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Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Monthly • July 1996

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On our cover:

Model: Rebecca Zipter

Photo: Cabal; Make-Up: M.A.K.

CORRECTION: A typographical error in our story reporting a fire at the Raphael House in Milwaukee in our last issue (Q•Voice Vol. 1, #8) erroneously gave the impression that there were injuries as a result of the fire. This was not the case. Additionally, there was little or no loss of personal property reported by residents of the House as a result of the fire. Q•Voice regrets this error.

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Silent No Longer

Fear surrounds homosexuality (and extends to bisexual and transgendered persons). The fear that has kept so many people closeted, hidden and invisible for so many years. The fear that has torn apart families, destroyed friendships, ended jobs, lost lives. The fear that exists in homosexuals as well as in those who love them and yes, those who condemn them.

The fear that exists for many — the gay person and family member alike — is often exhibited in the form of silence — silence as a form of protection against what might happen at work, at school, on the street, in the playground, at any time, at any place; against the embarrassment others might experience if they knew; against the shame one is made to feel by a strong current in our society.

The fear that exists for many — who are unaware, uninformed or misinformed — is often exhibited in prejudicial and vindictive ways. Isolated Biblical references are used with right/wrong interpretations that condemn and limit the essence of the gay person.

Although sexuality is part of our Being, defines who we are, how we express prime focus and the target of challenge and condemnation. It is sexuality itself that generates fear.

Opposing political positions are based on the fear that increased rights for one person will take away rights of another, that increased power for one will diminish power for another, that recognition of commitment and love between same-sex couples diminishes and denigrates commitment and love between opposite sex couples—as if rights, power and love are in limited quantity. There is no limit or boundary for the capacity to know full rights, to maintain personal power, and to love fully.

Fear played a major part in my actions and choices for years. I also lived by the “privacy” rule (the polite way to mask and protect against the presence of fear, the “what you don’t know won’t hurt you” concept, the “don’t ask, don’t tell” doctrine and the “don’t interfere in other’s lives” doctrine). I made the choice to be silent.

I was a good but “silent” parent of a gay son — loving and supporting by not denying, not criticizing, welcoming his friends, accepting and loving his partner — but quiet about sharing his total life experiences with others. I had no concerns except those for a teenager in general—

because he gave me no reason to suspect that I should be concerned. I can’t know for sure if that reserve affected my son for he does not now and never has discussed his sexuality. When my son was a teenager I related only to the visible. I didn’t question. Because he was into books, music, theater, and later film I assumed he was safe, “Among his own people who would understand.” (My own stereotyping and homophobia). I know better now.

Fears render us invisible and often without personal power or control of our own lives. We react rather than act. It is in taking one step at a time, speaking or writing one word at a time, that we can diminish our own fears and the fears of others.

My first step towards truly coming out was in a gay bookstore where I said the words, “I need some help.” The world of words provided that help and still does today. And it was the words (from a gay friend), “You might find PFLAG helpful, “that brought me to PFLAG-Milwaukee.

Early on, and as my reading continued, I got angry at the injustice of it all at my ignorance for so many years. I redirected my energies. And I discovered that anger allows one to overcome fears when that anger is focused on a direct approach to finding a solution. The steps you take encourage others to step out, to take risks, to probe

deeper into themselves, to share their own personal concerns, to make choices of their own.

The desire to protect often determines a parent’s decision to remain quiet, to be concerned about safety—to bow to fear. But when anger becomes the key ingredient in the protection strategy — then that same desire to protect takes on a new and different dimension and the parent takes on the challenge by becoming visible and vocal—to change the world and make it a place where her child and all children will be safe, where there’s nothing to fear and no one will be denied the right to live openly and freely because of who they are.

Each step in coming out leads to greater self-empowerment. The comfort zone for each person is different. Some people have the courage and determination to step out early, to remove themselves from situations and forces that continue to destroy and defeat. Others take longer — some never do. But we all have voices and we must use them. We

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can't remain silent.

It will be words—words of love, understanding, and truth that will turn away the hatred, the violence, the condemnation that so easily pour from the mouths and pens of those who do not know, who need to learn, who must be awakened. It will be words and familiar faces that will eliminate the fears — our own and those of others, particularly the others who are caring and believe in justice but are unaware. Fear of the unknown is common. We all must make the unknown known.

As one who believes that we create our own reality, I believe that we can and must respond to the reality we are in and then effect our future reality. Our power is in the present moment — we can use our intuitions, our instincts, our inner voice to guide us in how best to facilitate the direction of the path on which we walk.

All children must have the chance to grow, to explore, to question, to discuss, to interact, to discover, to mature in all the normal settings of adolescence and young adulthood—family, schools, sports, jobs, churches, military, wherever — so that knowing self and others will occur more easily, so that guilt, shame, fear, hiding will disappear, so that positive self-esteem will be increased and depression and suicides will be decreased. Those are realities often overlooked; those are realities on which we must focus; and those are the realities which must inspired all of us to overcome our fears and be silent no longer.

Elna Hickson is a member of Milwaukee's chapter of PFLAG

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Strike Two on Disney Gay Flick

Although Disney may do a sequel to *Angels in the Outfield*, the studio is passing on gays in the infield according to a recent Rueters report. Disney has quietly put the *Peter Lefcourt* novel *The Dreyfus Affair* on the back burner—for the second time.

Published in June 1992, the novel's about the off-the-field switch hitting proclivities of a baseball team's second baseman and shortstop. The double play combination's love affair is exposed when they're caught kissing by surveillance cameras in a Texas store.

The subject matter apparently has made it as hot to handle as a fastball. Disney first came to the plate on the project in 1993, but execs refused to play. Surprisingly, the studio optioned it again, when *David Frankel* identified it as the film he most wanted to do as a follow-up to *Miami Rhapsody*. In between Disney deals, Lefcourt was courted by *Jodie Foster*, *Garth Brooks*, *Glenn Gordon Caron* and *Barbra Streisand*.

The Birdcage has given life to such gay-themed projects as the *Larry Kramer*-scripted *The Normal Heart* and the *Paul Rudnick*-scripted *In and Out*, which is at Paramount with *Frank Oz* directing and *Kevin Kline* starring. But *Dreyfus* is still stuck in the dugout because of Disney's decision.

Gays on Safari

A PBS *Nature* rerun is apparently not enough adventure for some queers as R&R Eco-Tours is sponsoring a nine-day gay safari to Costa Rica this July 20-28. Tour members will visit the cloud forest of Braulio Carrillo National Park, the Manuel Antonio National Park, the Arenal Volcano, Lake Arenal and take a boat trip through the jungle on the Sarapiquí River. There also will be plenty of time for exploring nightlife and enjoying the amenities of the hotels and resorts. The fully escorted tour costs \$699 per person double occupancy (single supplement \$200) from San Jose. The price includes accommodations, eight meals, ground transportation and guide. Call 011-506-228-4627.

Blindfolded Taste-Test

Several Israeli soldiers at a base near Jerusalem apparently couldn't resist the offer of sexual favors from a willing female colleague. But in order to go through with it, the soldiers had to be blindfolded to "protect" the woman's identity.

One soldier violated the agreement and peeked. To his astonishment, he found that a male captain, not the woman, was indulging him. Israeli authorities are investigating.

Couch Potatoes For AIDS

For the third year, a host of daytime talk shows and soap operas as well as specific cable television networks have agreed to direct their programming towards the fight against AIDS with "*Day of Compassion*" on June 21.

Some of the talk shows are producing new episodes or re-running earlier presentations which focus on AIDS, while participation from daytime dramas varies from complete storylines to a conversation or moment recognizing those we've lost to AIDS. Cable networks will participate by running AIDS-themed films, original programming or PSAs.

Among the talk shows taking part in the effort are *Sally Jesse Raphael*, *Maury Povich*, and *Rolanda*. *Jenny Jones* is producing a special two-part episode.

Look for these soap operas, *All My Children*, *Days of Our Lives*, *One Life to Live* and more. Network participation include *A&E*, *AMC*, *Sci-Fi Channel* and *USA*, as well as *Bravo*, *Network One* and many others.

Greg's Diving Into The Movies

Cable's *USA Network*, continuing its quest to lend its name to bolder and classier projects, will co-produce a film based on the life of the controversial Olympic diving gold medalist *Greg Louganis*. *Breaking the Surface: The Greg Louganis Story* will be scheduled for broadcast during the second quarter of 1997. It's based on Louganis' bestselling 1995 autobiography, in which he candidly discussed his tumultuous personal life, including his homosexuality and HIV-positive diagnosis.

"This is an important and socially significant film - and a perfect example of the type of high-quality entertainment

that USA wants to be a home for," says Ian Valentine, VP of longform programming for USA.

No casting has been done to date. Steven Stern is set to direct from a script by Alan Hines. Hines and Mark Bacino will produce. Executive producers are Jim Green and Allen Epstein.

To Boldly Go Through the Drive-Thru

Internet sources report that **Wil Wheaton**, the slightly annoying **Wesley Crusher** from **Star Trek: The Next Generation** has reportedly put on so much weight lately, that he's looking a bit like an overstuffed **Klingon** who downed too many **Tribbles**. This comes on the heels of his reported public and ugly break-up with **90120's Brian Austin Green** and there are now reports that he's making time with the equally annoying **Danny Pintauro** from **Who's The Boss**.

OUT on Video

The home video market is no exception to the boom in marketing to gays and lesbians.

New on video from Fox Lorber Home Video comes an exciting release, **Carmen Miranda: Bananas Is My Business** (\$89.98), directed by **Helena Solberg**, is the acclaimed PBS documentary which features a drag queen doing Carmen.

Also available from Water Bearer Films is **Silent Partners** (\$39.95) a documentary about six gay and lesbian senior citizens directed by **Lucy Winer**.

From Wolfe Video comes a curious title dealing with self-defense from a queer-bashing world. **The Best Defense: Surviving the Streets** (\$29.95) is a three tape series designed specifically to teach gay men and lesbians defense strategy.

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Letters

Mapfest Eulogy

To the Editor—

It's official friends, there will not be a Mapfest '96. I was told to inform everyone that "I am saddened by this news." Of course I'm saddened, but I also feel betrayed and even a little ashamed.

Ashamed that the governing board of ARCW would wait so long to decide the fate of Mapfest. Ashamed that I saw the warning signs and did not have the power to prevent it. Ashamed that they asked me to be the bearer of the news.

Betrayed because of the time and effort I have always given to this event. Betrayed because of the time and effort I've asked of family, friends, and volunteers to donate to this celebration. Betrayed because of

the way it has come to it's demise. But mostly, I'm saddened that Mapfest was deemed too time consuming and resource depleting of a fund-raiser. Saddened that we no longer have a place to gather as a community to raise funds for a good cause. Saddened, of course, to no longer be needed.

So at this time, I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered, donated, attended any of the Mapfests held in the past 10 years. I especially would like to express my extreme gratitude to all the entertainers, without whose time and talent Mapfest may never had been. With fondest memories ... ring them bells.

*Ronnie Marks
Milwaukee*

More and More Drag Drama

To the Editor—

In your issue of *Q•Voice Magazine* (Vol. 1, #8) you published a letter by LadyBell Bradlee that commented about what I said in a prior letter (Vol. 1, #7).

If she had read the letter right and not been a "you-know-what" and had not been mad at me, she would have understood what I was trying to say, that there's a lack of female impersonation in the Milwaukee gay bars. Not the same

old tired girls like herself, but there are many good local girls here and a lot better than the out-of-town girls. They have nice clothes and a great stage presence. My letter was not at all about me, but all local girls. All of them should be given a shot and if they're no good, just give them the boot.

Okay, Miss LadyBell Bradlee, Miss C'est La Vie 1968, I may be late for a few things ... but I get the job done. So, what your say will not change me or make me better or worse. I am well known in Milwaukee and I can let my Stars shine!!! Thank You LadyBelle.

*Lisa Star Spencer,
Milwaukee*

Open Letter to the PrideFest

On behalf of the many Parents, Family, Friends who have been part of PFLAG-Milwaukee since its inception in 1989, I would like to thank the PrideFest Committee for the Community Service award presented at PrideFest 1996.

We exist because you exist and there are cultural negatives that exist. PFLAG-Milwaukee began opening its own closet door a year ago at PrideFest '95. Since then, the door has opened wider and more parents have walked through that door.

When one is raised with conflicting messages, the negative ones tend to wield the greater input and control of how we relate and express ourselves. The fear of "what will they think?" or "what will happen?" has controlled many aspects of our lives for many years.

But we can personally attest to the power that comes from openness, trust, honesty, and love — they are the true forces of empowerment. And it is most liberating to live each day with that kind of power as the motivating force.

So, we as parents and friends will continue to support, to speak out, to educate, to advocate for you and your rights — until such time as PFLAG will no longer need to exist.

*Elna Hickson
PFLAG-Milwaukee*



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

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

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2:45pm				Jean Small Dean
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4:00pm	Cathy Nicholson	Piper Road Spring Band w/ Bill Camplin	Puppets w/the Elastic Orchestra	Mitchell L echtner Sue Firer Reggie Finlayson
5:00pm	Steve Tilton	Spenser Sisters Rip Tenor	Tony Brown	Jim Hazard Mitch Covic Angela Peckenpaugh
6:00pm	Juli Wood	Will Durst Sharp Stick	Mark Shurilla	Rick Ollman Louisa Loveridge-Gallas
7:00pm	James LaGrone	Sigmund Snopek & Present Music w/ Irish Chorus	Jim Liban	David Lucht Mary Z. Allen Leigh Cowan
8:00pm	Manty Ellis	Steve Cohen/Peter Roller	Victor DeLorenzo	Jeff Poneiwaz Primitiva
9:00pm	Berkeley Fudge	Theatre X/Deanna Milw. Public Theater	Paul Cebar (solo)	Antler Larry Penn

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Enter our contest and let our panel of impartial judges, determine who will be the next Walt Whitman, Jane Austen or even the next W.W. Wells! The winning entry will receive \$75 cash... plus your work will appear in a future issue of Q•Voice Magazine!

CONTEST RULES: Original fiction only will be accepted. 1,000 words maximum. Submit nonreturnable, double-spaced typewritten pages, computer disk submissions accepted if accompanied by hard copy. Submissions scrawled on cocktail napkins will not be accepted. Entries must be received no later than August 8, 1996. The decision of the judges will be final. No bribery allowed.

Contest Deadline: August 8, 1996 • Win \$75 Cash!

Submissions to: Fiction Contest,
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“Quips & Quotes”

You Gotta Laugh

“Gay men are known for being the best comic audiences across the board. They are more willing to not be P.C. [politically correct], let go and just laugh and scream it out. Gay women are getting better and better. They have gotten more and more into it. There are so many gay women comics and I think they are getting looser.”

—Lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhofer to Ohio's *Stonewall Journal*.
Westenhofer lives in Columbus, Ohio.

Yeah, But Cute Trailer Trash

“I'm an openly gay trailer-trash Mexican. How could they not love me?”

