

C'est La Vie

Party favors at midnight and a full buffet at midnight.

La Cage

There will be a buffet from 9 p.m. until midnight featuring lots of everything... even shrimp, complimented by the latest and best party remixes. This follows up with a another buffet at 4 a.m. featuring sandwiches and snacks.

M&M's

The usual delicious food, plus the bar will be open for 24 hours with party favors at midnight and free coffee and sweet rolls around 6 a.m.

Wreck Room

There will be free party hats, favors and a bountiful buffet.

Zipperz

Zipperz: Has an hors d'oeuvre buffet at 10 p.m. and again at midnight.



This Is It

They will be having their Annual New Year's Eve party with no cover charge. They will have their New Year's Grand Celebration all day Monday, January 1st.

In Between

There will be a balloon drop at midnight and their famous champagne punch which tastes like a creamy orange drink with a kick.

3Bs Bar

There will be an impromptu drag show with free champagne at midnight.

The Ballgame

There will be a buffet at 1 a.m. with no cover charge to enjoy the festivities.

Gargoyles

There will be complimentary champagne at midnight, hors d'ouvres and door prizes.

Mama Roux's

Free champagne at midnight, a drag show at 1 a.m., and a wonderful breakfast buffet from 2 a.m. until 9 a.m. On Monday there will be free Bloody Mary's from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. with beer chasers.

1100 Club

There will be a free buffet to compliment drinks at the right price: \$1.50 for bottles and rail drinks, 50 cents for tap beer.

Cafe Melange

Make your reservations for dinner and the New Year's Eve show. Choose from Cornish Hen, Tenderloin Tips, or Shrimp Florentine: all for \$28 per person. The show stars Sheila Spargur, David Carroll, Jerome O'Brien and Jonathan Granof playing show tunes and jazz.

MAP Benefit

For those who want a switch from the bar scene there is the Milwaukee AIDS Project benefit at the Stiemke Theater. The show starts at 8 p.m., and for two hours the stage will be filled with the likes of Milwaukee's best performers from the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The Skylight Theater, The Milwaukee Musical Theater, plus many others. You can get your \$30 ticket by calling 224-9490. The best part of all this is that all the profits will go towards helping those with HIV/AIDS and to AIDS research.

by Timothy Neithercott

MUSIC FOR A QUEER PLANET



by DJ Mags

With the holiday season in full swing, I thought now might be a good time for some last minute gift giving ideas for those music lovers on your list. This month's featured albums will make thoughtful offerings for December's myriad celebrations.

Rock's Great White Lesbian Wonder, **Melissa Etheridge**, resurfaces with her fifth collection of soon-to-be heartland favorites, entitled *Your Little Secret* (Island Records). Although she has few secrets left since her big coming out a few years back, she does have plenty of blustery ballads and classic rock anthems left in her arsenal, ten of which are featured here on this fifty-two minute opus. With the title track already topping the charts, and cuts like the provocative "I Really Like You" ("I'll buy you mangos baby/Your favorite fruit/I'll shave everything baby/I'll press my suit"), and the confessional "I Could Have Been You" ("I'm scared of growin' old/I shiver when I'm cold/Don't you think I bleed the same blood?"), Melissa will certainly have little trouble retaining

her crown as the Sapphic Sovereign of American Rock-n-Roll.

Conspicuously missing since 1992's *Matters of the Heart*, **Tracy Chapman** launches *New Beginning* (Elektra Records), her fourth album of earthy folk-pop tunes. Despite mixed reviews, I think this album is her long-awaited return to greatness. Chapman gracefully covers the tough terrain of love and relationships in songs like the tender "Smoke and Ashes," showcases her gifted storytelling ability in the poignant "Cold Feet," and makes insightful social commentary in "The Rape of the World" and "New Beginning." Her strong suit has always been the straight-from-the-heart personal confession, and here we get several, among them the brutally honest "At This Point In My Life," and the joyous "I'm Ready." Musically, Chapman recorded the album almost completely live in the studio with her own band, giving it a spontaneous crispness and a well-balanced production quality—not too sparse and not too heavy-handed. Most tracks fall within her customary acoustic folk-pop boundaries—with the occasional bluesy detour ("Give Me One Reason")—and are intermittently flavored with ethnic instrumental highlights (Scottish pipes, whistle, didjeridu, tamboura).

Speaking of world-flavored music, *Global Divas* (Rounder Records) is a new three-cd package featuring some of the planet's most accomplished and creative female singers, released in conjunction with the *United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women* that took place recently in Beijing, China. The compre-

hensive collection pays tribute to the musical and social achievements of women worldwide, including over 40 artists representing more than 30 nations, while raising funds for the United Nations Development Fund For Women (UNIFEM).

