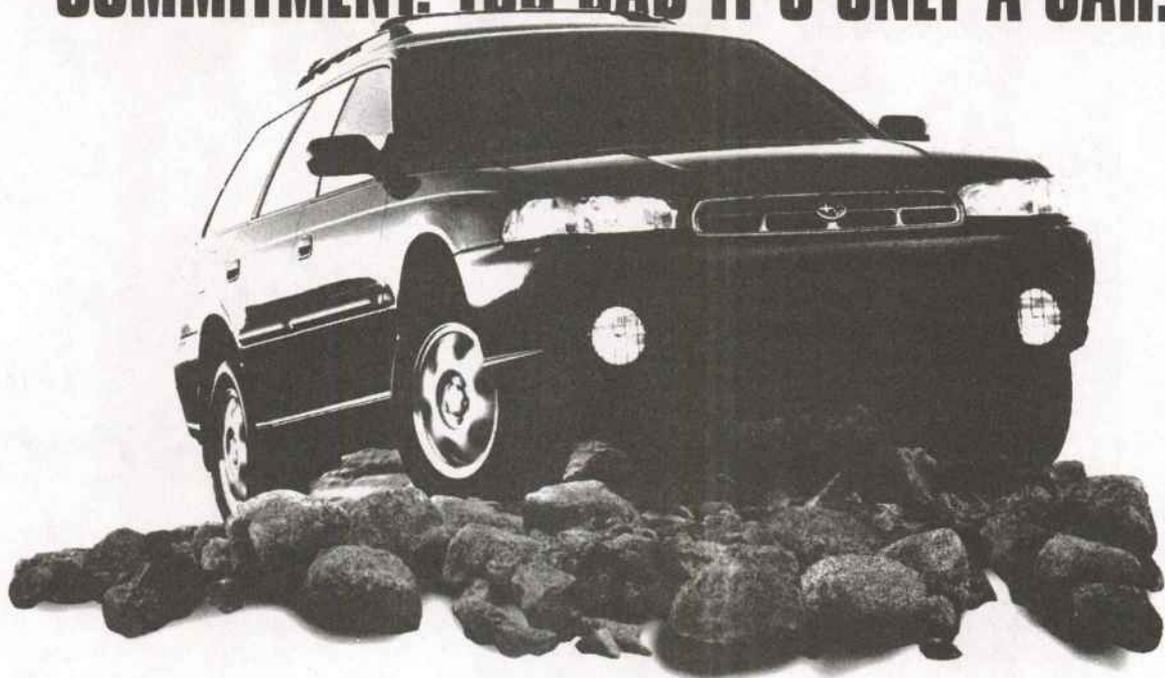


Q•Voice

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Subaru sells more all-wheel-drive cars in America than all other makes combined.*

independent suspension and tough all-season tires offer the ground clearance you'll need to get over the bumps. And you'll find the Subaru Outback 4-wheel disc brakes with 4-channel ABS provides plenty of stopping power.

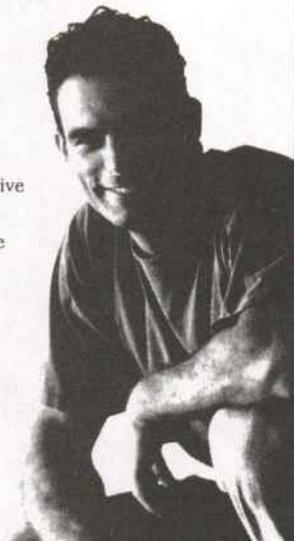
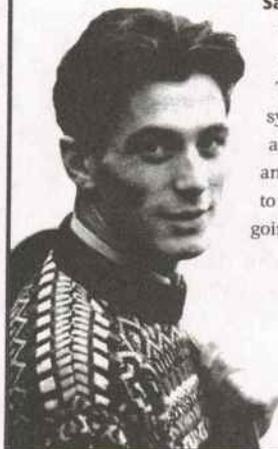
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*MSRP of the Subaru Outback with All-Wheel Drive. Pictured is the Subaru Outback. MSRP is \$21,995. Price not including inland transportation, taxes, license and title fees. Dealer's actual price may vary. Certain items shown are optional equipment available at an additional charge. †Based on R.L. Polk & Co. Registration statistics for calendar year ending 1994.

Contents

Q•Voice Magazine ▾ March 1996 ▾ Volume 1, #6 ▾ One of the ten chosen for the Subaru ad

Features

- 18** **Community Center Town Meeting**
Report by William Atewell and Ed Grover
- 21** **Finding OUT on Their Own**
by Dan Fons Have we abandoned Milwaukee's queer youth?
- 33** **Out of the Closet**
Photographs by Cabal Swimsuits!
(Need we say more?)
- 38** **Sober & Proud**
by William Atewell Milwaukee's Galano Club a valuable resource to those living with addiction.
- 41** **Slaves to Love**
by Leslea Newman The secret life of lesbian cats.
- 44** **Full Circle**
by Waswo Shamanic poet Sue Silvermarie celebrates life's seasons while enjoying the society and solitude of rural Wisconsin
- 48** **The BEST of Queer Wisconsin**
by Ed Grover The votes are in and we've got the results for this first annual reader's choice poll.

On our cover:

Bill Wardlo and Joe Dantone

Photo: Cabal

Make-Up: M.A.K.

News & Views

- 4** **Out Front**
Guest Editorial by
Doug Nelson
- 6** **Latest Dish**
- 8** **Letters**
- 9** **Quips and Quotes**
- 10** **The World in Brief**
with Rex Wockner
- 12** **Notes & Notices**
- 17** **Art's Page**
- 43** **Preview**
Sreat Beat

The Regulars

- 28** **Q Musts & Maybes**
Check out our NEW and
EXPANDED Listings!
- 50** **The Casual Observer**
Getting Started
by Ed Grover
- 42** **Music for a Queer Planet**
Music for Women's
History Month by DJ Mags
- 56** **Star Patrol**
Horoscope by Andie Jaye
- 57** **Ethan Green**
Cartoon by Eric Orner
- 62** **Juicy Bits**
A Mother's Visit
by W. W. Wells III

New Hope in the Fight Against AIDS

While political pundits and politicians intensely focus on the fall elections and the race for the Presidency passes through Wisconsin, the AIDS community continues to work hard to advance a very important agenda in the Wisconsin Legislature. If we succeed, access to health care for people with HIV disease and AIDS will significantly improve, adding a new measure of hope in the fight against AIDS.

Throughout the winter, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) has aggressively lobbied for the needs of people with HIV/AIDS on four key issues:

WISCONSIN'S AIDS DRUG REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

When created in 1988, Wisconsin's program was one of the premier programs in the country. It provided access to the most important AIDS drugs of the time. Tragically, the program has fallen well behind national standards and is now one of the worst programs in the country. It now denies access to new and long-time medications.

We have been lobbying the Thompson Administration and the State Legislature to expand the program to include four new medications — fluconazole, clarithromycin, 3TC and Protease Inhibitors. Medications which have real potential for extending and improving the quality of life. We are working hard to assure that everyone has access to these promising new medications.

MEDICAID RECONFIGURATION

With nearly 50 percent of people with HIV and AIDS receiving medical care through the State medical program, the debate to reconfigure Medicaid holds high stakes for the AIDS community. To protect access to health care, ARCW has fought hard against any changes to Medicaid which will jeopardize coverage for the people with HIV disease.

Joining with the AIDS community from across the country, we have focused on three fundamental issues during this debate. Medicaid eligibility must be maintained for the disabled including people with AIDS. Government must ensure access to a complete benefits package including in- and out-patient care, medications, physician services and home health care.; Finally, Medicaid managed care systems must include physicians experienced in AIDS care. A comprehensive and compassionate Medicaid program is a vitally important weapon in the fight against AIDS. Our

advocacy must save the safety net of Medicaid as the largest single provider of health care for people with AIDS.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

Fully 70 percent of people living with HIV and AIDS in Wisconsin are denied private health insurance or cannot afford it. ARCW has been working hard in the legislature to secure two important amendments to the health insurance reform bill in Wisconsin. Open enrollment periods will allow people to access health insurance and receive coverage without preexisting conditions exclusions. Community rating will make insurance pricing fair and more affordable, therefore more accessible for people with HIV/AIDS. Both of these amendments, if adopted by the Legislature, will increase access to private health insurance and promote health care for people with AIDS.

VIATICAL SETTLEMENT REGULATIONS

Viatical settlements are an important option for the AIDS community. Viatical settlement companies buy life insurance policies from people with terminal illnesses and pay a portion of the policy's value depending upon the policyholder's severity of illness.

ARCW strongly supports the availability of viatical settlements because many people with HIV and AIDS do not have sufficient resources for medical care, housing or daily living needs. We are aggressively lobbying for legislation which will provide State oversight of the industry, require complete disclosure of the impact of the settlement, establish minimum reimbursement rates and declare settlement proceeds tax-free. After months of hard work a majority of State Legislators have now committed to support this legislation which provides strong consumer protections and important financial resources for people with HIV and AIDS.

As the fall elections continue to dominate the political landscape, we are working hard to improve access to health care for the AIDS community. ARCW is deeply grateful for the strong support we have received from the Gay and Lesbian community. Please consider lending your voice for improved health care by becoming a Wisconsin AIDS Advocate. Call 414/225-1574.

Doug Nelson is the Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

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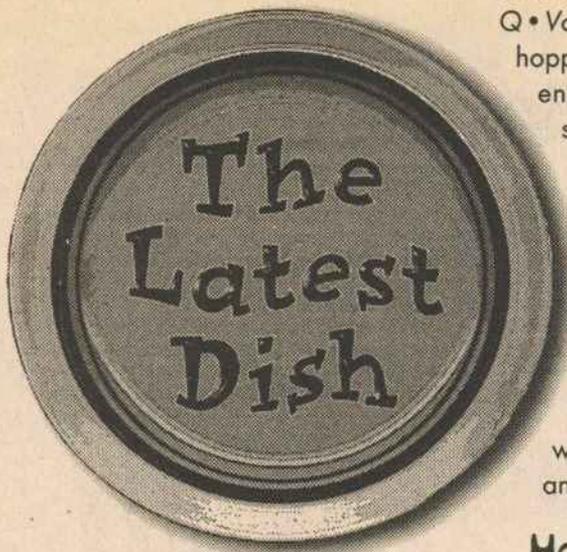
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Party of Five Actor Comes Out

According to our very own Rex Wockner, actor **Mitchell Anderson**, who plays Ross on the TV series *Party of Five*, announced that he is gay at the recent Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's Seventh Annual Media Awards ceremony.

Anderson had been asked by a reporter how it feels to be a straight man playing a gay role. When he came to the podium as a presenter, Anderson said he needed to correct the reporter's assumption: He is a gay man playing a gay role, he said.

"The crowd went wild and gave him a sustained standing ovation," said GLAAD Managing Director **William Waybourn**. "He was the highlight of the evening and was swarmed afterward ... it was a scene of high drama."

His Hairdresser Knows

Its not the first time Milwaukee Southside State Representative **Tim Carpenter** has been the subject of an outing, but the recent January guest

editorial by queer activist **Dan Fons** in *Q•Voice* apparently had Carpenter hopping mad, leaving a trail of threatening phone calls and later some serious backtracking.

Then on a recent episode of cable TV's *The Queer Program* Fons again challenged him to abandon the closet in time for the November election. While Dan keeps track of the number of days before votes are cast, we'll be keeping our eyes open for any future developments.

Homo-Humor Sought

Mikey Halliday is announcing a new anthology, *Men Off Men*. Yes, it's a send up of the ever-popular *Men On Men* series. So, dust off your vitriolic barb, with one of the main characters being a gay male and the other at least male. Send your manuscript to: Queer Ass Press, PO Box 11574, Washington DC, 20008, USA. Please, keep it under 3000 words and include a 100 word or less bio and the customary stamped, self-addressed envelope. Macintosh or Dos formats accepted. Deadline is March 31st, 1996.

Fag Rags on the Rise

The number of publications geared toward homo-readership is increasing. Here are updates on two continuing publications and a new entry into the field.

Actually presumed down and out after only two issues but returning for a second stab at things after declaring bankruptcy is *Urban Fitness*. The bi-monthly is still packaged with an attractive slick cover and is full of health and fitness stories not to mention oodles hot bodies.

The bi-monthly *Provocateur* magazine debuted in 1995, with seemingly little direction and no clear evidence as to

what kind of readers they had in mind. Their latest issue is a good deal more queer focused with art-ish male nudes, some poetry and an interview with **Boy George**.

XY Magazine is a glossy aimed at the young gay men's market (people that came out after 1980 according to Associate Editor Christopher Birch). The first issue features an interview with **Pansy Division**, a story on gay teen suicide and hot photos of Simon Rex. (see next item)

Move Over Stryker, MTV Veejay a Porn Star

Gentlemen, warm up your VCRs, hot new MTV veejay **Simon Rex** may regret showing everything in the porn videos hitting stores this month... but we probably won't. *Young, Hard & Solo II* and *Hot Sessions III* - all aimed at a queer audience - were filmed two years ago, before Rex started modeling for **Tommy Hilfiger**. According to a report in *Newsweek*, the 21-year-old, who says he's (um?) straight, landed the job hawking MTV videos in October. News of his X-rated work is spreading fast, but an MTV exec says they "won't punish him for what he did in the past."



—Simon Rex with his clothes on.

Bertinelli & Redgrave to Play Bottoms

Actress **Valerie Bertinelli**, noteworthy for her role on the 70's sitcom *One Day at a Time*, has been cast to play Virginia lesbian mom Sharon Bottoms in an ABC made-for-TV movie entitled, *For the Love of Tyler*. The movie will focus on the on-going court battle with her mother Kay, over the custody of son Tyler. Actress **Vanessa Redgrave**, who portrayed transsexual tennis star Renee Richards in another made-for-TV movie, will star as Kay. Filming for the project is set for April in Austin, Texas.

Queer Music Awards

GLAMA, the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards, has announced its call for nominations for the 1st Annual Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards to be presented on October 6, 1996, in New York City.

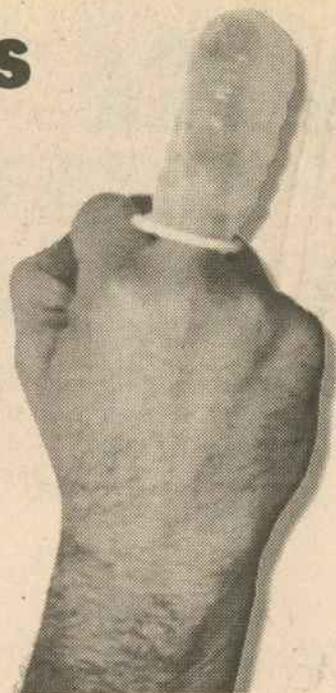
GLAMA is the first and only national music awards program to celebrate the work of queer recording artists. The awards aim to honor both nationally recognized artists and lesser-known independent recording artists.

Ten awards will be presented at the ceremony including seven recording artist awards, one songwriter award and two special honors. Recordings by self-identified gay, lesbian, or bisexual artists released for sale in the U.S. between June 1, 1995, and May 31, 1996, are eligible for consideration.

To receive an entry application, send a business-sized SASE to GLAMA, 244 Fifth Avenue, #2049, New York, NY 10016, or call the GLAMA Hotline at 800-956-5262 or 212-592-4455. Deadline for entries is May 31, 1996.

GLAMA can also be reached by email at GLAMAS@aol.com.

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LETTERS

THANKS LARRY!

To the Editor-

Kudos for your new publication, an invigorating addition to Milwaukee's journalistic scenel

Your blend of interviews, profiles, photos and features over the first five issues have been of consistently high quality and I eagerly await more.

A particular highlight for me have been Waswo's profiles of local artists. His conversational but precise and sharply observant style is very entertaining and informative while his descriptions and choices of quotes, I feel, convey the artist's goals.

I think that Waswo's February article on Andy Warhol and his museum in Pittsburgh was his best yet. It enlightened me to Warhol's character and the scope of his work as well as the seriousness of his commitment to art. It offsets the recent debunking of his work by certain critics. The article also offered intriguing speculation on our cultural attitudes as mirrored by his success. I look forward to Waswo's future contributions.

Also, I have enjoyed Cabal's *Out of the Closet* photo layouts, an attractive and striking array of models and fashions. My favorites were the photographs of hunky Rob Kleppe and the layout on jeans (Can underwear be next...?) Nice work, staff!

Larry Tegel
Milwaukee

THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL

Dear Editor-

I don't know what I would do without your excellent magazine.

Everything about it is really superb. It's easy to get caught up in all the stud muffins and overlook one of the best parts of Q•Voice —you!!! I think you're great!

I read the letters from readers just to hear your responses. I love them! You're witty, responsive, and intelligent. I still read the old letters in back issues and laugh endlessly at your incredible wit. I think you do an excellent job—you're a natural at it. It's obvious that you enjoy your work, so don't ever stop doing what you do!

Uncle Benito
Milwaukee

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"Quips & Quotes"

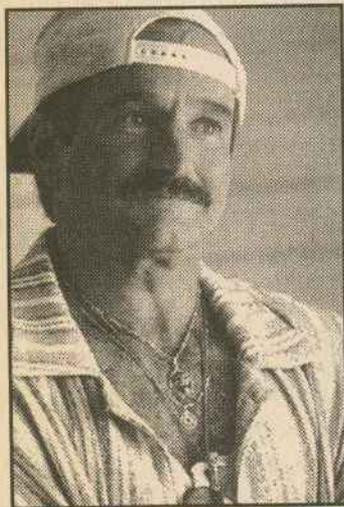
I could tell by the sparkly outfits

"What's openly gay? I mean, people know. They just know. But you don't see me doing gay parades. Why put so much emphasis on that when it has nothing to do with skating? ... What does that have to do with my triple axel?"

—U.S. figure-skating champion Rudy Galindo as quoted in Christine Brennan's new book *Inside Edge*.

Texas Chainsaw Drag Queens

"If it's between *The Birdcage* and 'The Texas Chainsaw Circumcision,' go see us. People have no doubts about taking a 12-year-old to see a PG-13 movie ... with heavy-duty disembow-



eling, but you mention this movie and they say: 'Are they homosexual? Oh, good God. I'll see zombies, but I will not take my kid to see drag queens, damn it!'"

—Robin Williams, star of the new film *The Birdcage* (a remake of *La Cage aux Folles*), to *Parade* magazine.

"The wonderful thing about *Birdcage* is, it's a relationship with the same dynamics as a heterosexual relationship."

—Robin Williams

That'll Be \$75 Please

"The problems I see the most as a therapist have to do with relationships. We are either in one, just out of one, wanting one, trying to live without one, looking for one or depressed in spite of one."

—Columnist Linda Handel in the Rhode Island gay magazine *Options*.

New Delhi Etiquette

"'Gay' means 'happy' here and men are holding hands in the street. Homosexuals meet in saunas of international hotels and don't exist."

—E-mail from a friend sent on business to New Delhi, India.

Harvey on coming out

"It is nobody's business to tell somebody when to be out or when not to be. Coming out is a slow and difficult process for some people. Until you've walked in the other person's shoes, you just don't know. I know some big stars who, if they came out, would change the world overnight. But I can't criticize them; I'm not living their life."

—Actor/playwright Harvey Fierstein to Boston's *Bay Windows*.

Out in the Center Ring...

"I've always been openly gay. It would never occur to me to behave otherwise."

—Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus Ringmaster Eric Michael Gillet to Atlanta's *Etcetera* magazine."

Martha! Martha! Martha!

"Ughhhhhh! You know there is a gay man trapped in her body! She has learned how to take gay skills and mass market them to straight women."

—Harvey Fierstein again, this time on TV home/yard goddess Martha Stewart to Chicago's *Outlines*."

French Kiss?

"No one kisses like James. He's my favorite—the things he could do with his tongue."

—Hugh Grant (on James Wilby his lover in the movie *Maurice*) as quoted in *New York Magazine*.

More Kissing

"He's a great kisser. And I will always call Gregory Harrison my boyfriend."

—Eric Roberts on his co-star in the upcoming *It's My Party*.

Collected from our 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



The World in Brief

with Rex Wockner

NO AIDS DRUG LOTTERIES FOR FRANCE

Paris — There will be no lotteries to decide which people with AIDS gain access to scarce new treatments, French Prime Minister Alain Juppe declared Feb. 28.

The National AIDS Council had suggested use of a lottery to distribute Ritonavir. A small amount of the promising new protease inhibitor from U.S.-based Abbott Laboratories will arrive in France next month.

But Juppe called the plan "not acceptable" and demanded officials fight to secure the drug for as many of France's 18,000 PWAs as need it, regardless of the cost.

"The fight against AIDS is a priority that should not be hampered by budgetary considerations," he said.

ACT UP/Paris accused Abbott of unfairness, saying Ritonavir is widely available in the U.S. The initial French shipment will be enough only for about 100 people.

On Feb. 19, 40 ACT UP members chained themselves to Abbott's French plant outside Paris, halting production for six hours.

"Abbott in the U.S. holds the key to the crisis," one protester told France-Info radio. "They must send more products to Europe. We will keep up the pressure as long as we do not have guaran-

tees from Abbott that treatments will be sent on a set date."

CANADA: GAYS IN DANGER IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES

Toronto — Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board said last week that homosexuals from Algeria, Colombia and Russia seeking asylum in Canada can qualify to have their cases expedited because of the violently anti-gay climate in their homelands.

In Colombia, gays are targeted by guerrilla groups, death squads, paramilitary groups, drug traffickers and criminal organizations, the board said.

Algerian gays face violence from the police, the army, the secret service and several Islamic fundamentalist movements. In Russia, the threat comes from criminal organizations, right-wing groups and the police, the board said.

