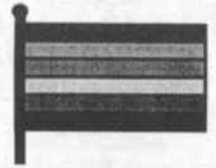


# Bi All Means!

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



Volume 2, Number 1

Spring 1997

Issue No: 0005

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

## B.E.C.A.U.S.E. Conference offers Community, Education, Entertainment

This year's theme: "Body Pride, Body Power"

Bi Definition invites all Milwaukee area persons to hear national bisexual activist and author Lorraine Hutchins give the keynote address at this year's 6th annual Midwest Bisexual Empowerment Conference: A Uniting, Supportive Experience on the weekend of April 25-27 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This year's theme, "Body Pride, Body Power," encourages people to have sovereignty over their own bodies.

**"As someone who embraces diversity strongly, I'm ecstatic to say that B.E.C.A.U.S.E. feels like home."**

- '96 participant

Many other issues will be explored in workshops on monogamy/nonmonogamy, coming out of the homo and heterosexual communities, HIV/AIDS, bisexuals of color, bisexuality and religion and mysterious sex secrets. The conference will also offer cabaret entertainment, dancing and children's activities.

B.E.C.A.U.S.E. '96 was a tremendous success, with hundreds of people of diverse orientations coming from all over the Midwest.

Milwaukeeans will be leaving at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25 for the University of Minnesota, arriving in time to register and en-

joy the opening Keynote Address. The cost of the conference is on a sliding scale and free housing is available by contacting Steve at (414) 483-5046 A.S.A.P.

You can't know the fun and enlightenment you'd be missing unless you attend B.E.C.A.U.S.E.'97!



Bi Definition Celebrating Bi Pride at Pridefest '96

## Pridefest '97 "Sharing a World of Difference"

The weekend of June 6-8 at the Henry W. Maier Festival Grounds (Summerfest) will again be the site of this year's Pridefest, Wisconsin's LesBiGayTrans celebration.

In addition to a Bi Definition information booth and interactive educational workshop, we will again be celebrating our bisexual orientation by marching in the Pride Parade on Sunday June 8, which steps off at 12:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in marching with the Bi Definition contingent is welcome to meet with us just outside the grounds at 11:30 a.m. Just look for the banner shown in the picture above.

## Announcing Monthly Socials

Bi Definition is proud to announce monthly social/discussions on the first Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St.

Regularly scheduled socials give bisexuals and others the opportunity to meet, discuss bi issues, watch programs on bisexuality, pick up literature and build a sense of community.

A Bi Definition one-year membership and newsletter subscription is just \$10, which includes free admittance to all events

at BestD. Otherwise, a \$3 donation covers a single gathering. In case of extreme financial hardship, fees can be waived if time is donated to the organization.

Please join us at the BestD Clinic at 7:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month!

# B. A. M.!

Bi All Means!

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## Bi All Means!

P.O. Box 07541  
Milwaukee WI 53207

### Editorial Board

Carol Ringo, Editor and Layout  
Steve Butler, Associate Editor

### Contributing Writers

K. Patrick Callahan  
Sadder But Wiser  
Dion Carol Ringo Todd  
Anonymous S. Butler  
Woman Divided Searching  
\*Your Name Here\*

*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 page 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 orientation.

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.

### Contacts:

Steve (414)483-5046  
Carol (414)562-4058  
woman@alpha2.csd.uwm.edu

### Subscription Rates:

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Business Card Size: \$20.00  
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4 issues for the price of 3  
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### Next Submission Deadline

May 18


## Bi the Editors...

Bi Definition's First Anniversary Party was, by all accounts, a smashing success. Over fifteen people celebrated our first year of bisexual community in Milwaukee by playing games, eating, drinking and socializing with great, open-minded people. It was widely suggested that the gathering be made into an annual event, so look for the Second Annual Anniversary Party in January '98!

