



# Q•Voice

July 1998 • Issue 3.9 • \$2.95 outside of Wisconsin

**Dishing It Out with Julia LaLoggi  
Milwaukee: Cools Spots in a Hot City  
PLUS: Lensman David LaChapelle**



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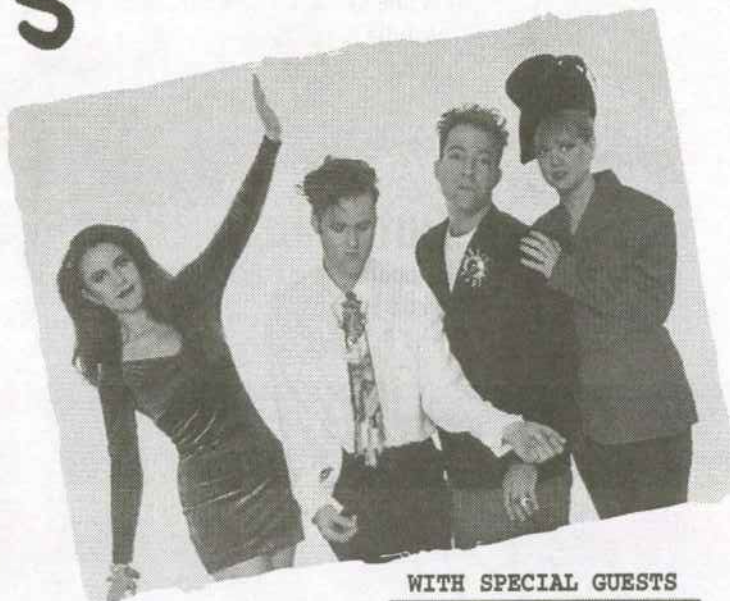
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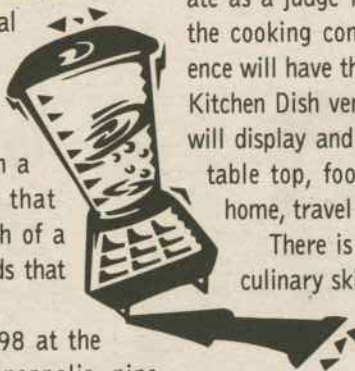
Photo: Jorge L. Cabal, Model: Chris O'Brien

**NEXT Q•VOICE: Deadline: August 20 • August 27, 1998**

### Gentlemen... Start Your Blenders!

Kitchen Dish, The Great Gay and Lesbian CookOff invites you to enter your favorite original recipes and be judged America's best gay or lesbian cook. This is the first year for what will be an annual event of national scope. Three categories of food will be judged: Preludes — soups, salads, appetizers that begin a meal; Entrees — foods that serve as the principal dish of a meal; and Finales — foods that memorably close a meal.

On September 12, 1998 at the Mall of America in Minneapolis, nine preliminary winners (three from each category) will gather to test their skills and demonstrate their expertise in front of a panel of celebrity judges and an audience of cheering gay and lesbian cooking enthusiasts. The winner of each category will receive a \$250 Williams Sanoma gift certificate. The overall win-



ner chosen from the three category winners receives a grand prize of a cruise for two on RSVP Cruises.

Deborah Stanton, featured chef on the Food Network and executive chef of the Galaxy restaurant in New York, will demonstrate her cooking skills and provide learning experiences for amateur chefs throughout the weekend and officiate as a judge for the final CookOff. As the cooking contest proceeds, the audience will have the opportunity to visit the Kitchen Dish vendor area. Retail vendors will display and demonstrate products in table top, food, cooking, kitchen and home, travel and personal finance.

There is no cost to show off your culinary skills. Submit your recipe by August 15, 1998 to: The Great Gay and Lesbian CookOff, 528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 309, Minneapolis, MN 55403 or e-mail to [gaycookoff@aol.com](mailto:gaycookoff@aol.com). For more information and complete rules visit the website at <http://members.aol.com/gaycookoff/> or call the Great Gay and Lesbian CookOff at (612) 399-0022.

### Largest Gay Resort to Open in Florida

A hotel billed as the nation's largest queer resort is set to open next week in St. Petersburg at the site of a former religious retreat. "There isn't anything like it," Suncoast Resort Hotel co-owner Lester Wolff said.

Suncoast Resort will have 120 rooms and suites, a health club, a pool, a discotheque, nine tennis courts, two volleyball courts, two restaurants, two bars and several shops. Rates range from \$29 to \$79 a night. He said the resort would have an upscale atmosphere.

"Nothing lewd is going to be happening here," he said. Wolff said the hotel would welcome everyone and expected to have some non-gay guests, but added, "It is geared primarily to homosexuals."

Wolff and partner Tom Kiple bought the former Hosanna Hotel on May 22. The hotel is scheduled to open July 1 after a \$1 million renovation and Wolff said the July 4th weekend is almost completely booked.

### 3rd Annual Gay Night at Camp Snoopy

On Saturday, September 12, from 5 p.m. until 2 a.m. thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered youth, adults and friends and families from the Upper Midwest will converge on the Mall of America and Knotts Camp Snoopy in Bloomington, Minnesota (Minneapolis/St. Paul) for a night of celebration — an evening of rides, entertainment and fun reserved exclusively for them.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Proceeds will benefit District 202, a nationally recognized community center in Minneapolis by and for LGBT youth and adults. For more information, please call (612) 349-9829 or (612) 871-5559, ext. 13.

### In Versace's Footsteps

The companion of slain designer Gianni Versace says he wants to design his own fashion label but won't try to imitate Versace's style.

Antonio D'Amico, who was staying with Versace in the Miami Beach, Fla., villa when the designer was shot to death in July, was quoted as saying that he and a friend had started a fashion house whose label would carry D'Amico's name.

According to Versace's will, D'Amico is allowed to stay in the designer's luxurious residences, including the Miami Beach mansion. But D'Amico, while acknowledging his companion's generosity, said: "I'll never set foot again (in those homes) because it would only be fruitless suffering."

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## Out Front

### Church Social

by Kevin Isom

I'll never forget the time my Sunday School teacher made jello molds for a church social. She wanted her jello molds to stand out from the crowd, so she borrowed martini glasses from a neighbor, who was obviously not a fellow Southern Baptist, so that she could achieve an unusual shape.

She filled those martini glasses with pink, cherry-flavored jello, and she added a bright red maraschino cherry to each one. The cherries sank straight to the pointy bottom of each glass. When the jello congealed and she up-ended the glasses onto her tray, you would have sworn she'd made a tray full of perky little red-tipped breasts.

At the church social that Saturday afternoon, the women of the church took one look and were completely scandalized. But the Deacons all came back for seconds. My Sunday School teacher was so mortified that I don't think she ever made a jello mold again.

Fast forward to the 1990s. I'm gay (the tray full of breasts did absolutely nothing for me), and the Southern Baptists are in the middle of a wildly unsuccessful boycott of Disney for promoting "the gay lifestyle." And after reaching rock bottom, they've started to dig.

In case you missed it, the Southern Baptist Convention recently convened in Salt Lake City, where they conferred and considered and prayed and, one likes to think, partied a bit, before making an announcement about their "definition" of marriage. Essentially, it's one man, one woman. In other words, missionary style only. Gay and lesbians, being the bedrock of moral decay, need not apply.

Since absurdity loves company, the next thing you know, Pat Robertson (of TV's "700 Club" fame, a one-time failed presidential candidate, and a man who's just a few putters short of a full golf bag) decided to shoot off his mouth about Gay Day at Disney.

Orlando might better watch out, he warned ominously. It's hurricane season, after all, and God might just send a really big one Orlando's way. Maybe even a meteor.

I have to say that it's a little unclear to me why God would have chosen to ignore, say, Nazi Germany, so that He could squash Mickey Mouse for allegedly playing with the homosexuals for one weekend in the year. I've a sneaking

feeling that as long as Robertson is on the air, some village somewhere is being deprived of an idiot.

Not that I mean to bash Baptists or Christians in general, even if the Southern Baptist Convention as a group has a habit of making itself an easy target for laughs--and groans. Some of the finest people I've know have been Baptists. Like my Sunday School teacher with the tray of jello breasts. Or like former President Jimmy Carter, for whom I worked briefly at the Carter Center in Atlanta. Here is a man who is mediating armed conflicts, building houses for poor people, and fighting to eradicate diseases in third-world countries. Apparently, he has better things to do with his time than does the Southern Baptist Convention.

Whenever I hear about Disney boycotts, "definitions" of marriage, and threats of impending meteors, I shake my head and wonder, "If these people could only accessorize, wouldn't they be in a much better mood?" And then I wonder, "Where do supposed Christians get off attacking gays and lesbians this way?"

Because you know what Jesus had to say about homosexuality? Nothing. Not a single, solitary word.

Sure, other folks said some things in the New Testament that weren't particularly flattering, to say the least, depending on which translation you happen to go by. But if I were going to condemn someone to eternal damnation, I'd sure want to know that the instructions came straight from the boss, not from some underling. ("Do you want fries with that one way ticket to Hell?")

But the Southern Baptist Convention and Pat Robertson apparently think they have some direct link to God. Or at least they have some mighty big egos to think that they speak for Him. Though, of course, the recently reported lack of meteors or hurricanes raining down on Orlando for Gay Day at Disney does tend to undercut Robertson's credibility just a wee bit.

It's a shame they spend so much time wringing their hands and gnashing their teeth about all of us gay folks. But I suppose if it wasn't for us, they'd still be talking about that Sunday School teacher in Memphis, Tennessee, who served red-tipped jello breasts to the Deacons at a Baptist church social.

# Q-Voice

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## Quips and Quotes

### Heterosexual Problem?

"We're working with the Cudahy Police Department to stamp out the homosexual problem in the park."

—Undercover Milwaukee Police as quoted by suspects in public sex busts in Cudahy's Warnimont Park.

### AAAAAHHHHchoooooo!

"Topless lesbians can spend the afternoon lounging in front of the White House and no police can be found. But let someone sneeze near an abortion clinic and it looks like the policeman's ball."

—Traditional Values Coalition Executive Director Andrea Sheldon in a June 5 press release about D.C.'s gay-pride celebration.

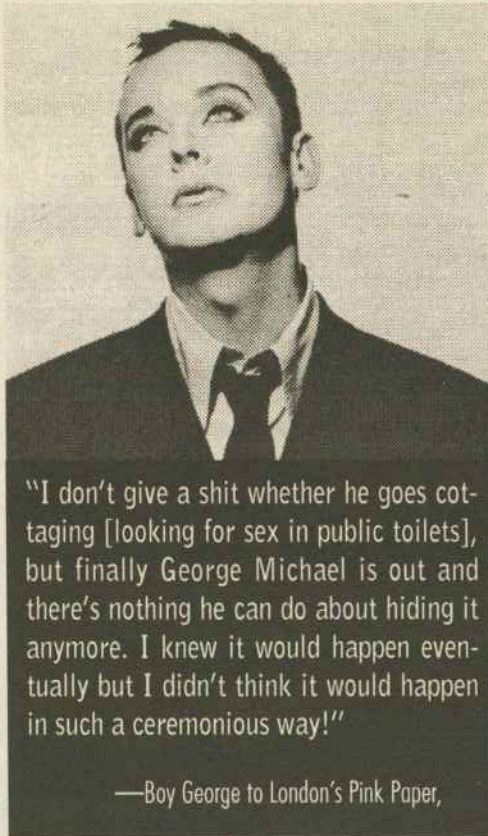
### Bible Study Gone Wrong

"The Apostle Paul made it abundantly clear in the Book of Romans that the acceptance of homosexuality is the last step in the decline of Gentile civilization. I would warn Orlando that you're right in the way of some serious hurricanes and I don't think I'd be waving those flags in God's face if I were you. This is not a message of hate; this is a message of redemption. But a condition like this will bring about the destruction of your nation. It'll bring about terrorist bombs; it'll bring earthquakes, tornadoes and possibly a meteor."

—Former Presidential candidate Pat Robertson in reference to Gay Day at Disney World and the gay flags now hanging on Orlando city light poles, on his 700 Club TV show, June 8.

### Would You Like to See Our Wine List?

"The plaintiff was not fired because of sexual identity; he was terminated because he couldn't perform a function of the job: being gay. ... We just love to live in a politically correct world; it's so evolved, isn't it? But where along the way did we pass the law against common sense? This is a French Bistro. When people go there it's not just to eat, it's to dine in the ambience of culture — they wanna feel elite, sophisticated — a good gay waiter can make the patrons feel that way. They have that snob-



"I don't give a shit whether he goes cot-tagging [looking for sex in public toilets], but finally George Michael is out and there's nothing he can do about hiding it anymore. I knew it would happen eventually but I didn't think it would happen in such a ceremonious way!"

—Boy George to London's Pink Paper,

bish little entitlement thing going, you know? People like that. The waiter kind [of gays] are [elitist snobs]. First, they're smarter. They grow up reading more books, probably looking to find an answer as to why they're homosexual, plus they're terrible at sports which gives them more time to study — the point is, they're smart, they wanna work in the arts, they end up waiters — way over-qualified, bitter, snobby — and people have come to expect this when ordering a fruity wine."

—The character Richard Fish on a recent episode of TV's *Ally McBeal* series.

### Sticky Mess

"They want me to sing Get Happy. I am living a faggot's wet dream ... and I'm having the time of my life doing it!"

—Comedian/actress/singer Lea DeLaria on being asked to sing at a tribute to Judy Garland at Carnegie Hall along with Liza Minnelli and Lorna Luft, to Cleveland's Gay People's Chronicle.

### Holy Moses!

"Many homosexuals are hugely talented artists and executives...also dear friends. I don't despise their lifestyle, though I don't share it. As long as gay and lesbian Americans are as productive, law-abiding and private as the rest of us, I think America owes them absolute tolerance. It's the right thing to do. But on the other hand, I find my blood pressure rising when Clinton's cultural shock troops participate in homosexual-rights fund-raisers but boycott gun-rights fund-raisers... and then claim it's time to place homosexual men in tents with Boy Scouts, and suggest that sperm donor babies born into lesbian relationships are somehow better served and more loved."

—Actor Charlton Heston in a recent speech to the Free Congress Foundation's 20th Anniversary Gala. The full speech is online at <http://www.vpc.org/nrainfo/speech.html>

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Compiled by Rex Wockner and our crack news sources around the world. Seen a good quip or quote? Send it to us at Quips and Quotes, Q•Voice World Headquarters, P.O. Box 92385, Milwaukee, WI 53202, or e-mail to [qvoice@aol.com](mailto:qvoice@aol.com)

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# The Casual Observer

by Ed Grover

## Eine Kleine Nachtmusik



One night during the last days of June I had another new experience that just I can't wait to share with you. As I wasn't sure what to expect, let me say that this was an experience I will definitely keep tucked in my memory book.

Late on a muggy Saturday afternoon, when the humidity equaled the eighty degree temperature, I was collected by some friends and driven to the country. The person who organized this outing explained that we were going to a drum and bugle corps contest that was hosted by The Pioneer Drum and Bugle Corps of Milwaukee, and the Waukesha South High School Bands at their south campus.

These events are a weakness of his as he used to be in a drum corps called The Northernaires — I guess it gets in your blood. He was also in the US Marine Drum Corps and marched in the Festival of Roses Parade in 1964, so he knows whereof he speaks when he said this would be something to behold. It was a long evening, but all things taken into account, he was right!

We ate "Chinese" at some local mini-mall dump before driving into Waukesha for the competition. The food was OK and the waiter didn't seem the least bit phased by the eight of us all demanding service at once. The best part of the meal was the name of someone's order.

It was called a "Happy Family." I asked how "happy" it was and was told that the "family" was *dysfunctional*. We all liked the hot towels at the end and even had time to stop at a custard stand on the way to the stadium.

We each grabbed one of the mimeographed programs and made our way to the bleachers. Someone had marked off the seating areas (they were very small at \$15 a pop) with white tape. Everyone was packed like sardines into a vertical section along the 50-yard line. We all moaned and groaned and finally the eight of us moved slightly left of our reserved seating to a vacant area that was 10 degrees cooler.