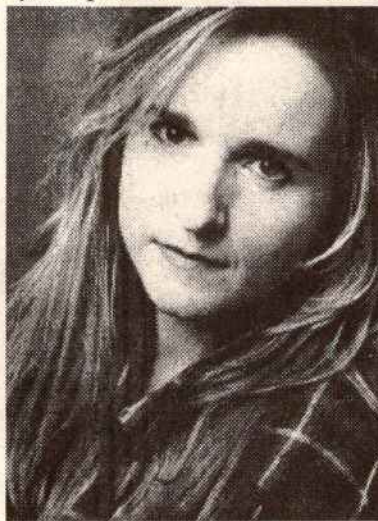
Quick Notes: For the alternative pop/rock fan on your list, check out Britain's multicultural, new wavers **Echobelly**, and their second album *On* (550 Music/Epic); they're instantly compared to original New Wavers **Blondie**, **the Pretenders** and **the Smiths** for their eclectic alternapop sound.

If much harder fare interests your loved one, try San Francisco's dyke performance-punk quintet **Tribe 8** and their latest, the fierce *Fist City* (Alternative

Tentacles Records). If a more mellow listening experience is desired, turn to Britain's jazzy folk-pop duo *Everything But the Girl's Amplified Heart* (Atlantic Records). Although released in late 1994, the album is just now picking up speed due to the enormous popularity of their current single and club hit "Missing." In search of a good laugh? Shamelessly queer folk troubadours **Romanovsky and Phillips** show off their quick wit on their live recording,

Let's Flaunt It! (Fresh Fruit Records), which intersperses some of their greatest hits with new material.

Hope this helps in your quest for the perfect holiday purchase for your special music fiend. Happy holidays. Blessed be. Peace.



—Melissa Etheridge

HANG-OUTS

Milwaukee

1100 Club

1100 S. 1st Street
414/647-9950

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

38's Bar

1579 S. 2nd Street
414/672-5580

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

Ballgame

196 S. 2nd Street
414/273-7474

This tried and true neighborhood hangout is probably the oldest operating gay bar in the state.

Boot Camp

209 E. National Ave.
414/643-6900

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

Cafe Melange

720 Old World 3rd St.
414/291-9889

Life is a caberet and so is Cafe Melange. Featuring a large bar, relaxed dining room, and eclectic mix of live entertainment.

C'est La Vie

231 S. 2nd Street
414/291-9600

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

Club 219

219 S. 2nd Street
414/271-3732

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

Fannies

200 E. Washington
414/643-9633

Popular Third Ward women's bar.

Gargoyles

807 S. 5th Street
414/383-2233

This new nite spot is truly on the other side of the tracks; featuring 2 bars, CD jukebox, men in Levi & leather & lots of gargoyles.

In Between

625 S. 2nd Street
414/273-2693

The decor alone in this friendly men's bar will make you want to break out in Cheers theme song; with a long bar and pool table.

Just Us

807 S. 5th Street
414/383-2233

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

Kathy's Nut Hut

1500 W. Scott Street
414/647-2673

Regulars love this friendly women's saloon. Can't find it? Just call for directions.

M&M Club

124 N. Water Street
414/347-1962

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
414/383-8330

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
414/347-0344

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

Mama Roux

1857 N. Humboldt
414/347-0344

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

Station 2

1534 W. Grant St.
414/383-5755

The famous Eastside "wrinkle room" features a diverse crowd of various ages plus one of the city's best jukeboxes.

Triangle

135 E. National Ave.
414/383-9412

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

Wreck Room

226 East Erie
414/273-6900

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

Zippers

819 S. 2nd Street
414/645-8330

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

Madison

Geraldine's

3052 E. Washington
608/241-9335

It's two, two, two bars in one. Geraldine's catering to women & Ray's for the boys... with country line dancing, DJ's and occasional strippers.

Manoeuvres

150 S. Blair Street
608/258-9918

Fresh from a make-over, you can dance, cruise or watch videos on starship sized video monitors.

The New Bar

636 W. Washington (upstairs)
608/256-8765

Popular hang-out for locals and tourists alike, boasts an award winning dance floor with videos and a DJ.

Rod's

636 W. Washington (rear)
608/255-0609

Levi, leather, cruising and probably the naughtiest bar logo in the state... the name says it all.