600,000 AT AUSSIE MARDI GRAS

Sydney — Police said 600,000 people attended Sydney, Australia's 19th annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras March 2 along Oxford Street in the main gay neighborhood. The parade is billed as the world's largest annual gay event.

One hundred sixty-six floats featured drag queens, leather-attired dancers and the like. There were Dykes on Bikes,

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and many Priscilla-Queen-of-the-Deserts.

About 20,000 hard-core revellers advanced to an all-night dance party at Sydney's Showgrounds. Mardi Gras pumps \$44 million (US Dollars) into Sydney's economy annually, according to the Reuter news service.

Also on March 2, Prime Minister Paul Keating's ruling Labor party was defeated at the polls by the conservative Liberal/National coalition, swinging Australia to the right politically.

ARGENTINES PLAN FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Rosario — Argentina's First National Meeting of Lesbians, Gays, Transvestites and Transsexuals will take place April 4-7 in the city of Rosario, reports correspondent Alejandra Sarda.

Outreach is underway to outlying towns and villages in hopes the gathering will be "truly national."

Workshops will deal with discrimination against transgendered people, prostitution, gay youth, AIDS, internalized prejudice, gay ideology, action strategies, eroticism, the Bible, leadership, intracommunity relations, the media, and legal defenses.

There will be cultural activities, dances and "a few surprises," organizers teased.

The conference is open to foreigners but closed to the media. For more information, write Press Committee, Virrey

Cevallos 463 Iero 6, 1077-Buenos Aires, Argentina. Phone: 011-54-1-384-5951. E-mail to: ales@wamani.apc.org.

NEW ZEALAND LESBIANS SUE TO MARRY

Auckland— Three lesbian couples in New Zealand filed suit this week demanding marriage licenses, reports correspondent Mark Proffitt.

New Zealand's 1955 Marriage Act does not state that spouses must be of opposite sexes. The lawsuit also charges the government with violation of the national ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The women are trying to raise \$20,000 for their fight. For more information, e-mail proffitt@iconz.co.nz

WORLD PRIDE DATES ANNOUNCED

Here are some dates for gay-pride parades around the world:

London, July 6; Mexico City, June 29; Quebec City, July 7; Tijuana, June 29; Toronto, June 30; Vancouver, Aug. 4; Victoria (British Columbia), July 7; Vienna, June 29. For more information and other dates, visit the World Wide Web site <http://www.tde.com/~ialgpc>

FINLAND MOVES ON GAY MARRIAGE

Helsinki— Finland may become the fourth country to legalize gay marriage, following in the footsteps of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

The Minister Groups of four of the five parties in the Cabinet — the Social Democrats, Left Alliance, Greens and Swedish National Party — said last week they favor passage of a Scandinavian-style

gay-registered-partnership law that grants all the rights of marriage except access to church weddings, adoption, artificial insemination and in-vitro fertilization.

The fifth party, the conservative National Coalition, has taken a neutral position on the legislation.

RUSSIAN GAYS PUBLISH GUIDE

Moscow— A new Internet World Wide Web site provides the low-down on activism and partying in Russia. The URL is <http://www.vmt.com/gayrussia>

According to the site, some of Moscow's happening gay clubs include Shans at 11/15 Volochaevskaja St., Imperia Kino at 33 Povarskaja St., and Tri Obezjany, for which no address was given (the phone number is 230-7111).

Shans offers two dance floors, a "quiet VIP room," and "the show in a big fish

tank — naked youth among huge fish." Prices are low (cover charge: 20,000 to 40,000 rubles for men and 50,000 rubles for women; drinks: from 12,000 rubles). The phone number is 956-7102.

Imperia Kino offers dancing and food. Cover charges start at 30,000 rubles and drinks at 15,000 rubles. Phone: 290-4489.

In St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), popular gay clubs include Majak (33 Galernaja St.; affordable) and U Pegas (15 Mokhovaja St.)

In the city of Saratov, Privat Club is a popular gay bar and cafe at 9/11 Vishniouvj Proezd. Phone: 13-6509.

The Web site promises more listings in the near future.

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Notes & Notices

LGB Business Alliance Provides Assistance for Displaced Washington Hotel Employees

Madison — The Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual (LGB) Business Alliance is putting together a list of LGB and LGB-friendly businesses who currently have openings for part- or full-time employees. They hope to find work for all employees displaced by the Washington Hotel fire. Several members of the LGB Business Alliance will also be offering their services (resume production and resume printing) for free, or for significantly reduced costs. Displaced Washington Hotel employees should con-

tact Greg Scheel for a list of job-related services. LGB businesses who have part- or full-time openings, or wish to donate services should contact Tom Neal at MG/LRC, P.O. Box 1722, Madison, WI 53701 or telephone him at 608/256-2667.

ARCW's Nelson Urges State to Cover New AIDS Drugs

Milwaukee — In a strongly worded letter to Secretary Joe Leean of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), called the cost of new drugs "unmanageable for middle income working people." Nelson called upon Leean to expand Wisconsin's AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program (ADRP) to include four new AIDS medications including Saquinavir, the new protease inhibitor drug that is providing new hope to people with HIV and AIDS by slowing disease progression.

Nelson said that the cost of Saquinavir alone is \$7,000 per year. Combination drug therapies which are increasingly being used cost up to \$10,000 per year. According to Nelson, drug costs for some people with advanced AIDS can reach as high as \$12,000 to \$18,000 per year.

Nelson said, "We have waited far too long for effective AIDS therapies to have them denied to the people who need them because of the outrageous costs. The best scientific research means nothing if people can't access the new drug therapies that will extend and enhance the quality of their lives".

Nelson called upon Leean to also add the new anti-retroviral drug, 3TC, to the ADRP. In addition, he recommended

Fluconazole, which is used to treat and prevent debilitating fungal infections, and Clarithromycin, which is used to treat and prevent severe infections, be added to ADRP. Nelson sharply criticized Wisconsin's ADRP for falling far behind most other states and national standards. The final decision on adding the new drugs to ADRP will be made at a special hearing of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee in April.

LAMM to Sponsor Lesbian Health Symposium

Milwaukee — The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) is sponsoring a Health Symposium on May 4th 1996. The symposium will be held at Sinai-Samaritan Medical Center at 2000 W. Kilbourn Avenue in Milwaukee.

The half-day program will address breast cancer, Ob/Gyn health, emotional well-being and alternative health paradigms. LAMM hopes to illuminate bias in the delivery of traditional health care services, and to encourage self-advocacy, prevention and wellness of lesbians.

Practitioners from a broad range of health care perspectives will be presented at the conference. The event is free of charge. For reservations or additional information call the LAMM offices at 414/264-2600.

Acupuncturist, Massage Therapist Added to Cooperative Therapies

Milwaukee — A licensed acupuncturist and massage therapist have been contracted through MAP's Cooperative Therapies to provide services to clients with HIV.

STREET BEAT! SPRING FASHION EXTRA VANGA

Saturday
March 30, 1996
8-11 pm \$6 admission

live music by Melting Prophets • emcee B.J. Daniels • fashion commentary by Cash Box • appearance by Miss Gay Wisconsin 1996 Miss Mary Richards • raffle prizes • refreshments

Shopping Spree-up to 75% off

246 E. Chicago
St. Call 291-2856
for more information

Proceeds benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

REVIVAL
RESALE

The acupuncturist will provide 20 hours of therapy per week, and massage therapy will be offered 15 hours per week. Besides acupuncture and massage the program offers meditation/guided imagery, SHEN; chiropractic care, and Qi Gong. Cooperative Therapies are an important element in the management of HIV diseases, and the financial commitment MAP has made to these two practitioners will give the program more treatment hours and enhance stability.

Good Life Cafe to Hold Hotel Washington Benefit

Madison — An all day benefit for the Hotel Washington's Tenant Relief Fund will be held on Friday, March 22 from 7am to 11pm. The Cafe is located at 125 W. Mifflin Street in Madison.

"We were all very saddened by the loss of the Hotel Washington," said Good Life owners Phil and Mike Liautaud. "When we heard there were more than a dozen tenants displaced by the fire who lost everything, we looked for a way to help."

The Tenants' Relief Fund was organized the day after the fire by the Wisconsin Community fund (WCF) to aid individuals who were made homeless by the fire. The goal is to distribute at least \$5,000 to the twelve individuals who lost their homes because of the Washington Hotel fire. You can help by making a tax-deductible contribution of any size to: The Washington Hotel Tenant's Relief Fund, c/o The Wisconsin Community Fund, 122 State Street, Suite 508, Madison, WI 53703.

East Side "Miracles" Group at BESTD Clinic

Milwaukee — A group studying and discussing the spiritual path, "A Course in Miracles" is now meeting each Thursday at 7:30pm at the Brady East STD Clinic. The group, founded in 1989 has been meeting

on the far north side until moving to the BESTD Clinic in February.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in or studying "A Course in Miracles". The BESTD Clinic is located at 1240 East Brady Street and the group meets on the second floor, north meeting room. For more information contact Ross Walker or Erv Uecker at 414/353-4798.

PrideFest Offers Booths To Craftspeople and Businesses

Milwaukee — PrideFest, Wisconsin's Les/Bi/Gay Pride celebration has booth spaces available for its Market Place area on June 7, 8, and 9, 1996. The Market Place will be housed in the Williamsburg Village on the SummerFest Grounds. The village contains four open-air buildings divided into 10' by 12' spaces. The Market Place will be open from 11am. to 10pm. on Saturday, June 8th and Sunday, June 9th. Each space can be rented for \$250. PrideFest is especially interested in renting space to Gay/Les/Bi crafts persons and artists. There are a limited number of spaces reserved specifically for crafts persons. Businesses and organizations may also reserve a booth in the Market Place. Business booths are \$400 and information booths are \$75. These fees cover both days of the operation, power, admission and parking passes, and a table and chairs. For more information on renting a booth at PrideFest, call 414/272-FEST.

Volunteer Orientation Offered by St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry

Milwaukee — Persons interested in volunteering to assist persons living with HIV/AIDS are invited to attend an orientation to be held on Saturday, April 27 from 9am until 2pm. Lunch will be provided

MANOEUVRES

150 South Blair Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
608.258.9918

Madison's Hottest Video and Dance Bar

****Upcoming Events****

Monday, March 25, 1996

Oscar Nite-Continue Oscar Madison
With Us at Manoeuvres.
SPECIALS ALL NITE!

Sunday, March 31, 1996

Nine Inch Male Strippers
TWO SHOWS

Easter Sunday, April 7, 1996

Wear your Easter Bonnet To Find
your Easter Basket
SPECIALS ALL NITE!
Pastel Pansy Easter Show at
10:30pm

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Melrose Monday

2-4-1 4pm-Mid, Melrose at 7pm

Tuesday Male Box Nite

\$1.50 Miller Lite Taps 8pm - Mid

Wednesday Levi/Leather

\$1.50 Rail Vodka / \$2 Shots Dr's / FREE POOL 8pm-Mid

Thursday Meet Your Next Ex

\$1.75 Bottles of EX and EX LIGHT 8pm-Mid

Friday Shot Specials

Shot Specials on the Hour

Saturday Rolling Rock

\$2.00 bottles of Rolling Rock 8pm-Mid

Sunday Tea Dance

\$5.00 Beer Bash 2pm-8pm

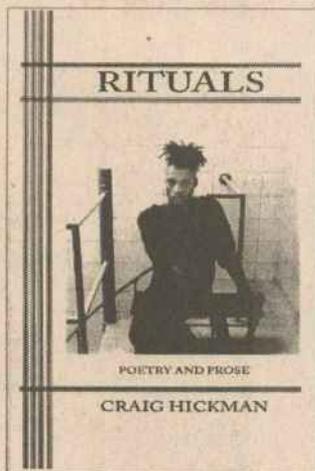


African American Gay Rituals:

Book celebrates life—the trials, the tribulations, the triumph

"Bold, Brazen, and Down to Earth! the poetry and prose of Craig Hickman will make you challenge your fears and conquer them with truth. He writes what others dare not think or speak. His literary voices echoes every silent scream."

—Thomas Grimes
Author of *Reclamations*



Rituals Poetry and Prose by Craig Hickman

Published by Parfait de Cocoa Press
351 Harvard Street #2E • Cambridge, MA 02138-4220 \$12.95 paperback

HEY YOU!

[and you know who you are]

Pick up your test results.

You may pick up your HIV test results
any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday
between 6pm and 8:30pm at the BESTD Clinic.
No appointment is needed.



The Brady East STD Clinic
1240 East Brady St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414/272-2144

ed. The initial orientation will be followed with two training sessions on April 30 and May 7 from 7pm until 9pm. All sessions will be held on the St. Camillus Campus.

The orientation will provide an overview of the volunteer program as well as physical, psychological and spiritual issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. Volunteers will be trained regarding physical care issues and pastoral care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The orientation and training sessions are requirements for volunteering with the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry.

The most common types of help given by volunteers includes: transportation, shopping, respite care, light housekeeping, personal care and meal preparation. Interested individuals are invited to contact Kathryn Kuhn, coordinator of Supportive Services at 414/259-4664 for further information or to register for the orientation and training.

Walker's Point Cafe to Remodel

Milwaukee — Starting in March, 1996, Walker's Point Cafe, Milwaukee's oldest gay-owned and operated cafe, located at 1106 South 1st Street will get an all new look and attitude. Owner-operator George Kruezer will not only remodel, he is offering new extended hours. The Cafe will be open 7 days-a-week from 10 am until 4am. On Mondays and Tuesdays there will be an open stage for all from 6pm until 11pm Stop in for a snack and see what's happening.

St. Camillus Offers HIV/AIDS Retreat

Milwaukee — A retreat *Embracing the Mystery: HIV/AIDS and the Spiritual Life* will be held March 29 to 31 in St. Francis.

Sponsored by St. Camillus AIDS Ministry, the retreat is designed to help participants reframe their often negative experiences of living with HIV disease. It is open to anyone living with HIV or AIDS. For more information call 414/259-4664.

Coming Soon to Q-Voice...



THE Classifieds

OUT reach

A new program offering anonymous HIV testing, safer sex education, and information about HIV and AIDS at places where men and women gather in our community.

- informative
- supportive
- anonymous
- quicker and easier testing



[OUTreach Schedule]

Zipper's
3/26/96 • 8pm to 11pm

Ballgame
4/12/96 • 5pm to 8pm

Just Us
4/13/96 • 7pm to 10pm

Walker's Point Cafe
4/14/96 • 6pm to 9pm

MAP

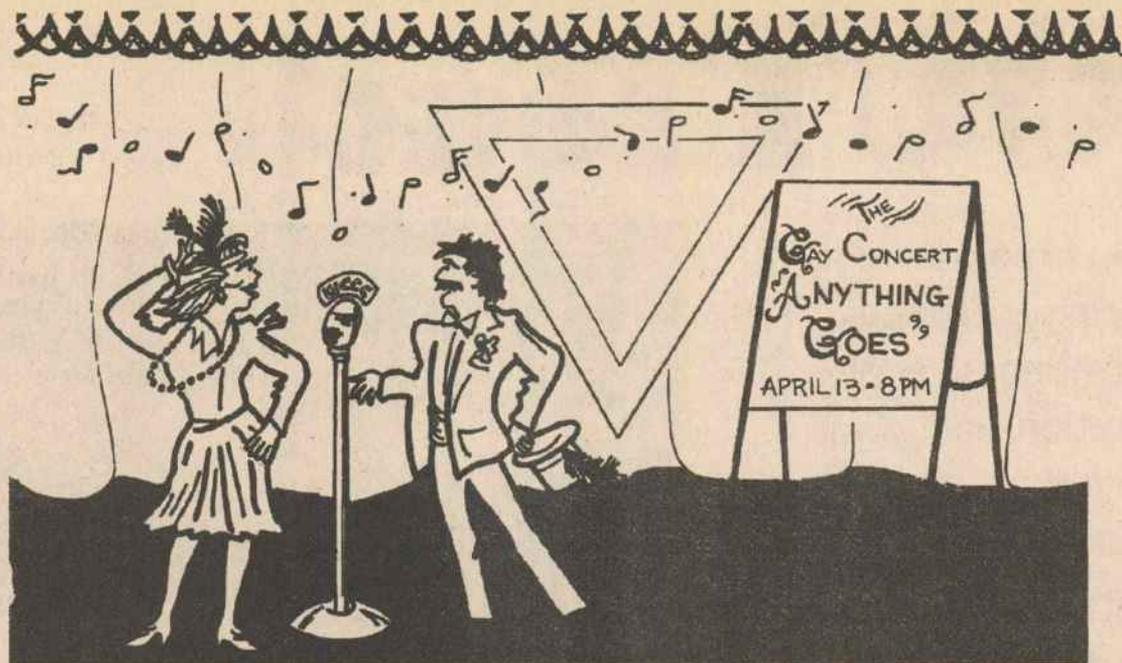
MILWAUKEE AIDS PROJECT

and

BESTD
CLINIC

MAP and BESTD Clinic working together to serve the gay/lesbian community.

For More Information Call 414/225-1502 or 414/272-2144



THE WISCONSIN CREAM CITY CHORUS PRESENTS AN EVENING TO BE REMEMBERED...

Come join us for "The Gay Concert," an old style cabaret performance,
featuring solos and ensembles of the Cream City Chorus.
For tonight, leave the kids at home because "Anything Goes!"

SATURDAY, APRIL 13
8:00 P.M.
MARCUS CENTER VOGEL HALL

TICKETS:
\$8 IN ADVANCE, \$10 AT THE DOOR

Available at
BESTD Clinic, Designing Men,
AfterWords Bookstore, the M & M Club,
the Cream City Chorus office,
and the Marcus Center Box Office



PLUS, DON'T MISS OUR COCKTAIL HOUR SILENT AUCTION!

Before the concert, you'll be able to browse a selection
of interesting and hard-to-find items. Whether your tastes
run toward the expensive "Gold Table" or your budget
is more suited to the "Bronze Table," come in ready to bid!
A cash bar will also be available.

7:00 P.M. - ONE HOUR BEFORE SHOWTIME!



Box 1488, Milwaukee WI 53201
(414) 344 WCCC

Layout by 2T Square Design in Graphics

Art's Page

Audiences ACT Against AIDS 1996

Milwaukee — Join Theater, Music and Dance companies throughout Milwaukee for the Third Annual Audiences Act Against AIDS and support people with HIV and AIDS. Play your part. Give generously to the Milwaukee AIDS Project. For a complete list of performances call 414/273-2729, or write to Milwaukee AIDS Project c/o Audience Act, P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0487.

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus Announces Annual Meeting

Milwaukee — On Wednesday, March 27, the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will hold its Annual Meeting at the First Unitarian Society, 1324 N. Astor Street, on Milwaukee's East side. This year's meeting will include elections for all four officers. The meeting is scheduled to begin promptly at 7 p.m. Rehearsal will follow.

Fest City Singers Welcome New Members to Perform For PrideFest 96 and Other Special Events

Milwaukee — Auditions for anyone wishing to sing with the lesbigay show chorus will be held on Wednesday, March 20 and again on Wednesday, March 27, 1996, during the rehearsals at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2308 East Bellevue at 7pm. President, Jonathan Justice announced that the Fest City Singers will perform for the first time at the SummerFest Grounds during PrideFest 96, with a kick-off scheduled for the evening of Saturday, June 22. The performance will be held at 7 pm in the Children's Theater.

Anyone wishing to perform at an event or requesting more information about auditions and membership may call the Festline at 414/263-SING.

Falsettos Performance to Benefit MAP

Milwaukee — A special Monday, March 25, 1996 performance of Falsettos has been designated as a Milwaukee AIDS Project benefit, where 40% of all ticket proceeds will be donated to MAP. Presented by the Skylight Opera Theater, Falsettos is the 1992 award winning musical for best book, music and lyrics from the team of William Finn and James Lapine, co-creator of *Into The Woods* and *Passion*. Highly personal, idiosyncratic chamber pieces revolve around a charming, intelligent, spoiled, neurotic hero named Marvin. Marvin, who becomes aware of his homosexuality, leaves his wife, Trina and son, Jason, to take up his newly emerging lifestyle. Just as he discovers his capacity for real, unselfish love throughout the course of two acts, AIDS crashes in to disrupt his newfound peace. The MAP benefit starts at 7:30pm. Ticket prices for the benefit are \$9, \$18, and \$35. Student, Senior and Group Discounts are available. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Skylight Opera Theater at 414/291-7800.

BESTD Gallery Extends Reich Exhibit

Milwaukee — The exhibit of the work of Chicago artists Jon Reich currently on display at the first floor gallery of BESTD Clinic has been extended through April 30th. Originally scheduled to run through

the end of March, the Reich work has generated a great deal of interest by the general public.

Reich died in 1992, due to complications of AIDS, his partner Bob Lutz, recently donated a number of signed and numbered copies of *The Nudes of Jon Reich*, published shortly before the artist's death. The books, a composite and history of Reich's career are available on a limited basis for a donation to the BESTD Clinic of \$50.

The Reich exhibit can be viewed at the BESTD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 11am to 9pm and Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 5pm.



We want your letters, so don't forget to write.

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

E-Mail:
qvoice@aol.com

Fax:
414.272.7438



Milwaukee Community Center Draws Support

"Town Meeting" Attracts Large Crowd; Largely Positive Reactions

by William Attewell and Ed Grover

Milwaukee — Nearly 150 people crowded the Common Room of the First Unitarian Society for a "Town Meeting" to discuss a proposed Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans Community Center on March 11. After nearly two hours of discussion and an exchange of ideas, the group pushed for the formation of a "steering committee" as the next step in the process to opening a center in Milwaukee. Another town meeting is scheduled to be called within four to six weeks at a location to be announced.