I'm sure it takes *cajones* for these youngsters to get out and compete like this, but the first two groups succeeded (only) in their enthusiasm for the event; it was not a praiseworthy beginning. The Cadets of First Baptist, a young black group from

Brooklyn, NY attempted some jazz numbers, one of which almost sounded like "It's a Wonderful World." Some of the members were holding inflated plastic globes representing earth

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**As more and more good-looking young men appeared with the dancers, our gaydar went to full alert, if ya know what I mean.**

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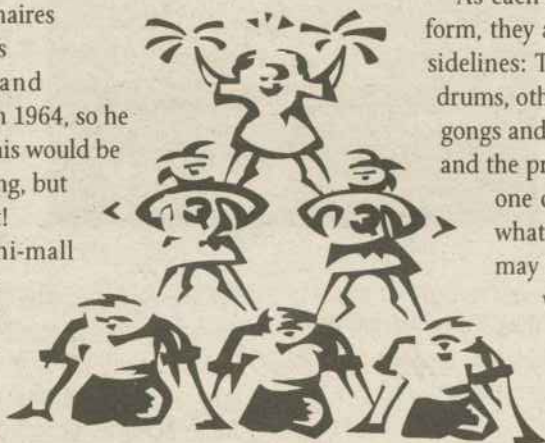
over their heads. An all female group from Canada was called the Bandettes. They played a selection of Canadian music (tone poems?) that were really just too painful to listen to and only a little less so to watch. They didn't drop anything, and came in ninth out of the nine competing groups.

As each D&B Corps came on the field to perform, they arranged all their equipment along the sidelines: Three or four xylophones, sets of bass drums, other percussion instruments like bongos, gongs and chimes, the carts to move all this stuff and the props (guns, swords, lots of flags, and in one case Roman shields) that were used by what I called the "dancers". Officially, they may have had a different name, but that's what they did — dance — when they weren't tossing things in the air and cavorting with those flags.

As the evening moved forward the groups got better and the costumes and props improved. When each performance was over, they all trouped off pushing their gear, did a quick turn-around, and came back past the judge's stand with thier heads held high and their snare drums rat-a-tat-tatting away.

The Governaires, a young group from Minnesota, had a lot of fun doing their routines, but came in seventh. The Blue Grass Brass, from Kentucky, who came in sixth, played "Hello I Love You" and "Crystal Ship" as a tribute to the Doors. Oy! Jim Morrison must have rolled over in his grave, m'dears. As more and more good-looking young men appeared with the dancers, our gaydar went to full alert, if ya know what I mean.

Third place went to The Minnesota Brass, of St. Paul, who were covered in blue and black sequins for days. Some of the band members had those reflective wrap-around sunglasses and sequined fedoras that made them all look like a huge group of





fancied-up Blues Brothers. They were very good and you could just tell that they'd done this before.

In second place was The Phantom Regiment from Rockford, Illinois, who gave us symphonic pageantry to "Roman Carnival" and "The Pines and Fountains of Rome". This time the dancers were all female and were done up in sheer white togas, gold cording and those shields. It looked spectacular and the precision movements were great.

The *Numero Uno* spot was taken by The Glassmen from Toledo, Ohio, who played more symphonic renditions choreographed to Alexander Borodine's "Sheherazade." The uniforms were black and white, trimmed with gold, and had helmets topped with shiny black feathers. The dancers in this Arabian fantasy had red and gold harem outfits and used about five different sets of intricately sewn metallic gauze flags. The finale had five or six of the dancers towing brightly colored gauze kites diagonally across the field to lots of cheering.

There were three groups from Wisconsin, and they all received standing ovations. The

Blue Stars from La Crosse (fifth), The Kilties from Racine, who were almost senior citizens (fourth), and lastly, The Pioneer D&B Corps, who hosted this event and were not qualified to compete. They did a routine called "Irish in Your Face," which was very Irish, and very in-your-face. The crowd ate up.

Sometime after 11 p.m., all the contestants paraded back on the field and lined up in order of appearance. The winners were

announced and the strangest prizes were handed out. Each corps received a very long length of orange power extension cord--for what I can't guess. Finally, a medley of "America" and "Oh, Canada," was played, which was moving, especially with over 500 band members all playing at once ... it was really, really loud, too! That was it and we made our separate ways home.

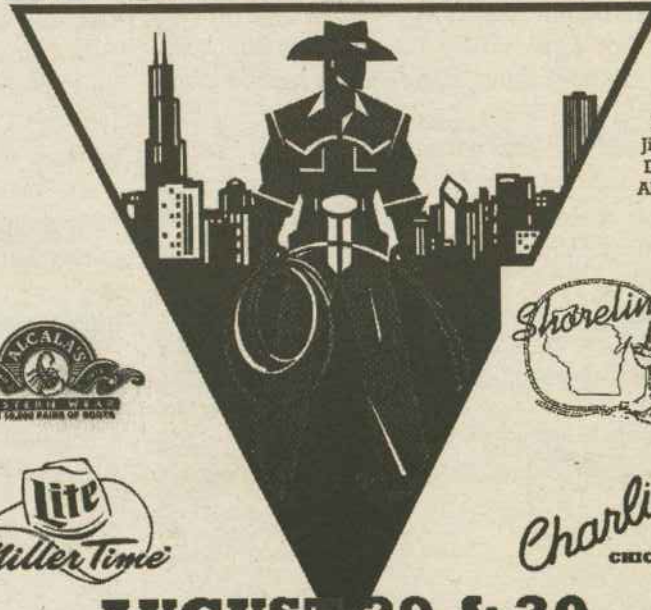
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### MORE BRITISH MPs COME OUT

Ribble South Labour MP David Borrow, 45, came out in the June 8 issue of the Lancashire Evening Post, saying, "Everyone is entitled to a personal life and I do not see why knowing that I am gay should not be something they should know about."

"I think it is appropriate at this point to be honest with the people of South Ribble."

Ribble South is in Northwest England near Blackpool.

Then, on June 10, Blackpool South Labour MP Gordon Marsden, told his local newspaper: "I'm gay and I'm happy for my constituents to know about it."

"Many people in Blackpool already know -- I believe my constituents have the right too. I have made no attempt to hide it or mislead people. This is merely the first time I have gone on record and spoken publicly about it."

"I'm a politician first and a gay man second," Marsden said. "I am not a single-issue MP. Being gay is part and parcel of what I am, who I am."

Britain's other openly gay MPs are Chris Smith, Stephen Twigg, Ben Bradshaw and Angela Eagle. Smith also serves as Secretary of State for Culture, the Media and Sport, a Cabinet-level position. Eagle is also

Junior Secretary for the Environment.

"People are just refusing to live their lives in the closet any more and thousands are coming out in all areas and claiming equality," said Angela Mason, director of the gay lobby group Stonewall. "Parliament is simply reflecting those changes."

### OPEN SEASON ON TRANSVESTITES IN EL SALVADOR

Seven gay transvestite prostitutes have been shot to death in and around San Salvador, El Salvador, since April 16.

And William Hernandez of the gay organization Between Friends says the police couldn't care less.

"We demand that the responsible authorities carry out a serious investigation into these crimes and find and punish those responsible," Hernandez said. "So far this has not happened, as if these were not human lives that were lost."

The gay group Name of the Rose estimates that about 85 transvestite prostitutes work in the city.

Gay leaders ask activists to fax protest letters to El Salvador President Armando Calderon Sol at 011-503-271-0950, federal Human Rights Advocate Eduardo Antonio Urquilla at 011-503-271-2886, National Civil Police Director General Ingeniero Rodrigo Avila Aviles at 011-503-221-4033, and Public Safety Minister Hugo Cesar Barrera at 011-503-271-2655.

### MANCHESTER DUMPED AS EUROGAMES HOST

The European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) has yanked EuroGames 99 from the city of Manchester, England.

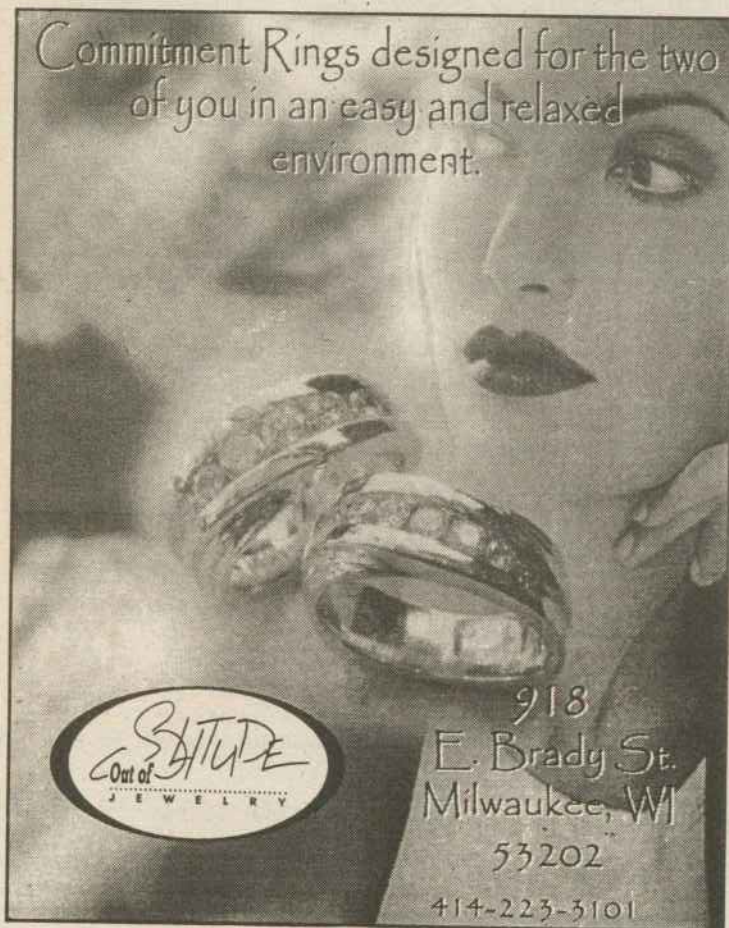
"The board has not been convinced that there is effective support from the Manchester Organising Committee and the Manchester City Council," the group said in a statement. "Progress reports have not been supported by written documentation. The depth and detail of planning which the EGLSF would expect at this stage has not been demonstrated."

EGLSF is exploring "the feasibility of holding EuroGames 99 in another location and will inform the membership as soon as possible," the group said.

### MEXICANS FORM ANTI-HATE-CRIMES GROUP

Several Mexican gay groups have launched the Citizens' Commission Against Homophobic Hate Crimes to battle indifference to anti-gay killings.

Research conducted by the group revealed 38 anti-gay killings



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nationwide in 1995, 42 in 1996, 37 in 1997 and eight so far this year. The statistics were based on news reports in one Mexico City newspaper "where the sexual orientation [of the victim] is clearly indicated by the journalist, neighbors or police," the group said.

The commission has set up a crisis-intervention hotline at 011- 52-5-574-1373.

## POPE TRASHES GAY FAMILIES

Pope John Paul II lashed out at gay families again during a June 6 Vatican meeting with U.S. bishops.

"At a time when the very definitions of marriage and family life are endangered by attempts to enshrine in legislation alternative and distorted notions of these basic human communities, your ministry must include the clear proclamation of the truth of God's original design," he said.

## CHRISTIANS TO EVANGELIZE DURING GAY GAMES

Hundreds of Christian youth are expected in Amsterdam during the Gay Games for an evangelization campaign.

A spokesman for the Youth With A Mission group told reporters the timing is just a coincidence.

But televangelist Bert Dorenbosch said: "It is a perfect opportunity for us. I will participate in prayer groups that have the Gay

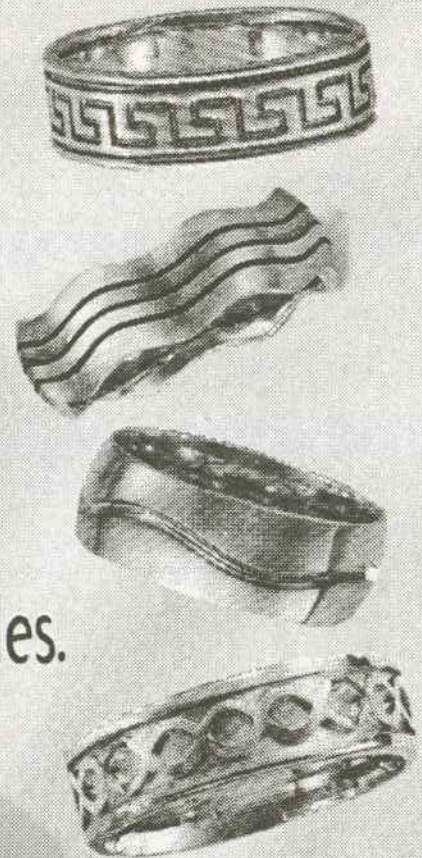
Games on their agenda. I might also help spreading leaflets. Homosexuals do not live according to the Bible. Romans I and II are very clear about this. Relationships between men and men and women and women do not belong to the fruits of light. The Gay Games

are contributing to darkness in Amsterdam."

Amsterdam's Council of Churches is taking a different approach -- organizing an ecumenical service for Gay Games visitors in the world-famous Old Church.

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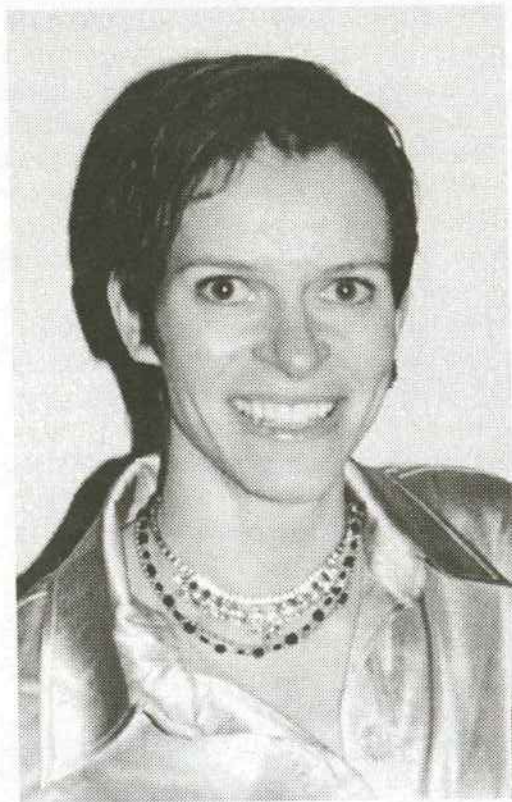


**Friday, July 31, 1998**  
**All Hell Breaks Loose.**

**X**

# DISHing it OUT

Soap opera writers couldn't come up with a better script. Last year, when Julia LaLoggi and company opened DISH, Milwaukee's newest lesbian nite club, it was almost overshadowed by the now infamous fire at Fannies. Recently, LaLoggi's confrontation with an abusive patron has been designated by state prosecutors as a hate crime. LaLoggi's professionalism, courage and integrity has allowed DISH to rise above other challenges as well — and in the process— she has created a popular and unique nite club which can also serve as a safe haven area lesbians. Recently, Q•Voice tried to find out what make LaLoggi tick...



**WA: Did you open Dish with some sort of mission in mind?**

JL: Amy O'Neill and I were the creative force behind it and we had a couple of things we wanted to accomplish. One was a way to express our creative energy. We thought we could do some good things, especially for the gay community.

What was really important for us with this bar was to improve things — to give the gay community something that hadn't existed here in Milwaukee — some new dynamics. We also thought it would be an overall good thing for the Milwaukee scene in general — gay and straight — that we did a more contemporary kind of nightclub.

**WA: Is what you envisioned having the actual effect on the community you thought it would be?**

JL: Most definitely. We have gotten so much great feedback on what we're doing from everybody — from gay men, from lesbians, from the straight community — everybody

seems to really like what we're doing. We've had a couple of negative complaints. The biggest complaint that we've had is about not playing older disco music. We may be doing things to kind of incorporate that a little bit, but the target that we're trying to meet is the nightclub thing on Friday and Saturday nights. We've had a lot of people saying a lot of good things about it all over. Everywhere I go somebody is saying something supportive about it.

**WA: How does that make you feel?**

JL: Really good! Usually [people] will ask me if I work there — they don't know that I'm the owner — and I always say, "Yes. Yeah, I'm workin' there right now." Then they're a little more open [about what they say] and I get good responses when I ask what they think. [People] seem more inclined to tell me [what they think] when they think I'm the "floors and doors" girl.