Snap!

with Thom Moran



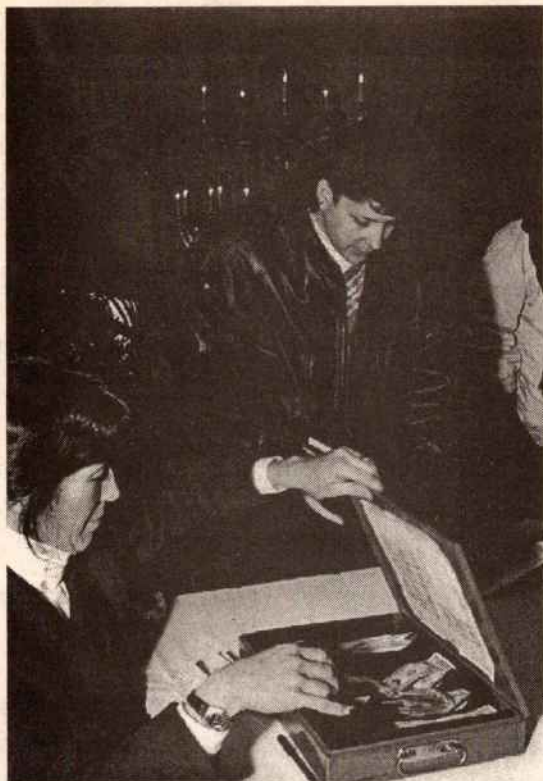
*Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells, Ho-Ho-Ho and all that jazz. The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus celebrated the holidays with a recent performance at the PAC.
Snapped above: Dave Carroll*



Bahtyah Jones and Emery Churness



Kathy Riedel has her hands full.



Debbie Lang selling tickets



We don't know who he is, but hey... nice scarf!



*Either authentic jingle bells
or medieval torture device.*



went out to the International AIDS Conference in San Francisco and he wasn't doing real well, this was probably a year and a half before he died and he had never seen The Quilt. So, we decided we would go together to see The Quilt. We walked in and of course it was a profound emotional circumstance and I noticed that all of a sudden he had sort of drifted off, he had wanted to go by himself and he began having a real difficult time. When he came back, tears were running down his eyes and he just said we need to go, we need to go. So we walked out and he said, "This is all so unfair." and just burst into tears. I can hear him say it today. AIDS is unfair, it's unjust. Why should all of us, particularly all of us in the gay community endure this tragedy? And there's not an answer to that. There's another person, Larry Plarerin who was a very close friend of mine. He was the interior designer who worked so hard on the the new building for AWRC and MAP. His last year of his life he dedicated himself totally to helping us move in there and actually became homebound before we all got settled in and never saw us make that final move. His loss was very significant to me. Right now we have over 1,000 clients, and I don't know all of them, there are many, many people who in the course of their volunteering and their involvement as clients I get to know. I can see the faces of the people I've gotten to know who we've lost. There are just too many to even try to count.

Q: You were recently on BESTD Clinic LIVE! and a caller to the show asked, "Are you gay?" and you said the only other time you'd been asked that was by Mark Belling. When did he ask you that?

A: That was back at the beginning. I think that was probably six months or so after I'd come to MAP. I didn't know who Mark Belling was back then. He had a radio show even back then. I got on it and it was live at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. I don't know what we were talking about and all of a sudden he said, "Well,

"I like to think that as difficult and painful as AIDS is, that all of us who are involved in fighting it are on the side of the angels."

—Doug Nelson

Mr. Nelson, are you gay?" and I said, "What difference does that make based on what we're talking about?" and he said "I think my audience and Milwaukee needs to know if you're gay." and I said, "Sure I am." and that was it. It's really a symbol of how long I've been here. When I first took the job, someone came up to me and congratulated me on it said to me, "I really admire you for taking this job and I'd really thought about apply for it myself, but I decided that I didn't want to ever be put in a position while being interviewed by television or radio about whether or not I was gay." It struck me that when I decided to take it, I never thought about that, it never

crossed my mind that that would be an issue. I find it hard to imagine that anyone would think that I'm anything but... being a single guy in his 40's running an AIDS organization. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that one out.

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

A: That I am an ardent Green Bay Packer Fan.

Q: Are you?

A: I am (laughing)... I really love the Packers, it's a love affair. It's the Cinderella team always.

Q: Do you find it's the romance of it or that you grew up with it?

A: No, I didn't grow up with it... it wasn't until I finished college that I became interested. I grew up near Minneapolis-St. Paul and it was all Vikings over there. In fact, I didn't even know when I was growing up where Green Bay was. I wish I had been into football back then because that's when they won all those championships. I enjoy sports... I don't have great athletic ability. I remember in school, when I went out for football in junior high school and I was just awful and I kept going out because it was the thing you were supposed to do. Finally, the football coach came to me after two years and said, "Doug, maybe you might want to consider doing something different." So, I did. I guess its always sort of a fantasy about being a great athlete. I love most sports. Part of it may be it's fun to see attractive men. Tennis is a great sport. I've got to get into soccer... I have to go some Wave games, I haven't been there yet. There's always this duality of interest.