—Ice-skating national champion Rudy Galindo.



Non-Queer Tom Cruise from *Mission Impossible*.

Me? Gay? Impossible!

“It's ridiculous. It fucking pisses me off.”

—Tom Cruise to *Premier* magazine
on the rumor that he is gay.

Maybe Mothers Can't Really Tell After All

“I know he's not gay. The reason he has a lot of gay friends is because they are kind to him and they don't ask for anything.

They're very down-to-earth, and he's comfortable with them. When I go out to dinner with him, we don't get to eat because there are no private moments. But when he goes with the gay friends, they let him be himself and he can enjoy his food.”

—Shirley Rodman, mother of Chicago Bulls crossdresser Dennis Rodman, to the Fort Worth [Texas] *Star-Telegram*.

The Closet is a Drag

“I don't think it changes anything to drag people kicking and screaming out of the closet. People see that and say, ‘See how awful it is to be gay’”

—Dyke comic Lea DeLaria to the lesbian mag *Curve*.

Striking OUT

“[The] principal House sponsor [of the federal anti-gay-marriage act, ‘The Defense of Marriage Act’], Bob Barr of Georgia, his district office confirms, has been married three times — which raises the question of why the act doesn't contain a three-strikes-and-you're-out provision.”

—*New York Times* columnist Frank Rich.

Dole's OUT

“Sure, I'm going to vote for Clinton in the long haul. There are clear differences between him and Dole. On that basis, I will vote for Clinton in 1996. But I don't have to say I like him or like doing it.”

—Former National Gay and Lesbian Task Force head Urvashi Vaid to *The New York Times*.

Don't Fight City Hall

“There are extremely talented female impersonators like RuPaul ... who deserve to be called entertainers. But most of the time it's just some clerk from City Hall, armed with beard stubble and a bad attitude, donning a sequined tube dress and lip-synching Gloria Gaynor — usually interrupting a good set by some DJ in the process.”

—Jeff Epperly, editor of the Boston gay newspaper *Bay Windows*.

Free at Last!

“I was brought up to be honest. And as soon as I had been, I felt reborn. I am now a gay man who is happy to acknowledge on any occasion, to anyone in the world, his sexuality. And once you can say that, there is nobody in the world you mind knowing you are free.”

—British actor/activist Sir Ian McKellen to London's *Gay Times*.

An HIV State of Mind

“In some ways, I think people dealing with HIV are lucky. They have to realize early on that they are not going to be here forever, so you have to make your time count.”

—Jeff Ofstedahl, general manager of the Phoenix gay magazine *Echo*, to a local daily newspaper.





The World in Brief

with Rex Wockner

ICELAND LEGALIZES GAY MARRIAGE

Reykjavik — Iceland, on June 4, became the fourth country to legalize marriage-like registered partnerships for gays and lesbians. Members of the Althing, the parliament, voted 44-1 in favor of the measure. One MP abstained and 17 skipped the voting.

Public opposition was minimal, an Althing spokesman told Q•Voice. The law will come into effect June 27, gay-pride day.

Like in Denmark/Greenland, Norway and Sweden, registered homosexual couples will have all the rights of marriage except access to adoption and artificial-insemination technology. Unlike in the other nations, Icelandic gay partners will be allowed joint custody of each other's biological children.

Some gays criticized the new law for withholding full marriage from homosexuals. Actual gay marriage is not permitted anywhere in the world.

It probably will appear first in Hawaii or The Netherlands, likely within two years.

TASMANIA SEX BAN MAY FINALLY DIE

Tasmania — The harsh anti-sodomy laws in the Australian island-state of Tasmania 21 years in prison for consensual adult male-male sex may finally fall.

A repeal measure has passed the lower chamber of the state parliament and has a fighting chance in the more conservative upper chamber, the Legislative Council, where, this time around, lawmakers may be swayed by reports that Australia's new conservative prime minister, John Howard, wants to see the ban lifted.

The laws have been widely denounced in recent years, including by the United Nations, Amnesty International, the Anglican Church and the Australian federal parliament. Gay sex is legal elsewhere in Australia.

Tasmanian historian and author Richard Flanagan told Reuters last week that Tasmania's intransigence stems from islanders' distress over the state's history as a brutal penal colony for tens of thousands of male convicts from the British empire.

"[Tasmania has been] called the 'Isle of Sodom' in popular ballads," Flanagan said. "For over a century, Tasmania has really denied its own past and did not speak about it. Homosexuality became one of its great silences."

EUROPRIDE SNAGS MAJOR SPONSOR

Copenhagen — EuroPride, to be staged this year in Copenhagen, has snagged the large Danish beer company Tuborg as a major sponsor.

This follows EuroPride's earlier success in lining up live coverage of the June 29 parade by MTV Europe. The *Village People* and *Right Said Fred* will perform at the closing party. For more details, e-mail europrid@inet.uni-c.dk or fax 011-45-3391-9496.

CANADIAN SENATE PASSES ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL

Ottawa — Following the May 9 approval by the House of Commons, Canada's Senate June 6 passed legislation to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation under the

federal Human Rights Act.

Like the Commons, the Senate also rejected an amendment to exempt religious institutions from the act's gay protections.

In reality, the Human Rights Act covers only the approximately 1 million employees of the federal government and federally regulated businesses such as banks, airlines, railways, and broadcasters. Most provinces and territories protect other gay workers. (The four that do not are Alberta, Newfoundland, the Northwest Territories and Prince Edward Island.) The bill now goes to Canada's head of state, the representative of England's Queen Elizabeth, whose approval is considered a formality.

GAY MAN RUNS FOR SANTIAGO COUNCIL

Santiago — Open gay Rolando Jimenez is running for a seat on the Santiago, Chile, Municipal Council, representing the Santiago Centro borough.

He is supported by gay organizations, including the Movimiento de Liberación Homosexual (MOVILH). The election will be in October. Twelve councilors will be elected from the Centro borough.

CANADIANS MIXED ON GAY ISSUES

Montreal — A new national poll of 1,516 Canadian adults found that 55 percent believe partners of gay employees should get company benefits. Support is highest in Quebec (70%) and among people under age 34 (71%).

Forty-nine percent think gays should be allowed to get married. Support is higher in Quebec, British Columbia and the Atlantic

provinces and among people under age 34.

Only 42 percent of Canadians think gays and lesbians should be able to adopt children. The figure rises to 55 percent in Quebec and 54 percent among people under age 34.

POLICE RAID CHILEAN DISCOS

Santiago — Twenty-five plainclothes police officers raided two gay discotheques in Santiago, Chile, May 4, reports correspondent Tim Frasca. They detained about 25 patrons along with the entire cast of the drag show at the El Quasar club. Those arrested were taken to a police station, photographed, fingerprinted, and asked to reveal their sex-act preferences, HIV status and the names of sexual partners. The questioning took place amid threats and verbal abuse, the detainees charged.

Television Nacional filmed the raids in preparation for an expose on homosexual prostitution. A week later, Chief Detective Nelson Mery met with the Movimiento de Liberacion Homosexual (MOVILH) and claimed the raids had been a "mistake." He promised an internal investigation and turned over 24 arrest files to MOVILH.

Gay leaders wore gloves to shake Mery's hand since the police had worn gloves and hospital gowns during the arrests. Large-scale gay-bar raids have been rare in Chile recently. Activists believe the crackdown was sparked by the TV network's need for footage or by anger that a gay man is running for City Council in the November elections. MOVILH requests that foreigners denounce the raids to their local Chilean embassy.

FINNS SUPPORT GAY PARTNERSHIPS

Helsinki — Sixty-seven percent of Finns support a Scandinavian-style gay-partnership law, and 44 percent approve of actual gay marriage, a new Taloustutkimus Poll has found. The other 33 percent oppose any

kind of gay unions.

A bill to legalize gay registered partnerships was introduced in Parliament May 28, backed by six political parties, Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen and numerous cabinet members.

Like statutes in Greenland/Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, the measure grants gay couples all the rights of marriage except access to adoption and artificial-conception technology.

In other news, Helsinki gay pride is set for Aug. 5-11 offering over 100 events. For details, visit the World Wide Web site <http://www.seta.fi/vaparit>

10,000 MARCH IN PARIS

Paris — Ten thousand people marched through Paris May 12 to raise money for people with AIDS, reported Reuters. Artists, politicians, PWAs, drummers and dancers walked from Charlety stadium to the Champs de Mars by the Eiffel Tower, the news service said. The ACT UP contingent protested the present of Justice Minister Jacques Toubon, who has deported illegal immigrants with AIDS back to countries where treatment is inadequate, the group said. A smaller march was staged in Bourdeaux. Last year Paris' "March for Life" raised about \$200,000.

FIRST SIBERIAN GAY FILM FEST PLANNED

Tomsk — Gays and lesbians in San Francisco and Tomsk, Russia, are planning Siberia's first gay film festival for Sept. 6-15. The event is strongly backed by the Ministry of Culture and Film and by the city's leading movie theater, reports Astarte, the main Tomsk gay organization.

"Although surprising, support from the government is real," said activist Sonja Franeta. "We are eager to take advantage of this opening ... to help the queer community in Siberia make contacts [and] boost their image through the film festival. We think

this is an exciting project especially because areas outside Moscow and St. Petersburg are often ignored in attempts to make contact and exchange information in Russia."

For more information: First Siberian Queer Film Festival, 346 Ninth Street, Media Arts Building, San Francisco, CA 94103, USA. Phone: (415) 255-0500.

ARGENTINE TRANS- VESTITES PUNISHED

Rosario — Sixty Argentine transvestites arrested in the city of Rosario were put on probation May 12 and ordered to clean and repair the police station where they are usually detained, reports correspondent Alejandra Sarda. They violated a city law that prohibits dressing as the opposite sex. Rosario's Colectivo Arco Iris and the Asociacion Travestis Argentinas held a press conference to denounce the sentences and warn that the transvestites would be verbally, physically and sexually abused at the police station.

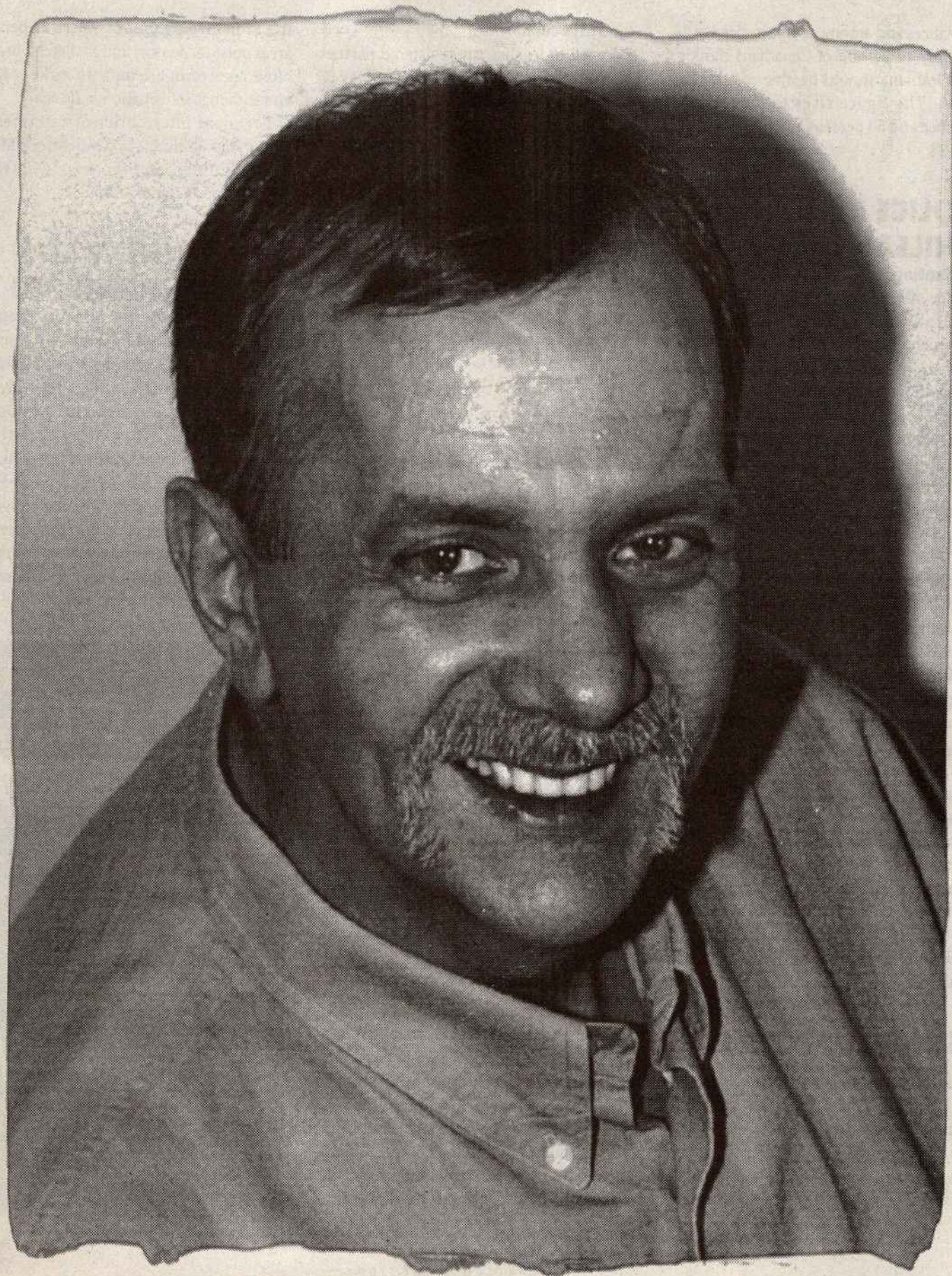
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PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Interview by William Attewell, Photo: Cabal

His familiar appearance, quick smile and amiable laugh make it easy to forget his recent year-long battle with AIDS-related medical problems. At age 45, Ronald F. Geiman is a man in transition, having sold his life's work, *In Step Magazine*, this April. Luckily for us, his improved health will allow his prose to again grace the pages of the magazine he nurtured for over 13 years. On a warm June evening, I sat down with Geiman at his near westside home for this exclusive interview.

Q•Voice: How long have you lived in Milwaukee?

Ron Geiman: Since, 1972. I went in the Army when I was 18 in 1971. I grew-up Harrisburg PA. I got drafted, then I enlisted for three years so I could get my choice in training. I got a job as a military journalist and that's how I got started in this news thing.

QV: Did you work for *Stars and Stripes*?

RG: No, I was in 'Nam, in Saigon. We used to send stories to the *Army Times* and *Stars and Stripes*. We published a weekly joint forces newspaper, in a tabloid format, like *Shepard Express* or *The Wisconsin Light*. It was distributed to the troops in Viet Nam, the Air force and the

Navy, they all got copies. I worked as a staff writer and we did layout the "old fashioned" way then. With Computronics typesetting machines and that kind of thing.

