

# Bi All Means!

A Quarterly Publication from Bi Definition, Milwaukee's Bisexual Social, Support, and Activist Organization

Volume 1, Number 1

Spring 1996

ISSN:0001

***Bisexuality:** The potential for physical, romantic or emotional attraction to more than one gender.*

## The Creation of a Community Counseling Center Offers Bi Support

Welcome!

This premier issue of *Bi All Means!* is published by Bi Definition, a social, support and activist organization whose mission is to help provide a sense of community for Milwaukee area bisexuals and their supporters.

The origin of this group began at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee with BiDesign, a bisexual women's support group which began in 1992. In January 1995, another bi group was added which included men.

When the mixed group concluded its second session, some members decided that there was an interest and a need for a community-based organization which provided continuing support for Milwaukee bisexuals and a sense of belonging not always found in the gay or straight communities.

The initiators of this new endeavor felt that the best way to unify Milwaukee area bisexuals was to hold meetings/socials and publish a newsletter.

Three founding members of Bi Definition traveled to Madison on December 3, 1995 to meet with representatives of BiNET USA, BiNET Midwest, and Bi?Shy?Why? to seek advice on beginning a group and to discuss bisexual issues. We thank those who shared their time and information and we look forward to

working with them and socializing in the future!

Please join us in this exciting new endeavor at our monthly meetings/socials on the first Sunday of each month, and at discussions, upcoming dinners, brunches, field trips, movie parties, pride parades/festivals and other great "Bi" events.

For further information on Bi Definition and dates, times, and locations of events, check the calendar section on page 8 of this issue or call contact members Steve at (414) 483-5046 or Carol at (414) 961-0082.

The Counseling Center of Milwaukee is in its fourth year of providing support for bisexuals. Its newest offering, a men's bisexual group, will meet weekly beginning in late April/early May.

All support groups at the Counseling Center are strictly confidential and peer-facilitated. Fees are based on a sliding scale, and in cases of financial hardship, are waived. For more information, call Bill Hanel at (414)271-2565 on Tuesdays or Thursdays.



Members of BiDesign in the 1995 Pridefest Parade, Milwaukee, WI.  
- Photo courtesy of Bi?Shy?Why?

# Bi All Means!

P.O. Box 07541  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

## Editorial Board

Carol Ringo, Editor  
Steve Butler, Editor  
Ben Torrey, Layout Artist

*Bi All Means!* is a publication of Bi Definition, a bisexual social, support and activist organization in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *Bi All Means!* is published quarterly and is offered to those on our mailing list on a subscription basis. To subscribe, simply fill out the form on p.8 of this issue.

Opinions expressed by writers in *Bi All Means!* are not necessarily those of the editors, publisher, advertisers nor the philosophy of Bi Definition. Any reference made to any individual or organization should not be construed as an indication of the same's sexual or affectional preference.

We reserve the right to edit any submission at our sole discretion. Those who wish to contribute articles, stories, poems, or artwork are encouraged to do so and may have their names withheld if so desired. Please provide text submissions typed double-spaced. Send all submissions to: *Bi All Means!*, P.O. Box 07541, Milwaukee WI 53207.

Next Submission Deadline: May 18

### Subscription Rates:

\$10/ year Regular  
\$6/ year Low Income  
\$25/ year Patron (Thank you!)

### Contacts:

Carol (414)961-0082  
Steve (414)487-5046

## Bisexual Resource Guide

The Bisexual Resource Center of Cambridge, Massachusetts has published **The Bisexual Resource Guide**. It's a valuable and unique resource to the burgeoning bisexual movement in the United States and internationally.

The guide contains listings of more than 1,400 Bisexual and LesBiGayTrans groups in 22 countries. There is also a bibliography of recommended books on bisexuality, a film guide, information and merchandise (such as buttons, t-shirts, etc.) Finally there is also safer sex information and conferences listed. If interested, please send \$8.00 check or money order to:

BRC  
P.O. Box 639  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
or call:  
Robin Ochs  
(617) 495-8476

### Bi's Be Counted!

*Overlooked Opinions*, a gay owned and operated survey firm is taking a gay/bi census. The survey can be taken by touch tone or mailed form. Show that we're not invisible! Call 1-800-429-8642 !!!

## A Bit of Bisexual His/Herstory

1972 - The National Bisexual Liberation Group forms in New York. Within three years, more than 5,500 members in 10 U.S. Chapters receive what is probably the earliest bisexual newsletter, **The Bisexual Expression**.