Q: It's not just the joy of the sport?

A: I think it's frosting on the cake... I love

the sport. I love the strategy of it. But its fun to watch some of the men who are gorgeous... am I wrong?

Q: I'm not disagreeing with you. So, where do you hang out when you're not at work? Do you tend to more of homebody, watching reruns of the Packers?

A: I like to spend a lot of time at home or up at my cottage. In the summertime in particular ... and I enjoy going out to the gay bars. But, honestly the work is so draining that you almost have to get your energy up to go out. I enjoy spending time at friend's homes.

Q: Is there someone special in your life right now?

A: I don't. No.

Q: Is that something you look for or hope would come along?

A: Absolutely. But I'm not really looking for it. I had a relationship very early in my life when I wasn't completely out at all and neither was my partner, at all. I think on those days, it was a wonderful, wonderful time. I admire people who connect in a relationship and commit to it and grow it and maintain it. I think an investment to protect a relationship is a very important thing. I sort of have a reputation of being a workaholic. That probably has impacted my person life. I know that I have missed opportunities to connect with people.

Q: How do you feel about that?

A: I feel sort of sad about that. I hate to use the sports analogy, but it's sort of Monday morning quarterbacking. One of the real downsides in AIDS is the extraordinary commitment of personal time to it. I think it is a struggle to maintain friendships outside of that arena, to say nothing of building a relationship.

Q: How do you avoid burnout?

A: I don't know. A combination of having really good people to work with who are understanding, supportive and sensitive. The people who work at MAP are tremendous. That support system with-in the work environment is very important, if that wasn't there I could survive it. My survival and my longevity is a function of the outstanding people around me.

Q: Is there a spiritual component to how you stay emotionally healthy?

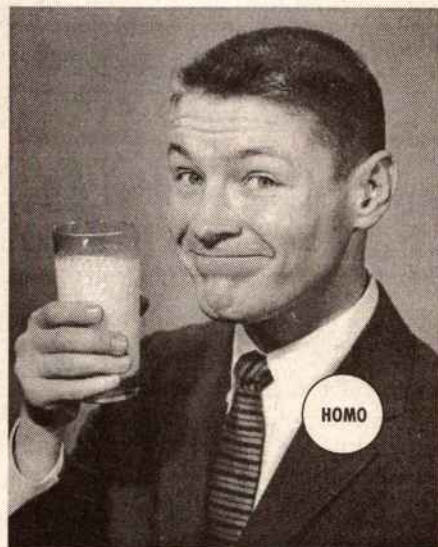
A: I don't have the spiritual side of my life figured out. I'm not invested in a dogma. I know that I believe in a higher power and I probably drift toward some of the traditional explanations of that. It is a source of strength to know that when times get tough I can dig down to that. I like to say, when things get hard and difficult and the losses mount up, particu-

larly when you lose someone whose been very close to you, I like to think as difficult and painful as AIDS is, that all of us who are involved in fighting it are on the side of the angels. There's not anything I could right now in my life that would be more important... except maybe quarterback the Green Bay Packers. (laughing)

Q: Do you see any hope in the future for progress in the battle with HIV and AIDS?

A: It's really been over the past six months, in discussions with some of my colleagues ... there is a sense that we will be making significant progress in the next one to two years with the new combination drug therapies, the new Protease inhibitors and even with the implementation of a Salk vaccine trial, different approaches to this virus are going to extend life. I have never heard the kind of optimism on the treatment front in all my years, than I've heard in the last six months. If that manifests itself ... If we can begin, through these measures, to extend life ... then we can keep working on that and then jump to the ultimate goal here which is to stop the fatalities and make this a chronic disease and not a fatal disease. ▼

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Star Patrol



with your astro cowboy, andie jaye

aries • (march 21 to april 20)

This is your best time for meeting an admirer through a social situation or through a friend. It will be the perfect time to make a New Year's resolution to improve your social life. Friendships can be more easily cultivated.

taurus • (april 21 to may 21)

Job interviews, promotions, career changes, and employee relations can all benefit at this time. Your employment situation can be enhanced by the January new moon, so take advantage of this once-a-year lunar opportunity.

gemini • (may 22 to june 21)

The holiday season urge to get away on a trip remains blessed by Venus. After next year your aspects will shift to your employment sector, making you too busy at work to travel.

cancer

(june 22 to july 22)