The Town Meeting was called in response to a personal \$1000 monthly commitment for a total of 60 months for the establishment and administration of a "Milwaukee Les/Bi/Gay Community Center" made by Milwaukeeans Erv Uecker and Ross Walker in January of this year. The offer maybe be renewable for an additional 55 months with a potential cash aggregate pledge of \$120,000.

Surveys and volunteer cards, designed to help determine



—Niki Cunningham and BJ Daniels

what areas of Milwaukee are preferred for the location of the proposed Community Center and what services might be offered for a center were distributed to those in attendance.

The meeting was chaired by well-known performer BJ

Daniels and Niki Cunningham, who currently serves as the Director for the Great Lakes Film and Video Festival.

It was stressed that the purpose of the meeting was to organize the responses from the surveys, collate the comments from the floor and form a Steering Committee as quickly as possible to look into the establishment of an appropriate representative not-for-profit organization to receive and administer these funds on behalf of the Community for the establishment, maintenance and appropriate staffing and program of the proposed Community Center.

After a wide ranging discussion, a general group consensus indicated the next step would be the formation of a "steering committee" to be selected from the volunteer forms distributed at the meeting. Cunningham indicated she would contact those persons who had expressed interest in joining a steering committee and would schedule a first meeting for the group. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Activist Yuri Keegstra, who volunteered to donate his time and personal resources to put together the first mailing for the proposed Community Center, stated there were some people with real experience and background in attendance at the meeting whose experience could help push a Community Center forward.

Keegstra added, "This is a wonderful, unique opportunity that is too good to pass up and I think the whole community will be watching what we do."

Bill Dempsey, community organizer and activist stated "There were a lot of creative ideas and a tremendous vision and that's what you need," He added, "It was good to see the community come together for something that is so positive. Too often we only get this kind of support in reaction to a negative event of some kind."

Mark Behar, who was involved in previous efforts to establish a Community Center in Milwaukee stated, "First meetings in any such undertaking are exciting and enthusiastic," but he cautioned, "We [the community] should take it one step at a time."

Behar echoed concerns raised at the meeting about lack of representation by minorities and people of color. He stated he was hopeful about the possibilities and felt the Community Center should be a legacy to younger gays, lesbians and

bisexual persons.

Jo Bruns, Director of Community Education for Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee Education Fund (LAMM EF) identified with comments made at the meeting about a Community Center being "more than brick and mortar" and stated, "I am hopeful for the future, but putting aside egos and agendas is difficult even in the best of circumstances."

Eldon Murray, a member of Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), felt the meeting, while disorganized, did indicate an interest in the community to start work on the project. Murray pledged that SAGE would work and cooperate with the effort. SAGE has been actively looking for a facility and meeting space for nearly two years and has yet to find a suitable building. According to Murray, several SAGE members attended the meeting.

"The next step is clear," stated Murray. "You need to establish a work-



—Naomi Guzman

able steering committee, not one of 25 or 30 members, but one of workable size. Then you lay out your priorities,

structure and statement of mission. That may take some time."

Activist and political candidate Karen Gotzler, whose statement of thanks and appreciation to Uecker and Walker brought a standing ovation to the couple pledging the donation, stated later that she would look forward to working on the Community Center.

"It was exciting to see the large number of people who are interested in working on this project," stated Gotzler. "I think the gift from Erv [Uecker] and Ross [Walker] is incredibly generous and I hope it will mobilize our community to work together and come up with a plan that addresses our individual and organizational needs."

Andy Bagnall, a Milwaukee AIDS educator said he felt excited and positive about the meeting, "I want to become involved in it quite a bit. I think it would strengthen our community. We [the community] need a focal point, a place where people can go and feel safe."

Bagnall expressed disbelief that some who attended the meeting would even question the need for a Community Center in Milwaukee, especially in face of the large turnout in support of the event.

Not everyone who attended the meeting was optimistic about groups and organizations being able to overcome their own agendas to make this Community Center initiative a success.

Si Smits, a member of Beer Town Badgers (BTB) wished the group luck, but was not impressed by the meeting, stating, "Good luck at getting all those people together on this ... to get the whole community involved in it, it won't happen."

Smits believes a successful effort on a Community Center is best accomplished starting with a small, dedicated group



—Mark Behar

of individuals rather than a larger, less organized grassroots-type effort. The BTB Corporation has recently started its own Community Center Trust Fund, and Smits indicated that the group would move ahead with its own efforts and already has a modest sum in trust dedicated for that purpose.

Pridefest co-chair Susan Cook was more optimistic and impressed by the large turnout, believing it indicates a great interest in our community for the project.

"I think its a very sincere attempt to get a Community Center off the ground," stated Cook. "Maybe we [the community] have matured to the point where we can reach the unreachable."

Volunteer cards for the Community Center can be obtained at the Brady East STD Clinic, 1240 East Brady Street in Milwaukee.

lesbian

??

queer

??

dyke

homo

??

coming out



FINDING

OUT

on their own

*Have We
Abandoned
Milwaukee's
Queer Youth?*

by Dan Fons

Resilience. It's a required trait for any Milwaukee Queer who dares to crack open the closet door before age eighteen. Peek your head out, and someone is going to try to shove you back in.

Despite the passage of a quarter of a century since Milwaukee's Queer liberation movement began, it is still implicitly understood that teens who try to come out in high school or earlier will face feelings of severe isolation, verbal and physical abuse and rejection by the very institutions we traditionally ask young people to look to for support: their families, churches and schools.

Knowing that the difficulties associated with coming out compose the one ritual experience we all have shared, it would seem logical that the Queer community would make great efforts to prevent the next generation from having

Photo Opposite Page: Known homosexual, William Attewell, age 12

Resources for Milwaukee Area Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Teens

Support Groups

Gay Youth Milwaukee
(high school age)
P.O. Box 09441
Milwaukee, WI 53209
414/265-8500

National Hotlines

1-800-347-TEEN
(Thurs - Sun. evenings)
1-800-96-YOUTH
(Daily 5:30 - 9:30pm)

Dancing

Mad Planet*
(under 21, Sat. 8pm to 1am, \$5 cover)
533 E. Center, 414/272-7550

Metropolis*
(17 to 20, Wed/Sun, 8pm - 12:30am, \$6 cover)
788 N. Jackson, 414/272-7550

Restaurants

Glass Menagerie
124 N. Water Street
414/347-1962

Walker's Point Cafe
1106 S. First Street
414/384-7999

George Webb*
1828 N. Farwell Ave.
414/374-3835

Coffee Houses

Brewed Awakenings*
1208 E. Brady St.
414/276-2739

Comet*
1947 N. Farwell Ave.
414/273-7677

Fuel Cafe*
818 E. Center St.
414/374-3835

Pen Pals
c/o Youth Services
Gay/Lesbian Community
Services Center
1625 North Schrader Blvd., #205
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Gifts
Designing Men
1200 S. First Street
414/389-1200

Television
The Queer Program
Milwaukee Cable Channel 47
Tues., 7 - 8pm (Live call-in)
Thurs., 4pm, Sat., 11am (replay)

Gay: By God's Will
Milwaukee Cable Channel 47
Thursday, 5 - 6pm (Live)
Sat., 9am; Tues., 8:30pm (replay)

BESTD Clinic Live
Milwaukee Cable Channel 47
Thurs., 5 - 6pm (Live)
Sat., 12pm; Tues., 6:30pm (replay)

Gay BC
Milwaukee Cable Channel 47
Tuesdays, 9 - 10pm (Varied Programming)

Radio
Womyn's Music Radio
WMSE 91.7, Sunday, 11pm - 12am

Publications

In Step Magazine
225 S. 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414/278-7840

Q•Voice Magazine
P.O. Box 92385
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414/278-7840

Wisconsin Light
1843 N. Palmer
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414/372-2773

Bookstore
AfterWords Bookstore
& **Espresso Bar**
2710 North Murray
414/963-9089

Runaway Shelters

Pathfinders
24-hr hotline and shelter
1614 E. Kane Place
414/271-1560

**Walker's Point 24-Hour
Runaway Shelter**
732 S. 21st St.
414/647-8200

Medical

BESTD Clinic
(sexually transmitted diseases, HIV
antibody testing, women's clinic,
condoms)
1240 E. Brady St.
414/272-2144

STD Specialties Clinic
(sexually transmitted diseases, HIV
antibody testing, condoms)
3251 North Holton
414/264-8800

Planned Parenthood Clinics
(exams, condoms)
800/230-PLAN
for nearest clinic location

**Dennis C. Hill
Outreach Center**
(HIV antibody testing, condoms)
4311 W. Vliet Street
414/342-4333
Wisconsin AIDS Line
(AIDS info/hotline)
414/273-2437
800/334-AIDS

Parent Support
**Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians and
Gays (PFLAG)**
414/299-9198

Religious

**Milwaukee Metropolitan
Community Church**
P.O. Box 1421
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414/332-9995

Dignity (Catholic)
P.O. Box 597
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414/444-7177

Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 11864
Milwaukee, WI 53211
414/444-9663

Special Events

Pridefest
(Annual pride celebration,
June 7-9, 1996 at the Summerfest
Grounds)
414/272-FEST

Internet

**The Ultimate Gay
Youth Page**
Web URL:
<http://www.bridge.net/~puente/newlife.html>

***Gay, lesbian, straight youth hangout.
Guide courtesy of Gay Youth Milwaukee**

to endure the same problems. Unfortunately, that does not appear to be the case. In a city where our community is known for its focus on bars, practically nothing is offered to Queer youth in Milwaukee in the way of socializing or education. Whether the cause of this is neglect, inadequate resources or a deep-seeded fear of accusations of pedophilia, the result is the same. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender teens in Milwaukee are on their own.

Lateasha Nelson was twelve years old the first time her father had her hospitalized because she was attracted to other girls.

"He said I was ill, sick ... and that I couldn't come home until I was better," she recalls. During that 6 month hospital stay, the doctors diagnosed her as "depressed" but refused to discuss the feelings that had led her father to place her there, even when she brought them up herself. After she was released, she attempted suicide for the second time in her life and was hospitalized again, this time for 8 months.

"I didn't value my life," she says of that difficult period. "I didn't feel like living ... I couldn't accept it. Then I'd have to go to school having all this stuff on me. I just cracked one day."

Her words provide a stark contrast to the confident young woman recounting this story now. At age twenty, Lateasha has fully accepted the fact that she is a Lesbian for a number of years. She's an "out" manager at a fast food restaurant, and she spends volunteer time educating youth, parents and teachers about the issues surrounding Queer youth. Her advice to younger Gays and Lesbians is "to just be yourself and don't let anyone tell you you're something you're not."

Lateasha began to raise herself out of her nightmare at the age of fourteen by searching through the phone book, where she found the number for Gay Youth Milwaukee. She's been attending meetings ever since. "I got to know people who were older than me," she remembers. "I think they were the people who got me to accept myself. I think the more you talk about it, the more comfortable you feel."

Billy may be Milwaukee's youngest subscriber to *OUT Magazine*. At sixteen, he has established such an open attitude about being Gay that it's difficult to believe he has not yet met any Gays or Lesbians his own age. The library, television, the internet and a fax machine, along with an intelligent, curious and resourceful nature, have each helped bring him through a five-year struggle to come to terms with his sexual identity.

He says that he realized he was not attracted to girls at the age of eleven. In fact, he had a crush on a male teacher, and he shared his feelings with the school counselor.

"Basically," Billy recalls, "she said that it was a terrible thing and that you won't get anywhere in life. And so I totally blocked it out of my life. Obviously, since she was a counselor, I believed her, and it took me a long time to realize that she was wrong."

After that, Billy realized that kids at school had known he was Gay before he did, and he began staying home from school to avoid harassment. It was then that he entered what he terms his "black phase" and battled thoughts of suicide.

"I never really acted upon any of my [suicidal] feelings. I just got really depressed and lost weight and didn't talk much." Over time though, things

improved slightly. "I dove into TV and writing and reading because it was an escape," he says. He wrote stories of a fantasy world, in which he and his sexual orientation were accepted by family and friends and he was revered for his honesty.

It was just last Fall that Billy shared

"I never envisioned myself being happy with my lifestyle, only because everyone around me didn't see it as appropriate."

—Billy, age 16

the fact that he is Gay with his mother by letting her read his stories. Then in December, he found his connection to the Queer community one day as he was watching television.

"It was actually an accident. I thought that channel 47 was the Showtime channel and there was *The Queer Program*. I had no idea that there was such a whole society." A fax to the show's hosts brought his first contact with other Gays and soon his knowledge of our community exploded. "It was terribly quick," he says of the sudden access he gained to resources through the television and then the internet.

"I never envisioned myself being happy with my lifestyle, only because everyone around me didn't see it as appropriate. But now with all the people

I'm meeting and places I'm going, I actually see myself growing up and being happy, and it's a good thing."

Listening to the stories of teens who have successfully made their way out, one is struck by the resourcefulness and perseverance that has eventually brought them to self-acceptance. While there is a tendency to assume that the advances of the past 25 years have trickled down to our youth, the fact is that coming out at a young age is still an isolated, individual

struggle against tremendous forces.

There are common threads to most of these stories and two key moments often emerge as critical: the first attempt to express Gay or Lesbian feelings; and the first contact with our community. While the reaction teens get when they first try to come out is difficult to control, the Queer community's readiness in welcoming and supporting its own teens when they ask for help is not. So how are we doing at offering that support? What do Queer teens think of the community that is available to them in Milwaukee?

"It's nothing," Johari remarks without hesitation. It's Saturday afternoon and Johari, Chris, Annie, Megan, Maddy, Kevin, Ladi, Lateasha, Ben and Dawn have gathered for a meeting of Gay Youth Milwaukee at the BESTD Clinic on the east side.

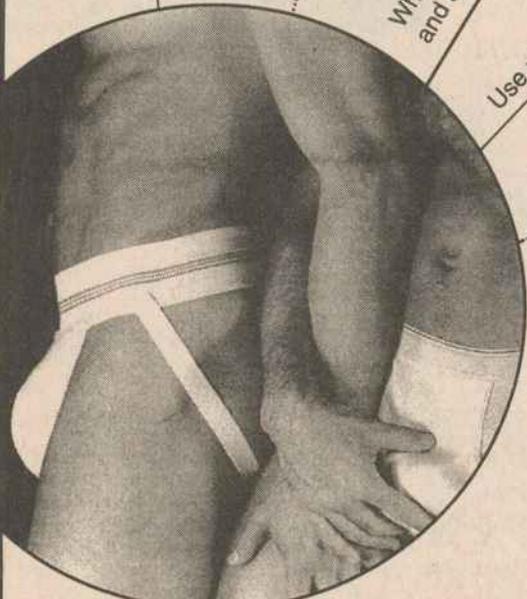
"They have all their little potlucks and shit," adds Megan, "like an 18, 17 or 16 year old wants to go to a pot luck or square dancing. I mean, please!"

For seventeen years, Gay Youth Milwaukee has been the primary and often the only Queer youth service offered in Milwaukee. The bi-weekly group offers teens an opportunity to be with others like them, to share stories, to feel safe and to have fun. The racial and gender composition of the nine members gathered this day is strikingly more diverse than any other Queer group in the city, and these differences clearly are irrelevant to where people sit and who they talk to.

Each member has a unique story of how they found the group, whether it was looking in the phone book, chatting online or watching television.

When asked where else they can go to socialize with other Lesbians and Gays, stories involving fake IDs and attempts to get into the Gay bars are almost automatic. Unlike Madison and Green Bay, Milwaukee does not offer an "all-ages" night for Queer teens to socialize at on a regular basis. The reason is likely a local ordinance which prohibits the sale of any alcohol at a bar which is hosting an all-ages event, and it appears to teens that Milwaukee's Queer community is centered on bar activity.

anal sex



anal sex = intercourse, fucking, bottom, top.

Always use a latex condom for anal sex.

When you put the condom on, pinch the tip and smooth out any air bubbles to avoid breakage.

Use plenty of water-based lube.

WET, Aqualube and Probe are water-based lubes.

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MAP
The Milwaukee AIDS Project is a
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For more information on Safer Sex call 414-225-1502

"I think a resource center would be a really good idea," offers Megan. I would just love to go someplace and be like, hey, Gay people!"

Ben agrees with that idea. "I think we need more of these, bigger groups and more advertising. I've grown up knowing there's a Kohl's and a Sentry and you need to know since you start being raised that there are Gay places in the community. That there are other Gay people out there. Or else it makes you go out and find the first person you can find and have a horrible experience."

Offering his commentary on the centralized and physically remote nature of the Gay nightlife in Milwaukee, he adds "and we need bars to be where you find parking meters or where you find a grocery store, not next to parking lots and empty buildings."

For each of Gay Youth Milwaukee's seventeen years, Michael Lisowski has been there to facilitate the group. Over the years, he has learned how to offer members the same respect and decision-making power as one regularly affords adults, and his honest style clearly puts the teens at ease.

"Michael's cool," says Johari. "I consider him very supportive in a lot of things. It's like you can talk to him no

"I've grown up knowing there's a Kohl's and a Sentry and you need to know since you start being raised that there are Gay places in the community"

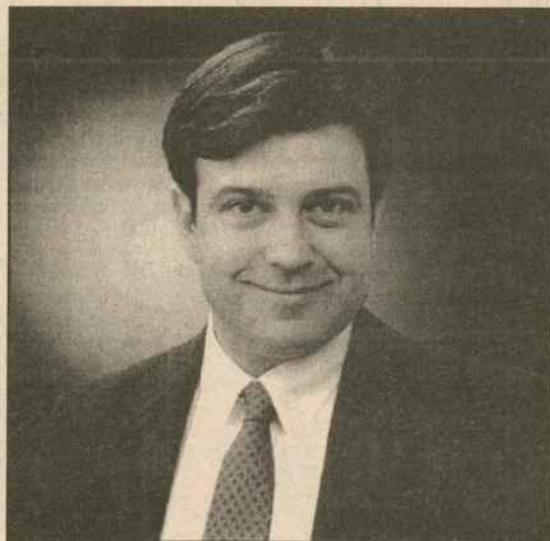
—Ben, age 17

matter what, you know? And he's non-judgmental. He's straightforward but non-judgmental."

It is Michael who repeatedly points out the resiliency he has seen in the hundreds of youth who have channeled through his group over the years. He says he's still amazed

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at the balancing act many Queer teens maintain.

"If it's bad at school," he says, "there's a little solace with friends outside of school or if things are bad at home, they have friends at school or at the group who help. But it's still a thing that kids start to go through in isolation. They always believe that they don't see anybody out there, 'I don't see a teacher, I don't see other students that I think are Gay, so I must be the only one in this school.'"

He aims for the focus of the group to be mostly social, because he believes that the primary need these teens need to have met is finding a safe place to be themselves and feel welcome. Only after that is established, he argues, can a youth truly hear and consider information about safer sex, dating and other important matters.

While Michael agrees that Milwaukee has not done enough for Queer youth, he is quick to point out the limits of helping. He says he has learned that his ideas of what Queer youth need are not always what they would say. So what should we do?

"If you're having activities," he says "try to think, 'How can we include youth in these activities?'" But it needs to be more than just window dressing. What we really have to do is just

provide an opportunity or a space and say, 'OK, what do you want?' And then, help facilitate the process, but not dictate where it should go."

At the meeting, Michael is asking for help with nearly ten requests from schools and churches to have a panel of Queer youth come to speak to them in March. Michael these are more requests than usual, but he does like to encourage teens into activism when they are ready. He believes that public speaking and telling their own stories helps teens to understand their lives better and to build self-confidence.

Proof of that is Jason Alan. At 18 and still attending a strict Lutheran high school, he's the author of a monthly teen column in *The Wisconsin Light* and he has recently begun a live call-in public access television show specifically for Queer teens, *Time Out Milwaukee*. He credits both Gay youth Milwaukee and the local chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays as helping him come to grips with being Gay, and he says he has two goals for the program.

"It's designed to aid in coming to terms with sexual identity," Jason explains, "but I suppose the other way that it will be a constructive show is it also will be dealing with HIV outreach and prevention." Jason cites his own bouts with depres-

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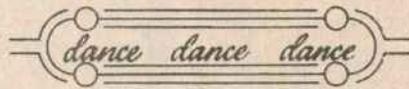
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mitted by Gay and Lesbian teens as a big motivator.

"The show is critical right there," he says, "because it can reach out to kids that are 13, 14, 15 years old, or even younger, and intervene before the depression hits." Jason is also aware of projections that 30-50% of Gay males in his generation will be HIV positive or dead from AIDS by the age of 50. "That's why the show will be doubling as an HIV outreach show: Because it's necessary, it saves lives."

The first show was a success with four high-school age teens appearing on camera and a phone call from a mother asking how she can be helpful to her 18 year old Bisexual son. Jason expects to have a regular time slot for his show within the next month.

His bi-weekly series, along with Gay Youth Milwaukee's regular meetings will then be the only teen-focused services offered by Milwaukee's Queer Community.

Perhaps talking with Queer youth should be mandatory training for anyone who wants to be involved in community activities. It is impossible to spend time learning about their lives without getting a sense of deep respect and awe at the single way in which they bear monumental pressures every day.

Maybe hearing a few stories will lead Queer adults to remember and include issues related to youth in events and activities more often. As it stands now, it still seems an accident of fate or a result of an abnormal amount of determination when a teen develops a healthy attitude towards being Queer at a young age.

It seems obvious that we are probably just seeing the strongest of the bunch when we talk to Lateasha, Billy, Jason and the rest, and it forces the question, "What is happening with the rest of the Queer teens in Milwaukee?" ▼

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Recommended Reading

"To deny your sexual orientation doesn't just keep you from accepting yourself, it makes about as much sense as denying your eye color. Accepting yourself is the most important thing you will ever do. It's a gift that you will give yourself over and over again."