- BiNet USA

*Bi All Means!* supports affectional and sexual freedom coupled with personal responsibility.

## Bi Definition to be on the World Wide Web!!!

Bi Definition will soon have a WWW Homepage. Ben Torrey, layout artist for *Bi All Means!*, has started designing a site for the group and hopes to have it fully running by PrideFest. Right now, he is searching other GLBT sites for ideas and links. If you have any suggestions or if you would like to link your site to the Bi Definition Homepage, please e-mail Ben at [dover@csd.uwm.edu](mailto:dover@csd.uwm.edu).

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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... And More!

# Rainbow Politics: Clear and Simple

by S. Butler

*This column is designed to help those who have a desire to make a difference for the Gay/Les/Bi/Trans community without getting bogged down, bored, or confused, which is often associated with the world of politics.*

As a young boy, I quickly realized that I was among a very small minority of people who not only realized that I was attracted to both some little boys and girls alike, but somehow I also knew that that was just fine. Obviously at that prepubescent and quite dependent age, I knew that it wasn't a good idea to tell this to a bi/homoprejudiced world. So there I was - "in the closet".

As I continued to mature, I felt very sad for my "gay side", in that it was considered cute, normal, and proper when I was seen holding hands or kissing a ten or eleven year old girl, but I couldn't show that same level of affection for a person of my own gender due to my fear of the anticipated scorn and possible abandonment from those in my very young life.

In my late teens and early twenties, it became more and more difficult to continue this double life. I came to believe that not only would coming out of this restrictive closet allow me to be completely honest, but it would also let me help others in similar situations - if even in a small way.

I had heard that people become much more tolerant and accepting of difference when they can actually put a face with the person in the minority and usually even more so if they knew the person prior to disclosure. This now would become my way of making a statement and a difference, by showing people that we in the Lavender Community can be anyone, not just those who they see fit to stereotype. I feel that I can personally make this point strongly because rarely can I be tracked on gaydar (bidar?), so it really makes people think when I come out to them and they say, "You?!?".

As I continue to knock down closet walls, after the initial surprise and

other emotions fade (and they always do), those people who previously may have been bi/homoprejudiced, indifferent or detrimental in our equal rights campaign, now may think twice about or even challenge "Queer jokes", because these jokes now become not just harmless fun but mean slurs aimed at a *family member*. They might be inclined to consider GLBT civil rights when voting for candidates because those rights are no longer perceived as "special rights" of a threatening minority group, they are now recognized as *equal rights for their friend*, and so on. Possibly the most important reason to come out and help the cause is that maybe someone won't get gay/bi bashed and possibly killed because someone before them came out and clued-in their prejudiced brother or sister about how sexual identity has nothing to do with what kind of a person one is, and in so doing lessened the threat felt from the Lavender Community.