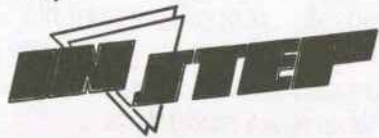
**WA: You were mentioned quite frequently in a recent Milwaukee**

Interview by William Attewell

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**"It's important for us that it's a safe space — especially or lesbians, for them to feel comfortable and express what they want to express."**

**Magazine article about Fannies owner Sharon Dixon...**

JL: Right.

**WA: I'm wondering how you felt about the tone of the article? What kind of feedback did you get?**

JL: I think the whole thing is a very dramatic story. That's what peaked the interest of the writer of the story. I'm not sure about the dynamics of how it came about. I think he mentioned to me once that his editor approached him about [writing] it.

I don't know how the editor knew about the whole thing, but it is a relatively dramatic story and it is newsworthy. The fact that it happened to the gay community is really secondary to the dynamics of what happened behind [the story]. Even knowing all the details that I knew, I didn't get a clear sense of where the article was going or what its intent was — I wasn't exactly sure.

**WA: Could you fill people in on what was going on. It was talking about Fannie's and Sharon's financial problems. But then you also had some problems with Sharon, didn't you — or not?**

JL: It's not so much that I had problems with Sharon, but we had an arson incident in our bar, and I had my own personal opinions about what happened.

**WA: It was interesting because — we hear stuff here and it goes ... people were surprised at how quickly you got your license, and there didn't seem to be any — like notification of other bars. Some other bar owners were upset by that because... You know what I'm saying? Was there something different about the way that you got your license?**

JL: Not at all. I don't think people realize that — we opened in October — we had our license in July. I don't think that they realize ... I had been working on the project for a year before we went public, so there was a lot behind what I did, and maybe that's why it

seemed that it came together so fast. I had done all the prep-work and the groundwork. I made the announcement and we were open a month later.

I see how the business world works sometimes and I can see that people don't always compete in a fair capitalistic sort of way — which I believe is the way to do things. I knew that, and so I didn't go public until I had everything all squared away.

**WA: There are only three lesbian bars open in town, right? Maybe four if you count Barbie's.**

JL: Yeah, I guess there are just a few [lesbian bars].

**WA: How do you feel the reaction has been from the lesbian community towards Dish? It's sort of a different attitude that I think Milwaukee people maybe aren't used to.**

JL: Right! And that's exactly what we were going for. That's what was important to us. The overwhelming response has always been really positive. I don't know if people hate it and they're not telling me or the bartenders or whoever. People seem to really like it and feel comfortable there. Our regulars are from all different ranges of style and age and things like that. The people who come out once a month are ... It runs a range of things, and that seems to be working pretty well — whoever can find whatever they need there. Oh God, that sounds like it's a drug bar (laughter).

It's important for us that it's a safe space — especially or lesbians, for them to feel comfortable and express what they want to express, whether that's having 50 piercings or maybe they're a golf pro. We want lesbians to feel real comfortable there.

**WA: The golfers are comin' to town.**

JL: Yeah, this weekend.

**WA: What's going on with that? Anything exciting?**

JL: We have a bus that's leaving from Dish in the morning. We're not sponsoring it but we're providing the location that they need.

We're going to serve doughnuts and coffee and stuff before — and Bloody Marys if the want 'em at nine in the morning — and then they're coming back. I don't know ... we're really the only lesbian bar within, probably 300 miles of Kohler. How far away is that?

**WA: What is you take on the community? How do you think the gay and lesbian community is growing or maturing, or do you still see some problems in the community?**

JL: I've been all over the country in the past year — actually the past couple of years. I did a lot of research before I opened [Dish]. I figured if I was committing the next ten years of my life to something, I should know all about it. I also wanted to be successful and not close within a year, so I did quite a bit of research all over the country. I found that as a whole, I think the City of Milwaukee is a great place and it is relatively gay tolerant.

There were places that I went that had great gay scenes, but as soon as you stepped off the wrong block, people were very intolerant of gay people. I don't that's really the case here in Milwaukee. I like the City — the population as a whole. I think the gay community in Milwaukee is kind of in transition right now. The world is really — and this sounds very cliché — becoming a smaller place.

Everybody is exposed to the same stuff in a shorter period of time now. I think Milwaukee is starting to be exposed to a few more progressive ideas in general. I think that is also reflected in the gay community.

**WA: Do you see sort of a leadership gap in the gay community here? There are many competent people doing a lot of hard work, but there are no people who are real "lighting rod" types?**

JL: I agree. I feel that people who are right around my age — mid 20s, mid 30s — are really apathetic about being politically involved. I think that's a problem. I think that maybe in ten or fifteen years when the old-guard is done with doing what they're doing, there may be some problems for the gay politics in Milwaukee.

There's nobody around my age group [who is] being very active — really trying to make a lot of changes. There's a little bit of activism, but I don't think there's any very strong

activism. I think people take for granted that we're the first gay-rights state. They just take for granted what we have sometimes as far as ... There are straight people out there who think gay people are the reincarnation of the devil, and they're always going to be there fighting us so we need to be strong and united to combat that.

One of the most amazing things that ever happened to me in my gay life is that I went on

the March on Washington in '92. There were so many people there and all the advertisement was directed towards gay people and everything was gay oriented. I felt, for two days, what it would be like to be the majority. All the billboards were gay stuff — everything — even the subway tickets had welcome whoever.

For the only time in my life I felt what it was like to be in the majority — for two days I was the majority and straight people were the

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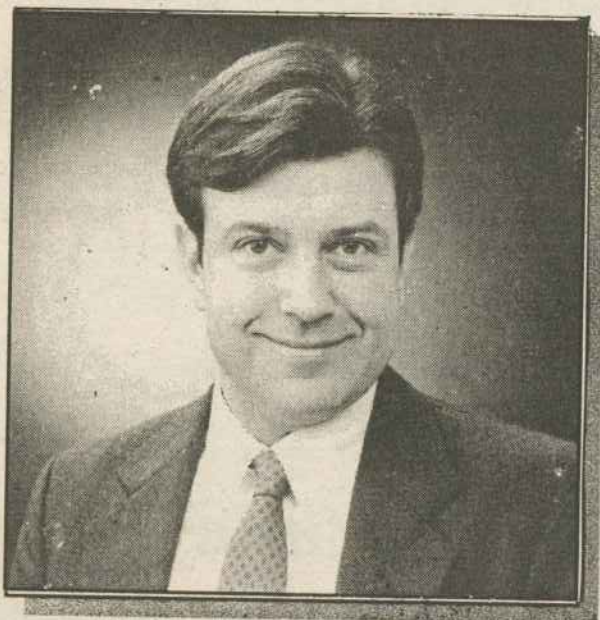
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minority. It felt really good. It felt good to be completely accepted. I don't think that happens quite near enough and it's definitely not going to happen if we don't stay active.

**WA: What do you see as being active?**

JL: Well, first and foremost, staying aware of what's going on in current events. Whether it's gay stuff or not, people just don't pick up a newspaper as much as they need to. They don't have any idea of what sorts of things are happening out there. I think it's important to stay in touch with what's happening. Another thing is that if you see something that's wrong, you need to do something about it.

I have like, the greatest parents in the world. I was taught integrity and action through their example. They always taught me that if you see something that's bad, you need to do something about it. For example, this whole Fendry thing with assault and battery. I could just easily have said, "Yeah, I'm done with it, just arrest him." I think this is going to end up being a pretty big deal because his lawyer, right now, is starting to look into the constitutionality of it. It could end up being something that becomes a national case.

**WA: Why don't you tell us about that?**

JL: Brian Fendry came into Dish one night back in March.

**WA: Was it that long ago?**

JL: That's because they just issued the Hate Crimes charges. That's why it's becoming newsworthy. Your regular sort of Battery and Disorderly Conduct isn't newsworthy, but now with the hate crimes it's becoming a hot topic. He came in and he was ... Well, I had known of him. I knew of him from a straight bar where I worked in and I recognized him. He was very, very drunk; he kind of swayed all the way to the bar. I told him I wasn't going to serve him and he started saying, "That's 'cause I'm not a fucking dyke."

I said, "You need to leave." I've dealt with drunk, belligerent people my whole life. I know handle them, but I've never been hit before — ever! He did hit me and I ended up getting a bloody nose. We were never really in any danger because there were about 30 people in the bar, he was so drunk, he was smaller than [I was].

I could have done anything to him because he probably couldn't have fought back. He got in one lucky punch and right away everybody was there to take care of it. We have an internal security system, so I wasn't really too worried. I was in much more danger working on Brady Street a couple of years ago with the crack addicts that would always be around.



**"If anything it makes me feel like fighting more — fighting prejudice and bigotry on the part of ignorant people."**

It wasn't really a very dangerous situation, but the motivation behind this person, of why he hit me is a hate crime. I just [went to] court yesterday on it and it was the Preliminary Hearing. They did find enough evidence — evidence that is really irrefutable. There are so many witnesses who heard what he said and saw what he did. You can't fake a bloody nose. When the cops got there he was drunk and belligerent.

All that is pretty well documented. I guess his lawyer's way of dealing with this now, because the evidence is relatively concrete, is that he's going to try to fight the constitutionality of the Hate Crimes [Law], which could end up being a really big deal. [Being charged with a] Hate Crime is a felony. He had the opportunity to plea bargain, and he said no. They were going to let him plead guilty to battery and disorderly and he said no to that so they added the hate crimes.

**WA: How do you feel about the whole thing? As you look at it now are you angry he did this or ... How are you dealing with it emotionally? He came in there and violated your ...**

JL: Right. Boy, how do I answer that? I guess it does make me a little bit angry, but I'm not going to be ... I know that people discriminate against gay people, and that's why there's a law about it. If anything it makes me feel like fighting more — fighting prejudice and bigotry on the part of ignorant people. That's what it makes me feel like doing most.

I don't know if it's because I'm not really dealing with the other aspects of or what, but my way of dealing with this is to say, "That's bullshit," and take it as far as I need to, and let small people know that they just can't go around screwing with people because they're gay or because they're black or because they're Jewish. It's a law. It's a law in this state and if you do it you're going to be busted! I'll fight it.

**WA: Do you feel like you have a lot of courage?**

JL: Quite a bit. My mom is incredibly strong woman and she taught me pretty much what I need to know about having courage and

being strong and fighting for what's right.

**WA: You seem very together. The way you opened your business very methodical and you seem to operate in a very business-like manner. I wonder if that's how you perceive yourself?**

JL: I think I know myself very well. I have a degree in conservation biology. I'm working on my Masters in Business, so maybe that's why I'm methodical, maybe that's why I'm business oriented. I don't know — I can't say. I feel like I'm together.

**WA: You do?**

JL: Yeah, I do. You know, when I was growing up ... or actually until I was a sophomore in college I was — not shy — but a very self-conscious person. I had a brother and sister who died. They both died in pretty tragic ways in separate incidences. It's really affecting who I've become in the past five years. It's completely changed me.

**WA: How?**

JL: I think I realize what's important now. I have a good understanding of what's important and what's not important. I feel very grounded. I think I learned about life through their deaths. I think where before I may have not really realized how trivial some things are, I can kind of see their place now and don't let them get to me as much. I really feel a compulsion to live. They died at relatively young ages — very suddenly — and I feel like maybe they didn't get a chance to completely live. I feel it's really important to live every day — every day — and to not be destructive, but have a good time.

I don't know if I opened up my business because I like to drink and dance or if I drink and dance because I opened it up. Every day I'm very active. I run, I bike, I'm a soccer addict. At night I play. But I work hard in between there and I just really — now since those things have happened with their deaths — I just don't waste time anymore. I plan for things but I don't waste any time and I live every day.

**WA: I know it's difficult because you own a business, but you've had a lot**



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of — I don't want to say negative — challenging experiences that you've had since you've opened the Dish.

JL: That's been very hard for us. When I say us, I mean our core staff, especially Amy and Chris and Amber. Amber's the DJ and Chris and Amy are the managers there. They've been there since the beginning and have been dealing with it since the beginning. It has

been pretty hard for us. It's been hard for me because I need to be a leader for my staff and I need to be sure things are OK for them.

It's been hard for all of us and it's been very, very hard for me. Opening up a business is a really difficult thing to do. Then having to deal with all the other stuff that we've had to deal with. We wanted to open up a bar and put our creative energy into that. We've had to

provide energy in dealing with other people's problems. I think that's pretty bad.

**WA Do you think that's something that is inherent in any business? Or do you think that it's more so because it's a tavern?**

JL: I think that this is a unique situation as far as [being involved] with the drama that's surrounded the whole Fannie's situation. Again, I think that's why it's newsworthy and that's why *Milwaukee Magazine* did an article on it. It is a relatively dramatic situation and I don't think it's inherent in the tavern business. I've been working in them forever. I've never seen a business owner — in their first couple of months being open — go through what we've had to go through. I think the people who are responsible for that are really pretty small people.

**WA: How do you deal with those "small people" when having difficulty with them, what is your attitude?**

JL: The staff is very tight and we talk a lot about our problems. We get together and kind of ... we spend time outside the bar together. I'm not always there. Sometimes the bartenders and Amber get together and they...

**WA: Talk about you?**

JL: (Laughter) There's a lot of support. We're really all very good friends — we're pretty tight. I would say that's probably our first way of dealing with it, we just go, "Hey, all right that sucks, but put it in perspective ...." Unfortunately we've had to do that too much but I'm hoping that with the current status of things that we're going to have to deal with that kind of thing less and deal more with the business of running the tavern.

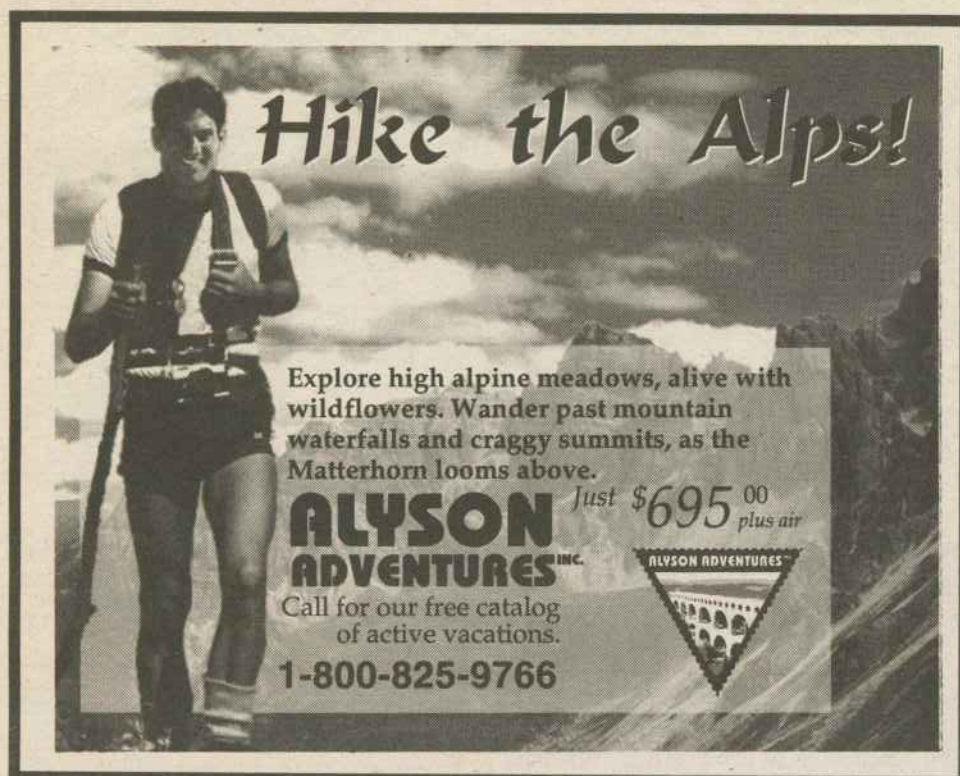
**WA: Do you feel like a sex symbol?**

JL: Wow! Gosh! I don't know. I don't try to be one. I've been who I am my whole adulthood. I feel like I express myself through my appearance and my style. I have a big personality (laughter). If people find that sexy then — awesome — maybe I'll get some dates. But some people are threatened by that, too.

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

JL: That I'm head over heels in love with my cat. We're havin' an awesome love affair (Laughter). She's the only woman for me.