Complete your income tax forms early, as all tax and estate matters can benefit at this time. Additionally, your sex powers and exploits receive a boost. Your chances for finding a meaningful relationship will increase.

leo • (july 23 to august 22)

Make New Year's resolutions regarding partnerships. Whether you wish to start a new relationship or form a stronger business partnership, this is the best time of the year for your sign.

capricorn

(dec. 21 to january 19)

The January new moon will be a perfect time to remake a New Year's resolution pertaining to money. Financial matters are now blessed. You are favored in buying, selling, investing, spending wisely, making meaningful purchases, saving and earning. Now is the best time of the year to launch any new money goals.

virgo • (august 23 to september 22)

Now is the perfect time to make New Year's resolutions pertaining to health or employment. This is the best time of the year to see a doctor or dentist for correct diagnosis.

libra • (september 23 to october 22)

Now is a fine time to date, to socialize, invest money and to benefit from the world of entertainment. Romance should be plentiful this holiday season.

scorpio

(october 24 to nov. 21)

You should place your emphasis this holiday season on the matters of the home. This domestic cycle remains energized until next year when you will get the urge to leave your home and search for romance.

sagittarius

(november 21 to dec. 21)

A trip in the name of love, a Christmas card from an admirer and phone calls from a sweetheart are indicated early in the month.

aquarius • (jan. 20 to february 19)

Cupid's arrows are directed at your heart in a very personal way. You may be inspired to turn over a new leaf about exercise and personal matters.

pisces • (feb. 20 to march 20)

Keep romance on the back burner and keep romance a behind-the-scenes matter. This is a perfect time to make New Year's resolutions to improve your private life.

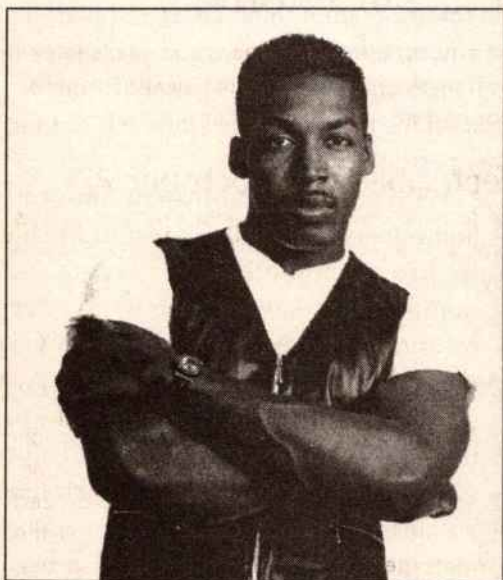
Kelvin Hayden Has Designs on the Fashion World

Milwaukee may not be the first city Cindy Crawford thinks of when it comes to original fashion, but local designer Kelvin Hayden is quickly making a name for himself with his eclectic, non-traditional fashions and club wear.

Hayden hasn't looked back since he designed and stitched together a pair of pants when he was only in the 12th grade. A Milwaukee native, Hayden graduated from The Milwaukee Area Technical College and studied at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

"I get my inspiration from music videos, music, television or celebrities," explained Hayden. "Right now, orange, black and red are the hot colors... patent leather is in and lime green is good too."

Hayden thinks fashion in Milwaukee is in a something of a down cycle, "There are some people who go out to the bars who have a sense of style," he said, "but, Milwaukee's club



—Kelvin Hayden

kids have lost their sense of style. It's not what it was five years ago, there's just no sense of direction."

His work can now be seen on Sunday nights at Club 219 in Milwaukee (and on page 28 of this magazine). His lover Keith is one of the 219 Girls and Hayden designs all of his costumes.

With three fashion shows under his belt, Hayden is planning a new show for next year in Atlanta and hopes to open a boutique in Milwaukee soon. So, while MTV's *House of Style* may not know who Kelvin Hayden is yet... it's probably only a matter of time.

The Volunteers, who are the BESTD Clinic in Milwaukee, gratefully acknowledge the partnership and cooperation of the following organizations and establishments during 1995 in our mutual effort to help curb the spread of HIV:

Afterwords Book Store	Alverno College School of Nursing
Boot Camp	Club 219
Eighth Street School, MPS	1100 Club
Galano Club	Just Us
La Cage	LINKS Block Party
MATC- Downtown Campus	M&M Club
PrideFest '95	ShermanFest
Sherman Park Rainbow Association	3B's Bar
Tri-Center School	UWM Health Fair
Wreck Room	

Thank You!