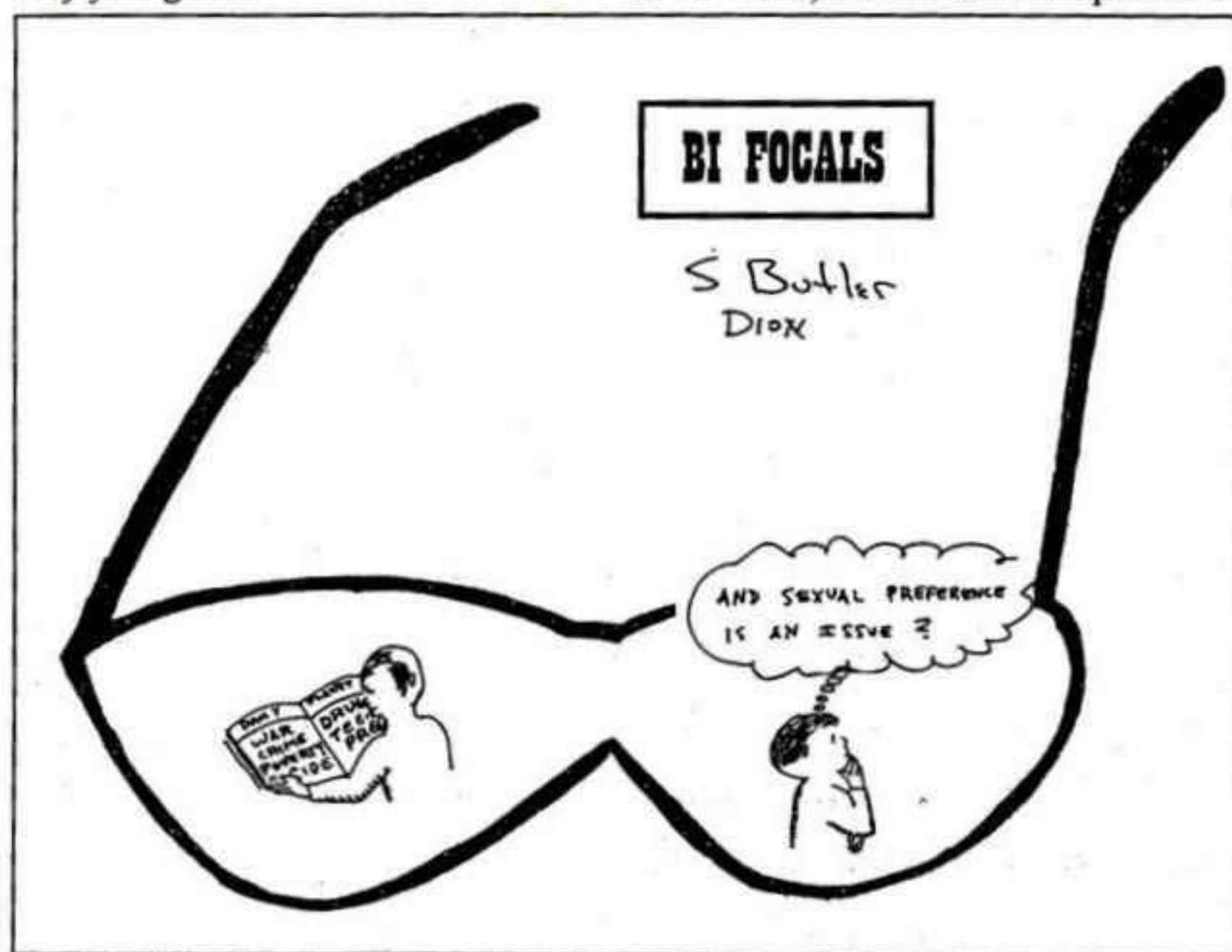
The Bi/Homoprejudiced have successfully shamed us into the closet out of fear of us-See *Rainbow*, Page 4

## ***Anything That Moves: The National Bisexual Magazine***

The Bay Area Bisexual Network publishes the quarterly magazine, **Anything That Moves**, by, for and about bisexuals. If you are interested in subscribing to **Anything That Moves**, you can contact the BABN by mail:

Bay Area Bisexual Network  
2404 California St. #24  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
phone: (416) 703-7977

or by email at: [qswitch@aol.com](mailto:qswitch@aol.com)



# Bisexuality and the Bible by Dion

Most of us have probably been confused at one time or another with the claims of the "Christian Right" concerning sexual orientation. We've heard televangelists say God hates homosexual relationships. Perhaps we've wondered if there is any truth to what they say.

In order to understand what the Bible teaches about homosexuality, it is essential to have some understanding of what it really has to say about homosexuality and human sexuality in general. While there is enough material available for an entire book, I'll give a brief outline in this article.

First of all, the Old Testament portion of the Bible was written in an underpopulated, rural agrarian society. The human race must "be fruitful and multiply" in order to survive and work the land (Genesis 1:28). So one would

expect any sexual activity that did not lead to reproduction to be condemned, which is mostly the case. On the other hand, if the Old Testament were written in today's overpopulated urban society, it would, logically, say the exact opposite: it would promote sexual activities that did not lead to reproduction.

The New Testament was written in an urban environment. Of all its authors, only Paul criticizes homosexuality. What the preachers don't point out, however, is that Paul was also against heterosexuality: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman" (I Corinthians 7:1). He apparently had some sort of sexual "hang-up". If everyone had taken his advice, you and I would not exist!

Have you ever wondered what Jesus taught about homosexual relationships? In his description of what would

happen in the new age, he said that the unrighteous would be taken away, while the righteous would be left to inherit the earth. He made it clear that among homosexuals there would be found both righteous and unrighteous: "I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, the other left" (Luke 17:34-35). So sexual orientation does not prevent a person from finding favor with God.

Incidentally, Jesus said to a group of religious leaders (priests and elders) that "the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you" (Matthew 21:31). You could get crucified for saying things like that!