**WA: What's your cat's name?**




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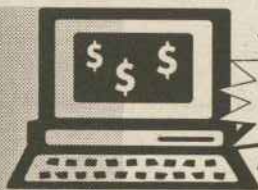
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JL: Jasmine. She's Siamese and she's like the sexiest cat alive. We go to bed together every night and wake up together every morning. She's a great pal, she's my best friend in the whole world. I'm so into my cat it's like the most stereotypical lesbian thing about me and I will 'fess up to it. Also I'm a closet Mariah Carey fan.

I'm also afraid of heights. I'm terrified.

**WA: Is there anything else that I missed that you think is really important?**

JL: I guess I'd like to comment on the staff. It's just that I do think I have the greatest staff in the world. They've been really awesome throughout all of this and throughout the good and the bad. They all are such talented people in whatever they do. Amy with her whole art thing that she's done for the bar. Amber has a great ear for picking out good dance music.

Chris is like a little general over there. She kinda keeps me in line when I start to waver a little bit and she's very talented with a saw. She can fix or do anything with any sort of carpentry need that I might have. The other people that fill in here and there — help out — we've got a great little family going over there and they've really been supportive. I think they have the best intentions for Dish and the gay community and they're really excited about what's happening there. That [excitement] gets passed on and hopefully, it gets passed on to our customers.

I can't think of anything else except I love my little babies — my little workers. I do think we've gotten a good response and I'd like to thank people who have been supporting us and helping out, because I'm a rookie, a little squirrel workin'. There have been a lot of people who have liked what we've done and they've helped me quite a bit — a lot of people. There are other businesses that have done a lot who try and say, "Hey, this is a good thing and we want to keep it here." A lot of people have helped me out because I would have made some pretty bad mistakes without them.

**WA: Anything else?**

JL: I'm done.

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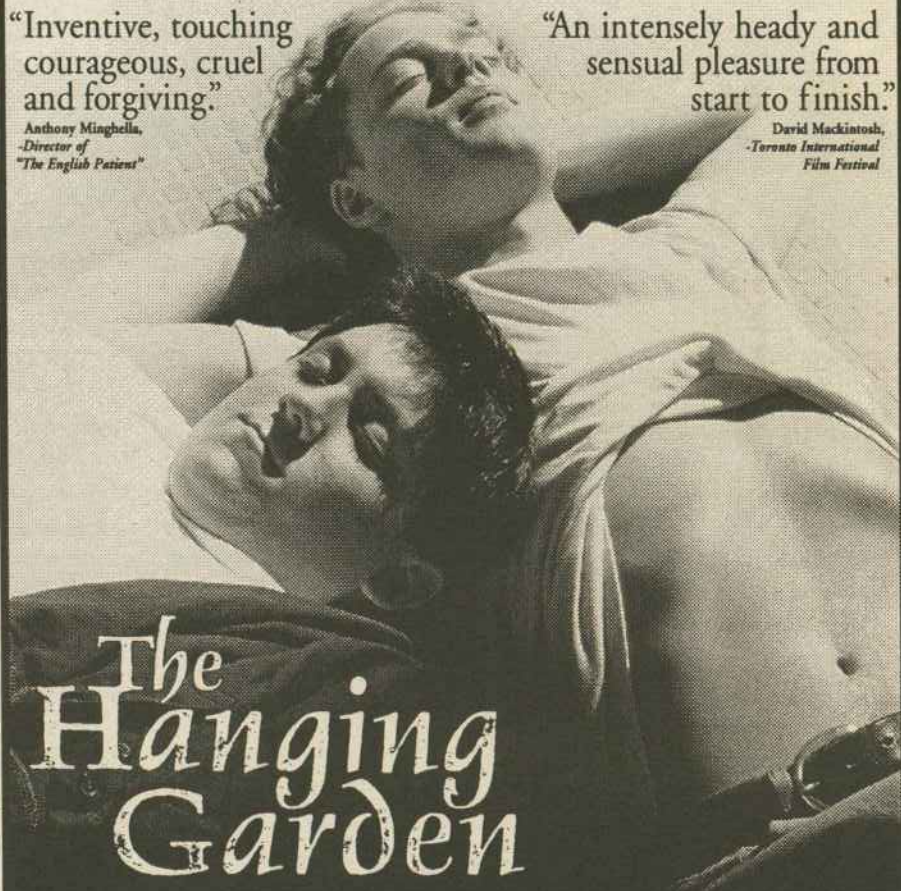
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## Cultural Chaos Kicks Off Second Season

*Cultural Chaos*, Milwaukee's newest performance series presents its second season of music, theater and opera. The series will have its official launch on Sunday, September 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, 2559 N. Downer Avenue, at a party that will include live entertainment, raffles and a poetry contest for kids.

World-class performers from as far away as England and as close as the next street offer a series that recognizes no geographical or temporal boundaries. The series begins on October 9 with Dan Hurin's chamber opera "The Shoulder," an epic celebration of fraternal devotion that prominently features a second-hand John Deere riding lawn mower. Present Music's annual Thanksgiving concert is on the series on November 22 for a contemporary celebration of an old tradition.

On December 9th the holiday program is Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning clas-

sic, "Our Town," performed by UWM's Professional Theater Training Program. The new year begins on February 13, 1999 with the Midwest debut of the noted London-based ensemble, "The Dufay Collective," playing music of medieval Spain. Young violinist Corey Cervosek performs with his pianist sister Katja Cervosek on March 9, and the season closes on April 28 with the Wisconsin premiere of Tony Kushner's adaptation of a seventeenth-century French classic, "The Illusion."

Cultural Chaos is ideal for those who want to sample a cross-section of the city's cultural fare at a reasonable price. The series has something to offer anyone who is tired of negotiating the single-ticket maze several times a year. Subscribers will be guaranteed prime seating at each performance and the price of the series remains \$99 for the six events. Subscriptions may be purchased until September 13 by calling the Artist Series at

the Pabst Theater at (414) 286-8777. Payments may be made by check, cash, Visa or MasterCard.

## "The Great Wisconsin Vaudeville Show" at The Pabst Theater

The Pabst Theater announced that dates have been set for its presentation of "The Great Vaudeville Show" with performances on Friday, July 31st and Saturday, August 1st. Show time is at 8 p.m. each evening. This is the same weekend that Milwaukee will host the Great Circus Parade.

Using staged re-enactment's of performances representative of the eras from statehood to the present, "The Great Wisconsin Vaudeville Show" is a grand celebration of Wisconsin and Milwaukee's history. It promises to entertain and enlighten audiences, and it's fun for the whole family.

A legacy to theatrical history, the old

## "Art en Fleurs" at The Milwaukee Art Museum

One of the most extensive floral arranging and horticultural exhibitions in the nation will be held from August 6 through August 8 at the Milwaukee Art Museum. *Art en Fleurs* is held throughout the museum, where talented garden enthusiasts and professional florists will create striking floral and plant arrangements which compliment Art Museum artworks.

Launched in 1983 and held every three years since, *Art en Fleurs* offers an enlightening perspective on art history and the museum's art collection. The three-day event will include arrangement judging by Garden Club of America (GCA) jurors, guided tours by art museum docents, prize raffles, and a lecture and demonstration featuring award-winning floral experts.

The competition is intense as some of the best gardeners in the country will participate. The arrangements are planned months in

advance, with participants first choosing a painting, sculpture or object which sparks their imagination. This year's displays will compliment artworks by Georgia O'Keefe, the model for the Art Museum's expansion, folk art, Haitian art, earlier art such as Francisco de Zurbaran's "St. Francis," 20th-century furniture such as a Frank Lloyd Wright desk and chair, and much more.

The morning of the competition, participants are allotted two and one-half hours to assemble their displays. Judging is established on a variety of floral and horticultural categories based on stringent specifications plus creativity, distinction and the participants' interpretation of the art. The arrangements will be labeled with the botanical and common names for all natural materials used.

Daily admission will be \$5 for the general public, \$3 for MAM members, senior citizens 65 or older and students. The hours are from noon to 9 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8. Event proceeds will benefit the Milwaukee Art Museum. For more information, please call (414) 224-3200.

vaudeville show typically consisted of live solos, duets or small ensembles performing music and dance, comedy, and sometimes audience sing-alongs. Using this nostalgic art form, the Pabst Theater's version of the vaudeville show is performed by local artists portraying past Wisconsin notables such as Harry Houdini and his amazing and mystifying magic tricks as portrayed by David Seebach and Ron Fable; Dylan Boland will be the flamboyant pianist Liberace.

Audiences will also be entertained by the first couple of American Theater, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. Flora Coker will take the part of Miss Fontanne; the Lunt actor is yet to be cast. In addition, Isabelle Kralj will be dancing as Liz Lerman and Andre Lee Ellis will be recreating a 1940's Jazz Club act.

The writer, director and Master of Ceremonies of this entertainment is John Schneider. The Musical Director is Dan

Dance, Milwaukee's own "piano man." Schneider has been the director of the house band of "Hotel Milwaukee," heard on WHAD and resident playwright, director and actor of Theater X during the past 27 years. Cindy Rosten, former Skylight company manager, will be returning to Milwaukee fresh from her duties as production manager of Disney's new "Animal Kingdom" as stage manager.

In keeping with the historical theme of the show, the Pabst Theater is very excited about using several period stage props for the vaudeville performance. The drops, some going back to the 1920s, are believed to have been painted by local artists of the time and have been in storage at Milwaukee Area Technical College since they were created.

Seating is general admission, and the cost per ticket is only \$5. Show-time is at 8 p.m. each evening. Tickets may be purchased in advance or up to one-

## Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Dating



Here's another collection of gems from the author of *Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Living*, and *Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Breakups*. "Roberts realized that dykes want to date, they want to mate—they just don't know how to go about it! So, with tongue firmly in cheek, Shelly

Roberts has written the definitive guide to lesbian dating. Whether the reader has been out and about on the lesbian scene for ten minutes or ten years, *Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Dating* will lead the way through that eternal source of hope and anticipation, yet also confusion and perplexity: the intricate maze of lesbian dating rituals."

"Shelly Roberts' wicked wit and wisdom on the subject of lesbian dating runs the gamut from the finer points of etiquette ('If you don't want to marry her, don't ask her to the movies'); to advice ('To win her, woo her dog'); to truisms ('Going out to dinner is the only way some single lesbians ever get to eat a meal'); to iniquities that make lesbian dating so peculiar, and so much fun ('Lesbians are the only ones who find it necessary to break up with a date'). (Spinsters Ink, ISBN: 1-883523-25-7, \$5.95).

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half hour before show time at the Pabst Theater Box Office, 144 East Wells St. or by PhoneCharge at (414) 286-3663

## Villa Terrace & Charles Allis Show Pastels, Art Pottery & Wrought Iron

Milwaukee--Luminous portraits of color and light by Carol Rowan are currently on exhibit in a show at The Charles Allis Art Museum titled \*Carol Rowan: Landscapes & Pastels,\* which will continue through July 26. Carol Rowan transforms scenes from life into plush pastel paintings inspired by still life as well as her flower gardens and home in Milwaukee. The exhibition features works which focus on color relationships, the presence of light, and a sense of energy.

Rowan has received numerous awards and is included in a number of permanent collections including Johnson Controls, Miller Brewing, Northwestern Mutual Life, and Quad Graphics. She received her Masters of Fine Arts from Cranbrook Academy of Art. The Charles Allis Art Museum is located at 1801 North Prospect Avenue at Royall Place and is part of the Milwaukee Arts Museum complex. Admission is \$2, free to members and children under 13. Guided tours are available. For more information, please call (414) 278-8295.

At Villa Terrace, a dual exhibition of \*American Art Pottery\* and \*Images in Wrought Iron by Cyril Colnik\* are currently on exhibit

through August 16. American Art Pottery was produced with artistic intent. These original works of art were created not only heighten public appeal, but also to provide quality American design and craftsmanship. American Art Pottery embraced traditional values along with the latest artistic influences. This was a driving principal of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

Cyril Colnik, the "Tiffany" of wrought iron masters, achieved national fame as one of the foremost craftsmen of his time. Originally from Austria, Colnik moved to Milwaukee around 1893 and opened an iron workshop where he worked until his retirement in 1955. Although noted for his use of rosebuds, blooming roses, and brambles with bark, Colnik's motifs included flames, vines and other flowers.

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum possesses an impressive representation of Colnik wrought iron artistry in its permanent collection. Included in the exhibit are candlesticks, chairs, tables, lamps, grills, andirons, cast and stamped decorative pieces, building hardware and decorative fragments. Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum is located at 2200 North Terrace Avenue, and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. There is a \$2 admission fee, children and members are free. For more information, please call (414) 271-3656.



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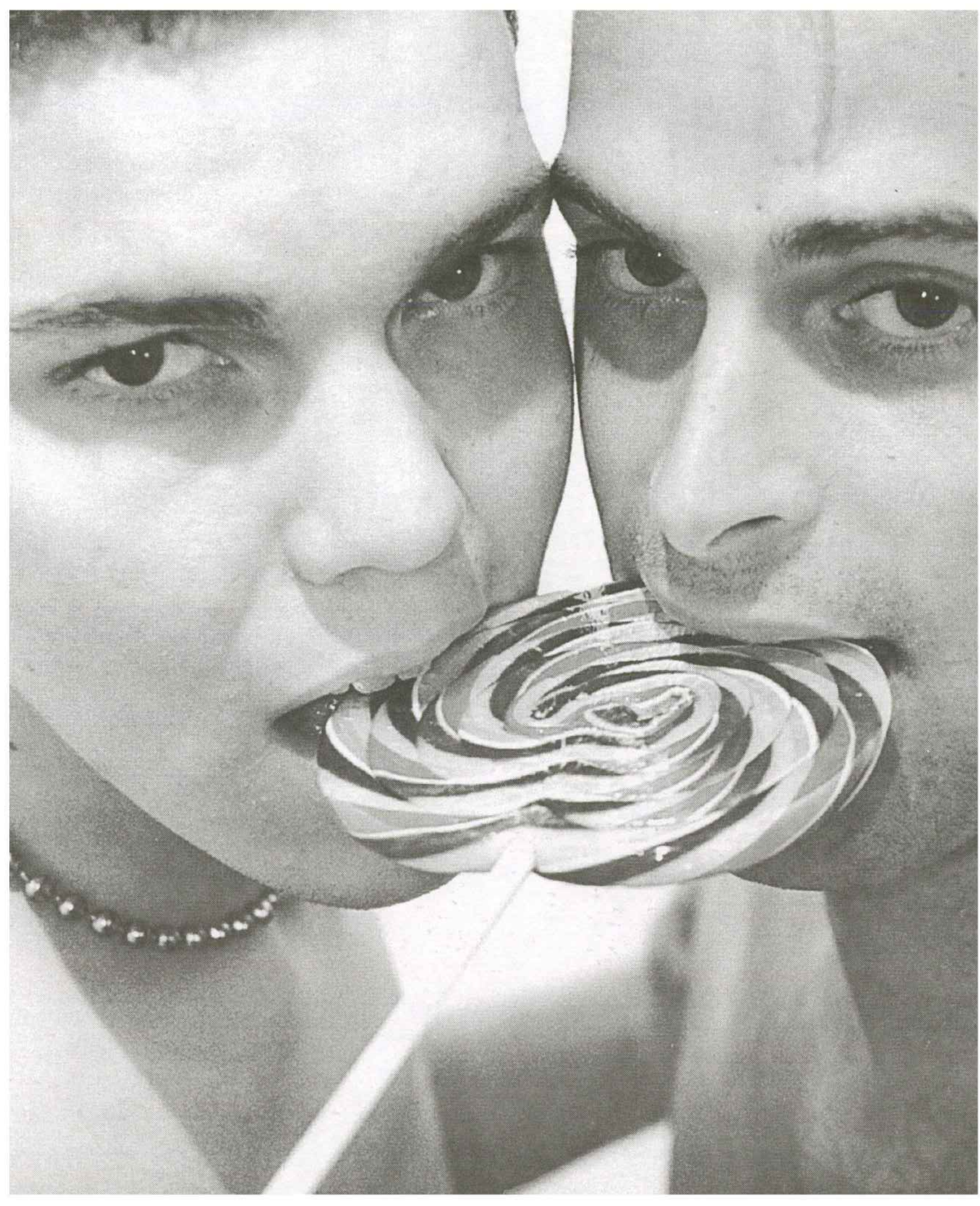
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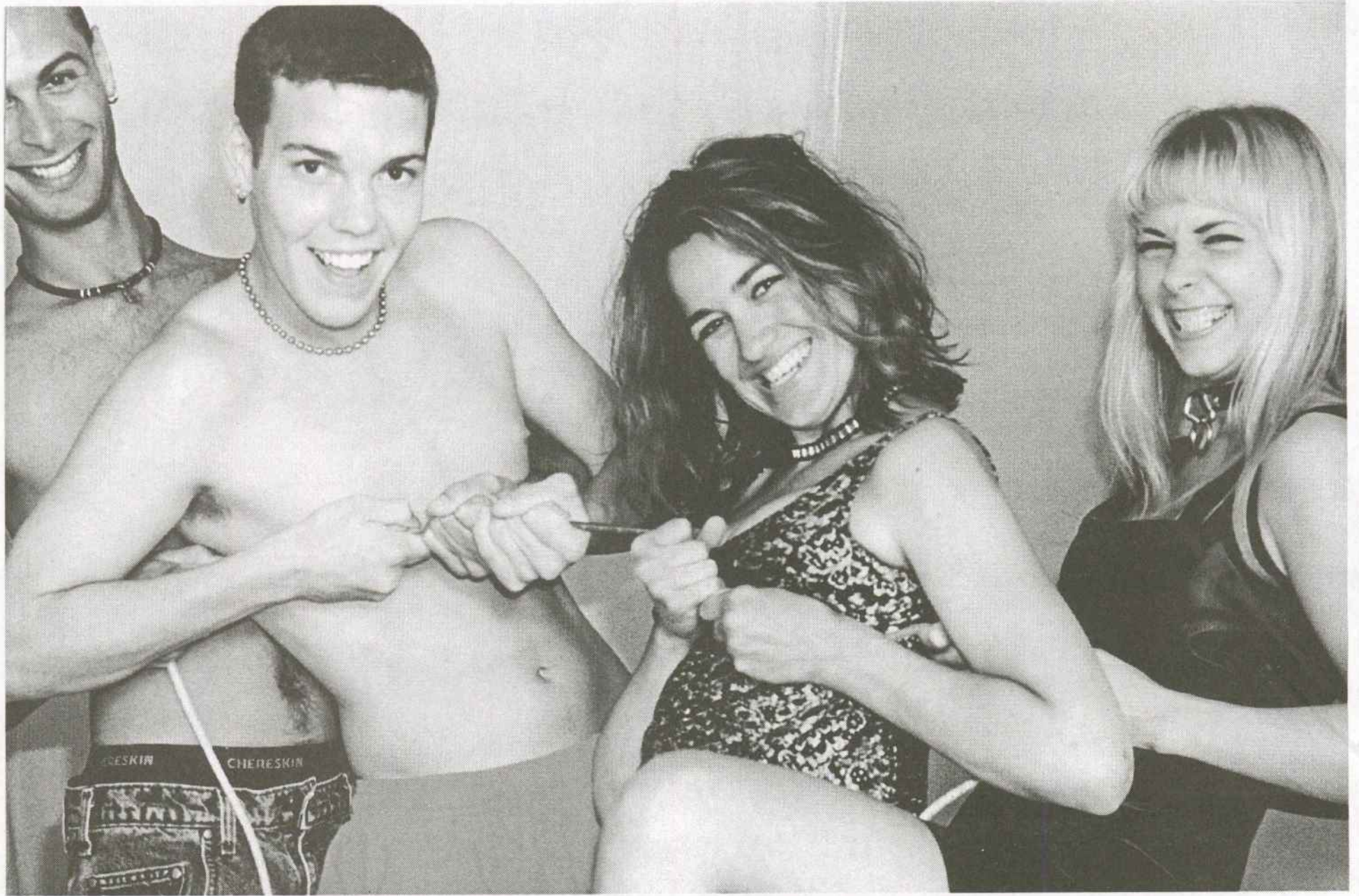
## Out of the Closet