Brady East STD Clinic
1240 East Brady Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414/272-2144

BESTD
CLINIC
— Since 1974 —

Book Review

How Shy and Lonely Tom Became Celebrated Artist Tennessee

Tom: The Unknown Tennessee Williams
by Lyle Leverich
Crown Publishers. \$35.00

Reviewed by Barry Daniels

Tennessee Williams was one of this century's greatest playwrights, and one of its most famous queers. He has been the subject of several biographies both before and after his death in 1983. The basic facts of his life are reasonably well known, and they are, of course, the source for much of his work.

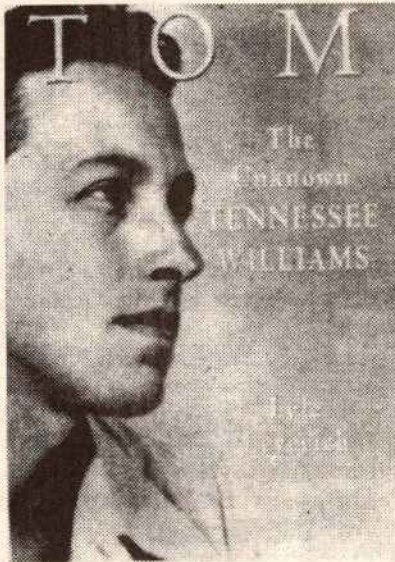
Lyle Leverich was authorized by Williams to write a new and definitive biography. Lady Maria St. Just, Williams's literary executrix, became increasingly difficult to deal with, and managed to stall publication of Leverich's work. Her death last year has made it possible for the publication of *Tom: The Unknown Tennessee Williams*, the first volume of Leverich's biography. It is a massive work (672 pages) covering the first thirty-four years of Williams's life. Leverich has had access to correspondence and diaries that have not been used by previous biographers, and he has conducted numerous interviews with Williams's friends and colleagues.

Leverich's thesis is fairly simple: "In Tennessee Williams there was a psychic split between the gentle, poetic Dakin side of his nature and the hard, aggressive Williams side, an irreconcilable division that made him 'half-mad,' as he would say over and over again. Ironically, it was the strength he inherited from his hated father that gave him the will to succeed, while his insecurities and personal failures seem to come from his supportive and much loved maternal grandparents. Leverich rightly sees that in Williams, "the artist was the rational force and the man the irrational dissembler."

Although I can't say there is much depth to Leverich's analysis, nor much flair in his writing, he has succeeded in pasting together his sources in a way that finally makes for compelling reading. The voices of the key people in Williams's formative years—his grandparents, his mother, his sister—are vividly present. And Williams's own voice is heard more truthfully than ever before. His profound sense of isolation and loneliness is a constant torment for the young writer. In his 1936 diary, Williams noted: "Another decent thing about me is my tolerance and my love of people and my gentleness toward them. I think I have acquired that through suffering and loneliness." And three years later he wrote: "All my deep loves and friendships have hurt me finally—I mean have caused me pain, because I have felt so much more than the other person could feel."

Williams was ambivalent about his homosexuality through most of his life. He has been quoted as saying, "All homosexuals have to live with a deep wound that never heals." This is very much the statement of someone who grew up in the 1930s, and a reflection on what it meant to be queer in America before gay liberation. Although Leverich does not analyze this idea, he provides enough material that the astute reader can begin to understand the personal torment Williams's world created for him. And, to some extent, in dealing with his "difference," shy and lonely Tom became the celebrated artist Tennessee.

In my own tortured adolescence, Williams was my hero: someone who spoke to me directly. I think his work has had this effect for many gay men of my generation. Leverich's portrait makes it possible to understand who Tennessee Williams was, and allows us to understand the very real differences and important connections between his life and his work.



THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN...

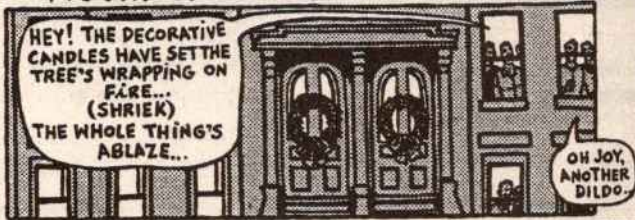
TODD'S XMAS PARTY WAS PREDICTABLY VILE. CHRISTO WAS THERE. HE WRAPPED THE TREE...



CATTINESS HUNG THERE, LIKE THE AIR BEFORE AN EARLY DECEMBER SNOWFALL.



YOU CONTRIBUTED A FABULOUS LONDON BOY WRIST WATCH TO THE HOLIDAY GRAB BAG. *also,* YOUR SISTERS CAN BE A TACKY BUNCH, YOU WOUND UP WITH A LIME GREEN DILDO.