Perhaps one of the most famous bisexuals in history was King David. His marriages to Michal - see *Bible on p.5*

## I'm Honest, You're Confused

I'm open to Michael, I'm open to Michelle  
There's potential with Adam and Eve... or Steve,  
Carrie and Kerry, Terry or Teri  
Chris, Robin and Jo(e)

"AC/DC

Queerer than queer,  
Fence sitter, switch hitter-  
Promiscuous, androgynous",  
Labels from the ignorant

A minority within a minority  
Oppressed even by the oppressed,  
Ignored and wished into oblivion...  
I won't stand to be invisible!

Love regardless of gender is ostracized  
Without thought for basic truth;  
There's potential in most all for love of either  
But most succumb to pressure,  
And fail to embrace their wholeness

- S. Butler

## Rainbow- *cont. from Page 3*

because they know that we have no power while hiding. Unfortunately, as difficult as coming out can be, it is the only way our struggle for equality can be achieved. Black civil rights, although still too slow in coming, have progressed more quickly, due in part to being an easily recognized people. We in the Rainbow Community don't have that luxury. We must first come out a proud and counted people before we will be a group to be reckoned with by the larger society. Without doubt, we'll continue to take some blows below the waist, some more blood will be shed and sadly, some lives will be lost, but we must continue to fight the good fight, so that when all is said and done and we in the right triumph over ignorance, it will be evident that it was worthwhile.

Yes, it's true that it's nobody's business what goes on in your bedroom, but if you do decide to come out of hiding, there's no telling just how much that single act of courage can positively affect people, now and in the future.

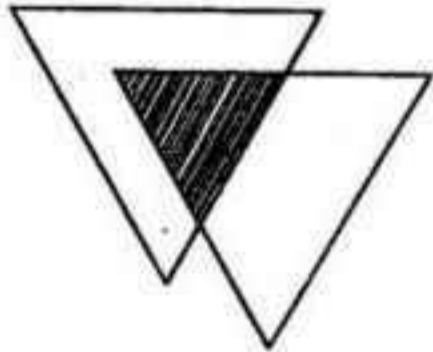
As Michael Jackson sings, "It starts with the man (or woman) in the mirror". ♡

**Have Bi All Means! delivered to your door - SUBSCRIBE!**

# Pridefest 1996

The dates for Pridefest 1996 are June 7, 8, and 9 at the Summerfest grounds. Bi Definition will be marching in the parade on the 9th. We are looking for volunteers to sit at our information table for a few hours during the festival. We also have tentative plans to march in Chicago, Madison, and the Twin Cities. If you are interested in getting involved, check the calendar on Page 8 or contact Steve at 483-5046.

## Did you know?



Interlocking pink and blue triangles with a purple triangle at their intersections is the universal symbol for bisexuality.

### *Bible - cont. from Page 4*

and Abigail, as well as his affair with Bathsheba illustrate his fondness for women. The Bible also contains a description of David's relationship with Jonathan: "The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David and Jonathan loved him... and Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him" (I Samuel 18:1,4). Later, David says: "Very pleasant hast thou (Jonathan) been unto me: Thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women." (II Samuel 1:26).

I find it fascinating, therefore, that the Bible recognizes the existence of bisexual orientation and does not condemn it. This is an important lesson for the religious leaders of today. ▼

# TALES FROM THE FENCE

by Woman Divided Searching

## Tale Number 1: Bifurcately Yours

Bifurcate is my new vocabulary word. According to my dictionary, it means "to divide into two parts or branches; fork." It describes exactly how I have felt since I discovered I was bisexual and tried to socialize as such. Often my feeling of being split has been accompanied by voices which come to me from either around me or inside of me, I'm never quite sure which. They can be loud and insistent, seductive, manipulating or discounting. They are always punishing in some way and are never pleasant company. If I were to dramatize a brief bout, it would go something like this:

### The Characters:

Woman Divided Searching (that's me): a bisexual everywoman

Voice on the Right: The voice of righteous straightness

Voice on the Left: The voice of uppity gayness

### The Scene:

Woman Divided Searching is sitting on top of a white picket fence in a residential neighborhood in Milwaukee. The two yards it is separating, although in some ways very similar, have obvious differences. The yard on the right is much larger and is heavier-trafficked, with many more people coming to call or strolling through the gardens. The house it supports is of mansionly proportions compared to the modest bungalow next door.

Woman Divided looks quite uncomfortable on her perch on the thin rail of the fence and looks as though she would like to come down on either one side or the other, but is afraid.