A representative from Bi Definition was sent to the BiNet Midwest Leadership Retreat held in March in Ames, Iowa. Many exciting things are planned in the future for the Midwest region. You can find out more by attending the BiNet Midwest Spring Meeting which will be held at the B.E.C.A.U.S.E. Conference in Minneapolis (for more information or to reserve carpool space and free sleeping accommodations, call Steve at 483-5046) or by becoming a member and receiving the BiNet Midwest and BiNet USA newsletters. Just send \$1.00 per each \$1,000 of income, your name, address and other contact information to: BiNet Midwest, P.O. Box 07541, Milwaukee WI 53207.

Carol was recently nominated for a board position of the Milwaukee chapter of the Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays. She was not selected because it was felt that incorporating someone with a strong bisexual identity would involve changes in language and operation which the HRL is not quite ready at this time to make. She hopes that the future will bring opportunities to work together.

Don't forget about Wisconsin Pridefest on June 6-8 at the Milwaukee Summerfest grounds. Bi Definition will be marching again this year and will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 8 at the parade line-up location. Come join us!

Bi for now!  
Steve and Carol 

### "POLY" WANT A CRACKER?"



## Did You Know?

...the parrot is the international symbol of polyamory.

## ✍ Letters

### To The Editors:

Bravo on another fine issue of *Bi All Means!* As soon as I receive it, I read it cover-to-cover. I liked the article about phobia or prejudice [*Bi All Means!*, vol.1, no.4]. It gave me something to think about.

In Diversity,  
Joanne  
Milwaukee

### To The Editors:

Keep up the important work. It's great to have this resource for clients.

Bill Hanel, MSW  
Milwaukee

## A Bit of Bisexual His/Herstory

1989 - Openly bisexual veteran Cliff Arnesen testifies before the U.S. Congress on behalf of gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans' issues. Arnesen is the first veteran to testify about gay, lesbian and bisexual issues and the first openly non-heterosexual veteran to testify on Capitol Hill about veterans' issues in general.

- BiNet USA

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# 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 Les/Bi/Gay/Trans community without getting bogged down, bored, or confused, which is often associated with the world of politics.*

## A Brief Overview of the Bisexual Movement

It is often thought that the bisexual movement began in the 1980's. However, an energetic bisexual liberation movement existed in the early 1970's, the Sexual Freedom League encouraged experimentation with more than one gender in the early 1960's and history documents bisexual behavior long before the "sexual revolution." The roots of the bisexual political movement can be traced to the Black civil rights, women's and sexual liberation movements and to lesbian activism.

In the late '60's and early '70's, Stephen Donaldson, David Lourea and others organized around bisexual visibility, support, freedom and human potential. This was the first era in which the bisexual label was publicly claimed. In 1972 the Quaker Committee of Friends on Bisexuality issued the "Ithaca Statement on Bisexuality" which appeared in *The Advocate*. Don Fass helped form the Bisexual Liberation Group and the earliest bi newsletter, **The Bisexual Expression**.

Bisexuality became "chic" around 1974, receiving considerable "envious" media coverage. The mid-70's also saw the opening of the Bisexual Forum in New York City and the Bi Center in San Francisco.

In the late 70's and early '80's, many lesbians left the gay movement (as it was called then) because of gay male sexism and turned to the burgeoning feminist movement. Some of these women could no longer deny their attractions to men and, bearing the epithet of "hasbians," became the leaders of today's bisexual movement. In 1982 Lani Ka'ahumanu wrote an influential article encouraging bi's to become a political force. The inception of BiPOL, the first bisexual political action group, followed within a year.

The mid-1980's saw numerous groups networking and forming umbrella organizations. In 1986 and 1987, the bi community grew very quickly largely due to unfair media coverage of bi's as AIDS vectors. In this way, AIDS politicized previously inactive persons. In 1987, the March On Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights brought bi activists together from around the country for the first time, eventually culminating in the forming of BiNet USA, the national bisexual network.

In 1990, the first National Bisexual Conference drew 454 people and its last day was proclaimed "Bisexual Pride Day" by the city of San Francisco. **Anything That Moves**, the first national bisexual magazine, began publishing in 1991. During that same year, 250 people from nine countries attended the First Annual International Conference on Bisexuality in Amsterdam.