QV: How did you get to Milwaukee?

RG: I was stationed here my last year-and-a-half in the Army with the recruiting headquarters. I worked in the public relations department. We used to write hometown news like, when somebody graduated from basic training we'd send news to their hometown up in Houghton, or somewhere.

QV: Did the Army know about your homosexuality?

RG: Yeah. I came out and didn't hide it. I was living in an apartment in the vicinity of our head-

quarters up on North and Prospect ... we had no base. I was in the office five days a week. I came out about three

Ron Geiman, founder of In Step Magazine,

discusses the history of Wisconsin's oldest

gay and lesbian publication, his AIDS

diagnosis and how it feels to be one of the

most beloved figures in our community.

months after I got to Milwaukee. I knew I was gay, because I met this guy over in

"...I looked down and there was glitter on my desk and glitter all over my uniform ... it was still in my hair from the night before when I was partying down at the old River Queen ..."

Nam that I fell in love with ... and I knew. But there was no reciprocation and I didn't know where to go looking for it. I was living near Brady and Farwell, I started running into gay people and decided, well this is what I want, and came out.

QV: Did the army do anything about that?

RG: I remember I was in the office one day in my uniform, I looked down and there was glitter on my desk and glitter all over my uniform ... it was still in my hair from the night before when I was partying down at the old River Queen ... you've got to remember this was during the "Glam Rock" period. My direct boss was a civilian. He and the Major made the decisions about the office and the major basically said, "as long as he does his job" there wasn't a problem.

QV: So, you had lots of fun?

RG: Yeah (lots of laughter). For twelve years (more laughter) ... from the mid-seventies to early eighties.

QV: So, what did you do for fun?

RG: Well, I went to college for a while, part-time and I worked part time at different places. Then I got into going to the Factory bar, and I volunteered to run their light board. More than one time I set that light board on fire because they used non-disco-style lighting and I was flipping the switches so fast to keep beat to the music, that the light board would catch fire.

Eventually, I ended up being manager of the Factory for two years. Then in 1982 or 1983, I went to work for Erin Criss at *Escape Magazine* as a sales rep and Milwaukee-area rep. She was out of Chicago. She gave it less than two years and decided that it just wasn't going to work. There were a couple of different magazines that came and went — they lasted for about a year.

QV: Do you remember what they were?

RG: *Rag*, was one, but that was more south of downtown oriented. Ralph Navarro had *Our Horizons*, and *GPU News* was around before then, and there were a number of publications that came and went in short periods of time.

QV: Wasn't one called *The Calendar*?

RG: Oh yeah, *The Milwaukee Calendar*, there was *Gay Milwaukee*, too. It was owned by *Gay Chicago*.

QV: Do you know why they folded?

RG: Money! They were expecting to make it big and didn't have staffs or the right equipment. People were trying to get most of their

ads from bars. They were the only places that advertised back the late 70's or early 80'. Their publishers were going out every night of the week and they became sots. *Our Horizons* and *GPU News* did a real professional job. But the other ones were done on non-professional equipment, and I think people would just wear themselves out. It's like any business — the first couple of years are the hardest. When

I started *In Step*, I was bound and determined to make a go of it. It always managed to pay for my living expenses. I may not have lived too well the first couple of years, but it got better, eventually ... after four or five years.

QV: How did you get the name *In Step*?

RG: When we first started out, David Iraci, was my business partner for the first year — we tried all kinds of things. Like "Gay Wisconsin" and "Wisconsin Step". I just eventually shortened it to *In Step*. I really don't know what it means.

QV: I remember *Out* was publishing out of Madison at that time.

RG: Yeah, that's right. They had been a steady source of news, we weren't real news oriented then. We did mostly clippings from other gay publications. I didn't have any kind of a staff, and we would run news releases and information about organizations.

QV: What do you think people would be surprised to know about running a publication?

RG: How much work there is involved. How much fine walking of the line you've got to do. You have to be a diplomat, and you have to be a community cheerleader ... sometimes. I've always been of the firm belief that we shouldn't be spokespersons for the gay community. We should report on what our leaders say. When the straight media comes to the gays for quotes, I don't think it's the purpose of a publisher or an editor of a gay and lesbian publication to speak for the gay community. They could speak as a business man, but not as a spokesperson for the gay community. I think that's almost a conflict of interest.

QV: When did *In Step* make the transition from "a bar rag" to a more legitimate news and lifestyle publication?

RG: The first year or so, the first two years maybe, I thought of us as a glorified "bar rag", but we still had more news than most other "bar rags" had. I mean if you want to see bar rags, go to Florida even now and pick up any of their publications. Unless you want pictures, nice pictures of handsome boys, those are true bar rags. They (100% of the ones that I saw) only list in their guide, bars that advertise with them. You could be in a city where there was 20 bars, and they only have four listed in the one magazine. If you look at a different magazines, they'll have different ones listed. You almost have to have all the papers to make complete list. *In Step* lists all bars whether they advertiser or not.

As a community evolved, *In Step* grew. As the community came out more, the paper came out more. Technology helped, it made it more achievable. The use of FAX machines helped to speed up the stories, the early e-mails, that kind of stuff. Also, the broadening of my own maturity, knowing what I wanted for the magazine. We tried to get a good balance of genders in our columnists and I wanted humor. I've always thought it was important to have humor because if our community can't have humor, there's something wrong. The Guide is important because it's so worthwhile, plus it's so worthwhile for visitors.

QV: You also went to a larger-sized format...

RG: We couldn't get any bigger, we couldn't print any more pages in the smaller size. We had too many ads and less space for editorial content. Going up to the bigger size doubled our space and that allowed us to expand our coverage even more.

QV: Did your vision of what the *In Step* was going to be change over the years?

RG: Yeah, before I had my medical problems last year ...temporary delirium and short-term memory loss ... I was thinking of doing more of a regional edition, that would have heavier distribution, in Minneapolis, Chicago, more of the border areas, expanding that because no one else offers that right now. There's a magazine called *The Guide*. It started out as a Northeast USA thing, now they've got whole sections in there like Palm Springs—they keep adding locations, they keep adding advertising and editorial offices in these different major cities. They're going gang busters. I think this is something that could be done here in the Great Lakes.

QV: You had a lot of health problems last summer. I think people would be interested to know about that, if you want to talk about it.

RG: Well, all of a sudden I started doing really dumb things. I was getting real scatter-minded and everybody around me started to notice, but they really didn't pay much attention to it. It got to a peak at one point and my roommate/sister, Kim Zweibohmer, finally called my doctor and said, "Ron is

really acting strange". The doctor had them bring me out to the VA where I go for my treatment. The doctor listened, talked to me and was freaked because I acted like I had AIDS dementia, but it's not a sudden onset kind of thing, it builds up over months and months, you know? This was like instant! Finally, after about six hours they took a blood test and realized that my potassium levels were really elevated and this was causing the delirium and causing heart problems too.

I had just lost all that weight the previous couple of months and my T-cells had dropped. Then, this happened. So, last summer we decided that it was time for me get rid of the magazine, or make some other alternative plans. That's when Annabelle Havlichek was running it. Between her, and my friends, David Johnson, Nel Johnson, Jamakaya and Joe Koch, they kind of kept things going for a while. But, they were overwhelmed too. They were all freaked at the amount of work that was involved, work that I was previously doing mostly by myself. They were shocked. So, we sold the

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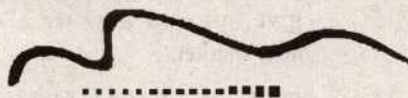
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"There's been so many things that I've heard, that if I repeated them ... it really would have caused some major conflicts."

magazine in April.

QV: Now you're doing well?

RG: I'm doing well, I could go back to work (laughter), except I really can't, you know. I'm feeling real good now. My health is back and I gained 30 pounds. I'm on the new medications, 3TC is my anti-retroviral and I'm on the protease inhibitor, Invirase. I've been doing real well tolerating them. My T-cells are still low, at 83, but that's higher than it as three months ago. That's one good sign. Some people have had really tremendous results with the protease inhibitors. I guess Invirase is, like the weakest of the three protease inhibitors, but it also has less side effects. The medication gives you hope, but you still have to face reality that it's going to happen sooner or later.

QV: How do you deal personally with AIDS?

RG: What happens, happens. What can I do about it, other than come to a real calm acceptance? It's kind of like when I came out. I came out real naturally ... it was like a natural thing. I never went through any trauma or any guilt over it, it just happens and I've been living my life right with the world.

QV: Is there a spiritual component to that?

RG: Not really. My own kind of spiritual thing. When I was younger, I read a lot of the oriental religions and studied and chanted and meditated and things, so that's always been there. But not really in a church setting, but I do believe in a Supreme Being.

QV: Do you rely on that at all?

RG: Not really. I don't think I have to. I have many good friends that I rely on. I just bounce things off them. It helps to have a good circle of friends, that's my family. What real family I have left is in Pennsylvania. My mom and dad are both gone, so it's just my brother and my aunts,

and that's about it, there's my niece and nephew.

QV: What do you think was the biggest story that ever broke over your tenure with the magazine?

RG: Gay Rights Bills and all the successfully gay legal battles. That and AIDS. In our first issue, we reported they had just changed the name from GRID to AIDS. It was Gay Related Immune Deficiency up until '84. Our first issue was in February, and that previous November or December is when they came up with the name AIDS. The media around here hadn't really talked much about it.

QV: How do you see the gay publishing business in general, but specifically in Milwaukee? How do you think it compares to other cities?

RG: I think we have a good diversity. We have as many publications as Chicago does.

QV: Lately, there's been a lot of focus on the gay press in the more mainstream media. ... "the power of the gay press". We've been getting more national advertisers like Subaru or Barnes and Noble...

RG: It's changed a lot just in the last two years, it has finally hit Milwaukee. The coastal cities had it three or four years ago. It hit national gay publications like, five years ago. Just in the last two, they're going into regional publications.

QV: Do you think that legitimizes the gay press?

RG: Oh yeah. The more ads you have the more pages you can have. The more pages you have, the more information you can give out and now we a much sought after market.

QV: Many people tend to think of *In Step Magazine* as sort of a community-owned resource, that they own a part of it...

RG: It's just a business. People have an affinity, a real strong, loyal readership ... unlike the *Journal/Sentinel*. The *Shepard Express* has its critics, but it also has a lot of people who

really like it. The same with the gay press. You want to make sure that it reflects well on your community, and if it does, you'll profit as part of your community. I think that's what it is. Dealing with our community got to be overwhelming, overbearing sometimes, with community pressures, especially when you're getting it from two different sides. Then it gets to be a sticky situation.

QV: What was your secret for handling all those "sticky situations?"

RG: Keep my nose out of it! In one ear, and out the other! There's been so many things that I've heard, that if I repeated them ... it really would have caused some major conflicts.

QV: PrideFest was held at the Summerfest grounds this year. Do you think that move was significant event for the community?

RG: That was a real legitimization. I'm not sure if we really needed to legitimize ourselves, but it was nice to see the rainbow flags all over downtown again. It was nice to see the *Journal/Sentinel* giving us good coverage. The TV stations showed stuff too, unfortunately, they had to mention the fundamentalist protesters. That is unfortunate because that was such a small part, I mean they were always gone by 2pm or 2:30pm each day. It's not as though they were a major presence, but for them to always get their free publicity, anybody who gives Robert Braun free publicity is just playing into his little game. He has so many causes and he's such a worm. They're giving him credence by giving him coverage.

What really impressed me was seeing it on the big sign at the front of the grounds, where it spelled out, "Come to PrideFest, Good Fun, Good Food, Good People, Good Times," or whatever. Then, to walk into the Summerfest Main Gate with those dozens of rainbow flags behind the Summerfest and American flags ... it was really impressive.

QV: Would you have been able to foresee that ten years ago?

RG: Moving to Summerfest grounds? No!

QV: When the Cream City Foundation held that

reception for you last year, I noticed that you weren't entirely comfortable with it...

RG: I was kind of overwhelmed. I'm not used to that ... I'm not used to being in the limelight! I've never been a speaker, I've always been a writer. If anything. It's hard for me to relax enough to be a real social person. I felt like I had to really work the crowd. People came up and I had to force myself to walk around ... it was OK, I had a good time, so that wasn't a problem. Yet, it wasn't an

"...I'm starting to feel my oats again, so watch out boys, these new drugs are working."

entirely comfortable thing. I think they thought I was going to die within the next six months because I lost all that weight and I just didn't look real wonderful. They thought, "I think we better do this before she kicks the bucket". They had let too many people that have been important to the community die without thanking them —until afterwards when there were memorial services. This was like a living kind of memorial and that was nice.

QV: How does that make you feel when you think about that?

RG: It makes me feel like, maybe I did do a good job here. I can look around and I remember a lot of the organizations that started out, we'd beg them for information and press releases, to make sure they were listed right in the Guide, comping ads or giving real low special rates.

QV: What do you think people would be surprised to learn about you?

RG: That I haven't had a boyfriend in 12 years. And I haven't had sex in six years.

QV: How come so long without a boyfriend?

RG: No time for someone. That was the thing. The first year of the magazine, I went out pretty often and had a boyfriend. That's when I realized that I had to stop this going out all the time. When I stopped going out, and getting more involved in the magazine, I just didn't have the time to devote to anyone. I had every other weekend off that was spent recovering from the previous week-and-a-half. I never really had much of an opportunity to meet a lot of people. And, finding out in '87 that I was HIV+, I think that affected me in that I had gone without sex for a couple of years. When I found out, I think that psychologically I thought ... well, you can't do any of the things that you used to like to do, so why bother any more. But now I'm starting to feel my oats again, so watch out boys, (much laughter) these new drugs are working.

QV: How would you want to be remembered?

RG: I don't know, "He tried to do what he could to help the community grow." I'm going to be cremated, and later there will be a memorial service ... I've even picked out the urn, its black granite with an inset pink triangle. ▼

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Notes & Notices

Gay Youth Hotline Seeks Volunteers

Milwaukee — Gay Youth Milwaukee is currently seeking Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual and Transgender youth who are interested in working on a state-wide toll-free hotline targeted for GLBT youth 12 to 21 years of age.

The new hotline was made possible after Gay Youth Milwaukee and BESTD Clinic were awarded a grant from the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program to begin and operate a hotline for GLBT youth. The purpose of the peer-operated hotline is to break down the isolation that many GLBT youth experience, provide peer support, referrals and HIV risk reduction information. The hotline will operate Friday and Saturday evenings initially.

Interested youth need to apply for training which will begin in late of July. Trained youth hotline workers will receive stipends for the hours they work staffing the hotline. Interested persons can write to Gay Youth Milwaukee at PO Box 09441, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53209, or call at (414)265-8500 for an application or additional information.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Moves Forward

Milwaukee — A meeting was held in early June at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center to announce further updates on the project to establish a Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/ Trans gender (LGBT) Community Center. It was

announced at the steering committee meeting that there is now a telephone number for the center, (414) 483-4710, and also a mailing address: P.O. Box 92722, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

At the meeting, each of the three established committees: Feasibility, Public Relations and Board Development reviewed their preliminary purpose, goals and job descriptions.