### The Dialogue:

**Woman Divided:** (to herself) Ever since I realized I wasn't completely straight, I've found this place to be the most comfortable, although it's really not. (Rubs her behind.) These pickets are a serious drawback, and there aren't too many people up here, so it gets pretty lonely. I really want to get down from here for a while and since it looks like I'll have to choose one side of the fence or the other, I guess I'll choose the gay side. I haven't had too much support for loving women in my life and I could use it. (She descends into the yard on the left and begins to socialize.)

**Voice on the Right** (the straight side): Hold it right there, young lady! You know you're not supposed to be gay and I don't want to be responsible for you if you are. Now you just come right back here this instant!

**Woman Divided:** (to herself again) Boy, I hate to be yelled at. And it's so treacherous over here! People on the outside are always throwing stones, the men dislike me for the most part, and the women drool! - See *Tales* on p.6



# Dear Casey,

**Dear Casey,**

I have always identified as a lesbian woman, but lately I have noticed that I have been attracted to men who dress in drag. Could this be a bisexual thing or am I just attracted to anything feminine?

K. M. in Milwaukee

**Dear K.M.,**

One thing that I will assume is that when you see these men in drag, you are aware that they are men. If you are not attracted to men that are not in drag, then I would have to say that it is the femininity that you are attracted to. I don't think that bisexuality is something that can be "diagnosed" by someone else like some sort of medical condition. If you are attracted to men and women (sexually, emotionally, etc.) in any way, shape, or form, then that is the definition of bisexuality. If you fit that definition, it is up to you if you want to call yourself bisexual and explore that side of yourself.



*If you would like to ask Dear Casey a question, send a letter to:  
Dear Casey, P.O. Box 07541, Milwaukee, WI 53207*

## How do you feel?

Lesbians often refer to each other as "sisters". It has been suggested that bi women are "half-sisters". Whether you are gay or bisexual, woman or man, do you feel this kind of connection and do you like the term?

*Please let us know your viewpoint! You may request your name withheld if you so desire but we will report your viewpoint and possibly quote you in the next issue of Bi All Means!*

**Dear Casey,**

With all the stuff in the news about bisexuality being a trendy new fad, how do those who really are bisexual separate themselves from the "curious" ones?

Lost In The Crowd in Milwaukee

**Dear Lost In The Crowd,**

It's frustrating to feel like you always have to be proving your orientation to skeptics, then along comes a generation of people that encourage the myths about bisexuality. The best ways for us to stick out in the crowd is to be active in helping educate the general public about who we really are. There are millions of ways that we can make ourselves seen and understood. Be a part of pride marches, wear buttons or t-shirts that proclaim your bisexuality and learn to gracefully correct those that assume you are gay or straight. There was a time when homosexuality was considered a disease and a lot has changed since then. In time, bisexuals will also be understood.

**Summer Edition Deadline  
for Submissions: May 18**

## Express Yourself:

Bi All Means! welcomes your letters, articles, illustrations, cartoons, or any other form of expression of your unique self. Let us be an extension of your voice. We're not too far away:

**Bi All Means!**  
P.O. Box 07541  
Milwaukee WI 53207



## Tales - cont. from Page 5

Guess I'll get outta here! (she leaps to the other side of the fence and breathes a sigh of relief.)

**Voice on the Left** (*the gay side*): You chicken shit, come back here! You belong t... with us! Quit hanging on your Daddy's shirttail and grow up! Be a real woman - a woman-loving woman. We're the real people. We're your family, so love us, dammit! (Woman Divided leaps ten feet into the air and lands squarely and painfully on the fence. She stays there until the voices die down and her pelvis begins to feel cloven.)

-This is how it usually goes when I venture too far into the Milwaukee Gaylands or Straightlands. Fortunately, I have friends and family on both sides of the fence who accept me for who I am, or who are trying to, which helps keep me connected and hopeful. And I am learning to accept myself this way, with the help of some people I met who were also trying to live on the fence. There was a day that we gathered together, stood on each other's shoulders and spotted some unclaimed land in Milwaukee, past the yard on the left and the yard on the right. Pooling our resources, we bought the land, settled into it, and got off that God-forsaken fence. It sure feels good to park my sore butt into an easy chair in the living room of my new home with my family around me. I guess everyone needs a place where they can get away from the voices for awhile.

I make no mistake. I still have things to figure out and to work with myself on; internalized homophobia, men issues, women issues, issue issues. I'm a less-than-integrated person living in a segregated society. But I'm getting better. I'm me and I'm here in my very own Bi Land. So I remain...