Three bisexual organizations sponsored the National Conference Celebrating Bisexuality in 1993, drawing over 600 people.

Bi's got widespread recognition as thousands joined the March On Washington, which included "bisexual" in its title for the first time in history. Lani Ka'ahumanu became the first bisexual to speak at this event.

Bisexuals have consistently played key roles in the gay and lesbian civil rights movement, including the organization of the annual March on Washington and the Stonewall 25th anniversary celebration. They have protested queerprejudiced legislation, ignorance of AIDS, the reproductive rights backlash and U.S. military intervention. Hit hard by AIDS, bisexuals have been in the forefront of the development of safer sex curricula and care. Despite their long and continued involvement, bisexuals' presence continues to be ignored and minimized by many gays and lesbians.

Today, the bi movement is made up of gay liberationists, sexual liberationists, people interested in gender issues, those who primarily identify with alternative sexual, political or other subcultures, those whose first conscious self-identification was bisexual, and those who identified as bi later in life.

Four main political strategies are in place today:

1. Obtain inclusion within the gay and les- - see *Rainbow*, p.4



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# TALES FROM THE FENCE

By Woman Divided Searching

## Tale No. 3: The Big Deal

*Why do so many people have a problem with my bisexuality? I feel normal. I look normal, don't I? So why can't I get a date with a normal lesbian woman or a normal heterosexual man? What's the big deal?*

This is what I kept asking myself back when I was looking for love in the personal ads. I had a lot of problems connecting. Heterosexual men didn't return my calls (I told them about my sexual orientation right away so we wouldn't waste time—we didn't). Lesbian women usually didn't want to get involved because they were afraid that I'd eventually leave them for a man. I didn't approach other bisexuals because many women who advertised were either already married or much younger than me, and the rest (men and women alike) were only interested in purely sexual liaisons.

A lot has happened since then. I got dumped by a lesbian woman, in part—I think—because I was bisexual. A friend's lesbian lover had some big problems around her bisexual identity, even though my friend was committed to maintaining a monogamous relationship. I got to know some bi people who were in nonmonogamous relationships, all consensually and responsibly worked out. And I've met someone special who does not have a problem with my bisexuality: another bisexual—go figger.

He (my bi partner), admittedly does feel insecure about my attractions for women from time to time, but he's obviously not petrified or he wouldn't be in a relationship with me. For some reason, I don't feel insecure about his attractions for men—in fact, I enjoy that part of him. I could hypothesize about why we're different in this way, but the main thing is that it's not a big deal. We have a bargain: neither one of us will act on our attractions without the consent of the other person. If we don't hold to - see *Tales*, p.5

*Rainbow, cont. from p.3:*

1. bian movement to fight queerprejudice.
2. Build an independent bi movement, emphasizing specific concerns to bisexuals.
3. Create a sexual and gender liberation movement, encompassing the concerns of all minorities.
4. Move society beyond identity-based categories in favor of fluidity.

In the mid-1990's, bisexuals in the U.S. have begun to shed identity politics altogether, as is the case in most of Europe. Many are seeking new organizing principles to guide them. The national movement's growth and success has been considerable, especially in bisexual hubs such as Boston, Seattle, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Minneapolis/St. Paul. But in rural areas and cities like Milwaukee, our work is just beginning. ▼

*Information for this article was taken from "Identity and Ideas: Strategies for Bisexuals" by Liz A. Highleyman and "Appendix A: Brief Timeline of Bisexual Activism in the United States" by Dannielle Raymond and Liz A. Highleyman in Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries and Visions, edited by Naomi Tucker and published in 1995 by Harrington Park Press.*



# Bi Book Review

## Ed Wood Double Feature:

**Nightmare of Ecstasy**  
Rudolph Grey  
Portland: Feral House, 1992



**Ed Wood**  
Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski  
London: Faber and Faber, 1995

Actor/author/producer/director Edward D. Wood, Jr., best known for his films **Glen or Glenda** and **Plan 9 from Outer Space** was a transvestite who dealt with themes of sexual identity in his scripts and novels. For instance, according to biographer Rudolph Grey, Wood's 1967 novel **It Takes One to Know One** is about Don, a college student who is encouraged by a young lesbian to become Donna, a transvestite. In the final chapter, Wood writes: "The time is now to speak out...as I have done, write every line we feel" (**Nightmare of Ecstasy**, p.183). This quote implies that the novel, along with much of his work, was semi-autobiographical: he wrote from his experience.

Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski are authors of the 1995 biopic (film biography) **Ed Wood** and the book of the same title which contains an essay plus the original script. In their essay they write, "...Ed Wood's glory was that he had integrity. He was never a Hollywood hack, indifferently creating 'product.' Ed put his soul on the line with every film...When you watch his movies, you can feel the passion and personality of the guy behind the camera...It's a classic American success story: an eccentric individual achieves immortality, simply because he wouldn't bend to tradition" (**Ed Wood**, p.x).

In the biographically accurate **Ed Wood** script there is a wonderful coming-out scene where Ed says to his future wife Kathy, "I'm about to tell you something I've never told any girl on a first date. But I think it's important that you know...I like to wear women's clothes...panties, brassieres, sweaters, pumps...(it's) just something I do. And I can't believe I'm telling you, but I really like you, and I don't want it getting in the way down the road." Amazed, Kathy thinks this over. She then says, "Does this mean you don't like sex with girls?" Ed replies, "No! I love sex with girls," to which Kathy responds, "Oh. Okay." - see **Book Review**, p.6

*Margie Pecus, C.I.C.S.W.*  
Psychotherapist

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### Tales, cont. from p.4:

our bargain, we'd cause our partner a lot of pain and maybe even lose the relationship. Neither of us wants this. Sound quite similar to your standard heterosexual or homosexual relationship? It is. We give faithfulness a primary position. The difference is that we don't take monogamy for granted. If we decide to become nonmonogamous, we will decide together, and we will still be acting in good faith to each other because that decision will have been a mutual one.

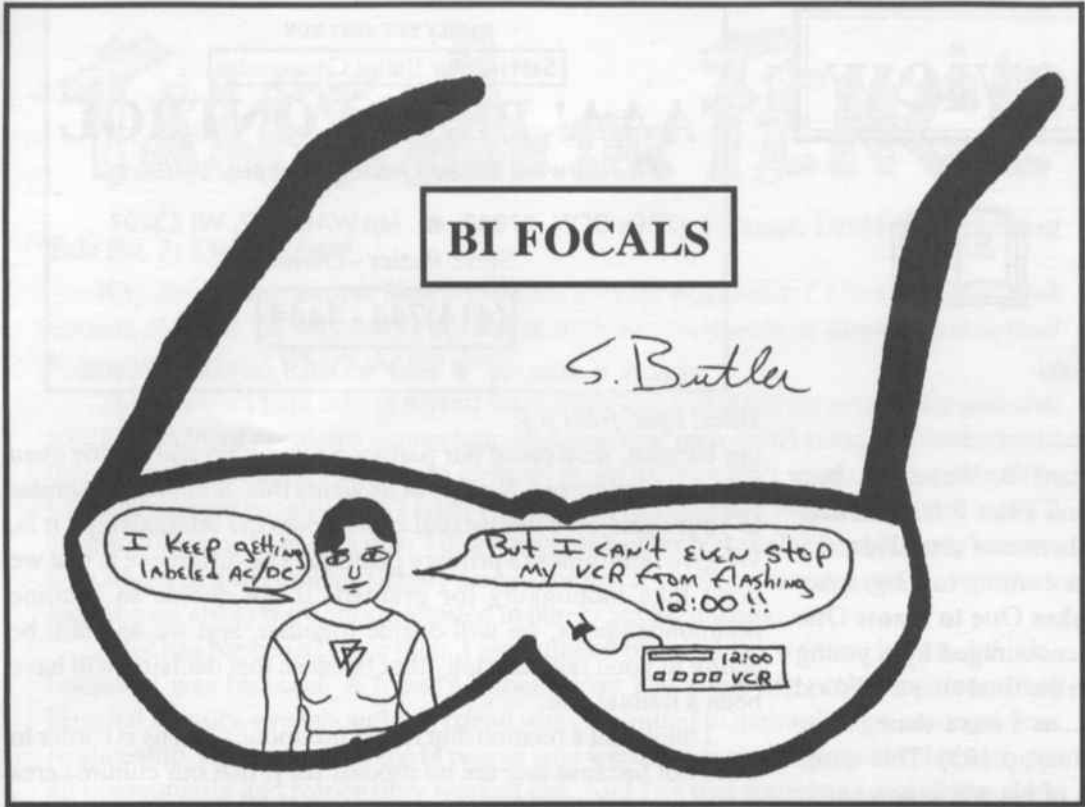
I think that a relationship that is nonmonogamous is harder to work out because there are no models for it that our culture cares to recommend. Instead, nonmonogamy is heavily stigmatized, and our idea of it is a very negative and moralistic one. The closest recognizable thing we have to compare it to is infidelity, which, unlike monogamy, does not involve mutual consent. It also doesn't seem "normal" because it involves an "abnormal" sexual arrangement, and we all want to be normal. This strange and different sexual arrangement highlights sex itself, which is intimately connected with our greatly shamed inner selves. Any way you look at it, immorality is the associated condition of nonmonogamy and of bisexuality. I think that to travel responsibly past this strong societal and psychological barrier must take a lot of bravery, strength and love.