The committee continued its call for volunteers from the community. Volunteers of all types are needed and no special skills or training is required. The steering committee also encourages those with experience in group facilitation, social work, mental health counseling, youth programs, computer services, graphic design, grant writing, marketing, accounting, legal issues among others to inquire about volunteer opportunities.

The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 1996 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Community Room of the East side Library located at 1910 East North Avenue on Milwaukee's east side. The public is invited and this is a great time to come and offer your views as methods of operation, establishing of committees, executive board responsibilities, site location and procedures are being formulated.

A general town hall meeting to inform the community on the progress and direction of the LGBT Community Center is planned for Saturday, July 13, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 300 of the Milwaukee Enterprise Center located at 2821 North 4th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

United HIV Services Offers Publications

Milwaukee — Three new HIV/Aids publications are being made available by United HIV Services (UHS).

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Symptomatic PWA's" written by Bobby Positive of Chicago, contains 54 practical suggestions for persons with AIDS to have live worth living and under their control. bobby Positive, a pen name, writes with the authority of a person who has lived the roller coaster ride of HIV disease.

A second 19-page booklet entitled, "Letters of Hope: Words of Support and Advice for HIV Positive People from HIV Positive People" was originally published by The Jewish Guild for the Blind and is dedicated to those people who have recently learned they are HIV infected to those who live day by day with the reality of that news.

Also available is a brochure about United HIV Services, detailing the three cooperating agencies and listing the scope of services presently being provided by persons infected with or affected by HIV disease.

Any or all of the publications are available without charge by calling United HIV Services at 414/259-4610 or writing to 10200 W. Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Pain Management Seminar Sponsored by ARCW

Milwaukee — AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc (ARCW) Clinical Services department has scheduled a free seminar for individuals who are HIV positive and care givers. The seminar will be held at ARCW, 820 N. Plankinton Ave. in downtown Milwaukee.

The seminar, sponsored by Roxane Laboratories, will be held June 24 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Matthew Lefkowitz from the Department of Anesthesiology, Brooklyn, NY, will provide information about Pain Management and HIV. Dinner and registration will take place from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The one hour presentation will immediately follow dinner and registration. Space is limited, so please call Michelle at (414) 225-1571 as soon as possible to reserve your place.

Pride '96, The Minneapolis Way

Minneapolis/St Paul — Minnesota's largest Pride celebration, Twin Cities Pride Festival, will be held in Loring Park in Minneapolis on June 22 and 23.

The festival starts at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning with the opening ceremonies starting at 11:00 a.m. with the Celebration of Diversity/ Triumph over Adversity. The opening ceremonies features Sean Sasser from the Human Rights Campaign sponsored by the City Center Marriot, James Gear and Company, Charlotte Frantz, Cathie Ann Beattie and her spiritual dancers and Jeff Knutson.

The Festival brings in over 100,000 people for the two day festival from the five state area and features over 300 retail vendors and 30 food vendors.

For more information call the Pride Line at (612) 362-3680 or 1

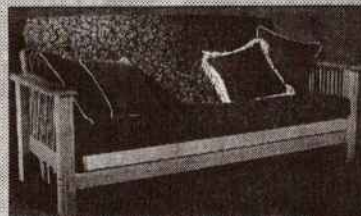
(800) Pride-YA. E-mail MPLSPRIDE@AOL.COM, Web Site HTTP://USERS.AOL.COM/MPLSPRIDE or mail Pride/ Twin Cities, P.O. Box 2104, Loop Station, Mpls., MN 55402.

ARCW to Launch Statewide Safer Sex Campaign

Milwaukee — The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc (ARCW) announced that it has selected Wells Ink Advertising and Design, to develop materials to be used in an innovative program to promote safer sex among gay men throughout the state.

ARCW was awarded Centers for Disease Control (CDC) supplemental funds, granted through Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program, for the "Men Having Sex With Men-Gay Bars" program, aimed at reducing the spread of HIV. Six AIDS service agencies in Wisconsin will collaborate with ARCW to implement the program, including Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), Center Project, Inc-Green Bay (CPI), Northern AIDS Network-Superior (NAN), Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project-Eau Claire (NOWAP), Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project-Kenosha (SEWAP) and East Central HIV/AIDS Organization-Winnebago (ECHO).

According, Andy Bagnall, MAP manager of gay and lesbian outreach, said, "We are very excited about this new campaign. For the first time since I can remember, Gay and Bisexual men are the primary focus for aggressive HIV prevention strategies on a statewide level."



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Andy also added, "As a Gay man, I know the need for this work and I believe it will be very effective."

Wells Ink Advertising and Design brings in niche marketing to the project, including extensive experience with Gay/Lesbian specific advertising. The advertising campaign is intended to complement one-on-one peer education with Gay and Bisexual men in bars across the state. Distribution of the prevention materials will begin in early fall.

The seven focus groups will be involved in the development of the program and materials to provide sensitivity to ethnic and geographic differences among Wisconsin's gay and bisexual men. Efforts to gather statistical data about the number of bar patrons who engage in high-risk behaviors will take place this summer. The selection of implementation sites and the development of other AIDS service organizations' gay and lesbian outreach efforts are also included in the project.

Young, Loud & Proud Unite in San Francisco Confab

San Francisco — Young, Loud & Proud will be the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual, Trans gender and questioning youth conference in Northern California. Over 300 youth are expected to attend. This

conference is organized by youth for youth, 25 under and will take place on July 13 through July 14, 1996 at Marina Middle School in San Francisco. The conference is free for all youth. For more information call LYRIC at (415) 703-6150 or at lyric@the.city.sfsu.edu (e-mail).

Young, Loud & Proud is for youth 23 and under, although youth 25 and under are welcomed to attend. There will be workshops, caucuses, artistic opportunities, shows and a dance (sponsored by the San Francisco Department of Parks and Recreation). Most of the activities will be lead by young people. The workshops will focus on advocacy, coming out, health, homelessness and a spectrum of other issues.

Young, Loud & Proud is a special project of Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC). LYRIC provides support and information for gay, lesbian, bisexual, Trans gender, and questioning youth. Sponsoring agencies of the conference include: AQU25A, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco Unified School District, InsideOut Magazine, LIFE Lobby, Youth Leadership Institute, Street Survival Project, and BANGLE.

Daily Internet AIDS Conference Summary from Vancouver

Chicago — The International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC) will be providing a daily summary of the principle scientific and clinical reports presented at the XI International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from July 7 through July 11, 1996.

The reports will be available each day of the conference on IAPAC's Web site (<http://www.iapac.org>). Qualified permission to abstract material from the daily summary will be provided to all print and television media.

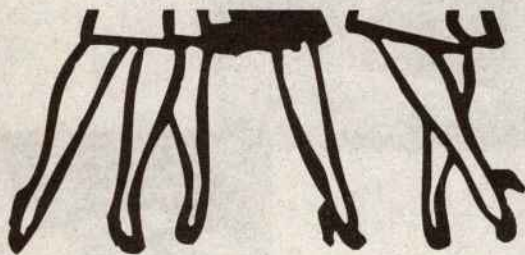
Expended stories on each of the topics included in the daily news summary will also be featured along with other conference reports in the September and October issues of the *Journal of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care*.

Miller Brewing Supports Key West AIDS Memorial

Key West — Tom Reed, Director of Public Affairs at Miller Brewing Company presented a \$50,000.00 check to the Key West AIDS Memorial. The contribution is the largest donation to the memorial to date.

The Key West AIDS Memorial is being established as a place for visitors from around the world to express appreciation for those who have died from AIDS. The memorial will also serve as a positive, pro-active statement that AIDS is both speakable and visible. The names of 1,500 AIDS victims will be engraved on the memorial, which will face out towards the Atlantic Ocean. The Wheeler Group,

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a nationally known architecture and interior design firm located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was the winner of the international design competition.

Michael Ingram, Key West AIDS Memorial Committee President, said, "This is the largest gift received to date and it puts us close to our financial goal of raising the necessary funds to build the memorial." He also added, "We are proud to have Miller Brewing Company as our major sponsor."

Miller Brewing Company has a long history as a leading supporter of the AIDS-related issues, especially in raising awareness and the need for financial support. Miller has given generously to AIDS organizations throughout the country, both at a grass-roots and national level. Miller has also produced a long running AIDS awareness advertising campaign which continues to appear in national and local publications.

Tom Reed said, "As one of the first and largest corporate sponsors in the fight against AIDS, it is only appropriate to expand our commitment to include support for this important memorial."

The memorial's construction begins in June and should be completed by December 1, 1996, World AIDS Day, for its scheduled dedication.

In Between, B's Make Donations to BESTD

Milwaukee — After winning the a judge's award in the 1996 Wisconsin Pride Parade, Curt Peck of In Between asked that prize money from the award be donated to the Brady East STD Clinic (BESTD).

BESTD expressed gratitude to Brittany Morgan and the cast of "A Spring Fling" and the B's Bar for a June 15th performance benefiting the Clinic. These donations will help assist the BESTD Clinic in providing programs and services to free of charge. BESTD, an all volunteer agency and is located at 1240 E. Brady Street in Milwaukee.

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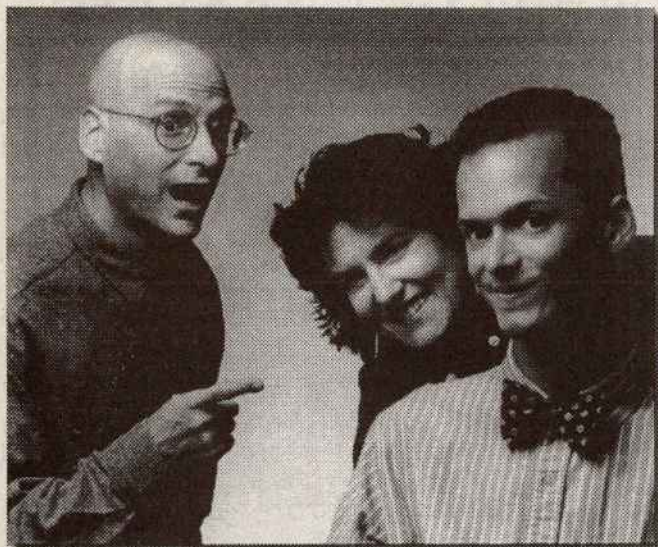
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Art's Page



—Jon Arterton, Suede and Jimmy Rutland, *The Flirtations*

The Flirtations' Latest CD a "Three" for All

Provincetown — The latest release of the popular, unabashedly lesbian and gay a Cappella group *The Flirtations*, after a present incarnation as a trio, is appropriately titled "Three".

The group has been through lots of changes over the years, in fact, they've sung in eleven different incarnations since their humble beginning in 1988. The last two years have been especially difficult as they struggled to cope with Michael Callen's death, the stress of life on the road, and fundamental differences within the group which threatened to tear the group apart—differences over many things musical and non-musical, not the least of which was the issue of whether or not to add a woman to the group.

Last July, Joe Arterton and Jimmy Rutland, finally put the long-held theory that women and men can and should work together into practice. They asked pop jazz vocalist *Suede* to join the group, and she accepted. The Flirtations made their debut as a mixed group at the Northampton Lesbian Festival — the first time men ever performed there.

The latest effort of *The Flirtations*, is a compilation of fourteen songs, including "Mister Sandman," "Breaths," "Time After Time," "Fun, Fun, Fun," "Something to Talk About," and more.

Joe Arterton, of the *Flirtations*, told *Q•Voice Magazine*, "All the songs that we select are chosen individually and collectively. They reflect something about who we are or states something about where we've been ... it's personal."

"Three," is without hesitation a joy to the ears! Jon Arterton's

rich baritone voice, along with Jimmy Rutland's sweet tenor voice, and a special jazz ingredient name *Suede* makes for a perfect combination that is like butterscotch candy slowly melting in your throat. I found the songs to be strong melodically, perfect for their voices. The *Flirtations* has created a recipe that seems to work.

Redbird Studios Hosts Seminar for Writers and Non-Writers

Milwaukee — Redbird Studios will host a three-day seminar this summer aimed to give writers and non-writers critical information, hands-on experience and an insider's perspective into the realm of social change writing.

Judy Bridges, founder of the writing education center said, "People care passionately about issues," adding, "But they don't always know how to write what they feel."

"The goal of this seminar is to give people tools they can use to reach the right people and effect change through their writing. Participants will write about their concerns and meet others who care enough to pick up their pens and do something about it!" Bridges continued.

Topics of discussion range from writer's legal rights to the power of persuasion. Other areas of exploration include effective planning, political skills, writing without alienation others and creating fresh, lively opinion pieces for placement in a variety of publications. Participants will have the opportunity to begin their own work and strengthen and polish it over the three days.

The seminar leaders are Kurt Chandler, author and journalist, Rick Whaley, author and community organizer, Ellen Kozak, attorney and author, Steve Watrous, journalist, and John Nichols, journalist and political commentator.

Seminar dates are August 8, 9 and 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost for early registrants is \$195.00 for three full days, or \$45.00 for just the Saturday morning session and lunch. Call (414) 481-3029 for registration information or a detailed brochure.

Ratification Achieved on MSO New Players' Contract

Milwaukee — The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra musicians have ratified a new three-year master agreement with the MSO three months before the expiration of the current contract. The players voted overwhelmingly in favor of the new contract, which extends through 1999, maintains the season at 44 weeks and confirms both the economic viability and artistic quality of the institution.

The MSO Board of Directors will take a ratification vote on the contract at its June meeting.

In a joint statement, MSO President Allen N. Rieselbach, Executive Director Steven A. Ovitsky, and Players' Council Chair Sara Harmelink said: "This contract is an excellent indication of the positive changes our organization has gone through in the past few years. Through the cooperative effort of board, staff and musicians, we are confirming the economic viability and artistic excellence of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. The agreement, along with the recent announcement of Andreas Delfs as the new music Director, paves the way for a stronger, more vibrant orchestra that provides outstanding entertainment and relevant education programs for the entire community in a fiscally responsible manner."

The agreement allows for increases in salary over the three years and significant improvements in pension benefits through fund redesign.

"With continued support from the community, the MSO is poised for a dynamic future," Rieselbach, Ovitsky and Harmelink concluded.

"Truth From Lies," Catie Curtis Debut CD

New York — If you did not know much about Catie Curtis, just by listening to her collection of song on "Truth From Lies," you get the impression that she has a few stories to tell. And your left wondering which one song is the truth from the lies.

According to Guardian Records, Curtis' CD label, she was raised in the coastal surroundings of rural Southern Maine; and she grew up in a family that loved music. Her parents were both avid fans of show tunes, but her mother in particular was blessed with a natural gift for arranging harmonies. Curtis recalls it was not uncommon for mom to lead Catie and her three sisters in harmonizing to Broadway standards or classic songs from the 1920s.