—The Journey Out, 1995

The Journey Out, A Guide for and About Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Teens, is a clearly and broadly written book which addresses many unavoidable issues that gay youth must confront. Dismissing many of the stereotypes espoused by mainstream America, the book takes a candid, common sense approach to such issues as: Health concerns, sexuality, STDs, how and when to come out, an overview of gay history, a glossary of current queer lingo, safe sex, drug use, peer pressure, and depression.

Other subjects covered include: dealing with stereotypes, homophobia and harassment and homosexuality and religion.

The Journey Out covers a lot of ground in a short and highly readable volume. It advocates self-acceptance, self control and a strong measure of personal empowerment. Bringing gay issues into rational perspective directed at youth, the book indirectly provides essential knowledge for parents, friends, counselors and others.

The authors, Cheryl Schwartz, the former executive director of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Services Center of Colorado and Rachel Pollack, a straight (but narrow) grandma who has been published nationally, combine compassion and expertise to offer youth a welcomed and needed personal guide.



Being Different: Lambda Youths Speak Out is a new book by Larry Dane Brimner. A former teacher (at elementary, junior and senior high school levels), Brimner "explores teenage homosexuality by interviewing gay, lesbian, and bisexual youths." "Being Different" is a title in "The Lesbian and Gay Experience" series published by Franklin Watts, Inc. Contact: Franklin Watts/Grolier Publishing, Sherman Turnpike, Danbury, CT 06816, 1-800-621-1115

—Susan Ramsey

Q Musts & Maybes

Your monthly planning calendar.

► March 21 thru April 7



Gay Spring Break

Tired of the weather? Escape from Wisconsin and head to Key West as 400 members of the Key West Business Guild sponsor America's first ever Gay Spring Break. This gay destination will be bustling with nearly naked boys and girls along with numerous events and

activities especially for gay and lesbian college students, faculty and staff. For more information contact the Key West Business Guild at 800/535-7797.

► Thursday, March 21

Fiddler on the Roof

C.A.P.I.T.A. (City at Peace in the Arts) Productions presents *Fiddler On The Roof*, a multicultural celebration to life at the Lincoln Middle School of the Arts, 820 East Knapp Street, Milwaukee. All proceeds from this performance will benefit The Milwaukee AIDS Project. Against a backdrop of strained relations C.A.P.I.T.A. has brought together African American, Native American, Hispanic, Christian, and Jewish young people and adults in a production of *Fiddler On The Roof*. These performances (March 22 through 31, 1996) are the culmination of the cast's work at unlearning prejudice and embracing diversity and represent Milwaukee at its finest. For more info call Harriet McKinney at 414/332-5649.



► Friday, March 22

10 Percent Society Spring Dance in Madison

The UW Madison Ten Percent Society Spring Dance for Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexuals and friends will be held on Friday, March 22 at the Great Hall of

the Memorial Union in Madison starting at 8:00 pm. Admission is \$3. There will be a dee-jay and a cash bar.

► Friday, March 22

Hurricane presents Alix Dobkin

Celebrate the Vernal Equinox with the irresistible "Head Lesbian" and goddess of womyn's music at the Alverno College Alphonsa Hall, 3401 S. 39th Street, Milwaukee. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door. Tickets available at Outpost Foods, Just Us, AfterWords and People's Books.



► Saturday, March 23

Faces of AIDS: Portraits of Hope

The sold-out Tenth Annual Make a Promise Benefit will feature *Faces of AIDS: Portraits of Hope*. The dinner and silent auction will be held at the Pfister Hotel, 424 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, and will benefit AIDS care, prevention and research programs provided by the service agencies of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. For further information or tickets, please call 414/273-2729.

► Sunday, March 24

Homosexuality and Scripture

The Gay Men's Discussion Group will be discussing that topic and more with facilitator David Shimmel, a well-known speaker and writer on the subject. The discussion will be held at the Counseling Center located at 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. in Milwaukee. For more information call 414/271-2565.

► Monday, March 25

Mama Roux's Falsettos Outing

Buffet, dinner, transportation to the Skylight, excellent tickets to the Tony Award winning *Falsettos*, and cocktails back at Mama Roux's. A portion of the proceeds to benefit The Milwaukee AIDS Project. For Reservations call Mama Roux's at 414/347 0344

► Monday, March 25

"Oscar Madison" Academy Awards Party



For the first time ever, a large scale "Academy Awards" night party will take place at the Barrymore Theater. The public is invited and the tickets will cost \$10. All proceeds will go to benefit the Rodney Scheel House for Persons with AIDS and the New Harvest Foundation. Tax deductible

sponsorships with free advertising, mention during the party, and tickets to the event are offered to businesses at various levels. If you would like more information about the above event, please call Mark Pohan at 608/256-6214 or Earl Bricker/Scott Christensen at 608/244-0289.

► Monday, March 25

Greg Louganis at AfterWords

Greg Louganis will make his only Milwaukee appearance at AfterWords Bookstore in promotion with the paperback release of his New York Times best-selling book, *Breaking The Surface*. AfterWords Bookstore will be Louganis's only Milwaukee appearance. *Breaking the Surface* is Greg's unflinchingly honest story of a gay man breaking free from a lifetime of silence and isolation.



For further details about Louganis's appearance, please call AfterWords Bookstore at 414/963-9089 and speak to Carl Szatmary.

► Tuesday, March 26

OUTreach: Anonymous HIV Testing

The BESTD Clinic and The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) will be offering anonymous HIV testing, safer sex education and information about HIV and AIDS at Zippers, 819 S. Second St. from 8pm to 11pm. For more information call 414/272-2144 or 414/225-1502



► Wednesday, March 27

Fest City Singers Auditions

Auditions for the FEST City Singers will be held after their Annual Meeting to be held at the Westminster Presbyterian

Church, 2808 East Bellevue Place in Milwaukee. Anyone wishing to sing with the lesbigay show chorus should be there by 7:00pm.

► Wednesday, March 27

Triangle Construction Party

While the construction continues the Triangle is holding a party. Come in "construction gear" and receive a free drink. Starting at 9pm at 135 E. National Ave., Milwaukee.

► Thursday, March 28

BESTD Clinic Live: The Ethics of Outing



Queer activist Dan Fons will appear on BESTD Clinic's Milwaukee Cable TV show, BESTD CLINIC LIVE! to discuss the ethics of outing. BESTD Clinic Live is "A Half Hour To Stretch Your Mind" and is broadcast every Thursday on MATA, Milwaukee Warner Cable channel 47 at 7:00 pm.

Continued ►►►

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► Friday, March 29

*Author Philia Geotes Hayes
Reading in Madison*

The Cedarburg author will give a reading from her memoir in progress titled *Twice My Child*, an exploration of her Greek roots and the story of five generations of women at A Room of One's Own at 317 West Johnson Street in Madison, on Friday March 29. For more information call 608/257-7888. The event is free and open to the public.



► Friday, March 29

Record Relief Benefit

A benefit for the DJs of the Hotel Washington Complex who lost their records in the fire will be held at La Cage/Dance Dance Dance, 801 S. 2nd Street in Milwaukee. Admission is \$5.



► Saturday, March 30

Dykes to Build Birdhouses in Madison

RDA will have its monthly potluck work/play party on Saturday, March 30, 1996 from 1pm to 6:00pm. This month they are building birdhouses. Those lucky birds. For lumber specifications for each birdhouse and for location and directions, please call 608/838-3094. Bring a vegetarian dish to pass, your hammers, screwdrivers, saws, sanders, drills, and stories to tell. Meet some country lesbians.

► Saturday, March 30

Survival/Revival Fashion Show

Miss Gay Wisconsin, Mary Richards, will perform at the Street Beat Fashion Extravaganza and Benefit for Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). The fashion show, hosted by BJ Daniels will be held at Survival/Revival at 246 E. Chicago Street. Admission is \$6 at the door.



► Saturday, March 30

*Singsational at the
M&M Club*

Join the popular singing group, *Singsational at the M&M Club*, starting at 9pm. The M&M is located at 124 N. Water Street. For more information call 414/347-1962.



► Sunday, March 31

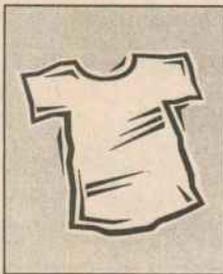
A Raisin in the Sun

The Madison Repertory Theatre presents its closing night production of *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Isthmus Playhouse of the Madison Civic Center, 211 East State Street in Madison. For tickets and showtimes call 608/266-9055.

► Monday, April 4

*GALVANize T-Shirt
Design Deadline*

A T-shirt design contest for the 1996 Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Transgender Pride Parade in Madison is being sponsored by GALVANize. Entries are due by April 4, 1996. They should be submitted on plain white paper and be in four colors



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or less. All entries will become the property of GALVANize and are not returnable. GALVANize reserves the right to alter the design as needed for the printing of posters and T-shirts. Please send your design to GALVANize, P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53703.

►Friday, April 12

OUTreach: Anonymous HIV Testing

The BESTD Clinic and The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) will be offering anonymous HIV testing, safer sex education and information about HIV and AIDS at the Ballgame, 196 S. 2nd Street from 5pm to 8pm. For more information call 414/272-2144 or 414/225-1502.

►Saturday, April 13

Cream City Chorus:

An Evening to Be Remembered



Wisconsin's Cream City Chorus invites you leave the kids at home because "anything goes" at their cabaret performance to be held at the Marcus Center Vogel Hall at 8pm. Before the concert you'll be able

to browse a selection of hard to find items available at a cocktail hour silent auction. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Advance tickets sales at BESTD Clinic, Designing Men, Afterwords, The M&M Club, the Cream City Chorus office and the Marcus Center Box office.

►Sunday, April 14

OUTreach: Anonymous HIV Testing

The BESTD Clinic and The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) will be offering anonymous HIV testing, safer sex education and information about HIV and AIDS at the Walker's Point Cafe, 1106 S. First St. from 6pm to 9pm. For more information call 414/272-2144 or 414/225-1502.

►Thursday, April 18

BESTD Clinic Live: To be a Father Who is Gay
Gay father, Tim Clausen will appear on BESTD Clinic's Milwaukee Cable TV show, BESTD CLINIC LIVE! to discuss parenting by gays and lesbians. BESTD Clinic Live is "A Half Hour To Stretch Your Mind" and is broadcast every Thursday MATA, Milwaukee Warner Cable channel 47 at 7:00 p.m.

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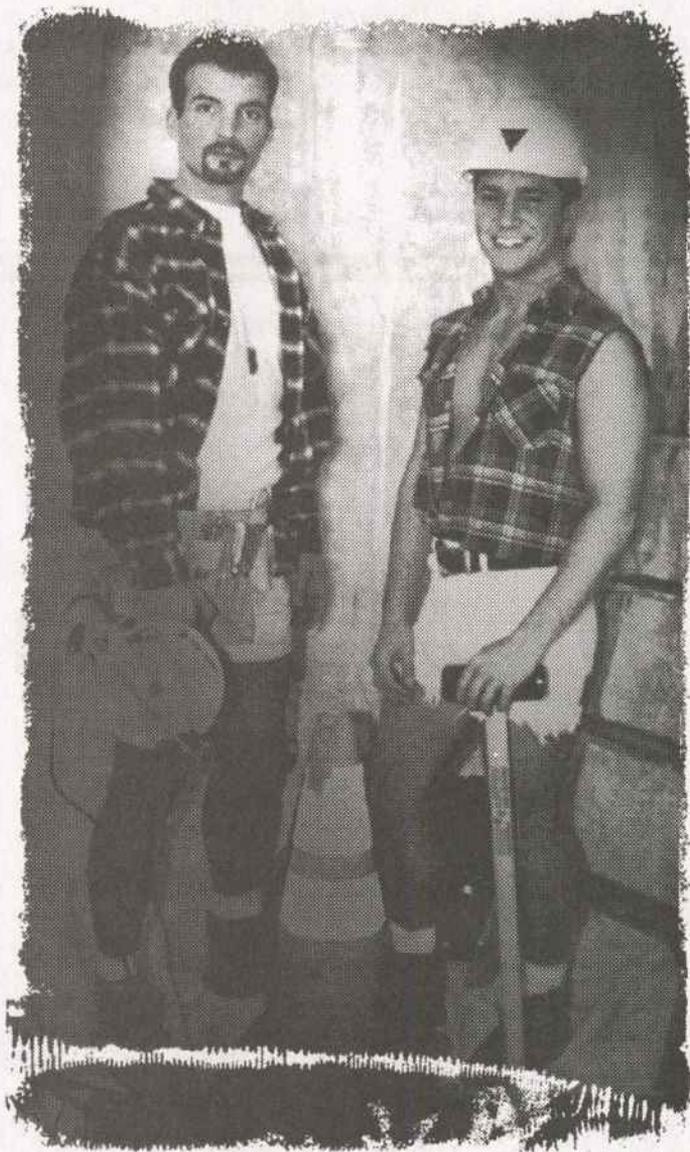
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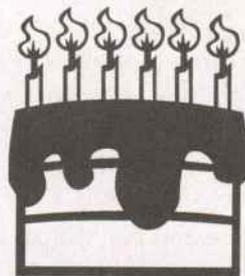
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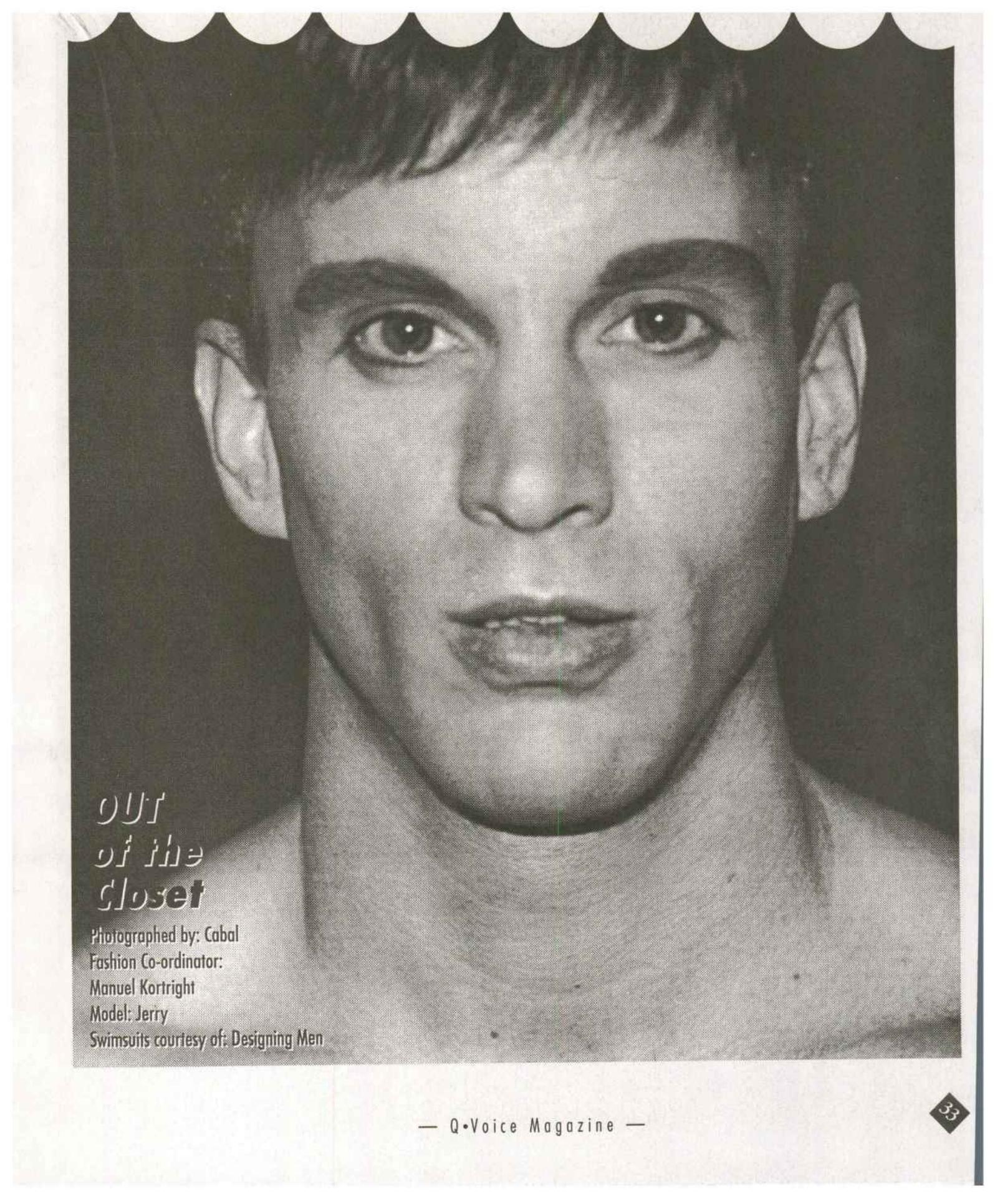
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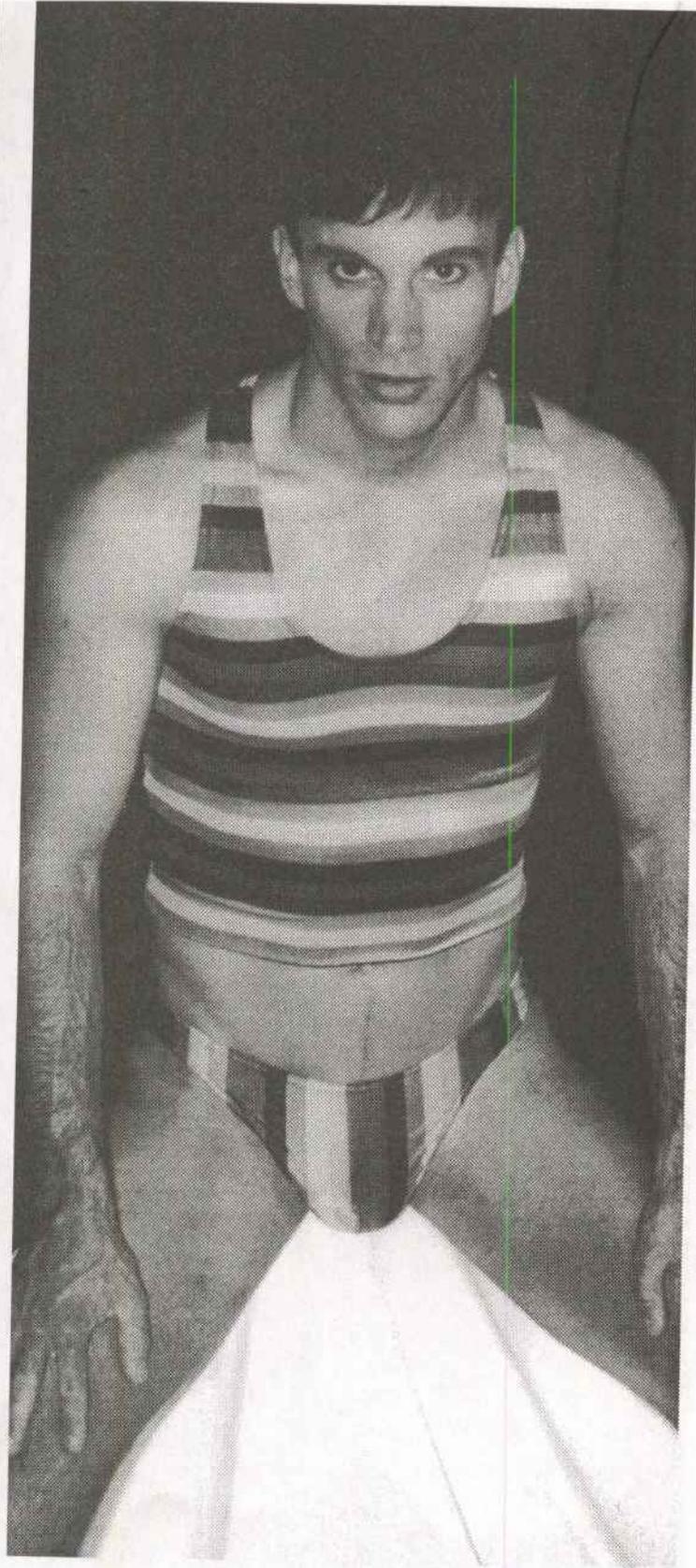
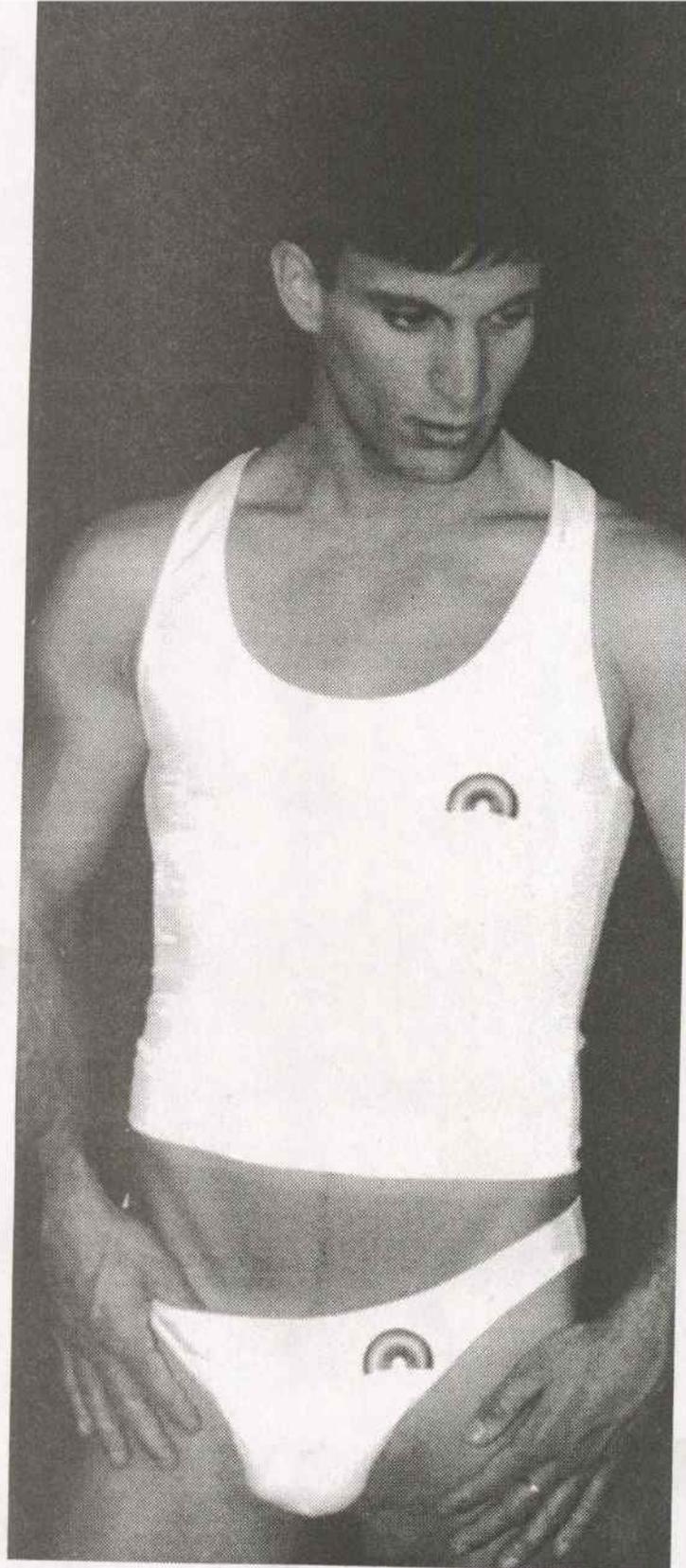
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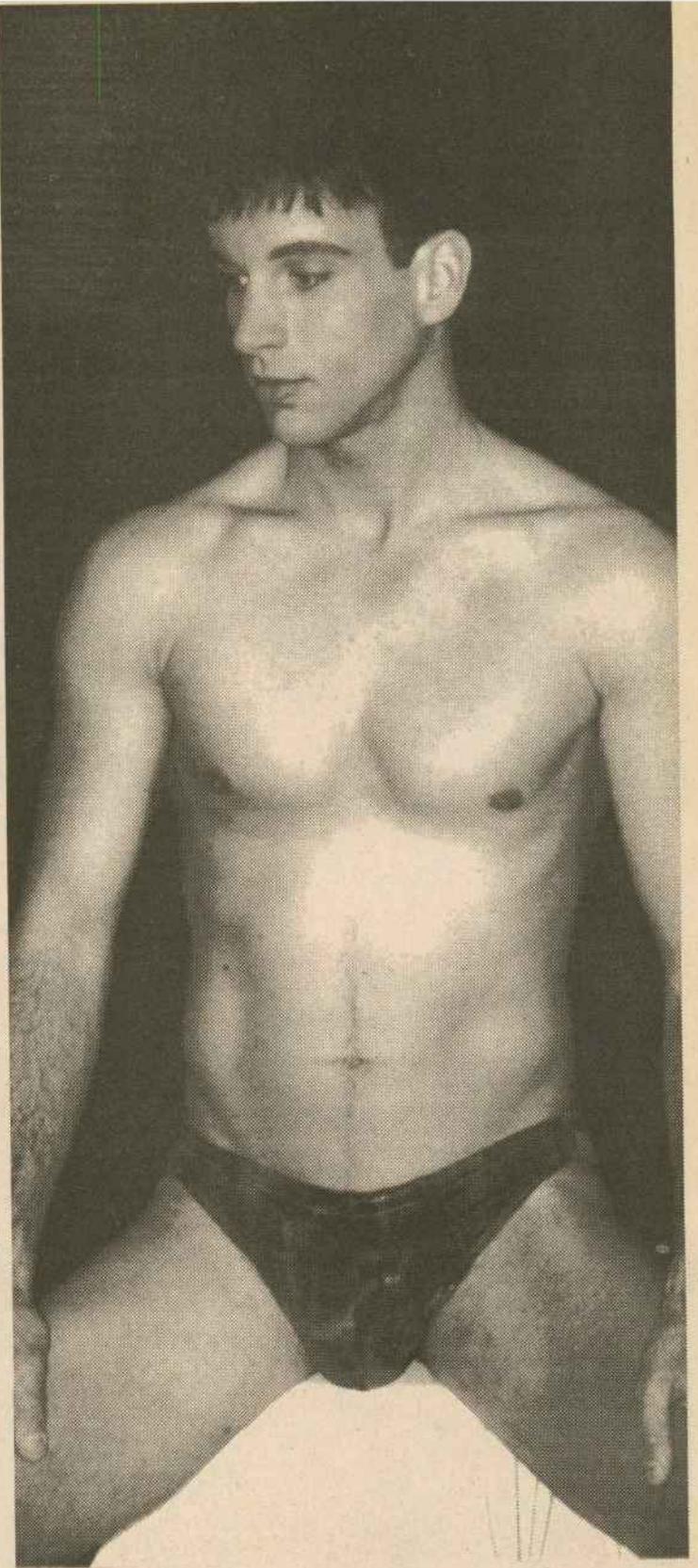
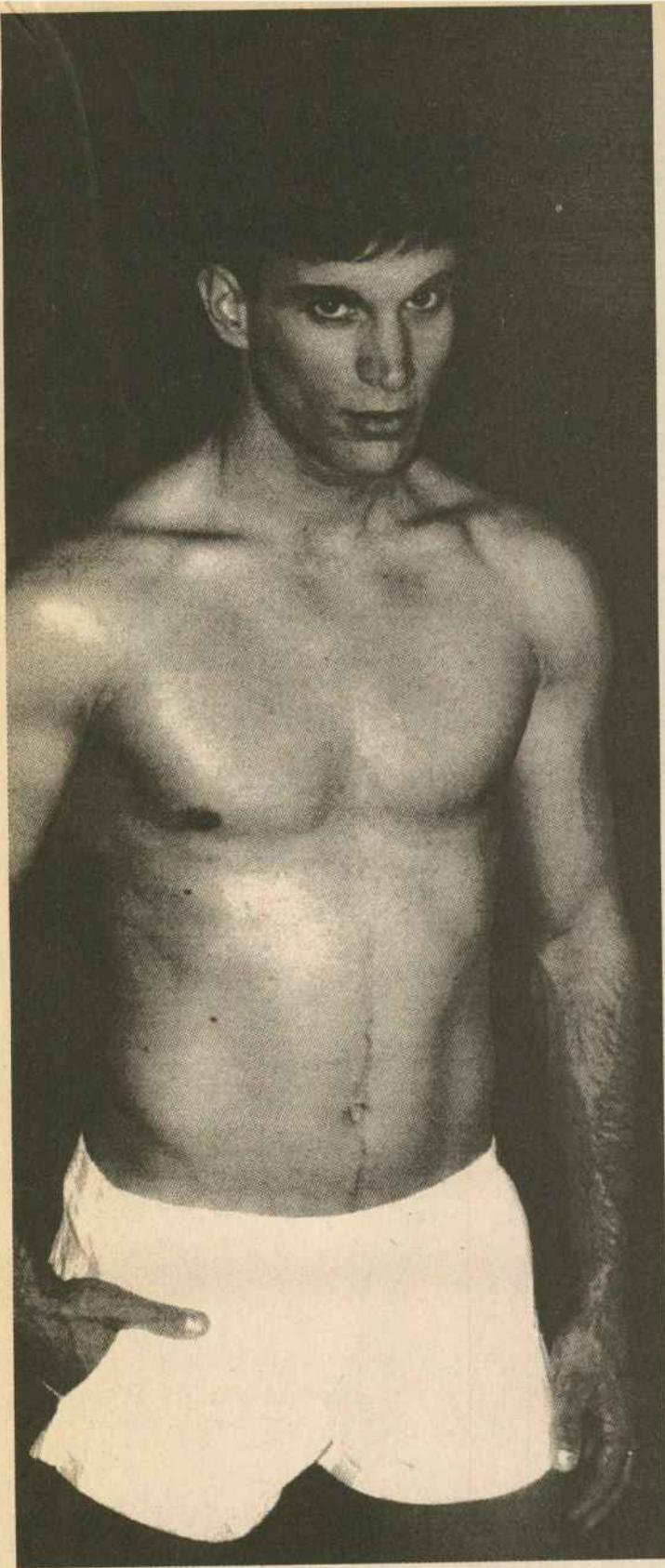
Fashion Co-ordinator:

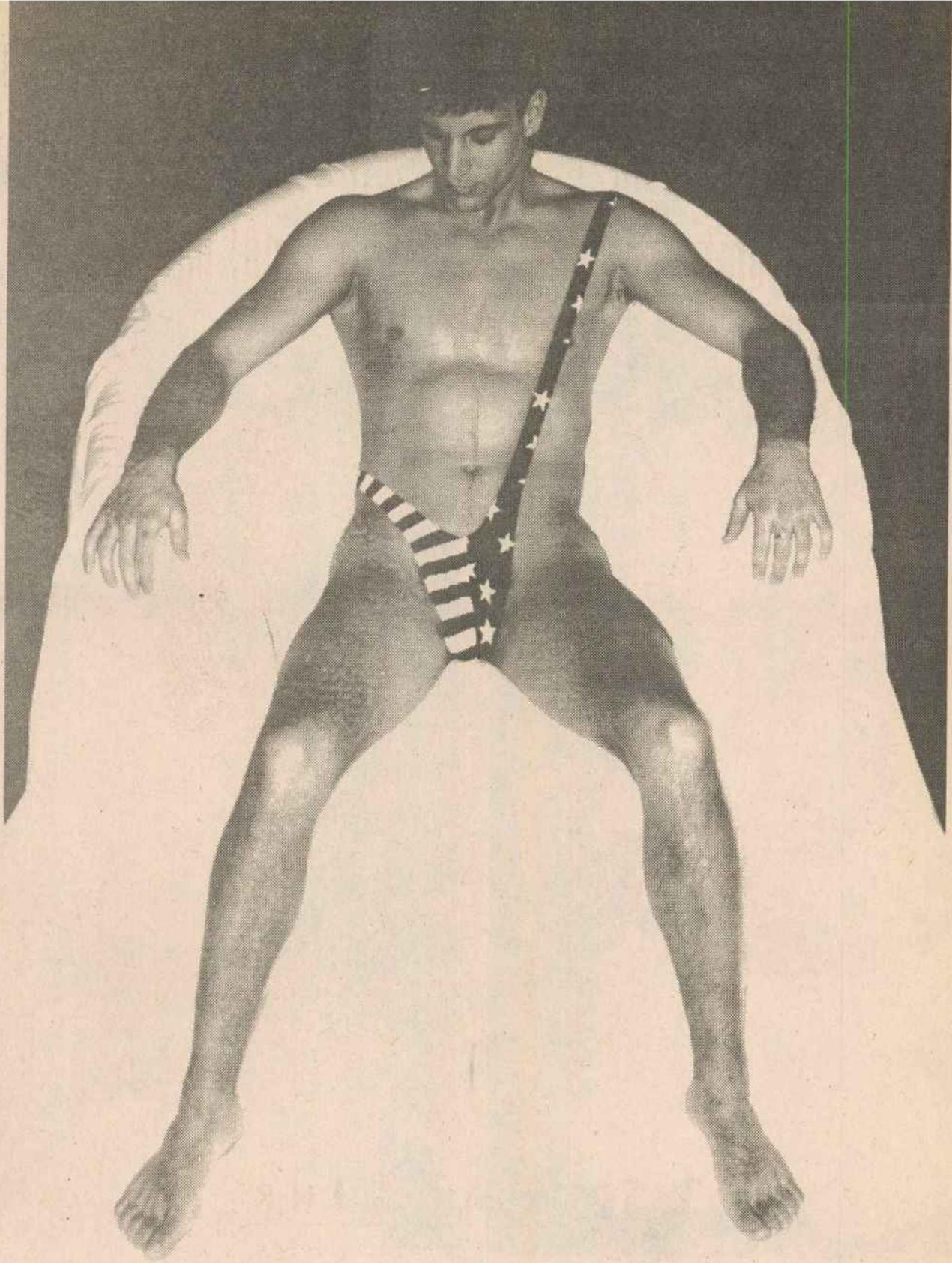
Manuel Kortright

Model: Jerry

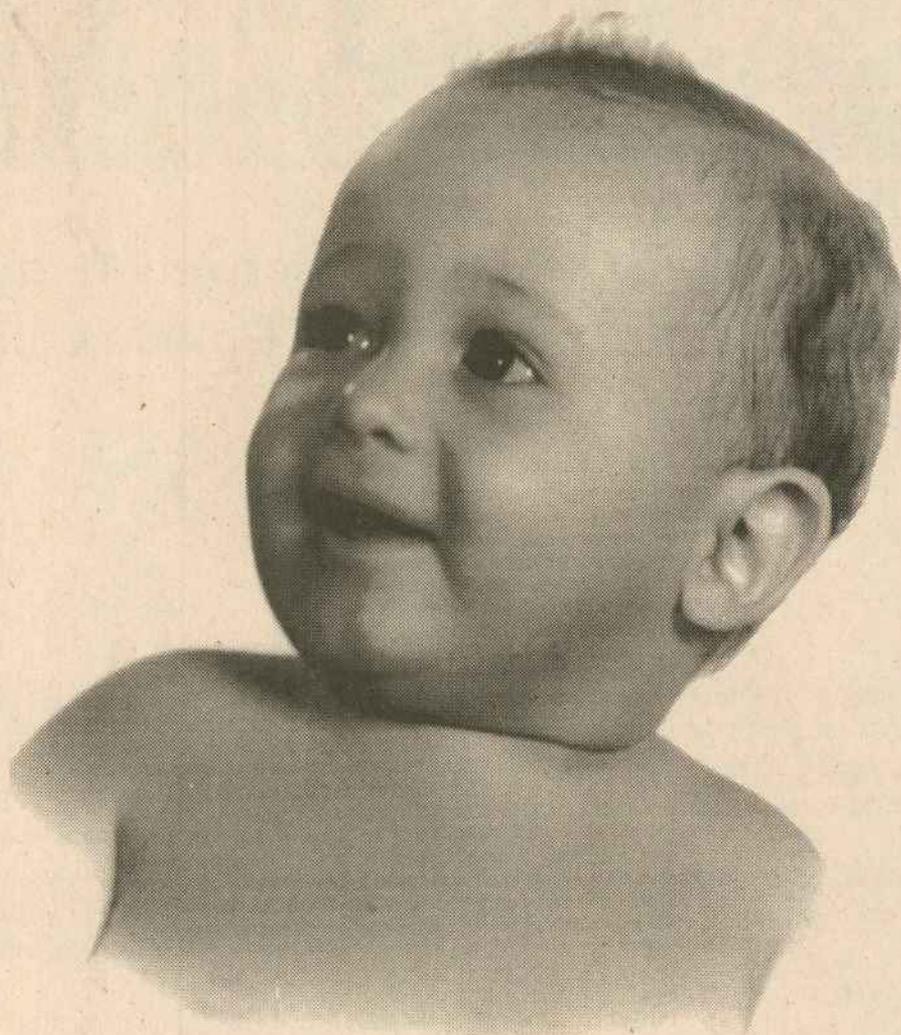
Swimsuits courtesy of: Designing Men







If Pat Buchanan 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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Sober and

P R O U D

Gays and Lesbians in Recovery Find Fellowship at Milwaukee's Galano Club

by William Attewell

As you walk up the long stairs into the Galano Club, you quickly find a long bar lined with bar stools. However, on the walls of this club, you won't find a single blazing neon beer sign. What you will see hanging on a wall opposite the bar are dozens of coffee mugs each carefully personalized by the owner. It is then you realize the deep commitment of the Galano Club members is to their recovery from addictions and their Club.

The Galano Club boasts an active membership base of close to 125 persons and is home to 22 different 12-Step meetings a week. Galano Club President Roy B. estimates that 180 to 200 people come through its doors each week for meetings or just to socialize with other recovering individuals.

There are currently over forty gay and lesbian identified A.A., Al-Anon and other 12-Step meetings held across the

state, well over half are take place at the Galano Club in Milwaukee. Groups affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Sexually Compulsives Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous and Debtors Anonymous all use the Galano Club for meeting space. While each group has its own personality and focus, all use the famous 12 Steps as a foundation for dealing with their respective problems and issues. The Galano Club does not hold or sponsor the meetings, but rather, rents meeting space to the groups and provides a place for others in recovery to socialize and support one another.

At a time when Milwaukee's gay and lesbian community in again focused on the idea of a community center, it is revealing to note that the Galano Club has successfully maintained a home for over ten years.

Open seven days a week, the Galano Club started small, meeting in a church basement, once a week, on Thursday nights. Through bake sales, talent shows, rummage sales and various other fund raisers adequate cash reserves were collected to begin the search for a building which could accommo-

**“We don’t go into the bars
and try to pull people out
and tell them they should join
us or hit liquor stores and
smash all the bottles.”**

—GARTH W.

date the Club’s needs. Their first home was located at 1428 North Farwell Ave on Milwaukee’s lower east side. The Club out grew that site and voted to move to its current location at 2408 North Farwell in March of 1989. The Galano Club has no paid employees. Everyone who serves the Club does so on a volunteer basis. The club is open during meetings and every evening by 6pm.

The current site has three meeting rooms and a large common area adjacent to the bar. The Galano Club is bright, clean and generally regarded as one of the best facilities of its type in the Midwest. The Club also operates an extensive library of recovery-related material along with books of general interest to gays and lesbians.

Club members are bound the “Traditions” of the 12-Step groups to remain anonymous. This allows persons to discuss open and freely issues when they might otherwise not feel comfortable doing so. Members also maintain a level of personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. For this reason, persons interviewed for this article will be identified by first name and last initial.

The need for gay and lesbian 12-Step meetings and the Galano Club is clear to Garth W., a recovering alcoholic, who feels inhibited at straight A.A. meetings, “I’ve learned not to share gay things at straight meetings. I’ve been to straight meetings and I have shared gay things ... you can just tell by the looks on their faces. When you’re supposed to get hugs at the end of the meeting, they tend to shy away from you. I’ve had that happen a number of times.”

Garth’s awareness of his alcohol problem came slowly. His

decision to come to an A.A. meeting at the Galano Club was spurred after he read the Club’s brochure and by a discussion he had about his drinking with a Galano Club member he met while volunteering at the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

According to Garth, “Drinking was starting to interfere with my relationship, I was drinking on a daily basis. It didn’t seem normal to be drinking a quart of vodka a day. It was just causing a lot of problems for me.”

For Garth, acceptance of his alcoholism came one day at the M&M Club, “I was sitting at the bar and I had a bad day at work. I was feeling bad about myself and I just sat there and drank and drank and drank. None of those bad feelings went away, like they used to. So, the next day I went out and drank again. I discovered that alcohol had turned its back on me, it didn’t do its trick any longer. I realized the party was over. I’m addicted to this stuff. I came to the realization that I had crossed the line from abuse to addiction.”

Larry is a 37 year old health care professional and recovering alcoholic. Larry states he wasn’t willing to accept the fact

Continued on page 55

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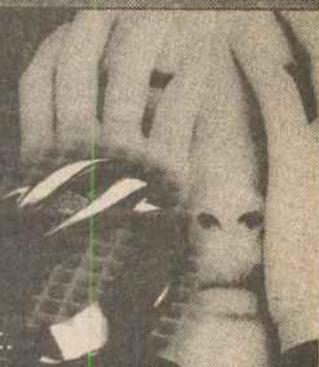


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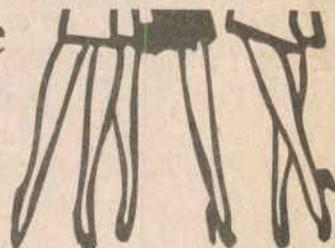
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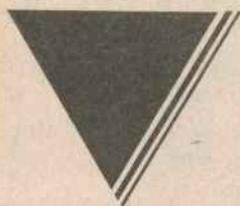
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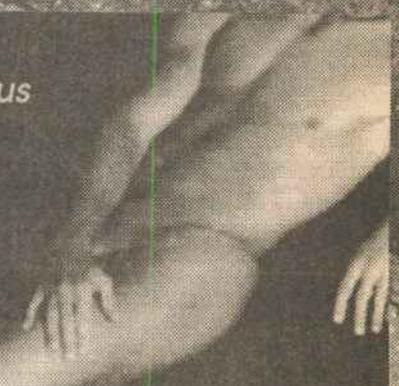
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Slaves to Love

by Lesleá Newman

My girlfriend Flash and I are love slaves. Not to each other, unfortunately. To our cats. Now why is this, I ask myself, usually at 3:00 a.m. when I can't sleep because the cats have stretched themselves out luxuriously on top of the covers and Flash and I are huddled together in a tiny corner of the bed. Flash and I are both strong women. We are childless by choice because we treasure our independence. We like to think we can come and go as we please. Yet, if the truth be known, we are completely controlled by our cats.

Of course our cats are by no means ordinary cats. My cat is a 14 year old femme fatale named Couscous Kerouac (I was going through a vegetarian, beat-poet phase when I named her.) I found her in a mall in Boulder, Colorado where I lived at the time. A kid was standing over a box of kittens and the kid's mother was standing over him, shrieking, "I'll drown them, I swear to Gawd I'll drown them," in an unmistakable Long Island accent. You'd think Couscous would be forever indebted to me, given the fact that I saved her from her fate at the bottom of the Colorado River. But no. Couscous is a brat-cat. She is very, very pretty (which she knows) and this makes people want to pet her. A big mistake.