I've learned a lot in the past few years. I've learned that my image of lesbian women was idealistic and that my image of bisexuals was homophobic. I've learned that the bisexuals who take out personal ads don't represent all bisexuals. We're not all experimenting or looking only for sex, although some of us are, just like anyone who is heterosexual or homosexual. And the ones that say that they are looking for these shameful things are being honest, which is pretty responsible. I'm also not as afraid of nonmonogamy or of those who want it. I've learned that I was looking for love in the wrong places when I wanted relationships with monosexual people.

The big deal is, bisexuals are different than monosexuals. I'm not saying that all bisexuals are alike, but I think we all feel a need to honor our both-sex attractions in some way and that means we have to cross the feared fidelity line to the extent that we can and need to. That makes us scary to others and also to ourselves. But the scare is worth it when we can come to understand and accept ourselves just a little bit more.

So long live bisexuals and bisexuality. *Viva la difference!*

Abnormally Yours,  
Woman Divided Searching ♡



~~~~~  
**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.**  
 ~~~~~

*"It was a while before we came to realize that our place was the very house of difference rather than the security of any one particular difference."*

- Audre Lourde

**Book Review, cont. from p.5:**

(Ed Wood, p.131). This is all rather surprising considering that it took place in the repressed 1950's.

Grey, Alexander and Karaszewski do not answer the question of whether Wood was, like many transvestites, a bisexual. They do make it clear that he considered himself part of the underground gay community of those times. Perhaps as a tribute to that community, he had the ruler of the galaxy in **Plan 9 From Outer Space** portrayed as a male homosexual. As Kathy says in the biopic: "Ed's the only guy in town who doesn't pass judgment on people" (Ed Wood, p.148). He accepted people regardless of their sexual identity and in his work, such as the film **Glen or Glenda**, urged others to adopt that same attitude of tolerance.

Having seen six of Wood's classic films, I can report that they are imaginative and entertaining, with good acting and even better dialogue. Unlike my reaction to the majority of films, I do not find them boring. They hold my attention because they deal with real issues in an honest way. They are not phoney.

It was Michael Medved, film critic, right-wing extremist and Rush Limbaugh substitute host, who first labeled Wood as the worst director of all time. As Rudolph Grey says, "Ignored or reviled by critics when he was alive, Wood was the target of still more ridicule soon after his death (in 1978). With an offensive smugness and condescension toward his movies and novels, they had a field day of derision over the revelation of his transvestitism" (**Nightmare of Ecstasy**, p.10). Perhaps many critics disliked Wood's films because his movies force us to think, something we are not accustomed to doing in a movie theater or in front of the television. They compel us to examine our attitudes and phobias. Most dangerously of all, they encourage us to examine our own sexual feelings and preferences. We may not be comfortable with what we discover.