Bifurcately Yours,  
Woman Divided Searching

# Bi Definition Activism

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*Bi Definition believes in standing up for our rightful inclusion in the sexual minority community. The following is a letter sent on March 21 of this year to the Wisconsin Light.*

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TO THE EDITOR:

In the 3-14-96 issue of **The Wisconsin Light**, two significant groups in our community were excluded from the article about the community center proposal and meeting.

Members of Bi Definition, a Milwaukee bisexual organization, and Gemini Gender, a transgender social and support group, specifically introduced themselves in the March 11 meeting, yet you included only lesbian and gay people in your heading and article. Moreover, language which included transgenders and bisexuals was used by the moderators of that meeting and in the community center proposal itself.

We, as open bisexuals, participate regularly in Milwaukee Rainbow Community functions and feel discouraged when we are not expressly counted as part of this community. We identify separately from gays and lesbians because of important differences, yet we share a quality with them which extends to the depths of our souls - we fall in love with people of our own gender and suffer from discrimination because of this unalterable state of our being. This is why we feel very much a part of the "gay and lesbian" community.

We ask that in the future your publication embrace diversity by including bisexuals and transgenders in your language when referring to our community.

In the Spirit of Diversity;  
Steve Butler  
Carol Ringo  
Bi Definition

*- I spoke to Terry Boughner, editor of **The Wisconsin Light**, when I submitted this letter and he was very supportive of Bi Definition and open to using a broader descriptor for our community, but seemed concerned about selecting one that there wouldn't be a great deal of controversy over. I said that I thought it was more important to choose one than to try to please everyone. He agreed. Hopefully, we will be discovering what he decided upon soon.* - C.R.

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**Gemini Gender Group-** A support and social organization for transgenders, transsexuals and transvestites. For information: Write Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee WI 53214, or call the voice mail at 297-9328.

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## Advertising Rates

Business Card Size: \$10.00  
Quarter Page: \$25.00

Half Page: \$35.00  
Full Page: \$60.00

## Special Rate

Purchase advertising in 3 issues, get the 4th issue free.

*From the Bottom of Our Hearts:*

*We owe so very much to Ben Torrey, our layout artist, without whose time, energy and expertise this first edition of **Bi All Means!** would not have been possible.*

*Many Thanks, Ben!*

*- Carol and Steve*

# Calendar

For information on any Bi Definition event listed, contact Steve (414)483-5046 or Carol (414)961-0082 or write: *Bi All Means!*, P.O. Box 07541, Milwaukee WI 53207.

## April

14 -4:00 P.M. Bi Definition meeting/social. Room E260, UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood

26 -9:00 P.M. "Out and About" 10% Society Dance. UW Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison  
More info: call (608)255-8582.

Mid to late April: GLBT Community Center Meeting. TBA. Check *The Wisconsin Light* or *Instep*.

Late April-early May: Bisexual men's support group to start at Counseling Center. More info: call Steve 483-5046 or Bill Hanel 271-2565 Tues. or Thurs.

27, 28, 29 - **BECAUSE** (Bisexual empowerment) Conference, Minneapolis. More info: Write Bi Definition, P.O. Box 07541, Milwaukee WI 53207.

## May

5 - 4:00 P.M. Bi Definition meeting/social. Room E250, UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood

18 - *Bi All Means!* summer edition article deadline.

Mid to late May - Bi Definition social event. TBA.

## June

2 - 4:00 P.M. Bi Definition meeting/Pride Parade banner making party. Room E240-280, UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood.

7,8,9 - Milwaukee PrideFest, Summerfest Grounds. We'll have an info table. More info: 272-FEST.

9 - 12 Noon. PrideFest Parade. March with Bi Definition!

23 -Twin Cities Pride Parade. Possible Bi Definition carpool.

30 - 2:00 P.M. Chicago Pride Parade. More info: call Pride Chicago (312)-348-8243.

## July

7 - 4:00 P.M. Bi Definition meeting/social. Room TBA. UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood.

19,20,21 - Madison Pride Weekend and March.

19 - 9:00 P.M. 10 % Society Summer Dance. UW Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison. More info: (608)255-8582.

## August/September

First Sundays of the month - 4:00 Bi Definition meetings/socials.

9/22 - 12:30 P.M. AIDS Walk Wisconsin. Summerfest Grounds.

**\*Yes! I want to subscribe!\***

### *Bi All Means*

The Official Quarterly Newsletter from Bi Definition

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

I've enclosed an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help cover costs. (Thank you!)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$25/yr. 4 issues)  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Please use discretion when contacting me.

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thank You.

Return to: Bi Definition, P.O. Box 07541, Milwaukee WI 53207