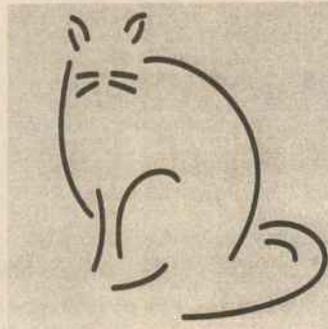
Couscous has to be in the mood, and her mood changes as quickly as the weather in New England. Her purr can change to a growl in two seconds flat, and usually a bite is not far behind. Consequently, Flash and I fall all over ourselves to please her. "Couscous, want to sit on this towel?" Flash will ask, spreading my very best bath towel from Bloomingdale's across the kitchen floor. "It's hot from the dryer." Whenever Flash or I can get Couscous to sit on our laps for more than two minutes, we gloat in triumph, "See, she loves me." Recently I bought Couscous a black velvet collar studded with rhinestones, which she lets me fasten around her neck on occasion. I tried to convince her to teach a workshop called "How To Be A Femme Top: A Feline Approach," but she refused. ("Thank God," Flash said. "You don't need any more tricks.")

PC, our other cat, gives new meaning to the word mellow. You could pick this cat up and twirl him around by the tail, and his purr wouldn't miss a beat. PC is Flash's cat. Actually, PC, which stands not for Personal Computer or Politically Correct, but for Pussy Cat, originally belonged to Flash's ex who lived on the third floor of her apartment building. One day PC got tired of climbing three flights of stairs, so he just moved into the first floor apartment,

Flash's place. When the ex moved out, hardly pausing to kiss either Flash or PC goodbye, PC stayed. I found the two of them years later, a pair of happy bachelors living on Dinty Moore beef stew and Hamburger Helper.

Now the remarkable thing about PC is that he is 21 years old. Twenty-one human years; he was born in 1972. In cat years, this makes him older than George Burns and Rose Kennedy combined. We did have a close call with PC a few years back when he was only 17. The vet thought his kidneys were shutting down, and recommended special low-protein cat food, which he happened to sell at \$2 a can. Flash and I brought a case home and of course PC wouldn't eat it.

I called the vet for advice, and to see if I could get my money back. "Fry it," the vet said. "He'll love it." Fry it? It's embarrassing to admit, but yes, there I was standing over the stove, spatula in hand, sauteeing a gob of chicken flavored Science Diet in polyunsaturated fat. "Hey, what's for supper?" Flash asked, coming into the kitchen. "It smells great." Of course PC wasn't so easily fooled. I called the vet again. "Pour some chicken broth over it," he advised. So I went out and bought a chicken. This time Flash entered the kitchen more cautiously. "Boiled chicken?" her eyebrows rose. "Are you having trouble with your gall



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bladder again?" PC wouldn't eat his Science-Diet-drenched-in-broth of course, but he did enjoy the chicken, both wings and a thigh.

Eventually we went back to PC's favorite food, reasoning the quality of his life was more important than the quantity. I think he agrees, as four years later, he's still going strong. Flash thinks he lives on love and I agree. I mean, it's not every cat whose owner shleps his favorite chair from room to room all day long, placing it in direct line of whatever window the sun happens to be streaming through (never mind the fact that it used to be my favorite chair). Not every cat has an owner who will sleep in incredibly contorted positions because the cat is taking up 3/4 of the pillow ("What in the world did you do to put your neck out like that?" my chiropractor asks). And how many cat owners will stop in the middle of a big O (feline interruptus) to dash out of the house stark naked because their beloved kitty is yowling from the top of some tree? Not many.

Why do we put up with this? Flash, who has gotten into Zen lately, thinks our cats have lessons to teach us. I got a lesson the other day when I returned home from a three week book tour. I was feeling pretty full of myself: audiences had been enthusiastic about my work, and I had been sufficiently wined, dined and adored. Surely I was on my way to being rich and famous any minute. So why wasn't my family home to greet its rising star? Where were the flowers, the balloons, the champagne? Flash was at work and the cats were nowhere to be found. What did greet me at the front door was a puddle of cat puke: evidence of Couscous's bulimic revenge. I cleaned up the mess and proceeded straight to the litter box which very clearly had to be changed. One minute a standing ovation, I thought, the next minute down on my knees scooping out shit. Was that my lesson? No, there was more. As I lined the litter box with newspaper, I happened to look down and catch a headline, "Heather Has Two Mommies Causes World War Three." And right underneath was a picture of the smiling author, disappearing under gravels of kitty litter. And two seconds later, Couscous squatted over my photo to take a pee. I'm still not sure what the lesson is here, but I probably deserved it. ▼

Lesléa Newman hails from Cambridge, MA and is the author of *Heather Has Two Mommies* and edited a recently released collection of lesbian love poems titled, *My Lover is a Woman*.

Preview

Street Beat — '96

Survival/Revival Fashion Show Saturday, March 30th, 8pm

New York, Paris, Milan ... Milwaukee? If you wanted to strut the most fashionable runways in the world — you used to have to travel pretty far. Now you need look no further than Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward as *Street Beat* — '96 prepares to take the fashion world by storm.

On March 30th, resale and runway come together to raise your fashion consciousness as well as raise money for Survival Revival, a retail resale program of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). This is the second semi-annual event (following *Street Beat* — '95 last fall) and brings together affordable fashion, music, performances and shopping opportunities.

Billed as an evening of "outrageous fashion and fanfare," *Street Beat* — '96 will raise funds for the Milwaukee AIDS Project. All proceeds will directly support comprehensive AIDS care, education, research and advocacy programs of MAP.

The runway show will feature more than a dozen models sporting re-wear ripped from the hangers of Survival Revival, aping top fashions which appear on *House of Style* or *Fashion Television*. Styles run the gamut from rave wear, to geek sheik, to sultry spring things and, if you like what you see you can purchase the items that night (right off the model's back).

The East Side hair salon, Beauty will showcase "hair fantasies" in addition to providing "seductive and outrageous" make-up strategies for the runway models.

It's no small feat to put on such a huge production. Survival Revival's manager Kathy Fortier along with Chrisanne Robertson and BJ Daniels have spent months preparing for the show. Last year's show drew over 200 guests and raised more than \$2000.

"We couldn't do this wonderful benefit without the help of all our volunteers," says Fortier. "So many people give their time and talents to *Street Beat* and it shows."

Fortier and her husband were the owners of Sweet Doomed Angel, a popular resale outlet on Milwaukee's East Side which burned down in 1994. Fortier brings a commitment and love of fashion to Survival Revival.

Opened on World AIDS Day in 1994, Survival Revival celebrated its one year anniversary on December 1, 1995. One full time employee, Fortier and two part-time assistants manage the day-to-day operation of the resale shop.

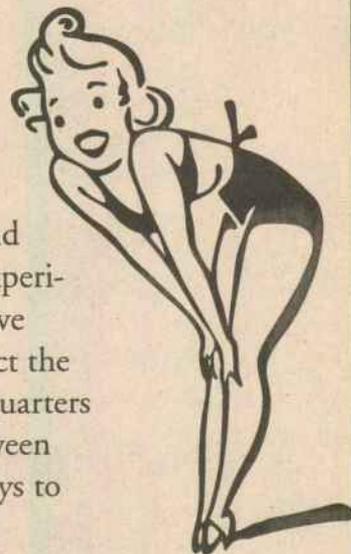
"I really need to stress how much we depend on our volunteers and how badly we need people to donate their time as well as their clothing, domestics and especially, furniture — furniture really brings in a lot of money for the agency," says Fortier.

Street Beat — '96 will be held at Survival Revival, 246 E. Chicago Street in Milwaukee's Third Ward and coincides with a Third Ward event called "Shopping in the Ward." Tickets are \$6. For more information call 414/291-2856.

—David Todd

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First I passed an Amish horse and buggy. Then I passed a logging truck. I was speeding down a twisting road that undulated past sandstone bluffs and deep ravines.

It had been a four hour drive from Milwaukee, and the thought of becoming trapped in a blizzard was never far from my mind. So far the day had been clear and sunny with only intermittent bursts of fluttery snow. I consulted a map, juggling coffee and steering at the same time. I passed another truck that was slowed from fighting a steep upgrade. Within a few minutes I was off the main highway, traveling down a narrow road, across a narrow bridge, to the home of Sue Silvermarie.

She is one of Wisconsin's best known poets. A self-proclaimed "gypsy" she has traveled widely. She has lived in Boston and Madison, made her first attempt at rural living in West Virginia, traveled and lived and studied in Mexico, been to Brazil, and speaks fondly of her days in Milwaukee. "I'm really just a small town Wisconsin girl. I was born fifty miles north of Milwaukee in Plymouth. There were nine kids in the family, I was the fourth and my other lesbian sister was the fifth."

*They didn't lock the doors in Plymouth
But the big brick house
And the clean little town
Kept me penned.*

There is a sign in Sue's driveway that says "Mount Sally Homestead". Mount Sally is the enormous hill that looms behind the red barn and small farmhouse. No one remembers just who Sally was, but the name remains. Sue greets me with a smile and coffee. She is wearing a red cape and her hair is silvery grey. She takes me out back and shows me the Kickapoo River that snakes through her lover's farm, the sandstone outcroppings at the base of Mount Sally, and the willow tree that bends over the river. Inside, I find myself impressed with the incredible number of anthologies that contain Silvermarie's

work. We settle into a comfortable sofa and begin to talk seriously about her life and poetry.

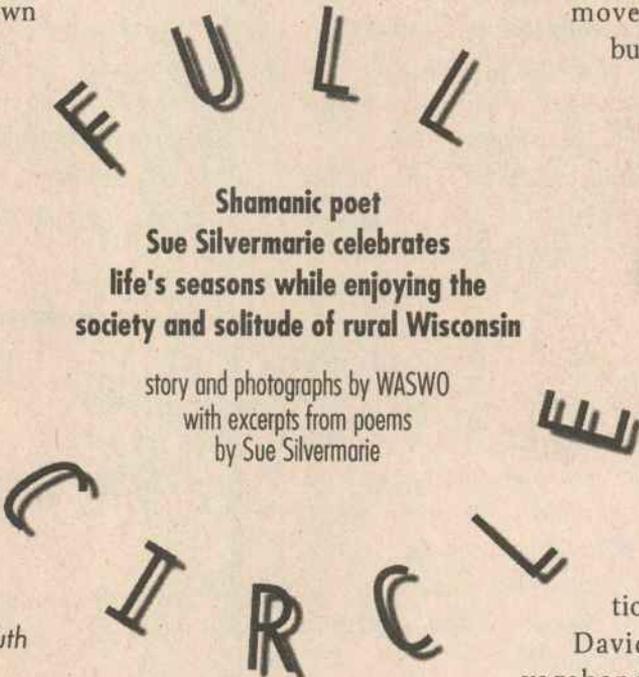
*Risk your life regularly.
Fall in love
with the tool in your mouth
Arrange acres of solitude
and roll in them.*

"Around 1970 and 1971 I came out as a writer, a lesbian, and as a mother. Those are the years everything major happened to me. The women's movement was bursting and burgeoning.

Women's reality was coming out of the closet. It was a stimulating time. Whether the writing impetus came about as a result of coming out as a lesbian, or being a single mother is hard to know. It all happened at once. I needed to use words to express the transformations that were happening in my life."

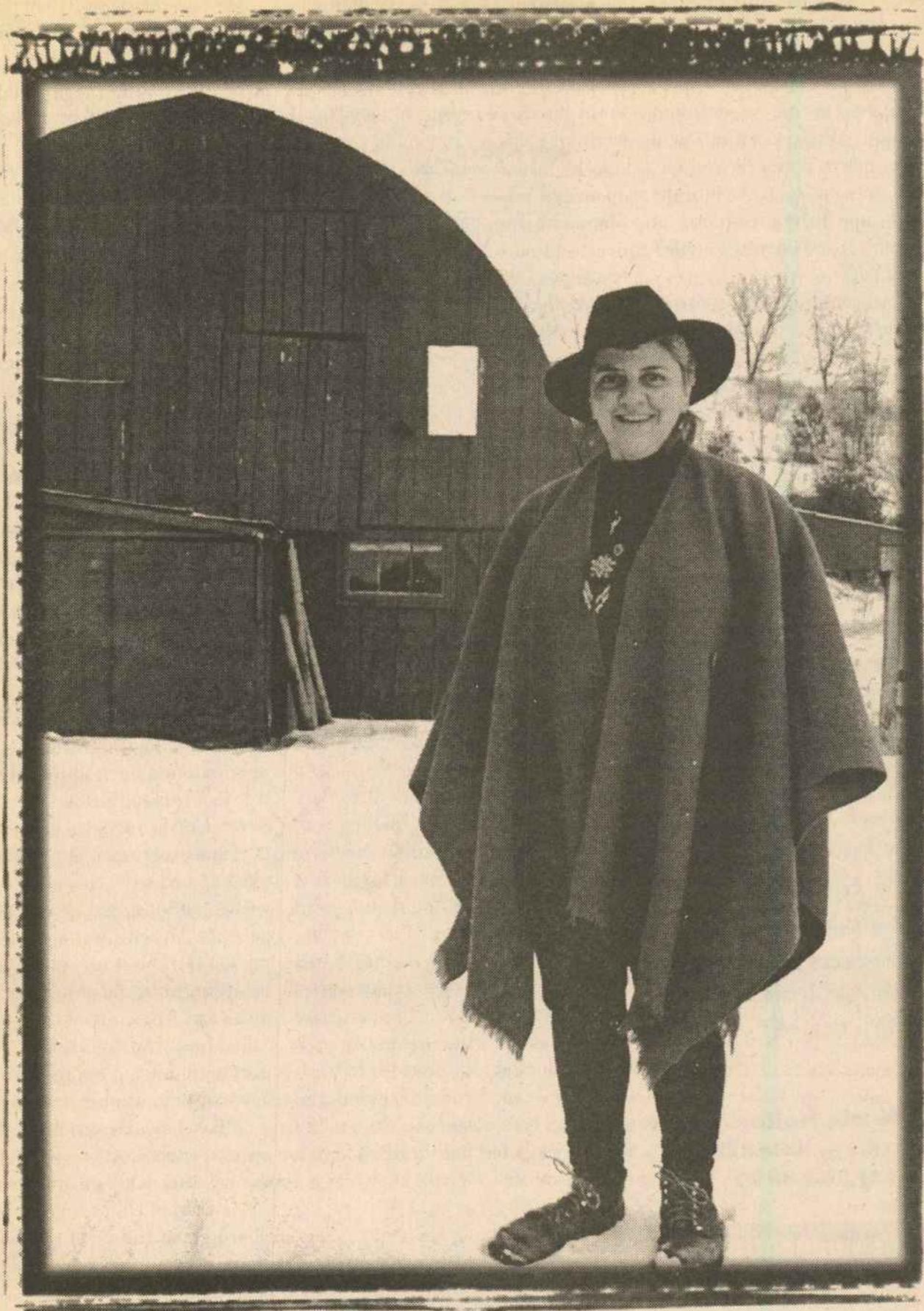
One of those transformations was the birth of her son, David. After years of being a vagabond in such faraway places as Mexico, Sue found that being a mother was a change in her lifestyle. "I ended up back in Milwaukee for most of my mothering years because of the needs of childcare. There was something in Milwaukee I couldn't find anywhere else: that good ol' Milwaukee working class bonding. I married briefly after I had David. My husband wasn't really David's father but he adopted him. It was a famous wedding that made the front page of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. He was a priest, and an antiwar activist, and I was a single mother. I wasn't known as a lesbian yet. I didn't come out until two years later."

Sue is still close to her former husband and her son. The fact that David has grown up happy and healthy seems to dis-



**Shamanic poet
Sue Silvermarie celebrates
life's seasons while enjoying the
society and solitude of rural Wisconsin**

story and photographs by WASWO
with excerpts from poems
by Sue Silvermarie



prove people's fears of lesbian parenting. "My son is twenty-six now and is married. He and his wife were just out to visit my lover and me last week. In fact I recently gave a reading at Audubon Court Books in Milwaukee and David and his wife showed up for the reading. During the 'open mike' segment of the show David came up and read some of his own poetry. It turned into a mother and son reading."

The first section of Sue Silvermarie's book *Imagine Her Satisfaction* deals with the trials and joys of being a single mother. The very first poem, titled *Single Mother*, is a comment on *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe*.

In Mother Goose
an old king is a wise one.
But an old woman
means a used one.

"I was a single mother living with my

kid and taking a poetry class in Boston. I had an assignment to write a transformation poem about a myth. Well I couldn't afford a babysitter so I could go to the library and research the myths. I went into David's room and came up with Mother Goose. That's why I ended up doing *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe* rather than some fancy-assed myth! Because that is what I lived with and related to. The poem is dedicated to my own mother because she had nine kids. The myth goes 'she gave them some broth, without any bread', as if she is this nasty woman. Well fuckin'-A she didn't have any bread! It's interesting to take some of these things and tell them from the woman's or the minorities' point of view and find out what's going on. I see the old woman in the shoe as the welfare mother who got cut."

And she didn't,
NO she didn't
she didn't know what to do.

The second section of *Imagine Her Satisfaction* deals with sensuality and feminism. It begins with *Stories of a Midwife*, parts one, two and three. "My themes are generally sex, motherhood, and spirituality. In the early 70's we were finding each other as women for the first time. I did some self-publishing and called my press Midwife Press because we were midwifeing one another as well as ourselves: giving birth to our works, desires, and inclinations. This particular series is about a writer friend. We midwived each other. We provided for each other, mirrored and witnessed one another. There was pain in it too. The series is about birthing: bringing forth a feminist consciousness."

Sue Silvermarie works within the oral tradition of poetry. Though she hopes her poems will deliver their punch in print, she knows that it is her verbal performance that will bring them to life. A vibrant and energetic woman, Silvermarie stopped our interview several times to stand and perform a poem from memory. In concert she utilizes background music, rattles, and feathered masks to achieve effect. "There's a shamanic tradition about poetry as healing. Poetry tries to find a common language of the heart and share it. I'm looking to be within that shamanic tradition. I write my stuff, prepare it, then go out there and let whatever come through me. During a reading I feel like I'm a lightning rod. I do believe in spirit. I do believe things come through me."

Silvermarie pursued the concept of poetry as healing by returning to UWM to take a masters degree in social work. She works as a certified poetry therapist with elders suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Poetry therapy is the latest of the expressive therapies. The idea is to use the reading and writing of poems to help patients open and express their true thoughts and feelings. True to form, Silvermarie has once again worked from personal experience. She has just compiled and edited a collection of poems written and inspired by her Alzheimer patients. "When I was a single mother my son David was my teacher. Now I'm being taught by the people in my therapy group. The collection of poems is called *Tales from my Teachers*. These are poems from people some say can't do anything or remember anything."

"I've always created poems from my own experience. After I was injured on the job after years of work as a postal carrier, I applied for a Wisconsin Arts Board grant and created a poem and

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video called *Look Mama, the Mailman is a Girl!* I performed the piece in my uniform. In the video we had dog-chase scenes and everything."

"There are two parts to my Gemini personality. I write in solitude because I need to. Then, later, I'm seized with the need to share it."

The solitude Sue craves has been found nestled between the hills of her lover Pat's farm.

"I've finally found my way to the country. This is a dream I've tried to reach several times over my life. First, in West Virginia in the early eighties. I was in heaven, but my lover at that time and my son didn't like it. My son wanted to be a city slicker. But this time it's working. My son got married, I sold my house, and now I have a simple lifestyle with low living expenses. I'm working on my writing. It is a wonderful privilege. The land nourishes and nurtures me and my work comes out of that."

For those of us ensconced in the urban gay world, the thought of living far from centers of gay society seems lonesome at best, and threatening at worst. Sue surprised me by revealing that there was quite the network of lesbians in her rural community. "Pat and I have been partners for six years. We knew a couple of lesbians up here near the farm and through them met others. Pretty soon we had a whole group. It's funny, but we've found tons of lesbians around here. A lot of them are centered around Hillsboro where I'll be having my first rural poetry reading."

"We all get together once a month and have full moon circles. The full moons have been a time to pray and make community, as in many of the old, earth centered religions. Mostly its play. It's women who are old enough and comfortable enough with themselves and each other to be still, chant, let the magic come through them and have a good time. It's been important as a way to find community more than anything else."

Silvermarie has found yet one more phase of her life to document and explore with her poetry.

She has recently released an audio cassette collection of her poetry she calls *Menopausal Lust*. "It is a sixty-minute tape of my own erotica that I produced and authored two years ago. The theme of women's sexuality has been consistent over the years, though my perspective has changed. I recently spent ten weeks traveling in Mexico. I traveled by bus, following my intuition without any set itinerary. It was a crone's journey. A crone is a post menopausal woman. In many cultures they are

the most respected persons in the society. Part of my crone's journey was to learn to live as much from the dark as from the light. We associate dark with a lot of bad. But we should also associate it with the womb, the gestation, fertility, the seed underground. The highpoint of my Mexican journey was the Day of the Dead. It is the day the Mexicans believe the souls of the dead come back. They spend all night in the cemetery, and its sort of like a vigil party."

"When I was eighteen I had encephalitis and nearly died. Near death experiences change your perspective on what's important in life. It was almost thirty years later to the day that I left on this trip to Mexico. I felt that I was completing a really large cycle in my life, going back to the places I wandered through in my youth."

Sue Silvermarie has returned to the rural life. She is still a small town Wisconsin girl. But she seems to carry with her a whole cosmos of wisdom and experience. As I headed home I once again passed the Amish horse and buggy trotting at the side of the road. At slower speeds a person can hear, smell, and see so much more.