OVER THE COURSE OF THE SEASON YOU'VE BORED & IRRITATED YOUR FAMILY OF FRIENDS WITH CEASELESS COMMENTARY ABOUT THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHRISTMAS.



ANOTHER OF THE OPINIONS THAT YOU HARBOR, IS THAT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, THE COMING YEAR WILL BE THE ONE IN WHICH, AT LONG LAST, YOU MEET THE MAN WHO YOU DECIDE TO SPEND YOUR LIFE WITH...



IN POINT OF FACT, NO ONE MUCH TAKES THESE OPINIONS OF YOURS TOO SERIOUSLY.



By Eric Orner

Q•Voice

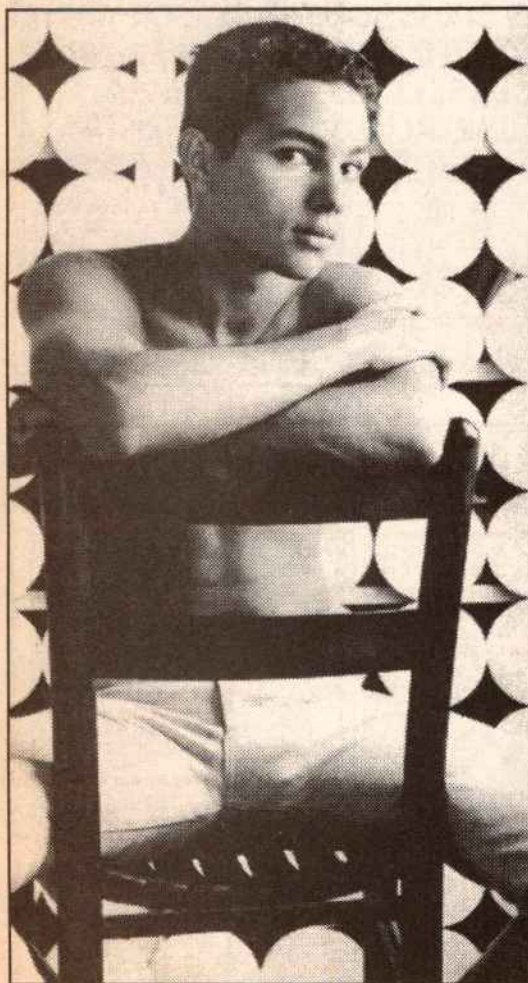
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Boys seeking Boys



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

21 year old BM looking for other males between 21 and 24. Interests include; music, dancing and traveling. Non-smoker preferred.

☎ 45030

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

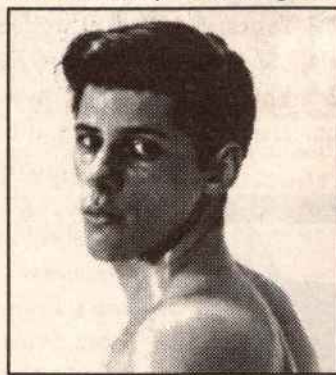
Warm, focused, handsome & humane GWM, 35 seeks compatible 20-42 Y.O. friend & companion, someone who offers and also values quality, integrity, affections and depth in a man.

☎ 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

Reliable attractive GWM 28, 5'9" 145 seeks GAM or GHM for possible relationship or

occasional meetings. I enjoy walks, weekend get-aways and adventure. Any Ideas?

☎ 45006

Literary minded GWM, 42, looking for younger brother/companion. Interests: books, music, long walks, theatre, talks over coffee. Sweet, intelligent and sincere. Please contact:

☎ 45000

22 Year Old, Hispanic, Indian, GM, 5'5', 120lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeking GWM between ages of 28-35, between 5'10"-6' tall, muscular, strong, honest, sincere, monogamous for a long term relationship only.
45032

☎ 45032

Tired of sleeping alone? WM, late 40's, is ready to settle down. I've played the field for several years and I'd now like to meet a WM for enjoying life, hot times and a person who will still be there in the morning.

☎ 45024

Passionate queer sought. GWM, olive skinned, 6', 170#, lean, in-shape, cute HIV+, 36,

seeking passionate queer who is fun, driven, tough and loves sex, conversation, playing and good times.

☎ 45028

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Juicy Bits

by W.W. Wells III

Gay Men: A Scientific Study of The First Forty Years

People are like snowflakes—no two are exactly alike. But just as there are differences, there are similarities, shared experiences and life events which experts can predict with uncanny accuracy. The following chronology plots the stages, life experiences and milestones shared by typical gay males from puberty to the age from 40.

14 Years: First Phys. Ed shower. Furtive glances at fellow classmates in the shower. It is also the time when size queens begin their education.