In high school she developed her interest and attempts at songwriting. It was also in

high school that she studied the guitar and drums. Despite her musical interest, it took second place to her number one passion, basketball.

At Brown University in Rhode Island, Curtis became inspired after listening to Suzanne Vega, that music needed to be a way of life for her. Curtis was soon juggling time between her athletic schedule and trying out self-penned songs at various local coffee-houses. Upon graduation, Curtis headed west to San Francisco with the idea of finding a job that would allow her maximum time for practicing guitar and writing songs.

"I worked as a waitress, which gave me plenty of time to concentrate on my music," recalls Curtis. "That was the first period in which I was intensively writing songs. I also gave and received guitar lessons, and played the open mic scene in Berkeley."

Catie moved to Boston and earned a living as a social worker by day, and began to build a reputation as a songwriter by night. It was not long before the day job influenced her music, as experience gained while work-

ing in the social services led to writing "Hole in the Bucket" - a vivid portrait of government ambivalence toward the disenfranchised. That track, alongside ten other originals, was featured on Curtis' independently released 1991 debut, "From Years to Hours." Curtis social awareness continues to impact her writing. "The Wolf," a track from the new album, is a disturbing portrait of child abuse as seen through the eyes of a child.

Catie Curtis' story-telling-songs are reminiscent of Ricki Lee Jones, and of some of today's story-telling-songstress like Tracy Chapman; but it does not have the sentimental punch that gets you in the gut, like that of Rickie Lee Jones' music. But like fine wine, if Curtis makes it through the years without running on empty, she'll be something to look forward to.

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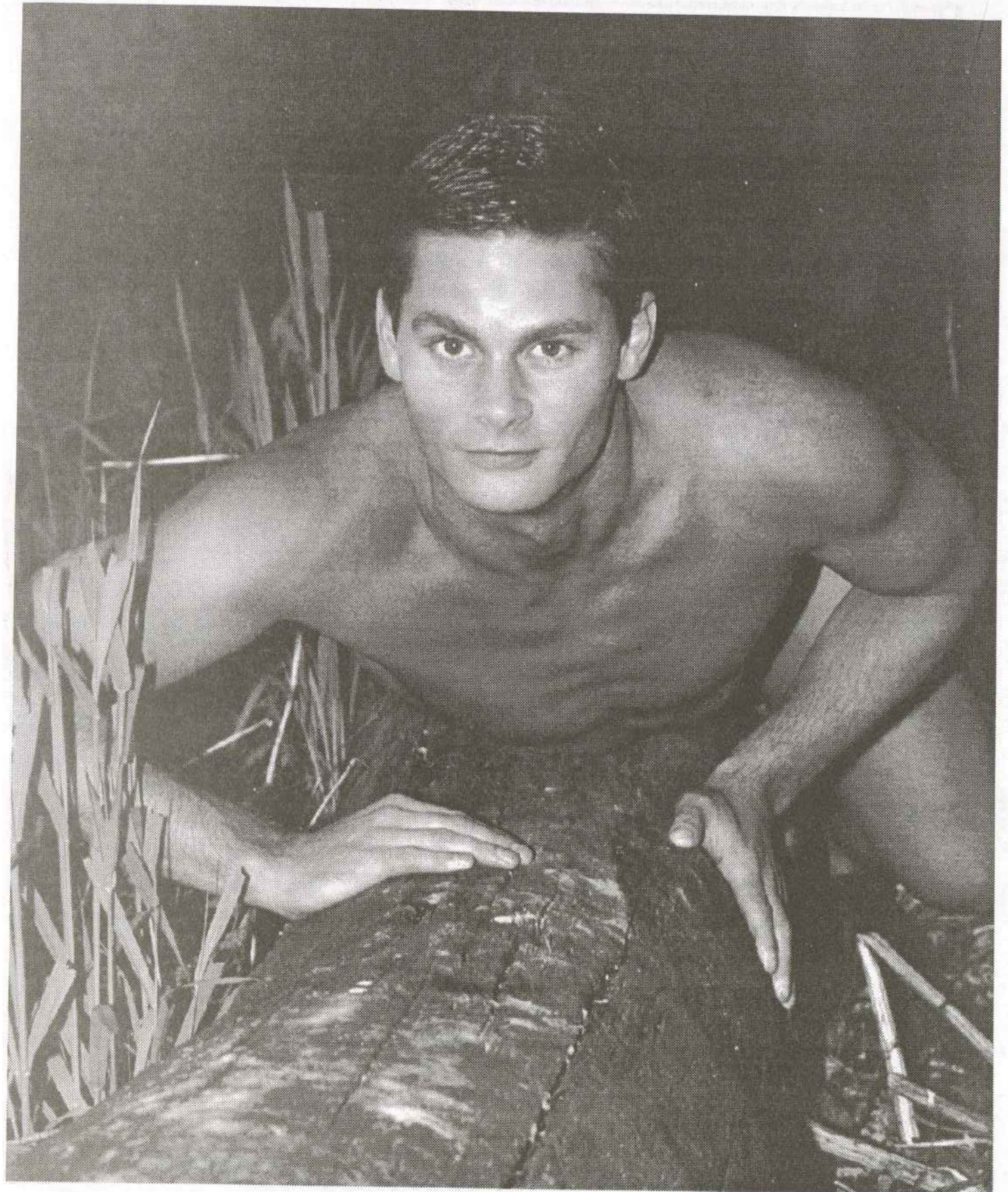
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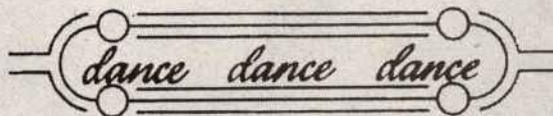


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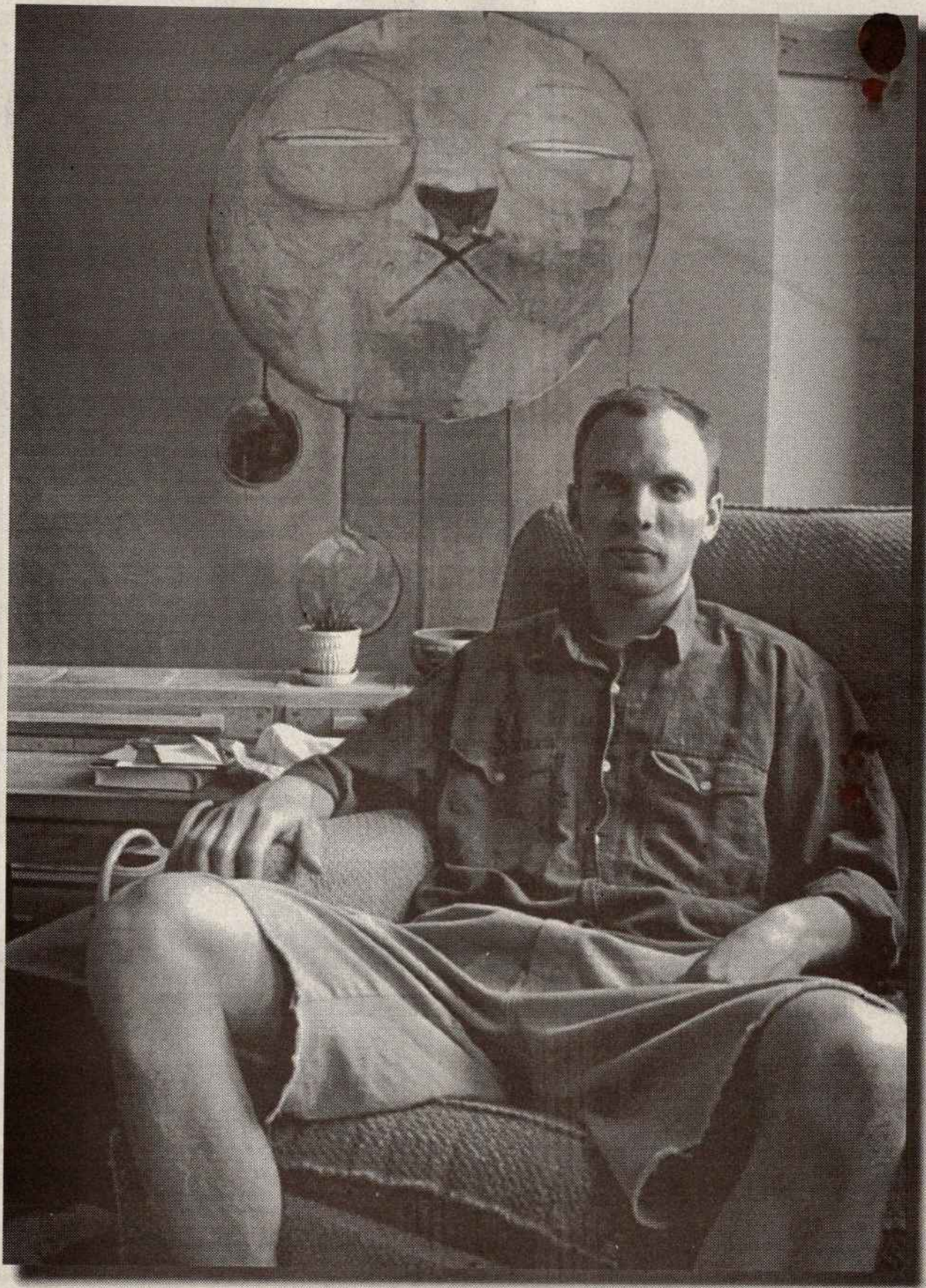
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MASKED MAN

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artist Jason Rohlf reveals himself as the man behind the mask

dress up as Flash Gordon, if not Liza Minnelli, come Halloween.

canals of Venice by the thousands. Venetian Carnival masks peer in dizzying array from hundreds of tourist shops. They range from elegant handcrafted paper-mache originals, some elaborately festooned with feathers, to those pathetic mass-produced porcelain travesties too often found displayed somewhere near the toilet in the homes of gay men. Take a paper bag, cut out some holes, and place it over your head. Masks are part of our shared childhood. We thrill to the Lone Ranger and Zoro and

Masks are an integral part of the human experience.

From Zulu warriors to Amazonian shamans to the ancient theater of Euripides, masks have allowed us to transform, to frighten, to hide, and to express our innermost fantasies.

Artist Jason Rohlf has derived inspiration from the masks of the American Eskimo. The selection of Rohlf as this year's Art for AIDS poster artist came as no surprise to those who follow Milwaukee's art scene. Rohlf has been one of Milwaukee's well-kept secrets,

Story and photograph by WASWO

and the publicity surrounding the Art for AIDS auction has finally shed some light on a burgeoning young talent.

His studio rests a floor above Mader's Art Gallery on Old World Third Street. In sharp contrast to the menagerie of wildlife cliches found below, Jason's studio speaks of experimentation, process, and the indulgence of dreams. Large easels hold huge canvases, already framed, but still in progress. Twenty or so small works on paper are tacked to a drawing board, exhibiting varying degrees of completion. Jason tells me that he moves freely from one to the other, painting and manipulating several at a time. He stands in tee shirt and shorts and tennis shoes before windows that look out on Usingers and across Pere Marquette Park. We settle into well worn easy chairs and begin to talk.

"I was born in Milwaukee. My folks lived on Brady Street near Marshall. But I was only here one year before they moved on. They had different interests, so they moved all over the state. Eventually we moved back to Milwaukee and I went to school at UWM. I was in school for three and a half years, but never did finish a degree. The art itself became more important than finishing school. I've been in Milwaukee seven years now, and have been working on these masks for the past three."

"I was in an anthropology course at UWM and we were discussing all of these native cultures.

My teacher showed a series of slides on Eskimo shaman masks. They were made with a large hoop and then had various things added to them. If the mask was about the good hunt, they would add animal things to it. If it dealt with fertility or food or whatever, they would add objects and symbols that related to those things. There would always be a human element to it. Like hands hanging from it or a human mouth and eyes. When an Eskimo put on one of these masks in the darkness, illuminated only by firelight, what the viewer would primarily see is just the mask, and maybe the person's torso and arms. I took the Eskimo masks as a point of departure. I'm not actually trying to duplicate them."

"In the past I would paint a realistic painting and then change the surface somehow, such as covering the eyes. The portraits I've done of myself have always involved some manipulation of, say, the eyes and the mouth. I started to build paper-mache masks. One thing led to another. Pretty soon I was doing paintings that started always with this similar format of the round head on sort of a staff or torso. Then I'd embellish it as needed, just like the Eskimos did with their hoops."

Jason's paintings have found their ways to private collections in

Los Angeles, Seattle, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Milwaukee. What the viewer is probably most struck with is the incredible sophistication of his surfaces. For a twenty-six year old artist, Rohlf handles paint like a pro. If the viewer sometimes feels at a loss to describe the emotions conveyed by Rohlf's enigmatic masks, he will still find himself enamored with the brooding colorations and textural lushness.

"I received a compliment from someone whose opinion I value very highly, who said that my work resembles the work of Paul Klee. I had never really thought of it before, but when I went back and examined Klee's work it gave me a good feeling to realize that an internationally respected artist had done some things similar. There was a photographer named Holly Roberts who would take portraits of her family and friends and manipulate them with paint until you could hardly see the photograph. Her works had the same sort of coloring, a sort of reluctance in the tone and a sort of disinclined expression to the faces that I like and use."

"As an artist I hope that people will respond to the textures, the way the painting was painted, the subtleties of the glazing, the energy of the brush strokes. But I know that's difficult for some people to see. They respond to the piece as a whole and often don't know why they like it or why they don't. A fellow artist might know that I grabbed a big piece of steel wool or a scraper and tore into a certain part of the painting. They might realize that the aggressive scraping is meant to compliment the aggressive, confrontational look of the figure. There's definitely some luck but mostly educated guesses that go into my work. Every time I touch a work I'm making an informed decision about that piece."

"I layer my paintings over and over. After days of work, when I feel a painting is near completion, I love to abrade the surface and discover some of the history of the painting process. I sand away and maybe discover a painted hand that had been covered by something else."

Like many young artists, Jason finds it necessary to support himself with additional income. He works part-time as an Assistant Preparator at Marquette University's Haggerty Museum of Art.

"We do framing and drywall and lighting. That's the beauty of working in a small museum. We wear a lot of different hats and we get to do everything. We receive shows when they come in, take down the previous show, fix the walls, do the lighting, and make the initial decisions about the design of the show. But the Director Curtis Carter, has the last word."

"Curtis Carter and I relate very well. In dealing with him you learn a lot, and you learn a lot about his sensibilities. The closer

"I want to construct frames that are so massive I'll be able to exhibit freestanding paintings, almost like sculpture."