Menopausal Lust, an audio cassette of erotic poetry by Sue Silvermarie, can be ordered for \$11.00 postpaid from the poet: Sue Silvermarie, Rt. 1 Box 220, Ontario, Wisconsin 54651

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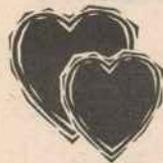
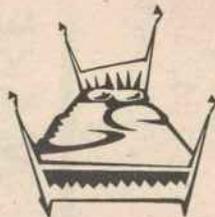


And the winner is...

We know you've been waiting, so here they are: The results of the *Q•Voice Best Of Queer Wisconsin Reader's Choice Contest*. You done good—as you knew you should. Some of the entries uplifted and surprised us. Aside from a bit of silliness, such as “kute” making believe it was “clever,” truths came through. We loved ‘em all, as we do you. The best are listed below. Thanks to everyone who entered and see you next year!

Best Bed & Breakfast

The Chanticleer in Door County. Runner up: Pedersen's Victorian in Lake Geneva. A lot of you preferred the comfort of “your own place” for bedding and breakfasting your overnight guests, but you forgot to leave your address.



Best Place for Romance

Número uno was “at home in my own bed”. M&M's followed as the best “public” place to be with you significant other—or that hot number from last night.

Best Men's Bar

The winner is: The Triangle. M&M's came in second, followed by In Between and Club 219. This Is It made it with a write-in vote for Best “Old” Man's Bar, which will probably make them madder at us than they already are — sorry guys.

Best Levi/Leather Bar

The Boot Camp (identified by several amusing nicknames) was followed by the Wreck Room and Rod's in Madison—we'll miss that place.

Best After-Hours Hang-Out

Walker's Point Cafe is the place you want to be. Grubb's Pub was right up there and there were even some hold-outs for George Webb's.



Best Restaurant

M&M's Glass Menagerie.
Runner up: Walker's Point Cafe.
The Cafe Palms in Madison was mentioned.
We mourn the loss of that whole complex.

Best Women's Bar

The gals (mostly) chose Fannie's. Station 2 made a good showing, followed by Just Us.



Best Special Event

A resounding YES for the PrideFest celebration and Parade.
MAPFest and the Possum Queen Contest came in second.

Best Dance Bar

Dance, Dance, Dance at La Cage was followed by the 219, Just Us and the New Bar in Madison.

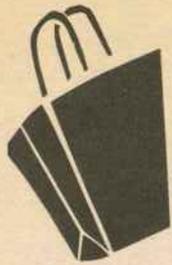
Best Place to Buy Books

Hands down it was AfterWords Bookstore.



Best Place for Cruising

The Triangle was first. For those of you who prefer fresh air, the loop in the Third Ward was a close second, followed by the lakefront and a couple of Milwaukee's more infamous county parks.



Best Place to Buy Gifts

Designing Men was followed by AfterWords Bookstore. The lesbians liked Sands Gifts & Jewelry. For those of you into "serious" shopping, there was Clinton Street Antiques, Marshall Fields and Watts even made the list.

Best Cup of Coffee

Walker's Point Cafe must brew a mean cuppa. Other entries were AfterWords, Station 2, the Triangle, Brewed Awakenings, and Fuel Cafe.



Best Hair Salon

Beauty on Brady Street was IT. The other entries: One for every salon in the state. You all had your own favorites.



Best Hairdresser

BJ Daniels of Beauty

Best Q•Voice Columnist

WW Wells III, who has been entertaining us forever, but NO he won't be getting a raise. We LOVED Jamakya's one vote - she doesn't even write for us.



Best Female Illusionist

BJ Daniels (retired) came in as number one. Brittany Morgan, Mary Richards, Ginger Spice (deceased), Lana St. James, Lena Chavez, and Ladybelle Bradley followed in descending order.



Best Female Bartender

Cheryl Kurtz of Station 2 leads the pack. Christen, of Fannie's and Sylvia, of Just Us follow closely.



Best Male Bartender

Jimmy Balistreri of the Triangle came in as number one. Boo-Boo of M&M's and Bill Wardlow of the Triangle tied for second. Matt of Grubb's Pub made a nice showing.



Best Go-Go Boy

In a bound to be controversial ruling by the judges, Terry of La Cage comes in first. Actually, Jimmy B of the Triangle received the most votes (see what we meant about "kute" trying to be "clever") but the judges determined that he is not employed as an "official" go-go boy. The above picture is an artist's rendering of the winner and does represent the actual size or dimension of the winner.



And the Winner is...
The \$75 Cash Winner is:
Gail Garrett

by Ed Grover

For a copy of the official voting results send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:
Best of Results, Q•Voice World Headquarters, P.O. Box 92385, Milwaukee, WI 53202

The Casual Observer

by Ed Grover

GETTING STARTED

I got to the First Unitarian Society about 15 minutes early on one of our first warmish nights of the year. People were just starting to arrive and, as a matter of fact, I followed BJ Daniels into the Common Room. I didn't know until later that he and Niki Cunningham were to be the evening's moderators. I ran into my boss, Bill Attewell and he gave me the tape recorder I planned on using to catch all the bits of wisdom that were to be put forth during the evening. What's so hard about using one of these, I thought. Not until later did I discover that I hadn't turned up the recording volume (or, something else technical). It's so faint I can scarcely hear it, so I guess I'll have to wing it.

There were about 25 people milling around. I took advantage of the situation and got a seat on the edge of things up near the front. The next time I turned around the place was packed! I stopped counting after 130. Lots of folks of every age, representing every Gay/Les/Bi/Trans organization I ever heard of ... including a lot I hadn't. The Town Meeting, as it was called on the agenda, listed the three topics to be discussed. It was on paper with a rainbow coming through the

clouds! How appropriate.

The topics for discussion were:

1. The Nature, State and Future of the Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans Community.
2. "The Ideal Community Center" For Us.
3. Where Do We Go From Here? Who Is Willing To Work On It?

There was also a survey which asked which locations, by Zip Code, were preferred by each person who received the form. Also, on the reverse side was a list of which functions and/or activities were preferred and which of these each person would use the most. They listed everything from a swimming pool to retail space and meeting rooms. Quite impressive ... could we have it all, Sir?

Also passed out, and referred to (with much waving of hands holding the cards), was a hot pink card listing the areas one would be willing to serve. Whenever someone started getting serious about a subject, Niki and BJ would wave and remind everyone to fill the cards out. There was the Initial Steering Committee, Helping With Publicity, Development and Fund Raising, and the Site and Facility Committee. There was also an "Other" category for people like me who would be

willing to do some computer input, or whatever it is that they felt they could do that would be of benefit to the new Community Center. This was our only chance to definitely be involved, so far. No phone numbers or addresses where one could contact anyone. I'm sure that will all be forthcoming when the committees are formed, and there will be plenty of areas to volunteer in soon! (I just took a break to watch the *Queer Program* on channel 47. I heard the host, Michael Lisowski, say that interested people could go to BESTD Clinic on Brady Street to pick up the forms to fill out. At last, something concrete).

The meeting started promptly at 7 pm as promised and ended very close to 9 pm. A very nice Ron Quinton, of the "Interweave", part of the Unitarians I think, opened

"There were some profound statements, and then there were some that made the sound of noisy grinding of axes and polishing of agendas."

the meeting, said a few words of welcome and introduced our benefactors: Erv Uecker and Ross Walker. Erv spoke very briefly about their offer of a \$1,000 a month donation for a total of 60 months

for the proposed community center, and promised that these would be the first and last we heard from him on the subject. BJ and Niki took over and asked that everyone please announce their name and the organization (if any) that they were affiliated with. They did a super job as did all the other volunteers. The first voice from the back was unannounced and asked for applause for Erv and Ross. It was Karen Goetzler. There was a standing ovation, and she was chided for not saying who she was ... as if we didn't know. Her Campaign Manager got some boos for trying to solicit funds for a mailing that needed to go out. We know we need an elected Gay representative to help pave the way, but this was a little much at this meeting.

Mark Behar started the input by looking at the question of what a "Community" really is. The discussion went on from there with everyone getting in their two-cents worth. There were some profound statements, and then there were some that made the sound of noisy grinding of axes and polishing of agendas. The best comments of all were those that were pure and eager and innocent, with the joy of the moment being the most important to the speaker.

Finally, there was a general consensus that we had best get an initial steering committee formed, those "Pink Cards" tabulated, and plan for another meeting. That was a bit like pulling teeth, as the moderators said that "That's all we are ... moderators". Finally, Niki Cunningham volunteered to count the cards and make some phone calls, Yuri Keegstra volunteered to take that information and start a database for mailing lists. There will be another meeting held within four to six weeks at a place yet to be announced. Watch for it. The meeting adjourned, and the mood was positive as people filed out.

As I walked home, I joined two gay men who were headed downtown. They each had volunteered and commented about the need for "new blood, people of color and gay youth" being involved in this important process. It will all happen. It may take a bit of time, but it will happen!



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MUSIC FOR A QUEER PLANET



by DJ Mags

March is Women's History Month, and what more fitting way to pay homage to women's rich musical history than to feature a handful of up and coming, out-lesbian musicians from around the U.S. and beyond.

Marla Glen is a Chicago-born expatriot now residing in Paris, France. All across Europe, she has enjoyed enormous critical acclaim—she has released two very successful albums and landed herself on the cover of German *Rolling Stone* last November. Her newly released U.S. debut, *Love and Respect* (Zoo Entertainment/BMG), is an uncategorizable collection of striking original pop songs which runs the gamut of styles from aching blues to rollicking disco, and is influenced by everything from reggae and funk to gospel and jazz. Glen's deep, impassioned vocals stand out as her most memorable attribute (next to her intriguing appearance), but her often politically-bent lyrics and richly textured musical style are equally impressive parts of her formula for success.

For the skinny woman with short-

cropped hair and a penchant for men's thrift-store variety suits, the journey has not only been long and hard, but bizarrely interesting as well. A strange chain of events in her life—highlights of which include **Muddy Waters** giving her her first harmonica at age five, a chance meeting with vocalist **Nina Simone** (who asked to use the bathroom in a building Glen was watching as a security guard), and inadvertently winning a song contest in a New Orleans' French Quarter club—resulted in her traveling to France, where she was “discovered” and signed to a recording contract.

Her debut European album, *This Is Marla*, was a Top Ten European hit. And, now, *Love and Respect*, released in Europe last October, is high on pop charts everywhere, especially in France and Germany. In the U.S., the first singles will be the classic scorched blues



—kd long

number, “Ain't That A Shame,” and the 70's era disco-funk extravaganza “Also Love You.” Other notable tracks include “What About Our Kids,” an open plea to the leaders of the world for peace, and the tender, telling “City Love.”

Boston-based singer-songwriter

Sarah Woolf is not just another dyke with a guitar. Her debut album, *Ask My Lover* (Jus Lissen Productions), showcases her breathy, melodic vocal delivery and alternatively-edged folk-rock sound (occasionally straying off on a bluesy detour via her skillful harmonica and guitar abilities) that sets her apart from the legions of lesbian folk troubadours to whom she's bound to be compared. Her lyrics may seem, at first, a bit amateurish, but closer inspection reveals an engaging simplicity, coupled with a humorous post-modern edge, that draws the listener in. She alternates between a more direct, story-telling method, and what she terms, a “vague, existentialist” approach, but her delivery is straight from the heart throughout, and her casual, conversational style is refreshing.

Highlights include the title track, which relays in amusing detail her reaction to the age-old androgynous-dyke dilemma: what to do when someone thinks you're a man. “And when I found the symbol of a lady in a dress/Two old ladies came up to me in distress/One of them said, ‘Excuse me, sonny, the men's room is over there’/I flashed her my tit, and said/”Thank you, dear.” Other favored cuts include the bluesy, defiant “Eat Shit and Die,” directed to an ex-lover, the tongue-in-cheek “Folksinger,” a wry commentary on the folk and womyn's communities, and the melancholy “Mia,” a somber tribute to her friend, Mia Zapata, former lead singer of the critically acclaimed Seattle grunge-punk band **The Gits**, who was mysteriously murdered in July of 1993.

Columbia, South Carolina native **Rene Russell** has spent the past ten years traveling up and down the East coast playing at coffeehouses, clubs, restaurants and college pubs, honing her song-

writing skills and her unique 12-string guitar picking technique. She released her debut cassette, *Last Night I Rode a Night Mare*, in 1990 to much regional acclaim, and has landed gigs opening for the likes of **Hootie and the Blowfish**, the **Indigo Girls**, and the **Ellen James Society**.

More recently, she released her debut, self-titled cd on Verge Records. Recorded in Austin, Texas where Russell now lives, the ten-song album is a polished collection of heartfelt, original folk-pop compositions that's bound to garner her the national recognition she so well deserves. Despite (or perhaps because of) her admitted shyness, Russell poetically crafts eloquent, often auto-biographical and emotional tales of love, relationships, and about being gay. Russell is backed by a four-piece band on the album (most notably by pianist/key-boardist Jonathan Scott Willis) for a fuller sound, but she manages to maintain a crisp, spontaneous live-album feel. Picks include "Night Mare," considered by most to be the best track off her first cassette, the confessional "We Live and Breathe," and the peppy, country-twanged "Too Late."

And last, but most certainly not least, New Orleans native **Robin E.** releases her long awaited second cd, a varied thirteen-song compilation of mostly new material entitled *Out Of Blue*, on her own independent Rockin E. Records. Plenty of her "funk-n-roll" hybrid sound can be sampled, which includes healthy doses of folk, pop, rock, rhythm and blues, and jazz, and her spirited vocals remain strong throughout the album's many stylistic shifts. A host of talented musicians collaborated with Robyn in the recording of this cd, and among them (to name but a few) violinist **Gina Forsyth**, drumming collective **Sisterbeat's Karen Espeut**, and saxophonist **Reggie Murray** make memorable contributions.

Singles File: Just a quick few mentions for Women's History Month...The Queen of Popularity, **Ms. kathy dawn lang**, is back with several deep, dark and delicious dance remixes of "Sexuality," a new single from her latest album, *All You Can Eat*. Trip hop, underground and mainstream house mixes are out this month on Warner Brothers Records. And lest you forget about the fiercest dyke diva of 'em all, Britain's **Lippy Lou** returns to the spotlight with her remake of the Was (Not Was) classic "Out Come the Freaks." Shortened to "Freaks" (Radikal Records), Lippy chats her way thru this Euro-flavored hi-NRG romper that's sure to be another big club hit.

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Monday, March 25, 1996

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Monday, March 25, 1996

Academy Awards Party!

Pick the winners and be a winner yourself. Watch the Academy Awards and win free drinks for all the right Oscar Picks. Free Buffet!

Thursday Evening Singers



Two 1995 Pridefest

Performers



Appearing Alternating Thursdays-
Lu Shanti, March, 21st • 9pm
Yolanda Frye, March 28th • 7pm

Monday

Menu Special

All you can eat for \$4.50 from
4pm to 8pm Andouille sausage
with red beans and rice.



Wednesday Drink Specials

Happy Hour 3pm to 8pm
Double Bubble 8pm to 12am

Mama Roux • Americain & Grill
1875 N. Humboldt Ave. • 414/347-0344

Wisconsin Gay and Lesbian 12-Step/Recovery Meetings

Galano Club Meetings

(2408 North Farwell Avenue • 414/276-6936)

A.A. Meetings

Monday	7:00pm	Women Step/ Topic
	8:30pm	A.A. Topic
Tuesday	5:30pm	The Over 40 Group
Wednesday	12:15pm	Big Book
	8:00pm	Twelve and Twelve
Thursday	7:30pm	As Bill Sees it
Friday	5:30pm	Sixty Minutes Group
	7:00pm	Step/Topic
Saturday	5:00pm	Beginners
	8:00pm	Topic
Sunday	10:30pm	Big Book

N.A. and C.A. Meetings

Tuesday	8:00pm	N.A.
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Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday	5:30pm
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Al-Anon Meetings

Tuesday	6:30pm	Women (ACOA Perspective)
Wednesday	8:00pm	Al-Anon Family Group
Sunday	10:30am	Al-Anon

S.C.A. - Co.S.C.A. Meetings

(Sexual Compulsives Anonymous & Co-Sexual Compulsives Anonymous)

Thursday	7:00pm	
Sunday	6:00pm	
Sunday	6:00pm	Co.S. C.A.

Open Study Group

Sunday	4:30pm	Gentle Path Group
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Open Meeting

Sunday	3:00pm	Topic Meeting
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Other Milwaukee Area Meetings

A.A. Meetings

Sunday	6:00pm	816 E. Juneau Ave. (Left courtyard entrance)
Wednesday	8:00pm	820 N. Grand Avenue (Waukesha)

Al-Anon Meetings

Sunday	6:00pm	816 E. Juneau Ave.
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Fox Valley

Appleton

A.A. Meetings

Thursday	8:00pm	724 E. S. River St.
Saturday	8:00pm	724 E. S. River St.

Al-Anon

Thursday	8:00pm	724 E. S. River St.
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Green Bay

A.A. Meeting

Monday	8:00pm	215 N. Webster
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Racine/Kenosha

Racine

A.A. Meeting

Monday	8:00pm	625 College Ave.
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Kenosha

A.A. Meeting

Thursday	7:30pm	St. Matthew's Guild Hall South door, 5900 7th Ave. (non-smoking)
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Al-Anon Meeting

Thursday	7:30pm	St. Matthew's Guild Hall South door, 5900 7th Ave. (non-smoking)
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Madison Area

A.A. Meetings

Monday	6:30pm (Women's)	112 Fairchild
Monday	8:00pm (Men's)	1021 University (Basement)
Tuesday	7:15pm (Women's)	406 N. Pinckney
Thursday	8:00pm	1609 University (back entry Lathrop St)

Al-Anon Meetings

Sunday	7:30pm	406 N. Pickney. Open Al-Anon (ACOA perspective, non-smoking)
Friday	6:30 pm	406 N. Pickney (Women)

he was an alcoholic for a long long time, "I was in a lot of denial."

He finally came to meetings at the club after he realized the personal problems he had been experiencing in his life were being caused by his alcohol consumption.

The personal nature of recovery and the emphasis on anonymity make people in recovery seem somewhat invisible to the gay and lesbian community at large. But, according to Garth, who also serves on the Club's Board of Directors, a large majority of their members still go out to the bars to socialize or dance.

In fact, the Galano Club is making efforts to become more visible in the community. At last year's Pridefest, the Club volunteered to man a concession booth. According to Galano Club President, Roy, who is also a member of Al-Anon, it became something of an oasis and safe place for those in recovery who were somewhat uncomfortable attending an event known for its liquor consumption. The Club plans to participate in more activities like that on a regular basis.

"We don't go into the bars and try to pull people out and tell them they should join us or hit liquor stores and smash all the bottles. We're not a bunch of religious nuts here either, we don't run around pray all the time."

According to Roy the uncomfortableness recovering people sometimes feel at bars or large gathers where alcohol is consumed is normal, "It's not a value judgment or that we are anti-liquor or anti-bar, we don't force our values on others."

Fellowship and socializing with others who share similar backgrounds and struggles is a major part of the Club's function and mission. The Galano Club provides a safe place for people in recovery to be with others in the same boat.

The Club used the money earned from their Pridefest booth to purchase a large screen TV. The Club now shows films every Friday night and is attracting a regular large crowd. Last year's New Year's Eve Party attracted over 80 people. And the Club also hosts a monthly dance which, according to Roy, "Is not just someone with a Kenner Close & Play and a flashlight, its a real dance with a dj and lights and everything."

The Club helps combat feelings loneliness and isolation felt by many during the major holidays by holding pot luck style dinners. The holidays are often a difficult time for those in recovery or those with dysfunctional or strained family rela-

tionships. According to Roy, its not uncommon for people coming from out of town to visit family in Milwaukee to seek out the Club and its meetings for the fellowship and support they provide. However, family members and friends are welcome at all of the Club's social events. And as Roy quickly points out, "Some people are even bringing their parents."

Glenn V., a Galano Club member and a retired psychiatrist estimates the age range of people attending meetings at the club to run between 18 and 75 years old, "The people who come to the Club are from all different backgrounds."

He encourages people who think they might have a problem with alcohol or drugs to come to the Galano Club, "I'm realistic to know that A.A. isn't for everyone. But I know there are people who are in desperate need of inpatient treatment, but none is available and one would hope they could self-refer to A.A."

According to Larry, who also serves as the Club's Librarian, he had no idea what to expect the first time he came to the Galano Club but was impressed by how welcome he was made to feel, "If it wasn't for the Club and these meetings I don't know that I'd even be sober today." ▼

The Galano Club is located at
2408 North Farwell Ave. in Milwaukee. For
more information call 414/276-6936

Isn't it time you picked up your test results?

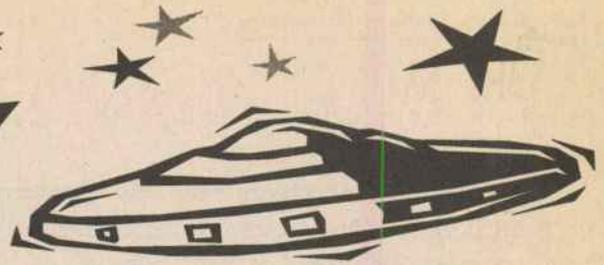
The BESTD Clinic is currently holding unclaimed results for 1,200 persons who have had anonymous HIV testing. Approximately 70 of those unclaimed tests have tested positive for the virus which causes AIDS. If you were tested for HIV by the BESTD Clinic since 1985 and have not picked up results, they're still waiting for you. The BESTD Clinic encourages you to know your HIV status.

You may pick up your results any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 6pm and 8:30pm at the BESTD Clinic. No appointment is needed.