Photographs by Jorge Cabal  
Models: Darlene Peters, Angella Jarnagin  
Chris O'Brien, Scott Knutson









# Resources for Milwaukee Area Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Questioning Youth

## Support Groups

**Gay Youth Milwaukee**  
(high school age)  
P.O. Box 090441  
Milwaukee, WI 53209  
414-265-8500  
e-mail: gyouthmil@usa.net  
www.angelfire.com/wi/  
gayyouthmilwaukee/index.html

**LGBT Community  
Center Youth Group**  
769-7913

## Gay Youth WI Hotline

272-TEEN (Milwaukee)  
1-888-GAY-TEEN  
(Fri. - Sat. 7pm-11pm)

## National Resources

**Hotlines**  
1-800-347-TEEN  
(Fri. - Sat. 7pm - 10pm EST)  
1-800-96-YOUTH  
(Daily 5:30 - 9:30pm)

**National Youth  
Advocacy Coalition**  
1711 Connecticut Ave. NW,  
Suite 206  
Washington, DC, 20009  
203/319-7596  
NYouthAC@aol.com

## Dancing

**Mad Planet\***  
(under 21, Sat. 8pm to 1am, \$5 cover)  
533 E. Center, 263-4555

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

## Restaurants

**Glass Menagerie**  
124 N. Water St.  
347-1962

**Walker's Point Cafe**  
1106 S. First Street, 384-7999

**George Webb\***  
1828 N. Farwell Avenue, 374-3835

**Silver Dollar Cafe\***  
831 S. 16th St., 645-8860

**Coffee Houses**  
**Brewed Awakenings\***  
1208 E. Brady St., 276-2739

**Comet\***  
1947 N. Farwell, 220-9919

**Fuel Cafe\***  
818 E. Center St., 374-3835

**Rochambo\***  
1317 E. Brady St., 291-0095

## Pen Pals

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

## Gifts

**Designing Men**  
1200 S. First St., 389-1200

## Television

**The Queer Program**  
Cable Channel 47  
Tues., 7-8pm (live call-in)  
Thurs., 4pm, Sat., Noon (replay)  
**Gay: By God's Will**  
Cable Channel 47  
Tues., 8-9pm (live call-in)  
Sun. 9-10am (replay)

## Publications

**In Step Magazine**  
1661 N. Water St., #411, 278-7840

**Quest**  
1-800-578-3785

**Q-Voice Magazine**  
P.O. Box 92385  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
278-7840

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

## Bookstore

**Afterwords Bookstore &  
Espresso Bar**  
2710 N. Murray, 963-9089

## Runaway Services

**Pathfinders**  
24 hour hotline and shelter  
1614 E. Kane Place  
271-1560

**Walker's Point Youth and  
Family Services**  
24 hour runaway shelter  
732 S. 21st St.  
647-8200

## Medical

**ARCW**  
(HIV counseling and testing, health  
and dental care, HIV Prevention—  
Gay & Lesbian Outreach Program  
800-359-9272

**BESTD Clinic**  
(STD's, HIV testing, Women's clinic,  
condoms)  
1240 E. Brady, 272-2144

**STD Specialties Clinic**  
(STD's, HIV testing, condoms)  
3251 N. Holton, 264-8800

**Planned Parenthood**  
(exams, condoms)  
1-800-230-PLAN (for nearest clinic)

**Dennis C. Hill  
Outreach Center**  
(HIV testing, condoms, AODA)  
4311 W. Vilet St., 342-4333

**Wisconsin AIDS Line**  
273-2437, 1-800-334-AIDS

## Religious

**Metropolitan Community  
Church**  
332-9995

**Dignity (Catholic)**  
444-7177

**Lutherans Concerned**  
444-9663

**Brown Deer United Church of  
Christ**  
354-6920  
**First Unitarian Society**  
273-5257

## Special Events

**Pridefest**  
Aug. 28-29-30  
at the Summerfest Grounds  
272-FEST

## Internet

**Oasis Magazine**  
<http://www.oasismag.com>  
**OUTPROUD Online**  
<http://www.youth.org/outproud>  
**GLBT Online Art**  
<http://www.qcc.org/yap>

## Parent Support PFLAG

Parents, Families & Friends of  
Lesbians and Gays  
299-9198

## Child Protective Services/Foster Care

**Milwaukee Co. Human Services**  
D.A. Leonard, 343-2827

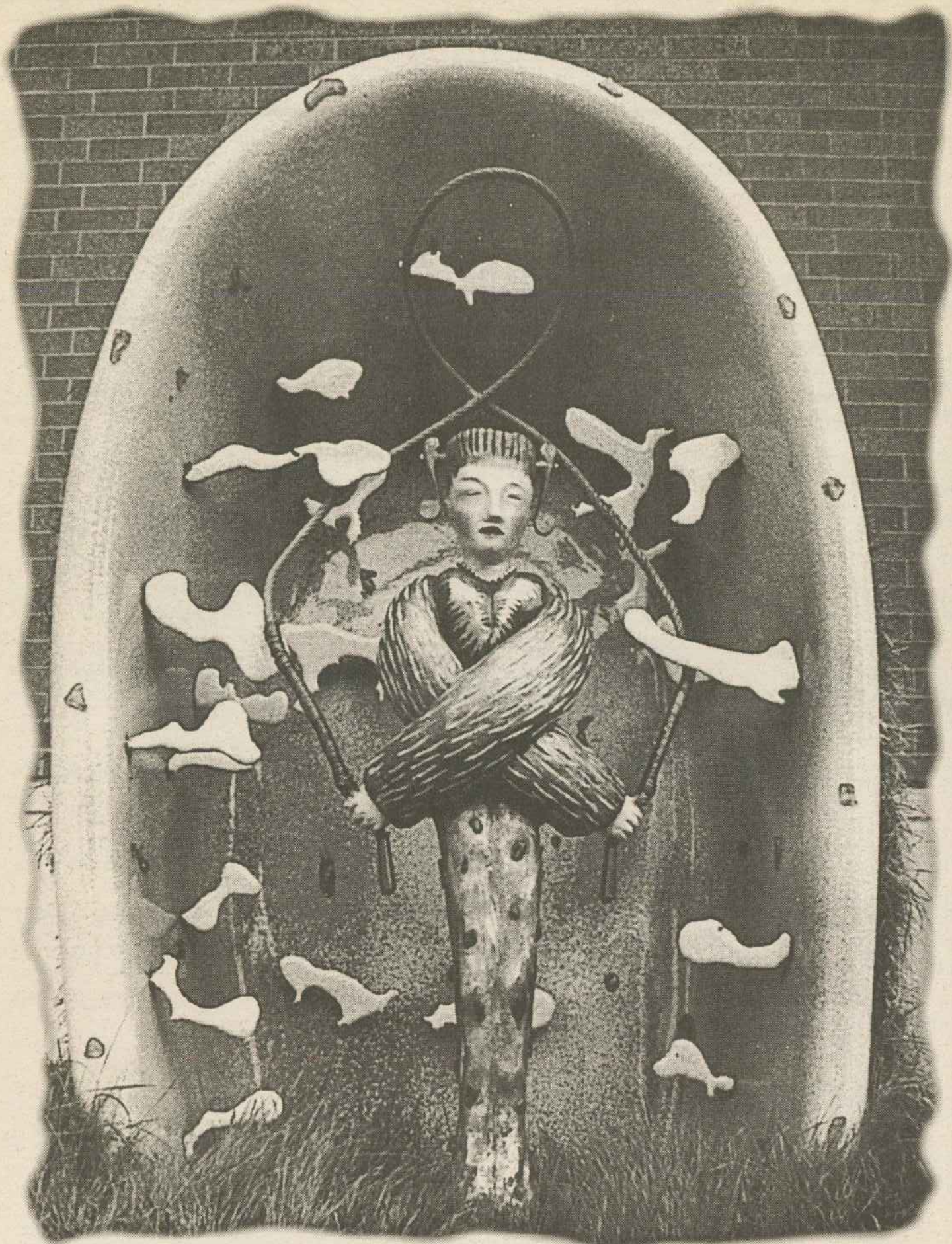
## \* Gay/Straight Youth Hangout

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It's not just the temperature that makes Milwaukee hot these days.  
Here's a some cool things to see, do, taste and hear, in a city that is simmering.

# COOL Things Hot CITY

Story and photos by Waswo

It was just a few short years ago that Tommy and I returned from a European jaunt via rail service from Chicago. We were greeted at Milwaukee's Amtrak station by a rusty and dirty old taxi complete with cab driver who was slovenly and rude. If Tommy and I had been tourists arriving in Milwaukee for the first time, our initial impression would have been a big fat zero. After all, this was a city that was desperately courting tourist dollars to supplement a dwindled industrial economy. But it was obvious that some folks just weren't with the program.

Things have changed. Perhaps the 95th Harley-Davidson Anniversary will be remembered as the moment Milwaukee officially turned the corner and became a city on the rise. With the opening of the Midwest Express Convention Center, Milwaukee is poised to take its place among the truly exciting urban destinations of the country. Even the *New York Times* (famous for looking askance at all things Midwestern) recently ran an article touting Milwaukee's urban renaissance.

Today, a fleet of new taxis ply downtown streets. They hustle tourists and conventioners from Hyatt and Hilton to restaurants, museums, cocktail lounges and comedy clubs. The Riverwalk, The Midwest Express Center, Miller Park, The Harley Anniversary, and the Calatrava addition to the Milwaukee Art Center have all garnered national (dare I say world-wide?) attention. Incredible as it may seem, this once rusty factory town is becoming a trendy spot to visit and to live. Here, in no particular order, are a few of the many things making Milwaukee COOL.

## *Free Music/Cheap Eats*

This is your chance to get jazzy and snazzy. Put on that seersucker outfit and don a pink carnation. Each and every Thursday, from 6:30 to 9 pm, the Eastown Association presents Jazz in the Park at Cathedral Square.

Performing groups range from Eddie Butts and Leroy Airmaster to the 40's swing of the East Town Jazz Orchestra. Bring a blanket or a few lawn chairs (the picnic tables get snatched up early), and pack an inexpensive picnic dinner. Yes, you can bring bottled wine and stemware. Raise your libations in a toast to the town. Sprecher beer is sold at site, as is

iced latte and mocha from Cafe a Go-Go.

Watch the sun fade and Saint John's Cathedral slowly become illuminated. Is there a nicer way to spend a Thursday evening?

## *Clang, Clang, Clang Goes The Trolley!*

If you haven't yet ridden the little red "trolley" that weaves though Milwaukee streets, make a point of doing so this summer. The fare is only a buck, and the ride is as fun as it is convenient.

The "Milwaukee Loop" makes a rough circle connecting Brady Street, Water Street, The Milwaukee Public Museum, Wisconsin Avenue, The Third Ward, Cathedral Square, and the lakefront. Trollies run approximately every twenty minutes, Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 am to 10 pm. On Sundays the service ends at 6 pm.

You can pick up a schedule and a map at numerous downtown locations. Riding the trolley not only relieves you of parking and driving headaches, you can stand on the rear platform and make faces at those unfortunates not cool enough to be on board.

## Lots Of Fruits

It's Farm Market season, and a trip to purchase some vegetables and greens can be fun. Thump those melons and suck those cider-cicles!

The hands down winner of farm markets is

the West Allis Farmers' Market at 66th and National. This is held each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 1 to 7 pm. Also on Saturdays, the East Town Farm Market sets up shop in Cathedral Square from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The Fondy Market near North Avenue and Fond du Lac is big on greens. The Market on

the Park is held on Wednesdays, 10 am to 4 pm, at Zeidler Union Square ( to the south of the Grand Avenue Mall ) and offers crafts and music as well as the usual fruits.

## Now That Frank Sinatra Is Dead

Nick Carter of the *Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel* dubbed Jerry Grillo a "camp" lounge singer. Hmmm.

Whatever the case, Mr. Grillo's blend of



40's jazz is best heard these days at Lou Bruno's restaurant in the Shorecrest Hotel, 1962 North Prospect. The fabulous deco decor fits the music like a sophisticated satin glove. The food here can be pricey, but the great thing is there is no cover charge and you can come just to enjoy a cocktail.

Slick back your hair, put on a bow-tie, and order a Manhattan at the bar. Or take a place at one of the tiny cocktail tables and savor English Stilton and crackers with a small bottle of Port. Jerry sings every Saturday evening, beginning around 9:30 pm.

Mr. Grillo will be touring Italy in July, so hold off on going until August 1st.