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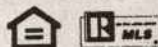
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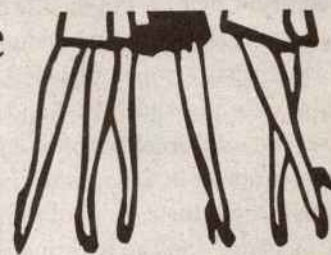
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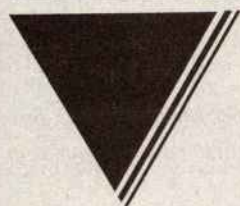
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you stay to his sensibilities the easier the job is. How he communicates what he wants during the installation sometimes leaves you questioning and not understanding...it's not always clear what his objectives are. But when it's done it all makes sense."

"If a person gets away with solely supporting himself with his art he is bound to brag about it.

But most artists have other jobs to help support them. Working part-time is ideal. You can see by the amount of work I'm doing that between my job at the Haggerty and the shows at Silver Paper Gallery, I'm spending an awful lot of time in my studio."

In recent years Jason has started incorporating the frame itself into the whole of his art. This explains the large canvases not yet completed, but resting in frames. The frame has become an extension of the painting, Jason's brush and scraper passing freely from canvas to wooden frame in the creative process.

"Sometimes I see my frames as almost a sort of fortification for my paintings from their environment. Now that I've got the use of a full woodshop at the Haggerty I'm building frames out of three quarters inch plywood. All of my frames are now built by hand. In some cases I've used an old door and just put a panel inside of it. Today when I paint the frame is right there. A lot of the paintings are on panels and I go back and scrape and abrade the surface and this goes right into the frame as well. Sometimes I carve words into the frame. It's very difficult when people want a piece unframed or in a different frame. I don't do that anymore. The frame is an integral part of the piece. It is a complete thought."

"I want to construct frames that are so massive I'll be able to exhibit freestanding paintings, almost like sculpture. That's the next level. I think that's where I'm headed. I'm starting a series on birds right now. Birds as communicators and messengers. Think of a pigeon that delivers secret messages, or a bird that lights on your shoulder and whispers in your ear. I'm not stopping doing masks, but I'm doing the birds with the masks. The painting in the Comet coffeehouse right now has birds hovering around the mask, and one is delivering a small piece of paper with a smiley-face drawn on it."

"Todd Groskopf at Silver Paper Gallery has been exhibiting me since I was twenty-three. Todd always gets first dibs on the new work. But sometimes, like with the six by ten foot canvas at the Comet, I can't wait until Todd has a free wall that big to display it. But I always check with Todd first and find out what his concerns are."

Jason stretches out his legs and crosses his arms behind his head. The phone has been ringing, and I get the feeling that I am dealing with a busy man. But I have one last question, and Jason

answers by giving me a short account of how he was chosen as this year's Art for AIDS poster artist.

"Jerry Lishawa purchased one of my paintings at a show I had at Silver Paper back in 1993. He wheeled and dealt and talked us down in price a bit. But he got such a positive response from people who saw this piece in his home that he's become very interested in my continuing work."

"Putting art up for auction is pretty nerve-racking: letting your work be subjected to that kind of scrutiny and the whims of the buyers in such a public way. But last year I donated two pieces and they did pretty well. I got to meet some of the co-chairs of the auction. Then this year the rumor reached me that I was being considered for the poster. Paul Mandracchia, one of the co-chairs, approached me and said that he couldn't say for sure, but that

I was everybody's favorite choice. I guess that Jerry Lishawa and Cece Murphy from Galeria del Conte were very influential."

"I created the piece entitled "Simple" specifically for the auction. It was very exciting. I was at the auction with the woman who actually did the design of the poster, and she was holding my arm because I was so nervous. But the bidding started at two hundred dollars and ended up at eleven hundred dollars. The whole thing turned fuzzy for me until it was actually over. It seemed like the bidding lasted forever, but afterwards Todd told me it actually lasted only twenty seconds."

"I can't bitch about the local art scene. Todd's been great and people have been good to me. The gay community has been supportive. It seems that in any given locale, the healthier the gay community is the healthier the art scene is. I know that my art is not acceptable with the hunter/fisher northwoods kind of mentality that is popular around here. It seems that people who come from a minority perspective, or alternative communities, are more supportive."

"But I have to agree with what my friend Kristen likes to say, which is that working in the art scene in Milwaukee is like jumping on a trampoline in a very tiny room. As much energy as you have, and as hard as you jump, you can only go so high before you bang your head." ▼

WASWO invites feedback to Q•Voice Magazine, P.O. Box 92385, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or e-mail to rwaswo@aol.com

"It seems that in any given locale, the healthier the gay community is the healthier the art scene is."

Q Musts & Maybes

Your monthly planning calendar.

► Friday, June 21

Cafe Melange to Hold CD Release Party

On Friday evening, June 21, Cafe Melange will host a C.D. release for Spinnakoepeal Jive. The event starts at 9pm and the entrance fee is \$3 per person. For more information, please call 414/291-9889.



► Friday, June 21

SAGE/Madison: "High Tea and Talk"

Every Friday afternoon at 3 pm, SAGE/Madison meets at Monty's Blue Plate Dinner for "High Tea and Talk", everyone is welcome to join in the fun and the chatter. For more information, please call Dave Runyon at 608/241-2500.

► Saturday, June 22



Join in the GAMMA Fun Run

FrontRunners/Milwaukee will have their weekly Fun Run for 30 to 45 minutes through Milwaukee's fashionable east side, followed by a stop for snacks and refreshment at one of the local eateries. The group meets at 9 am at the base of the Water Tower at the east end of North Avenue and continues on from there. FrontRunners/Milwaukee now welcomes walkers to its weekly gathering. So, if you've got an old football knee injury-or your lungs are filled with Phillip Morris' best-you can still get some healthy exercise with a great group. We meet every Saturday at 9 a.m. sharp at St. Mary's Tower (on the east end of North Avenue) for a forty-five minute jaunt. Following the walk, the whole group usually heads to a nearby eatery for a healthy snack. For more information about the walking component of FrontRunners, call Bob at 414/963-9833. Runners please call Brian at 414/332-1527 or John at 414/285-7645.

► Saturday, June 22

Singsational at the M&M Club

The ever-popular Singational in one of its regular appearances at the M&M Club 124 North Water Street in Milwaukee starting at 9pm.

► Saturday, June 22

GALVANize: Tammy Baldwin Fundraiser

The Tammy Baldwin Fundraiser for the GALVANize Pride March, hosted by State Rep. Tammy Baldwin will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at 525 Riverside Drive in Madison on Saturday, June 22. Come and enjoy great schmoozing, entertainment and food. A \$15 donation is suggested. For more information and/or a reservation, please call Steve Starkey at 608/251-6834.

► Saturday, June 22

Madison Video Club Warms Up Its VCRs

The Madison Video club will have a showing of "Boy #2: Boys at Play" and "Ripe For Harvest" on Saturday, June 22 at 8 pm. For more details and information, please call 608/244-8675 during the evening.



► Sunday, June 23

Century Hall 20th

Anniversary Reunion Party

Century Hall, the eclectic theater, restaurant, tavern and favorite hangout of Milwaukee's arts and entertainment community will have a 20th Anniversary Reunion on Sunday, June 23 from 2pm until 10 pm at the Broadway Theatre in the Historic Third Ward. Century Hall was originally built in 1886 and was located at the corner of Farwell and North Avenues on Milwaukee's eastside. Among those performing are Paul Cebal (sans Milwaukeeans, pictured left) Tickets for the benefit will be available prior to the event at a reduced rate of \$8 per person at Harry W, Schwartz Book Stores, Milwaukee-area Exclusive Company outlets, and the Broadway Theater center Box office. You may charge by phone at 414/291-7800. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the event for \$10. a \$5 ticket is available for children who are 12 years of age or under. All proceeds from the Century Hall 20th Anniversary Reunion will benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

► Sunday, June 23

Gay Men's Discussion Group

The Gay Men's Discussion Group will meet to discuss "Gay Marriage: Worth the Fight?" Scott Evertz, the co-chair of Action Wisconsin, a political action group for gay rights will be in attendance. For more information, please call 414/271-2565.

► Sunday, June 23

Manoevers to Hold "Gay, Single and Out"

Manoevers of Madison will hold a "Gay, Single and Out" event on Sunday, June 23. for more information, please call 608/258-9918.

► Tuesday, June 25

St. Camillus Support Group

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry will be starting a new support group on June 25, 1996 for all men infected with HIV without regard to race, age, sexual orientation, physical disability or religious affiliation. The group will meet from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the group room on St. Camillus Campus. Please enter from the Court East Entrance (10100 West Bluemound Avenue). If you would like more information, contact Jeff Miller at 414/259-4664.

► Tuesday, June 25

OUTreach: Anonymous HIV Testing

Stop by the In Between for anonymous HIV testing and information about Safer Sex from 7pm to 10pm. For more information call 414/225-1502 or 414/272-2144

► Friday, June 28

Wisconsin Leather Weekend: Leather Ball

A three day weekend of leather, leather and yes.... more leather!

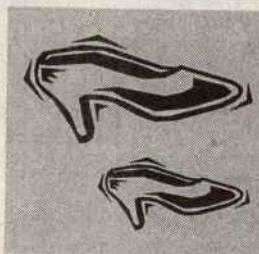
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Q•Voice



Starting with the Wisconsin Leather Ball on Friday evening will be held at B's at 2nd and Lapham with prizes for best leather, most creative and best harness. Start time is 7pm with the \$4 admission going to the BESTD Clinic.



► Saturday, June 29

Miss Central Gay Wisconsin Pageant

High-heel mania in Wausau as The Madhatter presents this preliminary pageant to the Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A Pageant. Loretta La Mour relinquish- es her crown sometime after the 10:30pm start time. We predict there will be lots of lip synching... can you say "Road Trip!"

► Saturday, June 29

Wisconsin Leather Weekend Continues

The Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy Contest will be held at the 1100 Club, 1100 S. First Street, featuring raffles and door prizes. Contest begins at 9pm and the admission is \$5 with a percentage at the door given to MAP as a donation.

► Saturday, June 29

Riverwest Rummage Sale

The Riverwest Rainbow Association invites you to the social/shopping event of the decade as they present an incredible rummage to benefit their neighborhood group. Rummage to be held at 3492 N. Humboldt in the alley. Watch out Marshall Fields!

► Sunday, June 30

Chicago Pride Parade

All eyes are on Halsted and Belmont in Chicago as the 27th Annual Chicago Pride Parade kicks off at 2pm and ends with a rally in Lincoln Park. Let's hope for hot weather, tight shorts and lots of flesh. For more information call 312/348-8243.

► Wednesday, July 10

OUTreach: Anonymous HIV Testing

Stop by the Mama Roux for anonymous HIV testing and information about Safer Sex from 9pm to 12pm. For more information call 414/225-1502 or 414/272-2144

**Send information and a photo about your
MUST or MAYBE to: Q•Voice Magazine
P.O. Box 92385 • Milwaukee, WI 53202**

★ ★ ★
**ALL-AMERICAN
BOY**

This full-time machine operator and part-time go-go boy is Detroit made and diesel powered. His name is T.J., and he sets hearts aflutter every Saturday night at C'est La Vie.

T. J. normally comes packaged in black leather and dark glasses. Is this the first time anyone has seen his eyes? His lover, Tabatha, entertains the C'est La Vie crowd on crossdressin' Friday nights. T. J. is a believer in the American ethic of hard work. After grinding up a sweat in the factory, he grinds up a sweat on the stage.

"I enjoy dancing," he says, "I get tips from a buck to twenty dollars. Sometimes some jerk offers me a hundred and gives me a motel room number. All I've got to say to that is NO WAY!!"

O.K. T.J. We'll just enjoy watching...

photo/story WASWO



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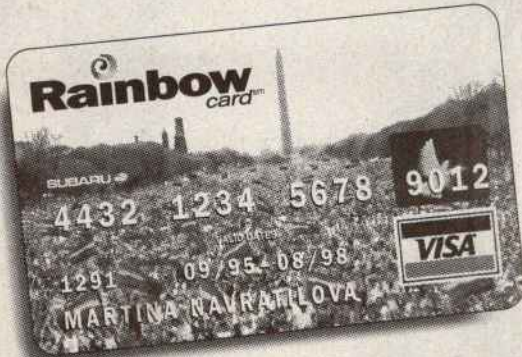
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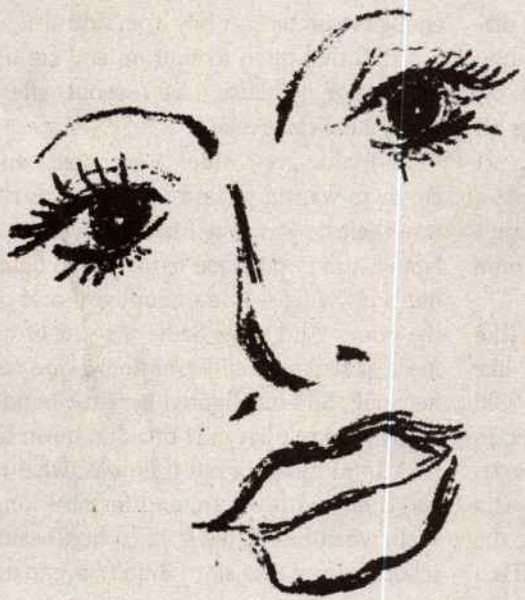
- **AIDS Information Network**
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Strange That Way

Oooh, I done got all off the subject again. I know y'all remember me. It's me—April Marie Lynette Jones, weave stylist extraordinaire. What was we pose to be talkin bout? Oh yeah — that's right—Richie.

Now, Hattie Mae kills me not wantin to even look at the man who's been stylin and profilin her hair for, hell, I don't know, at least five years. Sometimes I look at Richie, and he seems like the kind, you know, all even-tempered while he be workin, but if you ever catch him outside of the shop and push his buttons the wrong way, he be liable to cuss you out real good, you know what I'm sayin?

Fact, we used to go out after work on Fridays. That is, until recently. Must be all about that new man he got. But one time, the waiter got all rude with him about some mess, and Richie went off! I told the whole story to his auntie, and she carried on.

And ooh, honeys, I loves me some auntie Dessa Rose. She like Miss Jenkins to me. I can't let nobody talk about Miss Dessa Rose. She came up in here not too long ago for me to curl her hair, (and yes, children, she is my special clientele), and as she is wont to do, she got to talkin bout her favorite subject.

DESSA ROSE FLOWERS

These tight-dressed heifers is always lookin for a full meal ticket, while these homosexuals are simply lookin for appetizers and they will try anythin and everythang on the menu, many times over. That's the majority of folks I see—these little heifers ain't got nothin on their minds but tryin get them some man

and don't know no other way except to throw him the goods, and these damn homosexuals who ain't seemed to learn nothin from all these diseases goin round.

My own boy Richie, and that boy he's been hangin around with. Lord have mercy, in all my years I ain't felt I had to worry none about him, and now this. Well, it makes me wanna scream. But I'm too damn old, too damn tired, and besides, I done screamed enough to last this life time and a few more down the road.