15 Years: Unexplained fixation on dead female movie stars takes root.

16 Years: First crush on cute English teacher.

17 Years: The start of sleeping in the buff.

18 Years: First sexual encounter; lasts a total of 24 seconds.

19 Years: Gets drunk, has embarrassing liaison and develops the ability to ignore a previous trick.

20 Years: Year in which, that one day, in which you'll never look better occurs. Brain mysteriously migrates to crotch in which scientists call, "*The Slut Phase*".

21 Years: You can now legally enter the bars you've been sneaking into for years.

22 Years: Hairdo fixation progresses. Symptoms include; ponytails, mousse addiction and highlights approximating selections from a box of Crayolas.

25 Years: Messy end of first long-term relationship, when you dump him for a blond with Rollerblades and a double-digit IQ. Your ex badmouths you all over town; it takes six months to extract all the knives from your back.

26 Years: First credit card, limit reached in 30 days. Most purchased items: cologne, clothes and discreetly billed 1-900 calls.

27 Years: Daily skin care consists of Ivory soap, Clinique moisturizes and PABA-free sunscreen.

28 Years: Aunt Betty stops asking when you're going to get married when she stumbles across your pornography collection during an unannounced visit.

29 Years: The last year in which a doorman will ever card you for being underage.

30 Years: Begins sleeping in underwear.

31 Years: You reach down to smooth a bulge in your tank top and discover what you thought was your shirt, is in fact, your stomach.

32 Years: Spend most of your free hours at the health club trying to lose that belly. As a result, have no time to stand around bars to show off your new pecs. You stop working out; pecs deflate in a week.

33 Years: After spending the night at a the disco (no one asks you to dance) you will first utter the worlds, "The music is too loud!".

34 Years: Removal of stuffed bears, posters of ballet dancers and framed centerfolds from *Torso Magazine* from your bedroom.

35 Years: A relatively new tendency to put on weight in unattractive places which, if unchecked, will leave you looking like Newt Gingrich in a year.

36 Years: A growing realization that if they gave away a Nobel Prize for stereotypes, several of your friends could win one for "big nellie flamer".

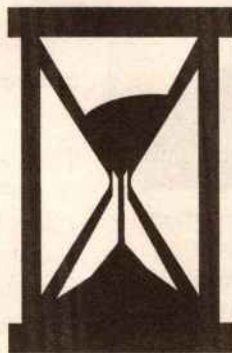
37 Years: Begins sleeping in pajamas.

38 Years: What were crow's feet at 30, now make you like like Granny from the Beverly Hillbillies. You try to disguise this phenomenon by wearing clothing totally inappropriate for your age.

39 Years: Daily skin care consists of Ivory soap, Clinique moisturizer, PABA free sunscreen, emollients, collagen injections and an appointment for plastic surgery.

40 Years: Mid-life crisis as your chances of being sexually devoured by a 20-year continue to nose dive as you slide down the orgasmic food chain.

For those gay men over forty, take heart, for somebody famous once said, "Life begins at forty". Unfortunately, I'm quite sure that person must be dead by now.



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

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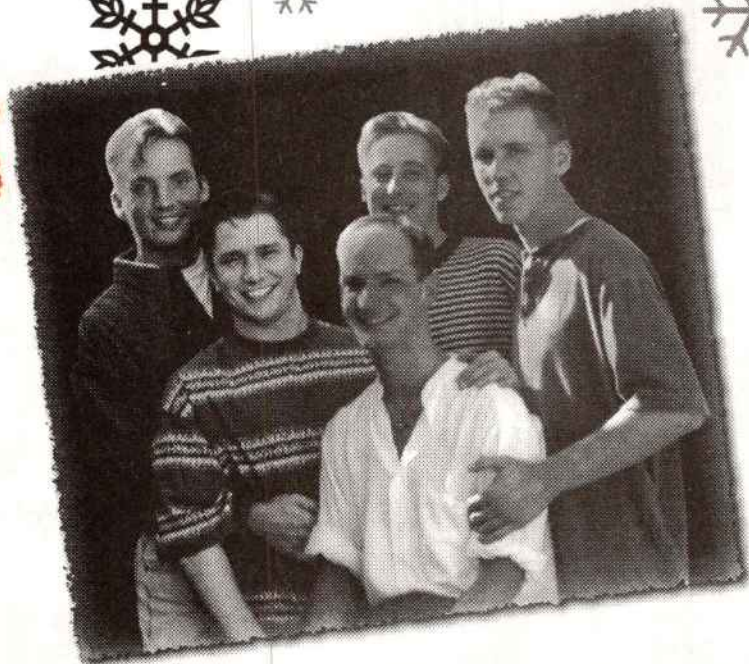
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