Dion ▼

### *Where Are You?*

*Where are you?*

*I often wonder if you even exist,*

*And if you do, how likely are we*

*To meet, to date, to equally love forever?*

*To fulfill all needs, I need a miracle*

*Some qualities basic, some unique,*

*And the combination; a rare bird indeed*

*Do I continue...to wait?*

*And if so, for how long,*

*Forever—and be lonely*

*Or settle for almost?*

*Where are you?*

*Please come to me,*

*For if you do*

*My soul, I promise you always*

- Todd



# Straight but not **NARROW**

by K. Patrick Callahan

*This column is intended to be a discourse to those of you who are part of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community from someone who is heterosexual.*

The main focus of this writing is a curious difference I observed at a recent meeting of Bi Definition on the occasion of their first anniversary (congratulations, by the way).

At this celebration, I saw a diverse and interesting assembly of persons who were not what I had encountered ever before. One man wore a dress, one woman was a transsexual and another woman, I think, was a cross dresser—anyway, it appeared so. My point is that this diverse group was having fun and nobody seemed to mind that each was different.

My place of employment is an antithesis to this scene. Two individuals who work with me—both males—epitomize what I would call blatant prejudice, not only about sexual preference but in most things. Examples abound but I will highlight only three by each individual.

Mr. A is a supervisor and by all appearances well educated. He carries probably the most baggage I have ever seen. First, he does not like, and I'm quoting here, "fat chicks." He has no use for them. He says that if his current girlfriend gets fat, he will dump her in a heartbeat. He also tells his girlfriend's son of nine years that he must now be a man. This, to him, means that the boy may no longer cry nor may he do any childish things. He is literally stealing this boy's childhood. Thirdly, he believes that homosexuals should all be shot. He's a real peach. Up until this point I had not met someone as callous and uncaring about others as him.

But he is no match for the other fellow who also works there. He's highly educated, well read, and able to quote from many leading journals of the day. Racist from the word go. He wants all the Black people, Hispanics and "non-Americans" to be sent back to where they came. He does not believe that the Holocaust actually happened, yet believes the Nazis were right in systematically eradicating the Jews [Eds.' note: Bisexuals, lesbians, gay men, gypsies, the mentally ill and others were also killed]. In another conversation, we were talking about his upcoming deer hunt and the time he would be spending away from his wife and family. I asked what his wife thought about the hunting excursion, to which he replied, "she doesn't get an opinion." Further conversations have revealed that he considers his wife a convenience whenever he gets the urge to have sex—nothing more. To him, she is not a human being. He also believes that there are no bisexual people—only gay or straight. Once they have crossed the "straight" line and have a sexual encounter with their own gender, they are homosexual and he will not deal with them.

I asked both of these men if they would disavow one of their best friends if that person was gay or bisexual and they both replied, "yes."

I find both of these individuals despicable. Life is precious and those who have discovered some of its beauty should not be shunned by those who cannot see.

## How do you feel?

In the previous issue of *Bi All Means!*, we asked you the question:

***Bisexuals often experience oppression from members of the lesbian/gay and the straight communities. Have you been made a target of biphobia or homophobia, and if so, how did you feel and how did you handle the situation?***

*Here are your responses:*

☞ What is most difficult for me about being bi is the looks accompanied by the nod and patronizing shake of the head, which translates into "oh, honey, you need to decide which side of the fence you're on." "oh, honey, you'll learn." "oh, honey,..." and they walk away.

My decision to accept myself as bisexual has been a long and often unclear road and the most difficult part has been the lack of community with my lesbian sisters. I thought that they could understand, but more often than not I have not found that acceptance. My straight friends see me as a novelty. Neither space seems just to me. And what hurts the most is why it is so difficult to accept me as I am...it all makes so much sense to me. I don't subscribe to a Judeo/Christian thought of who and what we are: I truly believe that we're all a blend of the masculine and the feminine. And doesn't it make sense that we look beyond and to the soul inside?