I suppose I should consider myself lucky

short fiction
by craig hickman

though. When Richie's mama, my sweet baby sister Sadie, passed on some time ago, God rest her soul, I took in that cute little bundle of joy and raised him as my very own. He ain't never

really caused me no trouble, but everybody from old Hattie Mae over at Mt. Zion Baptist, to all the ladies I've played Bid Whist with over the years, told me that Richie was different somehow. Hattie Mae went so far as to say, "That child sure is strange that way. You better watch out for him Dessa Rose."

Different. Strange that way. Well, what child wouldn't be different or strange that way if his mama was taken to the Lord before he could barely even walk, and he never even saw his daddy. Which was no

fault of his. No fault of his daddy's, I mean. That's right. Sadie never even told the man she was pregnant. Back in the day, you didn't see women actin like that, not even tellin the daddy about the bun in her oven. But Sadie, rest her soul, was always doin things her way. Some might say ahead of her time on some matters. Like most babies of the family, she was the independent one. I know these days girls havin babies, babies havin babies, and ain't nobody tellin the daddies till its way past any time appropriate. Well, I, for one, ain't into into all them politics and such, but if this is what women's lib was all about, we messed up somewheres. Any daddy's better than no daddy, and it's about time we get that through our liberated heads.

Well, I was gonna make sure that little boy got it all from me, no matter what my friends were trying to warn me about. Like Mildred. Now Mildred good people and all that, and I don't like to talk about folk like they do me some time, but Mildred would spit the stupidest mess out her mouth with nary a thought for nobody. She come round the house to drop off her famous coconut cake for Richie's tenth birthday party. She finally got some respect from the folk at Mt. Zion after the first time she brought that cake to a bake sale down in the church lot. First time Richie lay his lips on that sucker, I could hardly get him to eat real food. I had to wean him offa that stuff for awhile. But for his party, I decided to have Mildred make a big one. Special too.

She comes in the house with her prize-winning recipe, gives Richie the once over, as if she had never seen him before (Lord

knows he'd been up in church with me more times than a heathen), flashes her diamond-studded gold teeth, nearly blinding me back, and declares, "Dessa Rose, baby, are you sure that nephew or yours is all right? He's so timid and most times he act too sissified for a boy his age. He needs a man around this house. But if that ain't possible, girl, you better find him some boys to play with."

If she only knew. And it wasn't like Richie was far enough away to even act like he didn't hear Mildred's blaspheming. Old Mildred, or Miss Muffet like I calls her, to this day, might be able to bake her silly ass off, but she sure can't see. There was a house full of boys from his school at the party. Well, a couple at least. Mostly girls, I guess. Well, the boy just always seemed to be more comfortable playing with the girls, boys could be so mean at times. I know Richie was a quiet child and all. And Lord knows, my father didn't raise no fool. I knew exactly what little Miss Muffet was trying to say, but I tried not to pay her no mind. I'm sure she thought she meant well. Doesn't everybody who meddles in other folks affairs?

It was kinda embarrassing, though. Not that I was ever really ashamed of Richie. Disappointed would be more like it. But you know, I would look at him trying to cope without his mama and daddy, and know he was already going through a lot. I don't usually take no mess — don't like to let folks know they gettin to me. Can't let em see you sweat. I'm sure I been too kind to most of my friends, and sometimes folk confuse kindness with weakness, but they

don't know how strong I knew I was. Strong enough to protect my boy from ridicule.

I told that bitch to shut up and get the fuck out of my house. That was only after I got that delicious cake.

As Richie grew older, I got closer and closer to wantin to find out if he was the way I felt he was. But I had to keep back. Not wantin to push too hard. Try to figure out how Sadie woulda handled it and do the same. And sweet Sadie was one of the most patient women I ever knew, God rest her soul. So I just figured her little bundle of joy wouldn't have me breathin down his neck tryin to figure out if he was, what he was doin', with whom, and for how long. Well, when he started goin to that beauty school, suffice it to say, I didn't have to ask any questions.

It's not like he didn't used to sit down in front of that TV and watch all them silly beauty pageants. I couldn't see what that child saw in all that fake mess. This was before anybody thought Black was beautiful. There was nothing but a bunch of skinny white girls prancin around showin off cleavage, wearin too much make-up. I guess the winners was supposed to do something for the human race and become somebody later on in life. Whatever.

You didn't need to be no Miss America to do somethin good for folk. That's why I became a nurse. I got the calling to help people at a really young age. Everybody look at me knew I was gonna be a nurse or doctor, one. Not too many women doctors back in the day, so I always felt like I'd have a better chance at nurse. Nobody minded Black women takin care of em. Daddy always told me and Sadie we could be whatever we wanted, something to make Mama proud and respect her memory. Mama died givin birth to Sadie, so whenever Sadie got sick, I took care of her. Daddy did the best he could, but it was hard raising two girls all by himself.

All the kids in school called me the "first aid girl" cause I was always the first person who wanted to and knew how to clean up the little cuts and scrapes a bunch of high

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[OUTreach Schedule]

Saturday
June 22th
Just Us
7pm to 10pm

Saturday
June 22th
Galano Club
6pm to 8pm

Tuesday
June 25
In Between
7pm to 10pm

Wednesday
July 10
Mama Roux
9pm to 12pm

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energy kids was liable to get during a fifteen-minute recess. I was set up to put the school nurse of of business at the ripe old age of twelve! Once, this white girl called me Florence Nightingale. I didn't know who the hell she was, but I figured she musta been somebody special with a name like that.

I started nursing down at the Deaconess. Trauma. Lot of emergency room work. After seventeen years, that wore me out. Much as I felt alive and important, this woman knew when to stop. In the early eighties, I left all that and ended up working at the City Hospital STD clinic. I thought there would be less trauma. That's when all these folks, mostly young boys, started comin in with all kinda diseases. Diseases we hadn't seen the need to treat in years. Usually a shot in the butt or a week or two of drugs would cure em up, but the same one's be back in a matter of months

with something else. I don't wanna bore y'all with the clinical names of these things, but I hadn't seen the likes of this in all my years nursin. Later, I'd see some of the boys I treated walkin around the hospitals with splotches all over their bodies, looking old and skinny. Some were admitted to the hospital one day, dead the next.

Folks in the business started callin it gay cancer. Gay cancer. I didn't know much at the time, but I knew it was more than some gay cancer. Nobody was talkin about some the young girls and their babies too who was comin in with the same symptoms. I tried to find out all I could, but there wasn't too many places I could read about it that I could really understand.

Then the church started buryin all these young Black boys. Mt. Zion was having more funerals than revivals and prayer meetings. There was Ronelle from choir. Charmain, the organist before Paulie. And they wasn't being shot up in the head on the streets, either. Before you knew it, folks started buryin sons you never even knew they had.

Right now, there's this frail child that sits in the front pew most Sundays who nobody talks to. When he takes communion, nobody drinks after him. It's been said that he's Hattie Mae's boy, but you'd think they didn't know each other. Like I said, I don't like to talk about people's business, but if that there righteous woman can't even deal with her own flesh and blood... Don't get me started.

Being down at that clinic and treatin all these young boys, I got to worryin bout Richie. Like I said, my Daddy didn't raise no fool, and so I put two and two together real fast. That's when I wanted to really ask Richie some questions. But I kept tellin myself to be patient. I wanted to find out how others was dealin with all of this, but nobody, and I mean nobody, was really talking. Not about the weekly funerals, not about young girls, not about babies, not about nothing. Even now we know what's causin AIDS and how folks get it, but nobody's talkin about it. And for all the

information and scoldin I've given out to a bunch of strangers over the past ten years, I still can't bring myself to raise it with my own hard-headed boy.

And it's not as if Richie hadn't given me the opportunity to say somethin. He moved outta here so he could have some privacy—that's what he says anyway. He used to bring me by flowers every weekend, but lately, he ain't been comin by as much. He calls to tell me he's been busy. But I know better. He finally admitted that he been seein someone. "This is the Real Thing Rosie," he says. That's what he likes to call me. He wants me to meet him. Humph. Real Thing my ass. I still can't see how homosexuals can have the Real Thing. I try not to let it matter.

But Richie won't let up. Here he is tryin to get me to cook dinner and have em over. Now, I ain't no fool. This must be something serious. I don't get how they do things, old fashioned as I can be sometimes, but I know this is making him happy, because when I do see him, he's glowin like a pregnant woman. I do worry, though.

Oh, did I tell you that in the midst of all of this confusion and loss, I became famous. No, not because I was one of a handful of black folks tryin to anything about AIDS. That woulda been too much like right. This was different. I walked into the Talented Tenth, that Black bookstore we had some years back, and staring back at me from the shelf was a book with my name on it in large print. DESSA ROSE. I like to fell out. I don't who I was named after, if anybody, but I never known nobody with my name, and then here I was on the cover of a book written by some Black girl named Sherley Anne Williams. Well, Alice Walker had nothing but good things to say about her, and since I liked that Color Purple so much, I decided to pick up my namesake off the shelf. Fifteen minutes of fame for a book I didn't even write.

It don't get no better than that. ▼

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Our Pocketbooks, Ourselves

by Lesleá Newman

I must be dreaming. I could swear Flash just said, "Want to go to the mall?" I'm sure I heard wrong, like in sixth grade when I thought my teacher was talking about the Great Mall of China.

"What did you say?"

"I said, 'Want to go to the mall?' That new place, Mall of Your Dreams is opening. But if you don't want to go..."

"Hey, you don't have to ask me twice." I grab my pocketbook before Flash grabs hold of her senses. Soon we're zipping down the highway. I find an oldies station on the radio. Just as I sit back, Flash starts jerking about in her seat, thrashing from side to side. "What are you doing?" I ask. "The watusi? The twist?"

"I'm just getting a tissue." Flash slides her hand under her seat belt and into her pocket, and thrusts her hips up like she's about to have wild sex with the steering wheel.

"Here." I reach for my pocketbook as the car swerves, narrowly missing a Volvo, and Flash's fingers emerge from her pocket, clinging to a Kleenex. Amazing as it may seem, Flash would rather endanger our lives than carry a pocketbook. I don't care how butch a

woman is; I don't understand how she can go through life without a purse. I remember my first pocketbook the way most girls remember their first kiss. It was a gold lame shoulder bag decorated with fake leather leopard-print patches. My mother, who for years had heard me whine, "I want a pocketbook just like you," took me literally and bought me a bag identical to her own. ("What's not to like?" she said. "It was a two for one sale.")

My grandmother offered to buy me a pocketbook just like hers, but her handbag was made of straw, decorated with huge magenta flowers, and had the words, "Miami Beach" spelled out in seashells along the strap. Not only that, but emptied out and upside down, it doubled as a sun hat. Over the years my pocketbook collection has grown to include handbags, shoulderbags, silk bags, suede bags, purses, pouches, and clutches. I have bags decorated with pearls, rhinestones, sequins, fringe, mesh, beads, and macrame. I have a backpack, a fanny pack, a purse that attaches to my belt and something called a wallet-on-a string. Today I carry my favorite everyday bag: a big black tote that Flash calls "Montana."

Flash parks the car. I grab Montana and Flash gathers her things: Her wallet's in the glove compartment, her comb's in the visor, her credit cards are on the dash. "Can you hold these?" Flash asks. I stuff Flash's stuff in with my stuff which includes my change purse, checkbook, address book, notebook, pens, Scotch tape and stamps. And that's only one of five compartments. Behind door number two we have lipstick, chopstick, mascara, blush, a hairbrush, hairspray and mousse. Compartment number three holds a toothbrush, dental floss, gum, gumdrops, Certs, sugar packs, a Swiss army knife and a snakebite kit. The fourth compartment holds my wallet, which is a pocketbook in itself (don't get me started).

Each compartment has its share of paper clips, bobby pins, pen caps, ticket stubs, rubber bands, earrings and matches. Except for the fifth compartment, which is completely empty, just in case. We enter the mall and Flash is immediately famished. We find a restaurant called Planet Lesbos. Our hostess, who wears nothing under her mesh t-shirt but two nipple rings, asks, "Table for two?" I hold up three fingers and point to Montana. Flash shakes her head.

"What do you have in there anyway?"



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"Don't ask." I dump our bread basket into compartment number five. After we eat, we shop. First stop, Sappho's Shoes. I dig a shoe hom out of my bag. Next we browse through Read It and Weep Sister, a bookstore filled with romance novels. I hand Flash her reading glasses. On our way to Dyke's Discount Drugs, Flash thinks she sees Raven across the way but she's not sure. I hand her a pair of binoculars. "What don't you have in there?" Flash asks.

"A diaphragm," I answer taking the binoculars back. We march on. "Let me stop in here," I say, drooling in front of Jodie's Closet, a very exclusive used clothing store.

"I'll wait out here," Flash says. I grab my wallet and hand Flash Montana. Twenty minutes later, I emerge with a red

We find a restaurant called Planet Lesbos. Our hostess, who wears nothing under her mesh t-shirt but two nipple rings, asks, "Table for two?"

mini-skirt. Flash's face is the same color as my purchase.

"Are you having a hot flash, Flash?"

"No," she says. "I am dying of shame." Two jocks from her softball team are laughing at the sight of their second basewoman carrying a pocketbook.

"Children can be so cruel," I say loudly. "Let's go home."

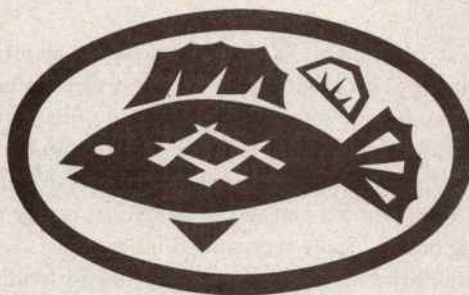
"Give me my keys," Flash says. I fumble through my bag.

"Are you sure you gave them to me?" I ask. "If you would only carry your own bag...." I fume, still searching. Finally I find them. "Here," I say. "And take your wallet, your checkbook and your credit cards, too."

"Fine." Flash walks off in a huff. I follow a few steps behind, until she stops in front of a store called Butch Bags. "Wait out here," she calls. Ten minutes later Flash emerges and shows off her purchase. "See," she says, "it's made of genuine imitation leather and it has seven pockets. Not only that, it can keep me warm in inclement weather. The Butch Bag. Also known as The Jacket. And best of all, it was 30 percent off."

"Oh, Flash, I am so proud of you," I take her arm and leave the Mall of my Dreams with the butch of my dreams. And what more could a girl possibly want?

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The Casual Observer

by Ed Grover

Mazomanie

The nude beach at Mazomanie, a sleepy little town about 25 miles west of Madison, on Highway 14 is a great place to get a "No-Tan-Line" tan for the summer. This stretch of beach run by the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) on the Wisconsin River is ... beautiful. To spend a day or weekend there is to refresh the soul and spirit. Yes, there is a part of the beach that is very gay, with people camping out and some very cruisy bushes, too.