## Don't Get Stuck Up A Creek Without A Paddle

If you're feeling the need for some fresh air and exercise, check out the canoe rental at Laacke and Joys, 1433 North Water. For a mere \$15 and a refundable credit card securi-



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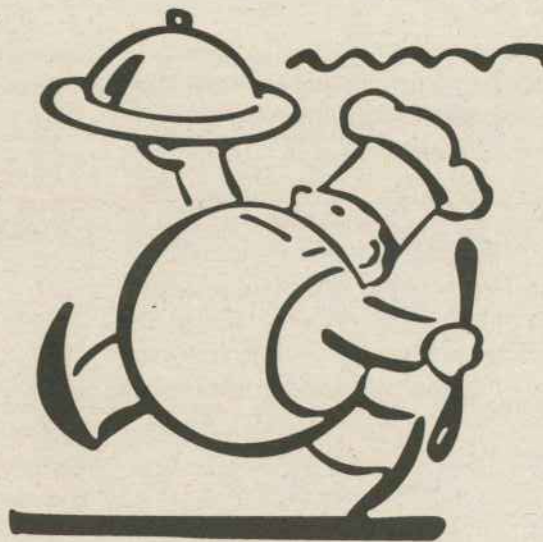
to 10pm

Thr, Fri, Sat, Sun

5pm to 11pm

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ty deposit, a shiny fiberglass canoe can be yours for a full day.

Paddle upstream to what use to be the North Avenue Dam, and downstream past M&M's. Or better yet, stop there for lunch! I wouldn't advise venturing into the bigger waves of the harbor. Take a thermos of cool fruit juice, some bananas and nuts, and a cap to keep the sun from burning through your skull.

Try not to fall in. The Milwaukee River is cleaner than it use to be, but I wouldn't press my luck by bathing in it.

### *Psychedelic Psalms*

Contrary to popular belief, Milwaukee's gallery scene really doesn't quiet down much during the summer months. A case in point is the Brylski / Pearson show at Gallery 218.

Brylski, a manic assembler of complex collage, seems as much inspired by Jimi Hendrix as he is by Biblical spirituality. His "Caldwell's Lounge" series of meticulously arranged pattern and dots has now passed into local art legend. Remember Brylski's reunion of the X-Cleavers ( where he was dressed in a wizard's robe and hat ) at his opening extravaganza in 1995?

On a recent visit to his studio, Brylski told me the following:

"This particular show is real different for me, in that I'm not doing much painting. I'm doing sewing, and I'm using materials that a needle will go through.

"I went to school at MATC and studied upholstery. When I got out I ended up sewing leather car seats for Excalibur. It's around then that I started this new body of work. I sew plastic bags, zippers, buttons, leather, plastic, old movie

posters, and a lot of other things into these new compositions.

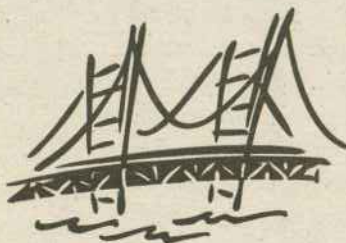
"I don't go to church much anymore. But making these things is a spiritual experience."

Brylski will be exhibiting the latest evidence of his spiritual explorations in a dual show with Geoffrey Pearson's contemporary steel sculpture. Gallery 218 is located at 218 South Second Street, and the Brylski opening is Friday July 10th from 7 to 10 pm. It promises to be a blast, with live music provided by acid-rockers Loblolly.

"We'll have a few quarter barrels of beer," adds the artist.

### *We'll Cross That Bridge When We Come To It*

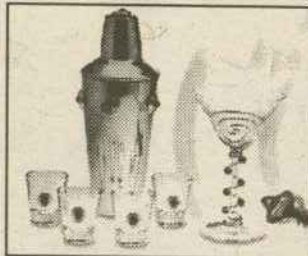
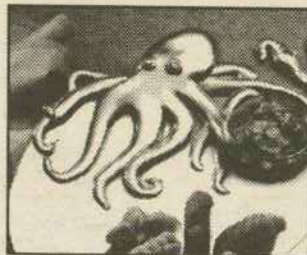
The pedestrian bridge that spans the river at the end of Highland Avenue is the latest addition to Milwaukee's ever expanding Riverwalk. Yup, this



little bridge raises up and down just like its big brothers, so you don't have to cut the mast off your yacht if you're planning to cruise underneath.

If you're walking, cross from the east side of the river just south of the Riverhouse restaurant. Rumor has it a new brew pub will soon be growing at the west end of the bridge. For now, take a break at Gus' Mexican Cantina, just around the corner on Old World Third.

Gus (who also owns the Milwaukee Eagle ) serves up



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great combo platters of tostadas, enchiladas, and tacos, not to mention some dynamite margaritas. And he's got nice tattoos on his arms to boot! Mmmm. Wouldn't a Negra Modelo and some tacos taste good about now?

### *More Free Music...*

### *More Cheap Eats*

The Wednesday evening concerts at the Midwest Landing in Pere Marquette Park have yet to be discovered by the crowds that descend on Rainbow Summer and Jazz in the Park. Yet this is one of the nicest spots in town for free music and a picnic dinner.

The entertainment tends to be more of the folk and blues variety. It isn't difficult to score a picnic table if you arrive just a little bit early. My guess is that these concerts will soon be as popular as the ones in Cathedral Square.

### *No, They Don't Serve Velveeta*

If there is one place that currently defines Milwaukee's newly rediscovered downtown chic, it has to be the Velvet Room. The ambiance here can be described as nothing other than posh. The crowd is a mixture of the young and the old, the literate and the arty, and the just plain look-at-me-I'm-beautiful.

Food here is scrumptious and the drinks distinctive. Let the valet park your vintage Jaguar, then slip inside to merge with things velveteen. If you decide to dine, I recommend the Chilean Sea Bass. If you decide to drink, I recommend anything in an exotic-looking bottle or glass.

### *Sweet Indulgent Addiction*

If you have yet to discover the Northern Chocolate Company at 2036 North Martin Luther King Drive, you are missing out on one of this city's best kept secrets. Chocolate wizard Jim Fetzer spent eighteen and a half years working for Ambrosia Chocolate before he made the leap into self-employment.

"I learned the basics at Ambrosia, but I learned a lot more from just experimenting at my kitchen table. My chocolate is very high-quality and very European. The molds I use



date from 1870 to 1930 ... what they call the classic period of chocolate mold production. Ninety percent of them are from Germany, but there are also some from the Netherlands and the US.

"I've always been into old architecture and antiques. When I became a chocolate maker it was a natural thing to start collecting antique molds. The molds are so expensive right now, that if I didn't make chocolate from them I couldn't afford to buy them. But my hobby has gotten to pay for itself. I can do what I want and make money from it too!"

Fetzer is busy taking special orders around any given holiday season. Whether creating milk chocolate, white chocolate, bittersweet or dark, his lovingly crafted sweets are simply the best.

"I have hundreds of molds. We make Santas, people, moons, and a whole array of Easter Bunnies. Our trademark is the otter. We had an otter mold designed specially for the store."

Northern Chocolate Company hours are Friday, 11:30 to 5:30, and Saturday, 10:00 to 4:00. Or, you can call for an appointment.

### *Up The Creek Again, This Time With A Motor*

If your personal yacht is in for repairs, you can still privately cruise the Milwaukee River on a pontoon boat rented from Riverwalk Boat Rentals at the Midwest Express Landing

in Pere Marquette Park.

The smaller boats rent for \$25 an hour and are operated by either motor or pedal power. They are fun to zoom around in with friend. The large pontoon boat rents for \$50 an hour, or \$150 for a half day. But hey, the boat easily seats six to eight people, so you can divide up the cost.

If you're renting the larger boat, pack some brie and crackers, champagne and strawberries, and maybe a little prosciutto and melon. There is a table to picnic on and a stereo system that allows you to pipe in some jazz. Phone: (414) 283-9999

### *Dream With The Fishes*

The most obvious evidence of new sculptural presence in downtown Milwaukee is *Dream With The Fishes (for Aurora)*. This neon and aluminum wall tableau was devised by San Francisco artist Cork Marcheschi. Though it looks less than spectacular during the day, the pulsating neon is a wonder to behold at night.

The City of Milwaukee has teamed up with Nextel Communications to provide a temporary display of several other exciting sculptures along Milwaukee's Riverwalk. Unlike *Dream With The Fishes*, these installations will probably be gone by the end of the summer.

There is Tom Uebelherr's *Bath Tub Madonna*, a campy treatment of folk art shrines to the Virgin Mary. There is Bilhenry Walker's abstract twisted monument of aluminum that dances near the State Street Bridge. And, growing miraculously from the corrugated metal walls below the Milwaukee Center, is Claire Lieberman's alabaster *Riversponge*.

As for other, more permanent sculpture, there is Gwendolyn Gillen's *Gertie the Duck* at the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge. Yes, it panders to the schmaltzy and sentimental tastes that too often run rampant in our state. But hey, the kids and their parents love it.

My favorite Riverwalk sculpture is the long standing *Laureate* by Seymour Lipton. This handsome piece of abstraction ( it has always reminded me of a hand grasping a microphone ) stands along that stretch of river directly behind the Marcus Center for



the Performing Arts.

## *Mall Rats*

While Grand Avenue was busy grabbing a Hooters restaurant as one of its premiere tenants — and the old Marshall Field's building continues its slow, vacant descent into the Milwaukee River — Mayfair Mall has quickly and quietly become the premiere shopping spot in Milwaukee.

Not only does Mayfair boast the area's only remaining Marshall Field's — the westside mall was blessed with the recent opening of The Pottery Barn. For those unfamiliar with their catalog, the San Francisco-born Pottery Barn offers distinctive, quality and reasonably priced home goods ranging from sofas to lamps to candles to bedding, rugs and more. Sign me up now for their gift registry.

Elsewhere in the mall, Williams Sonoma has everything utensil, gadget, pot, pan and recipe book the aspiring or accomplished chef could ever possibly need for that next dinner party. The combination of Pottery Barn and Williams Sonoma nearly makes a pilgrimage to a Chicagoland Crate and Barrel unnecessary — unless you're going to check-out the forthcoming in-store Alterra Coffee Shops.

Mayfair also has Ambergrombie and Fitch, which is probably this country's most homoerotic mainstream clothier. Sure, their pullovers can get pricey ... but watch for a sale and things get more reasonable. The shopping bags alone are worth purchase.

## *Keeping An Edge*

Brady Street continues its revival, and so far it has kept its alternative edge. The recent opening of a Starbucks may be foreshadowing, heaven forbid this funky stretch of urban chaos should ever turn completely yuppie.

As a street that offers everything from body piercing to upscale Italian food, Brady Street is the one Milwaukee neighborhood that maintains the truly cosmopolitan flavor of a New York or a Toronto.

Check out stores such as Changing Times, Detour, Cream City Interiors, and Starship. Browse for a commitment ring at Out of Solitude and contemplate an art purchase at Grava Gallery. Then dine at Mimma's or Au Bon Appetit. Stick around for cocktails at High Hat or coffee at Rochambo.

The latest addition to the street's diversity is Zero, a juice bar that will soon open in the space once held by Three Fates. On a hot summer evening, I recommend something icy cool at any of the sidewalk tables that now dot the strip.

## *The Big Giant Cup*

This place is really called The Milwaukee Coffee Company, but westsiders affectionately refer to it as "The Big Giant Cup". Perhaps this nick-name stems from the fact that a huge cup and saucer protrudes from the roof. It is as if a caffeine crazed UFO was forced into a sudden crash landing.

They roast their own beans here, and the fun thing is you can

watch. If you're tired of the usual eastside java joints, take the drive to 50th and Vliet. And while you're at it, you might want to enjoy a vintage film at the Times Cinema, nine blocks further to the west.

## *South Of The Border*

It's a shame that Milwaukee doesn't do more to promote the tourist potential of its Latino neighborhoods. Walking down South 16th Street on a hot July afternoon can be like a quick trip to Mexico. Stop and delight to a mango on a stick from the food cart that is generally parked outside of El Rey's Mexican Grocery. Or go inside, and feast on delicious Mexican bakery or hot home-made tamales.

Taqueria Azteca at the corner of Lincoln and Howell serves up an incredibly yummy menu. Guadalajara on South 10th is undiscovered, but worth looking for. Our summer favorites continue to be the out-of-doors dining available at La Perla and Azteca on South 5th.

Milwaukee's south side offers restaurants specializing in Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican and Peruvian food. If you explore just one of these eateries per week, you'll have an adventure that lasts the entire summer.

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"The most boring photograph, to me, is a beautiful model sitting on a beautiful beach on a beautiful bikini — and she's beautifully lit," says gay photographer David LaChapelle, who is criticizing the most likely contents of the very fashion periodicals that employ him. "That's why magazine sales are down. Who wants to look at the same perfect images all the time?"

Certainly not LaChapelle, the 34-year-old lensman whose editorial and commercial work appears in *Details*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*,



David LaChapelle

*The Face* and *The London Times*. To describe his photographs as simply "colorful" is akin to describing an orgasm as simply "a nice feeling." It's eclectic, eye-popping work that doesn't simply get your attention, it demands

it. Images like a leather-clad Leonardo Di Caprio posing as a Hollywood Boulevard street hustler (and posing with a white stallion). Or Drew Barrymore dressed like a slutty bride as she attacks a three-tier wedding cake with a 12-inch butcher knife, her bridegroom apparently dead at her feet. Or his look-into-the-future photo of an obese "Courtney Love" and an elderly, wheel-chair bound "Madonna" in a parody of the 1962 camp classic *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* These photos, as well as 148 others, have been assembled in one colorful, unique and serial-numbered volume entitled *LaChapelle Land* (Simon & Schuster Editions, \$67.00). The tome — which comes in a box designed not by LaChapelle but by Japanese graphic artist Tadanori Yokoo — is appropriately titled since much of the photographer's work seems not of this earth.

For example, there are LaChapelle's images of men. Oh yeah, the men. Like the obviously well-hung black bodybuilder, sporting a deep-

sea diver's helmet and a red thong bikini, standing ankle deep in the ocean while clutching a red satin stiletto heel. Or the then-married Bob Paris and Rod Jackson, sucking face in a Diesel Jeans ad which is reminiscent of Alfred Elsenstaedt's famous 1940's photo, "V-J Day." Or David Duchovny as victim fleeing from a four-fingered vampire mannequin. Who knew the X-Files star had such a terrific torso? And who knew David LaChapelle would become such a camera-wielding visionary?

Born the youngest of three children to Phillip and Helga LaChapelle of Hartford, Connecticut, David first learned to manipulate the photographic image by watching his mother. "Family album photos were an art-directed, ambitious productions for my mother," laughs LaChapelle. "She would pose the entire family — after dressing all of us meticulously — in front of country clubs or other people's estates or cars." These amateur photo sessions resulted in a stilted reality in which the LaChapelle clan "looked like the Vanderbilts" when in fact they were a working-class family living in an apartment.

In early high school, David smoked marijuana, had sex with both genders and dreamed of living in New York. As an outcast

in school, he found solace in snapping photos. "I was always taking pictures of my friends," he notes. "They would do anything to have their photograph taken, so I had no problem in getting them to pose naked in my room." While capturing nude Kodak moments might keep the average teenage misfit content, David grew restless. At age 15, he dropped out of high school and headed for Manhattan, leaving his apartment-dwelling family (who had moved to North Carolina) for the 23rd Street YMCA.

Although underage, LaChapelle worked as a busboy at the infamous Studio 54 disco, where he watched the likes of Liza Minnelli and Andy Warhol drink, dance and cavort with reckless abandon (in classic show-business irony, LaChapelle would later be shooting the former and working for the latter). Money was tight, but after pawning a lost earring he found at Studio 54 (which he would later learn belonged to Paloma Picasso), the waiter's assistant purchased his first camera. While he loved New York and the pop-culture glamour his job exposed him to, LaChapelle returned home in order to finish high school. In 1981, he graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts.

# Lensman LaChapelle



Armed with a 12th grade education and dozens of naked pictures of his friends, LaChapelle returned to Manhattan when he was 18. First stop: Interview magazine, Andy Warhol's monthly ode to celebrities which became the first periodical to publish photographs captured by the lens of LaChapelle. Encouraged to experiment at Interview, the novice photographer shot most of his subjects away from the easy-to-control and sterile environment of the indoor studio. The results were fantasy-influenced images of both the famous and the unknown which combined kitsch with working class America and — sometimes — simple bad taste.

If LaChapelle owes a debt of gratitude to Interview for 1) the experience and 2) the freedom to experiment, then he owes *Details* magazine the same for 1) taking a chance on his often satirical work and 2) upping his own celebrity status.