- Anonymous

☞ When I was first owning my feelings for women, I looked to lesbian role models for support. When I later came out bi, the same women who helped me in the beginning withdrew their support, saying things like, "You'll be lesbian" or "Keep going" (implying that I would be lesbian some day). Since then, I have met quite a few lesbian women who accept my identity, although they wouldn't go as far as having a relationship with me.

When I talk about my bisexuality to gay men, they often will avert their eyes and actively search for another conversational companion. Again, all gay men don't do this and a few have been accepting, but the bad stuff happens enough with both men and women that I am more careful about who I share who I took to for support.

- Sadder but Wiser

Thank you for sharing your unique point of view!  
Next issue's question is:

***What is, in your experience, the best thing about being bisexual?***

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



# Calendar



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

Bi Definition socials/discussions are held on the first Saturday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. at BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St. No BestD social in June. Business meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at BestD at 7:00 p.m.

## April

Sat. 5 @ 7:00 P.M. Bi Definition social/discussion. BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady.

Sat. 12 @ 8:30 P.M. Bisexual singer/songwriter Ani DiFranco concert. The Rave, Milwaukee. Bi Definition carpool.

Thurs. 17 @ 7:00 P.M. UWM Speaker Series: Gemini Gender on Transgender Issues. Room E230, UWM Student Union. Info: GLBC at 229-6555.

Fri 25 - Sun.27. BECAUSE Conference. Bi Definition carpool.

## May

Sat. 3 @ 7:00 P.M. Bi Definition social/discussion. BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady.

Wed. 5 @ 7:00 P.M. UWM Speaker Series: Randy Ness and Cathy Arney on Coming-out Issues. Room E220, UWM Student Union. Info: GLBC at 229-6555.

## 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.

## June

Fri. 6 - Sun. 8. Pridefest. Henry W. Maier Festival Grounds. Info: 272-FEST.

Fri. 6 and Sun. 8. BiNet USA Annual Meeting. Orlando, FL.

Sat. 7. Bi Day at Disney World. Orlando, FL.

## July

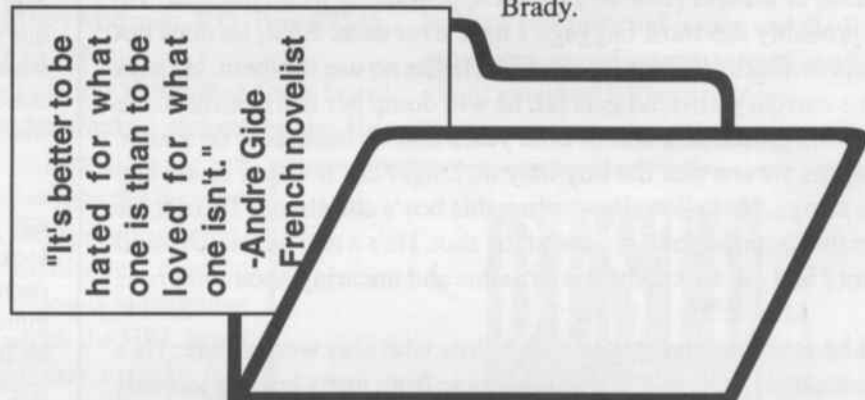
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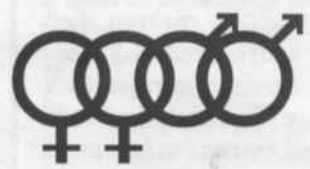
Sat.19. M.A.G.I.C. Picnic. Brittingham Park, Madison.

## August

Sat. 2 @ 7:00 P.M. Bi Definition social/discussion. BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady.

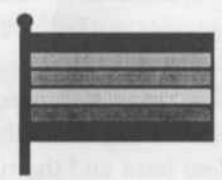


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## "By all means, I gotta have *Bi All Means!*"

The Official Quarterly Newsletter from Bi Definition



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