To get there from Milwaukee, head west on I-94 to Madison and take the left exit onto Highway 90 West. Once on 90 West, travel about four miles and turn off at the exit for Highways 12 and 18 West. You are now on the Beltline going west around Madison, and you stay on this highway for about 15 miles. Highway 14 will connect with 12 and 18 at some point along the line. Be sure you keep an eye peeled for it and look for Exit 251 at Middleton. There is a huge sign that you can't miss that says Highway 14 to Spring Green. You make a right turn off 12 and go around part of a clover-

leaf and you're on Highway 14. Go through Middleton, Cross Plains, Black Earth. The next town is MAZO (as we fondly call it).

Just before you get to Mazo, there is a small motel called the Bel-Aire Motel run by David and Linda Hill (608/936-1212 - last year a double went for \$42.50). They seem very gay-friendly and there are lots of "naturists" who stay there. The rooms are plain, but very clean with nice bathrooms and plenty of hot water. If you can't stand foam pillows, bring your own from home. And if you smoke, be sure to tell them. Of course you could tent on the beach if you want to drag all that camping equipment, bathe in the river and have sand in your food, but the Face Model prefers a soft bed and a nice hot shower. We have found this place to be perfect for the weekends of the Fourth of July and the following weekend when the naturists have their "Nude Olympics". These two weekends, along with Labor Day, usually draw up to a thousand or more people. Be sure to book reservations EARLY if you are staying in any motel or B&B, and expect crowds.

OK, lets assume you're all settled in and are staying at the Bel-Aire. You should leave there no later than 9:30 a.m. and go towards Mazo on Highway 14. After the Catholic Church look for Highway "Y", or Main St., and turn right at the gas station (a good place for gas, supplies, food, soda and there is a bathroom) and go through Mazo's downtown area until you can't go any farther with out turning. Turn right at the bank, go about two blocks to the Lutheran Church and turn left onto Highway "Y". This next piece of is about four miles and you will go over three or four small bridges. Look for the DNR's Mazomanie Unit sign and be ready to turn left onto Lawes Road. Follow Lawes Road until you see a dirt road veering off to the left.

This is the place! Go down this bumpy road until you reach the parking lots at the end and, as I said, "The early bird gets the worm." Because parking is limited, everyone else has to park on one side of the road all the way out to the entrance. There is NO CREATIVE PARKING and don't even THINK of trying to sleep in your car. The DNR frowns on this and doles out hefty tickets of over \$100 each. Be forewarned! You may have quite a bit of walking to do so keep your coolers and beach equipment to a minimum —unless you have some husky number along who is willing to act as porter.

When you are all parked (watch out for the poison ivy), grab your stuff and follow the crowd to the river. If you were smart enough to get one of those cheap plastic toboggans last winter, they're a great help. Just load everything on and PULL like hell. Depending on how high the water is you may have to wade across an inlet. Take beach shoes or sandals, and a cap and sunglasses are a

HEY YOU!

[and you know who you are]

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test results.**

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any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday
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No appointment is needed.



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

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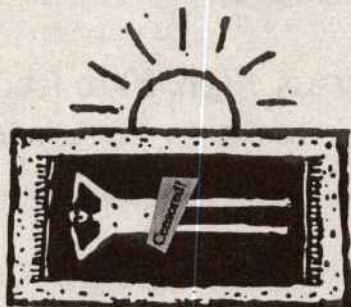
MUST. An umbrella is nice and a sand chair, only if you can lift it with one finger. If not, it's too heavy to carry. If someone brings mosquito repellent, that's a plus. They'll eat you alive after dusk.

Once on the sand, which can be burning hot, head straight down to the river, turn left and walk along the edge like everyone else. The "clothing optional" beach is where you start to see tents and people, and depending on the weekend, there will be a lot of them. The Gay beach is all the way to the end. Walk until you see some friends or rainbow flags and find a place to set up camp if that's what you plan to do. We usually stay near the river's edge ... better to see everyone going by. After the first hour you don't even look anymore unless it's someone really spectacular.

I should tell you a little about beach etiquette. There is absolutely NO littering! Everything you bring on the beach MUST be carried off. And that includes cigarette butts! There is NO glass allowed (another BIG fine), drunkenness is frowned upon and so is taking pictures of anyone without asking if it's OK. Loud music is not appreciated, so leave your boom-box at home. This is a place to come and get in touch with nature, yourself and, if you're lucky, that cutie from Madison you've been wondering about. There is volley ball, floating down the river and the rest is strolling, chatting with friends, water and SUN! Don't forget plenty of suntan lotion and liquids.

We always stay at the beach until sundown, even if we are driving back to Milwaukee the same day. That way we miss a lot of the traffic. If we are staying at the motel, there are lots of places to eat in neighboring towns; some fancy and some not. There's the Round Barn near Spring Green, and Green Acres on the way to Saukville. Both places are under \$15, have ribs, steaks, seafood and salad bars ... and you can get a drink if you want one. We like the Eagle's Nest in Prairie du Sac. It's a family restaurant filled with kids on summer jobs or motherly types who will see that you are well fed. Great burgers, fries, and specials (if you get there early), thick shakes and all kinds of homemade pies. After stuffing yourself, watch the fireworks on the river if you're there over the Fourth. Then, it's a leisurely ride through the warm night back to your chosen bed. Remember flashlights if you are staying at the beach. This is a good time to stock up on ice for any food you have and soda (more carrying). Get the car into one of the front parking lots. The partying at the beach will have started while you were gone. Join in! Or try to get some sleep; the sun comes up early.

There are other ways to get there and other places to stay, but I'll leave that for you to discover. Just take any nice day and come explore the nude beach on the Wisconsin River. You'll be hooked like we were. Bradford Beach will never seem right again after a trip to Mazo!



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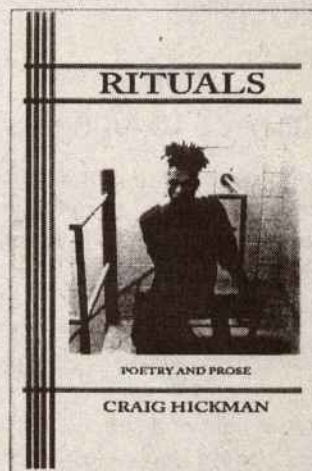
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—Thomas Grimes
Author of *Reclamations*

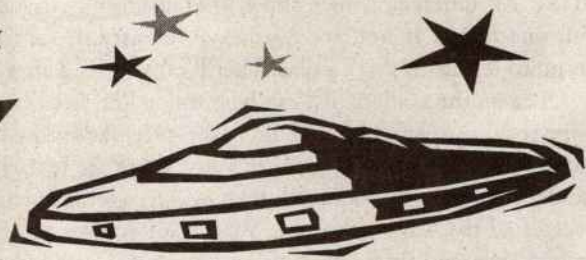


Rituals Poetry and Prose by Craig Hickman

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

\$12.95 paperback

Star Patrol



with your astro cowboy, andie jaye

pisces • (feb 20 to march 20)

Isn't strange how life throws a curve ball? Things never seem to work out quite as expected, and particularly not in the life of a Pisces so be prepared for things coming out of left field.

aries • (march 21 to april 19)

Enough soul searching already! Keep the focus on living life instead of thinking about living life. Romantic aspects are highlighted around the first of the month, so you expect a firecracker Fourth of July!

taurus • (april 20 to May 21)

If you lash out at someone close to you, it could do serious damage to a close friendship. You have a friend in high places and work improves. So, why all the moodiness?

gemini

(may 22 to june 21)

You may have found a new object of desire and if you try to get it, you will succeed where others would fail. Sexual tension on the work front eases for a time and then erupts.

leo • (july 23 to august 22)

Money is tight and stress is high. A reemphasis of priorities is in order because you've lost sight of what really matters. An old flame will try to re-enter your life.

virgo • (august 23 to september 22)

Your heart begins speaking a strange language and your love choices may seem a bit odd. But, follow your heart and not your

mind in matters of romance this month.

libra • (september 23 to october 22)

Whether you're just about to go on a holiday, or you're just getting back from a vacation, you should be aware that there just won't be enough time to do everything you want to.

scorpio • (oct. 24 to nov 21)

A co-worker may be driving you crazy this month. So, what are you going to do about it? You're normally not the passive aggressive type, but sometimes its the only option... and its not as messy as semi-automatic weapons.

cancer

(june 22 to july 22)

You are entering a period of great opportunity. Whatever you want is within reach, but you'll have to put in some time and effort. Astral aspects will bring you what you deserve, whether you want it or not. So be careful what you ask for.

sagittarius

(nov 21 to dec 19)

Look for patterns. If you're hearing the same things from different people, don't just dismiss it with a million different reasons why it can't be so. The truth is out there...

capricorn

(dec. 21 to january 19)

Maybe you would do well to reconsider that new plaything you've been hanging around with. Some people don't always have your best interests at heart and have an agenda.

aquarius • (jan. 20 to feb. 18)

Venus is helping your love life this month as your hormones are in full bloom. But Venus is tricky, if you try to take advantage she will put a nasty spin on it. Just go with the flow and love will come to you.

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
1661 N. Water St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
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
(sexual 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**

HANG-OUTS

Milwaukee

1100 Club

1100 S. 1st Street
414/647-9950

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

B's

1579 S. 2nd Street
414/672-5580

Live DJ on Friday and Saturday Night playing a smorgesboard of dance tunes.

AfterWords

2710 N. Murray
414/963-9089

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

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 shakin' 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 biting the club circuit.

Renez CoZ Corner II

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

At I-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.

R Place

121 W. Main Street
608/257-5455

Madison's newest bar is bright and clean, featuring a dance floor, CD jukebox and a fireplace.

The New Bar\Rod's

To be rebuilt.

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN...

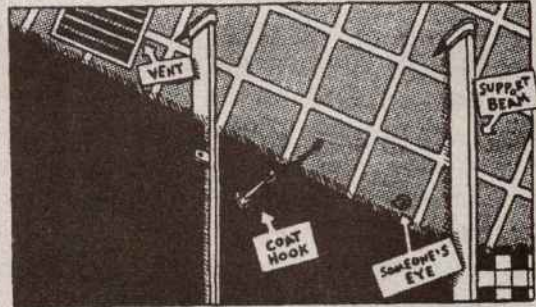
STALL STORY

with
ethan green...

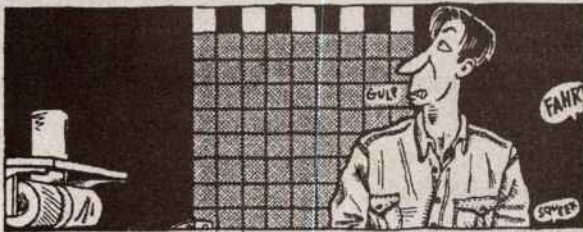
SO YOU'RE CAUSING A LITTLE BLINDNESS IN A PUBLIC RESTROOM WHEN YOU ARE INTERRUPTED BY THE SUDDEN OCCUPANCY OF A NEIGHBORING STALL..



WHILE YOU WAIT, YOUR EYES DRIFT UP AND SETTLE ON ONE OF THE PANELS IN THE CEILING...



PRESENTLY YOU'VE CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT BEHIND IT SITS EXTENSIVE SECURITY-CAMERA MONITORING EQUIPMENT, AND THAT SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE, IS VIEWING THIS ENTIRE, DELICATE MATTER.



MAYBE ITS SOME RIGHT-WING CADAVER OR OTHER, WHO REPRESENTS A MISGUIDED PIEDMONT STATE IN CONGRESS...



...OR MAYBE IT'S THAT HOT, REDHEADED, TRASHY-LOOKING BUILDING-OPS GUY YOU PASSED ON YOUR WAY INSIDE...



Perhaps HE'D BE WILLING TO HELP YOU FINISH THE JOB...



By Eric Orner

Juicy Bits by W.W. Wells III

The Myths of Gay Dating

If you're one of those wide-eyed men who still believes in the concept of Mr. Right ... someone who dreams of that sensitive, intelligent, Undergear Catalog model who loves only you and doesn't have an attitude problem. Someone who is looking for a man with a reasonable amount of body piercings and steady employment. Someone who still longs for the "Abs of Steel Stud" who can fulfill all your sexual needs and then whip-up a gourmet seven course meal for you and twenty of your closest friends at a moment's notice, I've got three words for you.

GET REAL, HONEY.

Mr. Right does not exist, it's a myth, sort of like the Tooth Fairy. But at least the Tooth Fairy leaves money under your pillow, Mr. Wrong will probably only leave the wrapper from a last night's Trojan. The truth is, most men can tell after even just a few minutes together that a man isn't their type. After an hour or so, you're liable to realize that he's nobody else's type either. Here are twenty things you can do to pass the time when a date is going terribly wrong:

1. Unravel a loose thread from your napkin, make a lasso and try to rope a breadstick from the next table or better yet, try to lasso the cute busboy.
2. While he's jabbering away about Gay rights, quietly imagine what would happen if Pizza Hut actually baked Rush Limbaugh into the crust of one of their deep dish pizzas, then topped it with turkey, baloney and bullshit and delivered it to Newt Gingrich. Would he actually eat it or would he go out to eat at Cracker Barrel instead?
3. Tell him, in your mind, you separate sex from love. And as far as you're concerned, right now they're in completely different times zones and you'll be catching the next available flight to catch up.
4. Borrow his cellular phone, make a call to a 1-900 line, or try to book him as a guest on the Jenny Jones Show.
5. Silently add up the number of times he manages to say "I" or "me" in the same sentence and multiply by 1,000. If this amount is greater than a number that would represent the size of Dennis Rodman's ego, run screaming into the night.
6. Ask the people at the next table to guess the age at which your date will start losing his hair.
7. Try not to laugh out loud when he tells you he thinks Keanu

Reeves is actually a very good actor and should have been nominated for an Oscar for his role in *Speed*.

8. While out for dinner, crawl under the table and tie his shoelaces together with a wad of angel hair pasta as thick as an undersea telephone cable.
9. Answer all his questions with one syllable words or grunts while picking the pasta that stuck to the back or your teeth with a fork.
10. Remove condoms from your pocket and blow them up to make obscene balloon animals and pass them out to strangers on the street.
11. Try to figure out who would win in a fight, Martha Stewart or Bob Villa.
12. Fantasize about Antonio Sabato, when he asks what you're thinking about, tell him your fantasizing about that "Gimp" scene in *Pulp Fiction*.
13. Offer to introduce him to your ex-lover because they really deserve one another.
14. Offer to spray paint his butt black, since black makes everything look smaller.
15. If he asks you to spend the night at his place, politely say that you're not about to lay your head on the same drool stained pillow used by his ex-lovers and bed partners.
16. Use the following phrase in every sentence, "I feel trapped and need to see other people".
17. Tell him you want to have nail polish declared an element and added to the Periodic table in the square right next to sequins.
18. Get real mad at him for something he said or didn't say... then punish him by not speaking to him the rest of the night.
19. Try to convince him you're a hairdresser, prove it by marking your territory with Final Net.
20. If he claimed in his personal ad that he is hung, announce a surprise inspection. Then threaten to publish the results in the next issue of *Q•Voice*.

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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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