In an interview from his Manhattan apartment — between assignments for Keds athletic shoes in Los Angeles and Armani Jeans in the Bahamas — LaChapelle was unpretentious and unassuming. He is that one gay friend who is always in a good mood and has never considered therapy; he is the happy homo next door. With his manager gently reminding him of scheduling commitments, LaChapelle spoke of work, Warhol and his gay place in the world.

**QV: The majority of fashion photographers — Herb Ritts, Greg Gorman, for example — shoot only in black and white. Why do your images scream with vivid colors?**

DL: All that photography looks exactly the same to me. You know, everything look so dreary like we should be in mourning. That's why I took a couple of years to learn how to print in really saturated colors — it allows me to go crazy and do what I feel. And who wants to be the next Herb Ritts? I mean, he's a great photographer but all of his black and whites photos look the same. When I first started doing the wild colors, my agent couldn't get me any work. He would call and tell me, "David they don't want to see anything in color! I can't get you a job!" I think the magazines and the editors were scared of my book.

**QV: But now your use of color and your entire approach to photography**



**is mimicked by other photographers. Is imitation truly the sincerest form of flattery?**

DL: At first it bugged me when I wasn't real known and wasn't getting a lot of work and more established photographers were trying to imitate me. But now, it's fine but it's just so boring to try and copy anyone. Besides, when photographers try to do what I shoot, they go for a way-trashy look. I'm not into trashy photos — I am into beauty. My photos are beautiful, like stills from a movie.

**QV: How does your gayness influence your work?**

DL: I think gay people have different eyes, you know? I see the beauty in everything, be it a man's body or a woman's body. Or even a McDonald's. I know I am more sensitive to my subjects, but I don't always sexualize them. Like Drew Barrymore taking a butcher knife to a wedding cake. I think that photo is very funny, even though she's dressed in a veil with just a bra and garters. She's sexy but she's having fun first.

**QV: You seem to have a fondness for shooting men in uniform. Is this a gay thing?**

DL (laughs): I love men and women in uniform. I don't wanna be whipped by some marine sergeant, I just love the look. I guess a uniform is a tailored, neat, put-together look. I

just love it on anyone.

**QV: When did you come out of the closet?**

DL: Well, when I was 15, my dad caught me in bed with my first boyfriend. He didn't say anything about it — neither did my mom. A few weeks later, he walked in on me with a girl. He told my mom and they were both very upset. They were more upset about the fact that I was sleeping with a girl. Maybe they were afraid I would get her pregnant.

QV: So you never sat your parents down and said, "I'm gay"?

DL: No, I never had to really come out. And I felt that it was just understood before anyway.

QV: Was Andy Warhol really obsessed with celebrities when you worked at Interview?

DL: I was obsessed with Andy Warhol! I remember seeing his Marilyn Monroe in a museum when I was little and I was overwhelmed. I was like, "Wow, I love this! Who did this? Who is he?" When I showed Andy my photographs, he said they were beautiful. But then I learned he said that about everything. But there was a trickle-down effect at Interview: Andy wanted everything in the magazine to be beautiful and that was conveyed by Marc Balet [Interview's art director] to me. That philosophy has really affected by work. I still want everything to look beautiful, even if it's wild.

QV: What photographers have influenced

your own photography?

DL: Everything influences me, but not really other photographers. I mean, I like other photographer's stuff, but I'm more inspired by my surroundings, my friends and music. Film has been a real big inspiration. All kinds of movies like Blade Runner, Baby Jane or Woody Allen's of Fellini's. I take pictures to change the way

you'd look at something. It's about taking bad taste and reclaiming it and seeing it as beautiful.

**QV: How would you describe your photographs to someone who has never seen them?**

DL: Zesty and refreshing — like a breath mint!

**QV: Do you set out to shock or sexually arouse others with your work?**

DL: No, because my photos are never about others to begin with. It's all about me. I set out to do a photo that's bursting with life that gets me off. But I don't mean in a sexual way. I wouldn't jerk off to any of my photos because it's not about eroticism. Erotic photos, photos that just show sex just don't do it for me. They are just boring, one-note shots. I do want to make people happy. I remember a girl came up to me in a gallery and said, "Your pictures make me laugh." That was such a compliment.

**QV: Do you have a favorite photo?**

DL: I'd have to say the Deisel Jeans kissing ad because I love the photo and the memory of what we went through to make it happen is so amazing. The ship we had arranged to shoot in L.A. had to leave port the night before the shoot. I managed to find another one, but it was in San Francisco. So we had to fly everyone up to San Francisco. everything was so last minute. But it was a great experience and we still came in under budget. And when the ad came out, people couldn't figure out if it was an old photograph or a new one. That was the greatest compliment to me and to the stylist. When people try and do a 1940's photograph, everyone ends up looking like the Andrew Sisters. I had some made up like late 1930's, too. I think some people look drab and weathered in the photo, which makes it real and beautiful.

**QV: Where do you want to shoot, but haven't?**

DL: We tried to get the Taj Mahal once, but it didn't work out. I'd still like to shoot there.

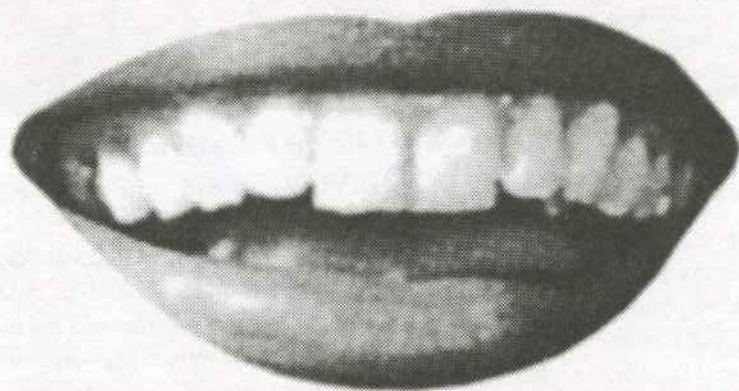
**QV: Here's the question I'm sure you're always asked: Who do you want to shoot, but haven't?**

DL (groaning): Oh, god, I don't know. I haven't been asked this before, actually. I really don't know.

**QV: This interview isn't over until you answer this question...**

DL: Well, Michael Jackson I'd like to shoot. I have a few ideas for him. I know --I'd like to shoot President Clinton and the First Lady and Chelsea. I could do the Clinton's next Christmas card photo!

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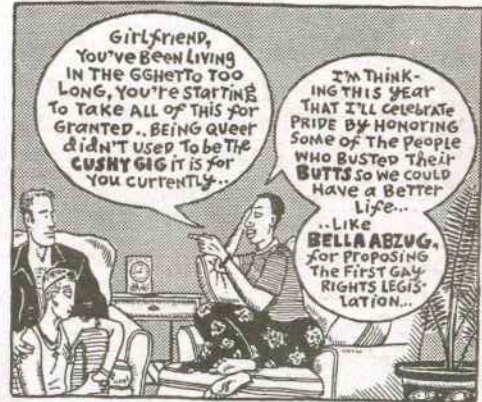
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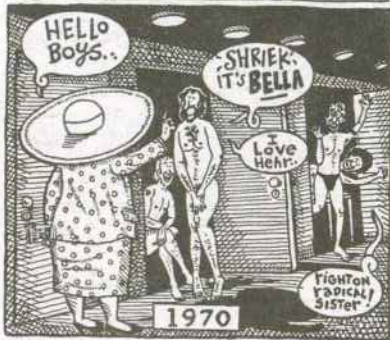
# The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner

Letting  
his  
Pride  
Slide



.. AND FOR SHOWING UP AT THE BATHS TO MAKE CAMPAIGN SPEECHES...



# Looking for Love in All the Wrong Chatrooms

## Or: A Computer Ate My Brain

by Bob Findle

**T**he search for romance. It does wear one out, but not as much as advice givers do. I swear, if one more well-meaning friend, especially anyone who is coupled and puppyed, tells me that when I stop looking I will find someone, I will definitely stop — their lives — when I kill them. I guess then I'd have all the boyfriends I want, except I don't look so good in basic prison wear. Besides, I never wanted to have a boyfriend named Smack Doggie to barter me out for three packs of cigarettes. I am for sure worth at least five packs and a good Cuban cigar now and then.

Ah, the '90s. What a time to be alive and looking for a significant other. Where once things were simple and there were only bars, parks and the tubs, technology has changed everything. Where once all you needed was to be a breathing body in reasonable functioning condition, now you must be wired and equipped with a telephone, credit cards, e-mail, digital cameras and computers.

A few months ago, after really (I mean it this time, I tell you) giving up on the bar scene as a venue to husband hunt, I took the advice of another single friend who had been certainly acting a lot more perky than usual. A lot more. He shared the secret of his joy: m4m.

"Oh," I said.

"No," he said, "AOHL." Like a novice in the work shop of love, I listened, as if under the Banyon Tree, to the master's words of wisdom. He explained how AOL worked, that m4m stood for male for male, how the men were a plenty, just waiting to be picked off and up like typing ducks. I thought, gee, I type more than 60 words a minute, what was I waiting for? A phone call and soon the disc from AOL arrived. I slipped it in my computer with a trembling hand, hoping it would be just the first of many insertions the computer would afford me.

A profile was needed. You would think, my being a writer, the words would have flowed from fingers to screen. Not so. That big organ, my brain, got in the way. Everything sounded too formal or too sleazy or too smart or too jaded or too typical. I struggled on, understanding the importance of making that good first impression. My profile had to sparkle, to intrigue, to invite IMs, or instant messages, the life blood of the chatroom. Others can send you messages that pop up on your screen signaled by a beep, which you can then answer or ignore. From

IMs, love, or at least a practice run, can bloom. I settled for a profile that was clever, but not too coy, descriptive, but leaving some things to the imagination.

Entering m4m room I found a beehive of activity. And the creativity. Some men had obviously spent quite some time coming up with their screen names. And descriptive? I never knew how many ways there were to convey, with a combination of only 10 letters and numbers, the concept of "I got a big one," or to indicate top or bottom on the sexual totem pole. I learned quickly though.

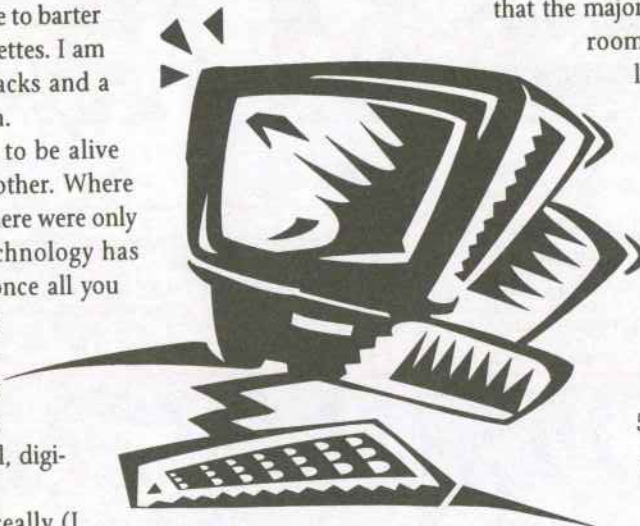
Some IMs came my way and I sent a few out. I realized soon enough that the majority of men were not looking for chat in the chatroom, and when they found out I was hoping for at least a coffee date before shedding any clothing, the IMs dried up. After a few weeks, I also realized that while the chatrooms did attract regular guys like myself, many of the m4m population could actually fit into five main categories:

- 1) Desperately needy
- 2) Terminally horny
- 3) Criminally insane
- 4) Hiding from wife/girlfriend
- 5) All of the above

I decided AOL wasn't much for me and complained bitterly to my friend. He handled me like the patient school teacher he is. He asked me to print out my profile so he could

offer tips and suggestions.

"This is all wrong," he declared looking at it. The profile form gives members a spot to place a personal quote. My friend pointed to mine. "Who the hell said that quote?" "It's from a Morrissey song," I mum-



**My computer was beeping with IMs like the screen had the hiccups. I was more popular than tofu in Tibet served by Brad Pitt.**

bled. For a moment, I thought his eyes would roll completely back into his head. He sighed. If he had had a red felt-tipped pen, it would have

been scribbling across the entire page, and I would have gotten a big frowny face at the top margin just like the ones the nuns at school used to demoralize us with. "You read like a debutante from Vassar," he opined. "Nobody gives a flying fish that you like Merchant-Ivory films. They want the nitty-gritty. Rewrite this."

"Well," I thought, stung. "I will not reduce myself to a penis description and laundry list of mattress antics. I want to meet people for all of me. I want romance. I have my pride."

Later in the week, I concluded that pride had gotten me nothing but neglected nights and grip strength that could crack coconuts. Back to

**...I am [not] against hooking up. Hook all you want chatroom boys, but where is the romance and substance and late night talks and wearing each other's socks?**

the computer I went to change my profile to be more adult in nature or risqué or — all right — sordid. I placed face down on my desk the framed picture of my parents as I worked. With a sweaty brow I finished after several revisions and mouse clicked my way to my m4m chatroom armed with a profile that most surely would have caused any random whore out of Babylon to pause. It worked. My computer was beeping with IMs like the screen had the hiccups. I was more popular than tofu in Tibet served by Brad Pitt.

Besides the IMs, my mailbox also began to flood with pictures, or pics, as they all called in AOL lingo. There were the usual poses such as standing in front of national monuments or bare-chest shots at the beach. Most were pretty tame. Most. Now, I am the first to admit I have seen some things in my life that are best not talked about in the light of day and have been involved in an escapade or two, all right three, that it's best Mother never knows about. Anybody's mother. Yet, for as worldly as I like to fancy myself, I was taken back by some of the pics.

Among the first batch to arrive was one from a couple that was actually three pics on one scan. It stands out as a classic John Waters juxtaposition (minus Divine) of homey kitsch and bad-taste trash. There they were, a poster couple for gay rights, all smiles, polo-shirted, hair combed and posed in a Montgomery Ward's \$19.99-for-40-prints studio shot. OK. The other two pics included were shots of them bending over, each providing extreme up close and personal snapshots from what I believe had to have been their last visit to the proctologist. Thanks for sharing guys. Goodness. Just send your asses out on the Internet for God and everyone else to see. They were not alone. My download file filled up with body parts of all shapes and sizes in short order.

What happened to my search for romance? Not much possibility of that. Hooking up? Plenty of that. I want to know who was the homo that coined that phrase "hooking up" — a euphemism for instant sexual contact. Not that I am against hooking up. Hook all you want chat-

room boys, but where is the romance and substance and late night talks and wearing each other's socks? Hooking up doesn't lead to that.

I don't go to the chatrooms too much these days. Sure, I have met some people for coffee and sometimes more. Some were nice, some were spectacular, some missed a few rungs on the way up the evolutionary ladder. None of it has worked out to be more than mildly diverting. Like the bars, I realize the chatrooms are not going to give me what I am looking for. But, my hope burns eternal, lasting longer than even a Robert Altman film. I should have hope. After all, I am employed, I have all my original teeth and I have never been chased by villagers wielding torches. I just need to work harder on finding that man who will show me his love in all the proper ways. I want to be flipping over the \$3.75 card on the next holiday to check for the Hallmark insignia, my face beaming like those of Italian peasant children viewing the Virgin surrounded by all her cherubim, or maybe it is more like me as the virgin (Hey — shut up) viewing all the Italian peasant workers surrounding me. We'll see.