The Brady East STD Clinic
1240 East Brady St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414/272-2144

Star Patrol



with your astro cowboy, andie jaye

pisces • (feb 20 to march 20)

Through your energy you can gain much over the next month. Your skills and personal drive will determine how much money flows into your pockets without running through your fingers.

taurus • (april 21 to may 21)

You are more sensitive to the needs of others. Your mind will be alert, energetic, keen, forceful, combative and likely to get out of control easily. Watch what you say or write.

gemini • (may 22 to june 21)

Difficulty can arise if you take bad advice from seemingly helpful people. By avoiding unreliable friends, you can soar to new heights of accomplishment. You will enter a strong romantic cycle around the first of the month.

cancer

(june 22 to july 22)

Be careful traveling, as a spur-of-the-moment trip may lead to distress. Some of your worst fears about a close friend are only imagined.

leo • (july 23 to august 22)

You have a new passion for adventure and romance. There is also a renewed spirit of freedom. However, try not to go to extremes or be impetuous in matters of the heart.

aries

(march 21 to april 19)

Difficulty with a partnership, former or current can be expected. Seek professional medical advice if an inflammatory complaint mars your good health. Just when all seems lost, you land on your feet and walk away unscathed, untarnished and better off than before. An unexpected romance will surface just after the first of the month.

virgo • (august 23 to september 22)

You will experience an impulsive, rash attraction towards sex. Sensual outpourings of lust can create too much indulgence in pleasure, leaving you too exhausted for regular responsibilities.

libra • (september 23 to october 22)

Beware of secret enemies, burglars and large animals. On the positive side, you will now possess the inner strength to self-examine yourself honestly.

scorpio • (oct. 24 to nov 21)

Job-related activity can make you nervous at times. Following your impulses can drive you into uncharted waters where success awaits.

sagittarius

(nov 21 to dec 19)

Your love of liberty and independence will be increased. You will also notice yourself being more amorous and fiery, at times almost rash or headstrong.

capricorn

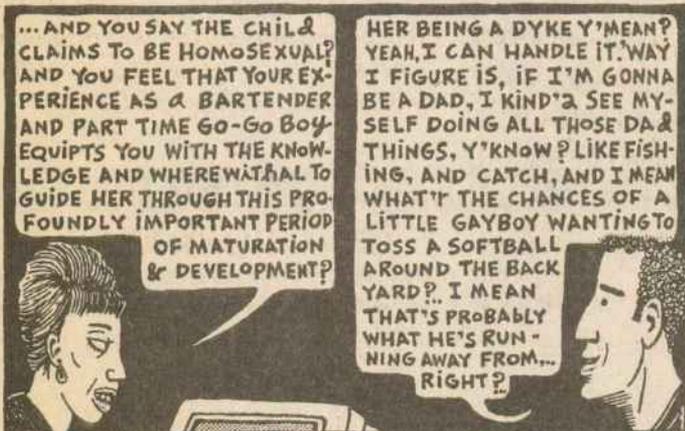
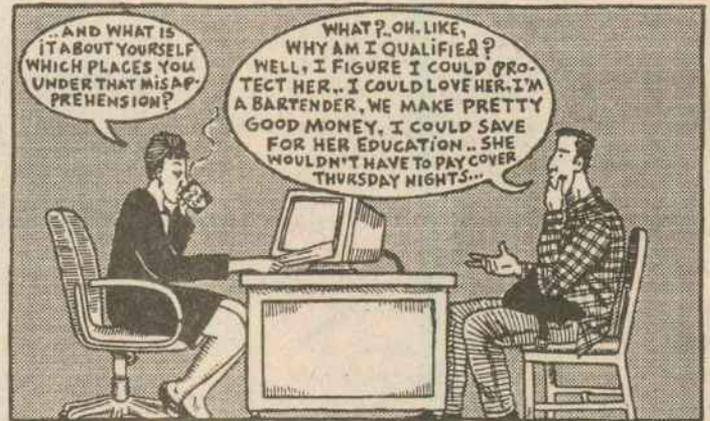
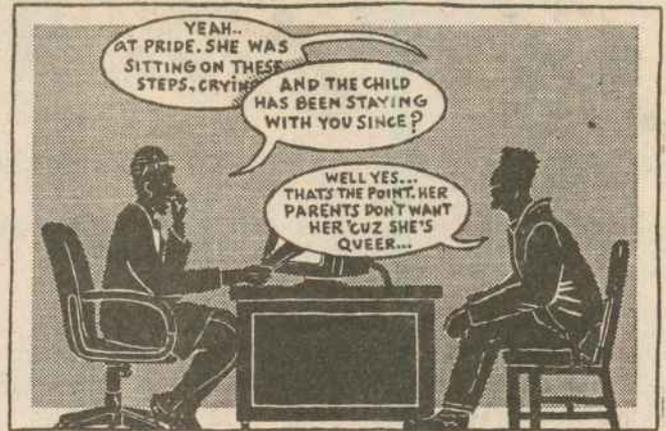
(dec. 21 to january 19)

You can now instinctively make the right decisions. You will be very active in defense of your rights. Romance ignites with an old flame and others take notice of your passion.

aquarius • (jan. 20 to feb. 18)

Excessive demonstration of your affections and your forceful nature can make a companion combative. Beware of a troublesome opponent on the home front

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN...

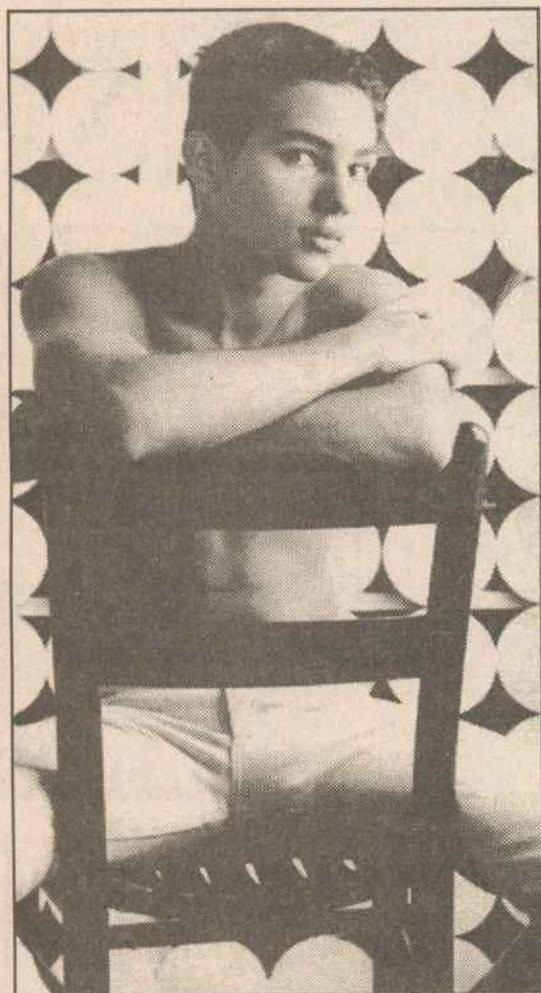


By Eric Ormer

Mystery Date

Now offering: FREE ads and FREE message retrieval!

We've designed our own personals column so Q•Voice readers will have the most up-to-date, trouble free talking personals available. There are no "dummy" or "filler ads" and Mystery Date personals are taken locally, by Q•Voice, so you won't be dealing with some anonymous company in Alaska or New Zealand. Best of all, your own 30 word ad is absolutely free! So, what are you waiting for?



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414.278.7527**

or mail in the coupon below, Please check one category:

Men Seeking Men Women Seeking Women

▼▼▼ Write your ad below • 30 words FREE! ▼▼▼

Payment Information • 30 words FREE! Additional words are \$1 per word.

Additional words per month \$ _____ Check enclosed for: \$ _____

The following information is completely confidential, we can't place your ad without it.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP: _____

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Q•Voice Mystery Date
P.O. Box 92385
Milwaukee, WI 53202**

Boys seeking Boys

RELAX TO RELAXATION GBM 30, 5'8", 145lbs, brown skin, medium build, looking for Black or Hispanic males 20-45 who are looking for pleasure to come through. Believe it.

☎ 45192

NO GAMES BM, 5'9", 125#, HIV+, seeks GM for long relationship. Race open. I'm 29, you are 21 to 30. I'm a top seeking a bottom.

☎ 45194

FRIENDSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP GWM, 22, br hair, blue eyes, seeks GWM 18-25 for friendship or possible relationship. I enjoy quiet evenings, watching movies, walks and dining out!

I'm 5'8" tall, 140# from Green Bay.

☎ 45196

FUN, FUN, FUN Milwaukee, 31, 6'2", 180lbs, masculine. Wants to have fun with other guys into flattops, crewcuts, military look. 45198

☎ 45198

NO GAMES GBM, 6'1", 190#, light complexion, nice-looking, looking for monogamous realistic guy. No Games.

☎ 45180

LOOKING FOR LOVE! Very attractive GWM seeking hot Puerto Rican or Hispanic, mus-

cular, smooth for afternoon delights.

☎ 45182

POSITIVELY AVAILABLE GWM, Italian, buzz cut with goatee, HIV+, healthy, seeks someone into literature, music, living a clean spiritual life.

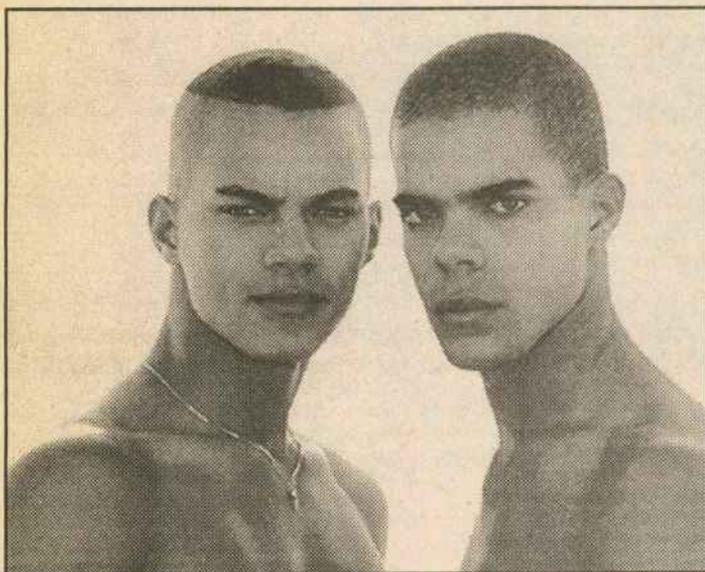
☎ 45184

DATING, FUN, ROMANCE Very attractive hispanic, 22, 5'10", straight-acting, brown eyes, brown hair, college student, seeking a hot white guy under 35, charming, attractive, romantic for dating and whatever comes after.

☎ 45186

TOP GUY WANTED 5'5", 155#, blond hair, blue eyes, very muscular and good looking, seeking a well-built top guy, also romantic and sincere.

☎ 45188



Q•Voice Magazine encourages safer sex practices which include the use of latex condoms and water-based lubricant. Choose a well-lit public place for your first few meetings. Do not give out your last name or address until you are comfortable doing so.

If you have any questions or wish to renew your ad, call Q•Voice Mystery Date at 414-278-7527

Call to respond to Mystery Date voice personals or browse unlisted ads.

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You must be 18+ to use this service.

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HANG-OUTS

Milwaukee

1100 Club

1100 S. 1st Street
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A friendly, mixed G/L. Leather-Levi crowd more Levi than leather. Open early.

3B'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.

AfterWords

2710 N. Murray
414/963-9089

Prime destination to find a good banned book and a cappuccino. Also, a bang-out for queer Milwaukee's "Literazzi" including Glenn Bishop.

Ballgame

196 S. 2nd Street
414/273-7474

This tried and true neighborhood hang-out may well be 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 cabaret 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 on Wednesdays.

Fannies

200 E. Washington
414/643-9633

Popular Third Ward women's bar.

Gargoyles

354 East National Ave.
414/225-9776

This new nite spot is truly on the other side of the tracks, featuring 2 bars, CD jukebox, and lots of gargoyles.

Grubb's Pub

807 S. Second St.
414/384-8330

If grub is what you want, grub is what you'll get. Serving sandwiches, appetizers and a Friday fish fry. Top after-hours-stop on Wednesday and Saturday.

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 the "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 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.

Renez CoZ Corner II

3500 W. Park Hill Ave.
414/933-7363

At 1-94 & 35th Street featuring music pumpin', booty-shakin', foot-stompin', party-makin'. Four DJs to choose from.

Station 2

1534 W. Grant St.
414/383-5755

Easy going neighborhood bar welcomes women of all ages with a pool table, darts and video games.

This Is It

418 E. Wells St.
414/278-9192

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.

Walker's Point Cafe

1106 S. First St.
414/384-7999

Open daily, this diner gets really, really busy after bar closing.

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\Rod's

To be rebuilt.

100% Homo-Grown Wisconsin Boyz Are Waiting for YOU!

Wisconsin's Own

Man-O-Rama

CALL to meet Mr. Right or Mr. Right NOW!

as low as
\$1.49
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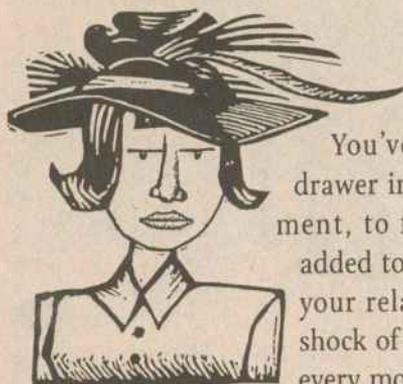
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Juicy Bits by W.W. Wells III

A Mother's Visit



Your relationship has moved forward at breakneck speed.

You've gone past having only a drawer in your new partner's apartment, to finally having your name added to his on the mailbox. While your relationship has survived the shock of sharing the same bathroom every morning, you are about to face

one of the stiffest challenges any same-sex domestic partnership may ever face: Your "mother-in-law" is coming for a visit! While the thought of this impending encounter may conjure images of the Spanish Inquisition crossed with A Nightmare on Elm Street, the reality can be somewhat less frightening if you follow a few simple guidelines. So, as a public service, I present the following DOs and DON'Ts for a visit from his mom.

DO greet "mom" with an affectionate peck on the cheek.

DO NOT plant a kiss so passionate you leave a mark the size of a postcard.

DO take down that "Tight Buns" calender hanging on the refrigerator.

DO NOT tell her she has a nice ass.

DO make sure there is fresh litter in the cat box.

DO NOT proudly introduce Fluffy as your first born child.

DO put your arm around her and call her "Mom".

DO NOT reach down and check her legs for stubble.

DO show an interest in the family history.

DO NOT ask if there is a history of mental problems in the family.

DO be proud of being Gay.

DO NOT wear tight leather pants or use the word "homosexual" in every sentence.

DO gush wildly over her good points, even if you have to make them up.

DO NOT fake an illness by telling her, "You make me sick".

DO remove any jewelry from pierced nipples

DO NOT tell her you have an identical set of ear-rings to the pair she's wearing.

DO ask her about her favorite movies.

DO NOT recite all the Wicked Witch's lines from *The Wizard of OZ* or OUT all of her favorite stars.

DO let her rearrange the items in your spice rack.

DO NOT wield a spatula and scream, "Get the hell out of MY kitchen, you old bat!"

DO thank her for the wonderful house warming present.

DO NOT tell her it barely makes up for the big chunk of cash you saved her by being gay so she didn't have to spring for a big, expensive wedding.

DO hide your pornography collection.

DO NOT leave her portrait hanging right next to your favorite X-rated Mapplethorpe bullwhip photograph.

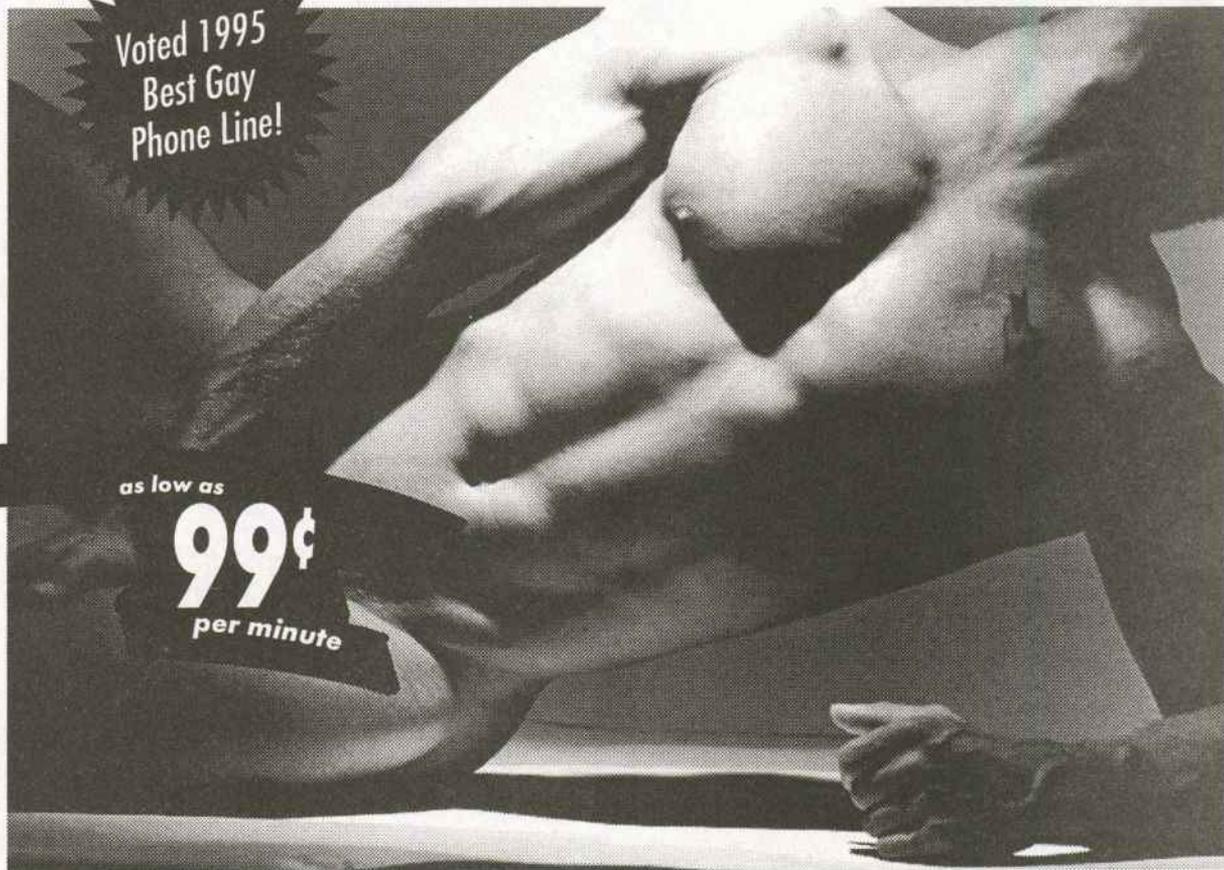
DO tell her what a remarkable job she did raising her son.

DO NOT tell her your life would be much easier if your lover was an orphan.

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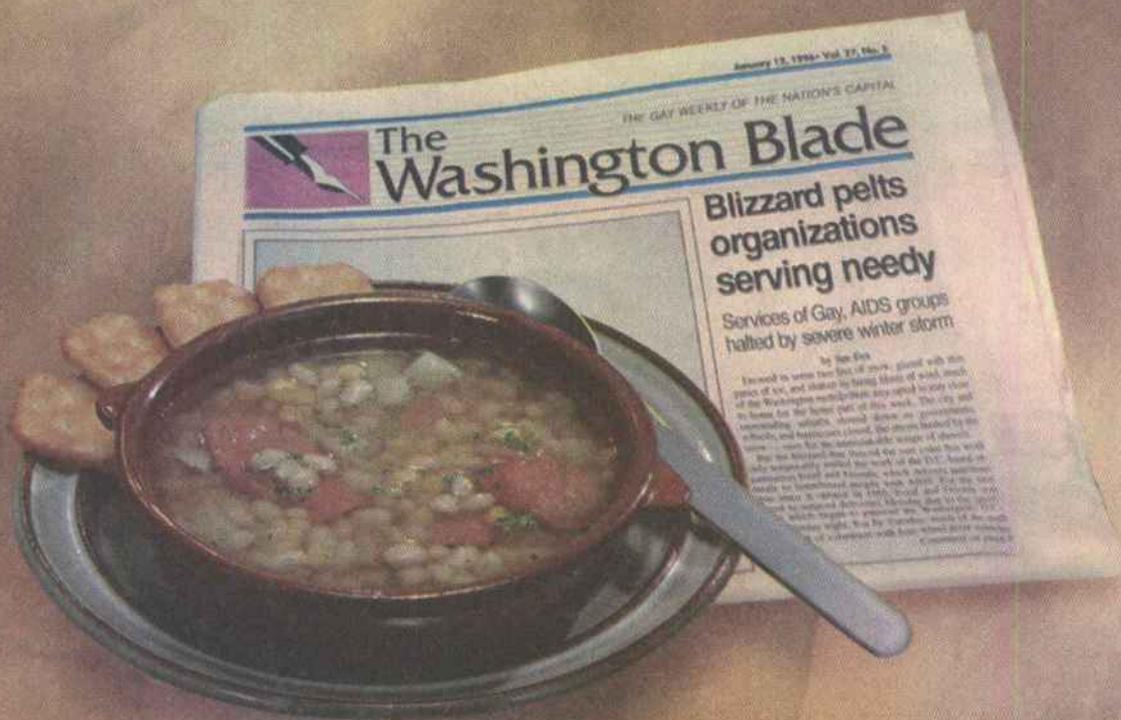
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