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**ALL MAN** Hey Guys. I'm a very good looking White Male, 6'3", 185 lbs, 45" chest, 32" waist, smooth, clean shaven and work out a lot. I'm looking for someone who is also very good looking, under 35 years of age and wanting to have fun, possibly starting a relationship. (Madison) ☎18287

**I WANT TO HANG OUT** I'm new to the area and I want to find someone to hang out with and do things together. (Racine) ☎1304

**BEAT ME, WHIP ME** This Gay Male is into really hot, steamy phone talk. If you're into physical pleasure, please leave an evening message and I'll give you a call back. (Milwaukee) ☎18025

**LET'S WORK OUT** Hi Guys. I need an exercise partner who is around 180 lbs and in good shape. I like judo and wrestling, so if you want a really hot workout, call me. (Milwaukee) ☎15592

**SHOW ME A GOOD TIME** I'm a 21 year old, very good looking Gay White Male, 6'1", with blonde hair and green eyes. I'm looking for other Gay White Males who are 20-24 years old and would like to meet and maybe do something later. (Madison) ☎18039

**LICK MY TOES** Hello. I'm a Black top Man in my 40's. I want someone who is very submissive and likes to worship feet. Let me know if that's you. (Milwaukee) ☎18056

**LET'S KICK IT** Yo, what's up? I'm a 18 year old Gay Black Male who is looking for other Males between the ages of 18-30. I'm ready to kick it and have a really fun time. (Milwaukee) ☎18137

**LET'S GO** I'm looking for a Man with a beard, maybe a motorcycle, but you don't have to be a Hell's Angel or anything. I'm a Gay White Male, 5'2", 160 lbs, you should be loving and caring. (Spring Green) ☎17982

**STICKY - STICKY** This Gay White, 46 year old, 5'7", 145 lbs, in-shape Male is looking for other White Gay Men who are into nipples and jacking off. (Milwaukee) ☎17692

**REALLY GET INTO IT** Hello out there. I'm a Black 42 year old Male, who is looking for a very submissive Guy, more submissive, the better. Call me if you interested. (Milwaukee) ☎18291

**SNAPSHOT** I'm a hot, passable Bi White Transvestite, 31 years old, 6'0", 175 lbs, clean shaven. I'm looking for generous Males to photograph me in my slutty leather vinyl outfits and sexy lingerie. Click! Click! (Milwaukee) ☎17676

**TAKE ME OUT** I'm a 55 year old, 5'5", 140 lbs, Man who has brown hair, blue eyes and a little on the husky side. I'm a home body looking to go out with a Hispanic or Black Males, 18-30 years old, around my height. I don't drink, smoke or do drugs and I am interested in a monogamous relationship. (Milwaukee) ☎18501

**LET ME SUCK YOUR TOES** This 30 year old, White Male is looking for younger Guys, 20-29 years of age, who are into foot fetish. I'm into white socks, tennis shoes, bare feet and I want to service you, so let's hook up. (Milwaukee) ☎18284

**SO MANY THINGS TO LIKE** I like sports, people who are clean shaven and also Guys who are bottoms. If you fit the bill, please give me a call, I'd like to get to know you. (Madison) ☎18429

**MEET YOU THERE** I'm looking for extremely hairy Men who want to have some fun out there. I like Men who are 35-60 years old, average looking, clean shaven and balding. I'm a handsome, 38 year old, bearded, 6'0", 185 lbs Man with a goatee and a hairy body. I am into sports for the butch side of me, so who knows, maybe we can hit it off, so give me a try. I want to meet Men in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. (Madison) ☎19914

**I DO WHAT I'M TOLD** I'm a Gay Male who has black hair and blue eyes. I'm looking for a top Man who can do things to me. I'm very obedient and I listen very well, so please box me. (Milwaukee) ☎19637

**MAGIC TOUCH** I'm a tall, masculine, 44 year old, White Man, who looks younger. I'm very financially secure and a social drinker. I like water skiing, dinner parties and I am looking for a sincere, in shape Man for friendship and a possible relationship. (LaCrosse) ☎19703

**FUN IN THE SUN** I'm an attractive, 32 year old, Gay White Male, 6'2", 180 lbs and very tanned. I'm looking for Gay White Males who are between the ages of 20-40, for fun in the sun. I like hiking, swimming and going to the beach. (Ashland) ☎19807

**WANNA BE SMOOTH** I'm a 44 year old Gentleman, 5'7", 178 lbs, who would like to hook up with other Guys who enjoy body shaving. If you would like to try something new, give me a call, any race and age is very acceptable. (Milwaukee) ☎18139

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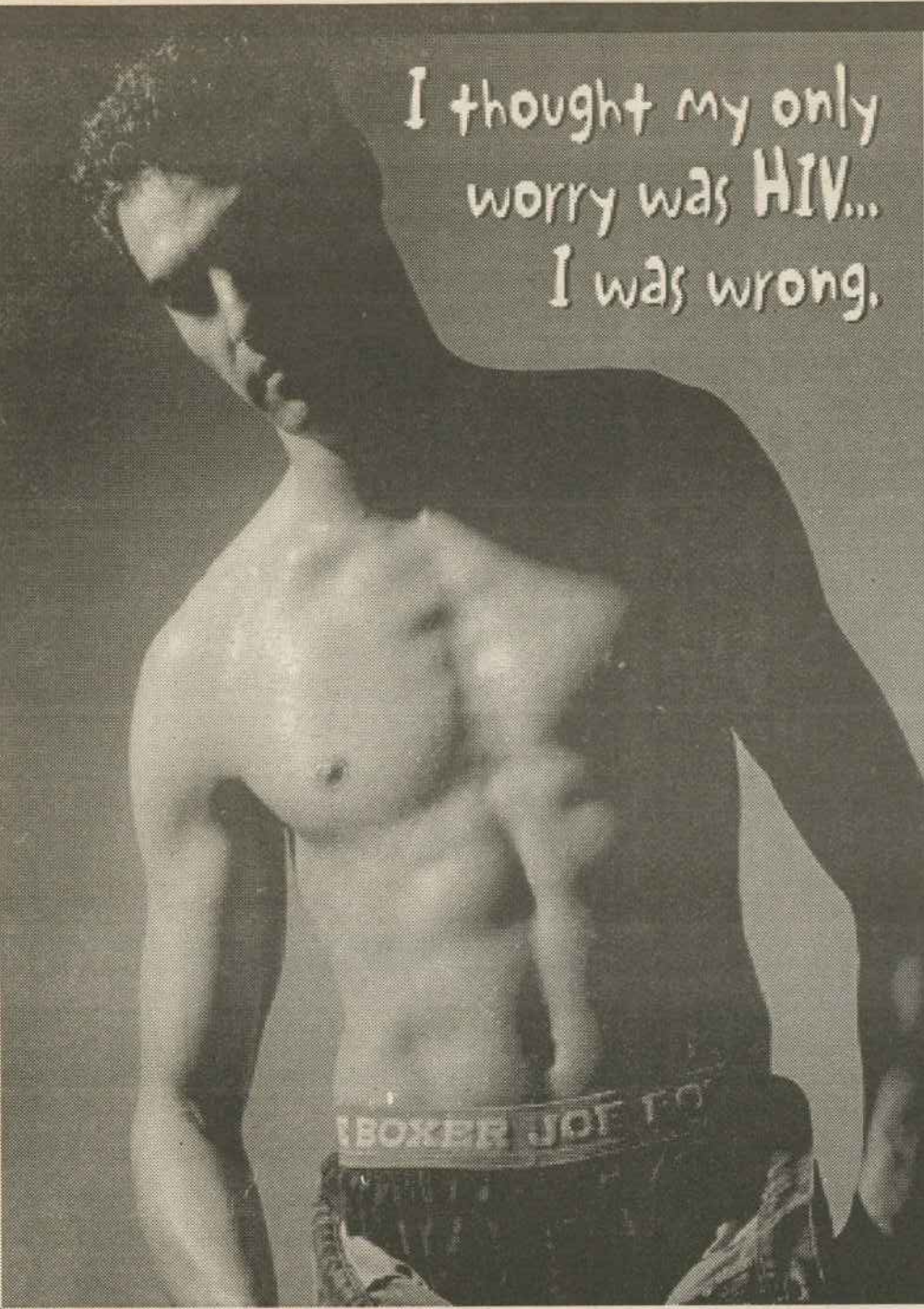


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Book Review by Ed Grover

## Gay Travels

*A Literary Companion*  
edited by Lucy Jane Bledsoe

This travel "companion" is not your average gay travel guide that tells you where to stay, what to see and eat, and where to go for entertainment. Few books can tell you what it's really like to travel as a gay man. This volume of stories and essays by some of the best contemporary writers summons forth a mixture of experiences for the gay traveler.

In the Foreword Felice Picano writes about homosexual travelers who not only kept diaries beside them while they traveled, but wrote about their travels when they returned. He particularly mentions *The Diaries of Roger Casement*, an Irish diplomat who traveled extensively, had gay sex several times daily, and kept a detailed account of each encounter.

Picano says, "It is difficult to read [these diaries] without marveling at [Casement's] sexual appetite, his daring at initiating encounters in any language — and his long run of luck!" It seems that these "scalding diaries" ended up destroying Casement in his trial for treason. He also adds: "the writers in this volume will answer all your questions about traveling, whether you are concerned about being alone, out of place, or with your lover. ... It is something different, far more intriguing: a collection of stories that aim at being what Herman Melville deemed 'an inside narrative,' ... That is, what being a gay man in a foreign land really feels like, smells like, tastes like and hurts like."

Seventeen writers have been gathered together in this anthology edited by Lucy Jane Bledsoe. In Bledsoe's preface she says, "For me literature and travel are inextricably linked. Opening a book is much like entering a new country. I read for the same reasons that I travel: to pry open my limited world view. ... a true

traveler, like a true reader, enjoys stretching his or her limits, crossing boundaries, even scary ones."

There are stories about different countries by Hans Ebensten (Israel); Achim Nowak (Russia); Dariack Scott (Olympia); and Andrew Holleran (Mexico City), along with such writers as James Baldwin (Paris) among many others. The subjects range from Michael Nava's "Journey to 1971," a story about looking back at your youth and revisiting your hometown, to "Invading Their Space," by Philip Gambone, who finds gay life in Beijing, where he thought there was none. He finds it at the baths of all places. Joe Orton writes about drugs and sex with young boys in "Tangier Diary," and Edmund White's story "Shopping" is a look at the collection of "junk" he and his lover Hubert have collected on their travels.

Many of the stories are about travelers with AIDS. Erasmo Guerra's fascinating and frightening "La Plaça Reial," is the story of a young man traveling in Barcelona, who meets and has sex with a young American who may or may not have AIDS. In "Pilgrims Regress," Brian Bouldrey writes about his 600 mile walk across Spain to visit Santiago de Compostela, the shrine to the apostle James the Greater, in search of a miracle for his illness. Each of the pilgrims must sacrifice something and as he walks along, Bouldrey comes to realize that the road markers he passes on his way are akin to his dwindling T-cell count. He understands that "the real point of the pilgrimage wasn't to arrive at Santiago, but to arrive back home."

"Obi's Story" by Cary Alan Johnson is the tale of love and loss between two black men in Central Africa. One is a *noir Americaine* who is there temporarily as an

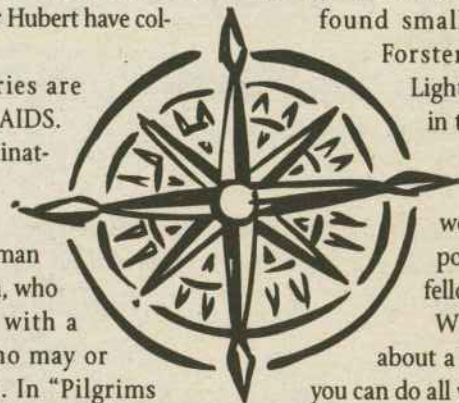
engineer to work on a water project. The other, a handsome "black mountain of a man," who becomes his lover is "taken by the four-letter thing that had come to mean death and destruction in the States."

Finally, and the most beautiful story is Paul Monette's "One Way Fare," in which he struggles to visit Tiberius's Villa during a cruise stop in Capri. This prompts him to piece together "those moments of clarity on various peaks and temple sites to form a truly inspired piece of travel writing." Monette also talks about his own impending death from AIDS, hence the title!

Picano adds that today one can find travel writing by good homosexual writers, even if they are closeted, on most library shelves. He mentions E.M. Forster and Somerset Maugham. One time I found small travel book that

Forster wrote about the Lighthouse at Alexandria in the Milwaukee Public Library stacks. The descriptions were wonderful, as were the portraits of some of his fellow travelers.

What I especially enjoy about a book like this is that you can do all your traveling in your own easy chair. It could also be a pleasant way to while away the time on a plane trip or even at the beach. Lucy Jane Bledsoe is the author of the novel *Working Parts*, winner of the 1998 American Library Association GLB Award for Literature. A new collection of stories edited by Bledsoe, *Lesbian Travels: A Literary Companion*, will be released in September of 1998. (Whereabouts Press, ISBN: 1-883513-06-5, \$14.95).



# Juicy Bits

by W.W. Wells III

**A**n all new, exciting, A to (almost) Z collection of words, phrases and definitions which Gays and Lesbians from across the globe have been clamoring for. So, prepare for vocabulary pandemonium, as I present more from the New Gay Dictionary!

## Aftershock

The shaky feeling you get after having sex with a person you've just met. An aftershock usually occurs when you realize a guy who looked like a romance novel cover boy in dim bar light reminds you of a carnival sideshow reject at eight o'clock in the morning.

## Conspiracy Theory

A rationalization put forth by a gay man whose last nine relationships all ended for exactly the same reason, which he believes has nothing to do with his co-dependent behavior.

## Depth Perception

A man who claims to be more well endowed than he actually is, is said to have bad depth perception.

## Ex-Lover

A person you once loved, who recently has inflicted such heartache you would now gleefully cross his name off your version of Schindler's List.

## Fax

An electronic device which allows a man to quickly transmit results of his latest HIV test to a nervous boyfriend.

## Health Club

What a museum is to paintings, a health club is to bodies. As a public service, the average person should engage in heavy work-outs for at least one year before even considering displaying their body at a gym.

## Incompatibility

Frustrating, irreconcilable differences discovered when two strictly bottom men get together for sex.

## Information Highway

Among gay men, it is the high tech conduit through which all gossip travels at the lightning speed of a drag queen's flapping

lips.

## Mutant

What any slightly hung, self-conscious person considers a hugely endowed porno star to be.

## Networking

A corporate term for cruising, used mainly by horny gay men wearing suits.

## Opened Minded

A willingness to be open to other people's ideas and beliefs. As a rule of thumb, the more attractive and closer to eighteen a man is, the more likely you are to believe his story that he's on a sensitive peace mission from Venus.

## Pubic Hair

Crotch coiffure remnants often found plastered to the side of your bathtub which will be scraped-off only when a hot man or your mother is expected to spend the night.

## Self Talk

The type of inner dialog Magic Johnson will have when his late night gabfest is canceled.

## Serenity

After two weeks of 5-alarm anxiety and worry, it is the state of calmness and relief achieved after receiving results of your first HIV test.

## Spandex

Skin-tight, miracle fabric which the average gay man should avoid, unless he is a tri-athlete, a paid underwear model or that cute bartender you've heard has a big one.

## Therapist

A professional who will charge you hundreds of dollars to listen to problems your friends are sick of hearing about.

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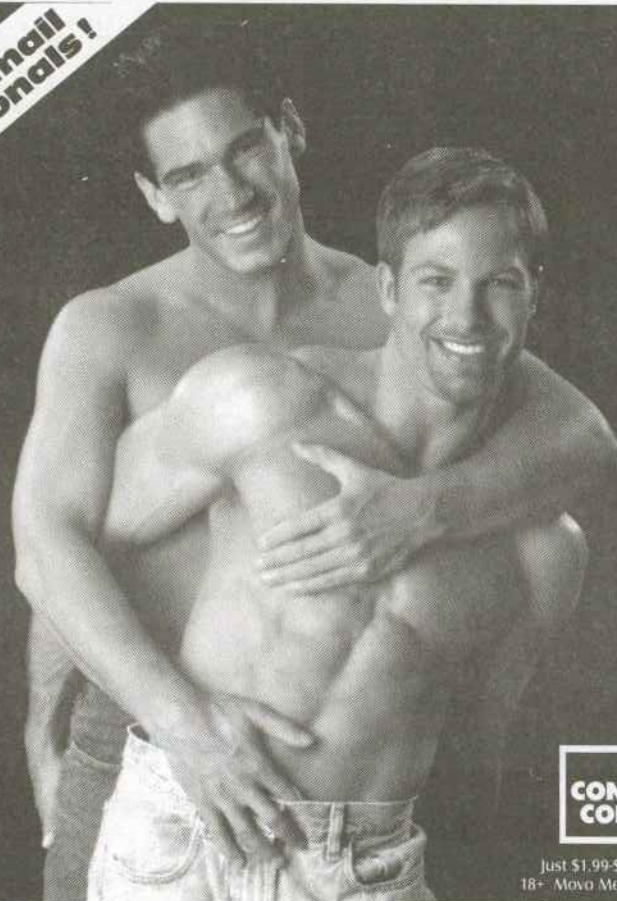


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