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The Pride Issue

VOL. 1 / ISSUE 3

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

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crossroads

Of Central Pennsylvania

Tips to Same Sex Estate Planning

The Supreme TKO

The Court's Decision on Amendment 2

Take a Trip to

Alpha Bathhouse Omega

The *crossroads'* Short Story

New Features!!

Our Internet Primer

BITING THE BISCUIT

PLUS...

The *crossroads'* Interview

CD & Book Reviews

Commentary

Our Community Resource Insert Focusing this Issue's Spotlight on
York Area Lambda and featuring their upcoming Judy! Benefit

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crossroads

Aug./Sept. 1996

Volume 1, Issue 3

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It is wise to plan for the future and take the necessary steps to assure that your wishes regarding the management of your property and your personal care during your life, and the disposition of your property upon your death, are carried out. Gay and lesbian people face unique challenges in this area because our law is replete with favors and advantages bestowed upon the traditional heterosexual married couple. Even though gay and lesbian persons do not have the same advantages as married couples provided by statute, you can accomplish most of your estate plan-

receive a large portion of, if not the entire estate of the deceased spouse. Children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and even cousins, are potential inheritors under the intestacy statute.

A gay or lesbian partner will receive nothing under the intestacy statute. If you want your gay or lesbian partner to inherit any part of your property, you must have either a will or trust.

A typical married couple will have wills in which each spouse leaves his or her estate to the surviving spouse,

Much hardship and litigation have arisen from wills that were inartfully drawn without technical expertise. Also, if you have relatives who are strongly opposed to your sexual orientation you stand a greater risk of having your will challenged if you leave the bulk of your estate to your partner, so it is worthwhile to have the will drawn by an expert and executed under circumstances that minimize the risk of any claim that the will is invalid.

As earlier noted, a will only governs the disposition of your "probate estate." Most people have many kinds of property interests that are not included in the probate estate. These include the following:

- ☛ Property held with one or more persons as joint tenants with a right of survivorship. Both real estate and personal property such as investments and bank accounts can be owned by joint tenants. Joint tenants each have an undivided interest in the property, and upon the death of one joint tenant the survivor automatically owns the entire property. Joint tenancies are different from tenancies in common, which do not include the survivorship feature. Property held as a tenancy in common is included in the probate estate.

- ☛ Life insurance. Purchasing a policy and naming your gay or lesbian partner as beneficiary can be an excellent method for transferring wealth at your death;

- ☛ Various types of pensions, profit sharing, Keogh, and IRA accounts;

- ☛ Assets held by a trust created during life.

Trusts. Aside from the will, another basic estate planning tool is the trust. A trust is simply a legal relationship in which title to property is transferred into the name of a trustee, who holds and manages the property for the benefit of some other party, the beneficiary. A trust can be created during your life, or set up under the

Estate Planning for Gay & Lesbian Persons

Despite the furor over same sex marriages, there are steps couples can take to ensure proper transfer of property.

Timothy M. Anstine

ning goals through a comprehensive set of estate planning documents which clearly state your intent in these matters.

Will. A primary goal in estate planning is the assurance that your property will be transferred to the person or persons you wish to be your beneficiaries when you die. The first document to consider is generally a will—a document setting forth how your "probate estate" will be distributed after your death. The "probate estate" consists of those assets in your sole name or held by you with one or more other persons as tenants in common.

A will is especially important for gay and lesbian persons because without a will the law will direct that property be distributed in accordance with the intestacy statute. Under Pennsylvania's intestacy statute, spouses of decedents automatically

and when the surviving spouse dies the remaining estate is left to the couple's children or grandchildren. Because gay and lesbian partners may have different people whom they would like to be beneficiaries of their estates when they are both deceased, it may be advisable to execute reciprocal wills in which the estate remaining when the surviving partner dies is left to beneficiaries chosen by both partners. Such wills should be executed in conjunction with a contract acknowledging the execution of the wills and stating that they are irrevocable.

A will can also set forth your desire for funeral arrangements. If so, the will should be kept in a secure place where it will be readily available upon your death (not in a safe deposit box in your name only).

Wills can be subject to challenge, and so should be carefully drawn to comply with technical requirements.

terms of your will. Trusts of various types and for various purposes afford an estate planner the opportunity to be creative in the design and implementation of the estate plan. Trusts can be used to avoid the expense and delay of a probate proceeding, to provide for the special needs of a beneficiary unable to care for himself or herself, to protect assets from the beneficiary's creditors, and to reduce and perhaps eliminate federal estate taxes.

Death taxes. An effective estate plan must take into account the taxes that will be payable at death. The most important taxes are the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax and the Federal Estate Tax.

The Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax is a tax on the privilege of inheriting property, rather than a tax on the property itself. Accordingly, the ultimate liability for the tax is borne by the recipient, rather than the estate. The tax covers property left under a will or inherited under the intestacy statute. The tax is not imposed on the proceeds of life insurance policies on your life which are paid to another person.

The inheritance tax is imposed in accordance with a three-tiered rate structure. Bequests to spouses and certain trusts for spouses are taxed at 0%, bequests to lineal ancestors and descendants are taxed at 6% and bequests to all other persons are taxed at 15%. Thus, gay and lesbian partners will pay inheritance taxes at the highest rate. There is a deduction from the taxable estate for charitable bequests.

Transfers made within one year of your death are subject to tax to the extent that the aggregate value of gifts to that transferee exceeds \$3,000.00 during any calendar year. Gifts made more than a year before death escape the inheritance tax.

The federal estate tax applies to the transfer of property included in your taxable estate, which, unlike the inheritance tax, includes the proceeds of life insurance policies owned by you. There are certain credits available against the federal estate tax, the most important being the "unified

credit," which is \$192,800. This credit effectively eliminates the tax for estates in which the taxable estate is \$600,000 or less. The estate tax rate is essentially 37% on the first dollar over \$600,000. The rates then rise on a graduated basis to 55% on amounts in excess of \$3 million.

Another example of the advantages enjoyed by married couples which are not available to gay and lesbian partners is how jointly-owned property is valued for inclusion in the estate of the first to die. With married couples, one-half of the value of the property is included in the estate of the first spouse to die. With gay and lesbian joint-owners, the entire value of the property is included in the estate of the first to die except to the extent the survivor can prove his or her contribution to the purchase price, a point that should be kept in mind when jointly-held property is acquired.

Married couples are also able to defer payment of any estate tax when the first spouse dies through what is called the "unlimited marital deduction." Essentially, property left to a spouse is not taxed. This significant advantage is not available to gay and lesbian partners. However, all couples, gay and straight, should take steps to ensure that both partners take full advantage of the \$600,000 exemption equivalent. Often a trust is used to accomplish this goal.

For example, you can create a trust to hold property after you die for the benefit of your partner (and your partner can do the same for you). When your partner dies the property in the trust will be distributed to whomever you wish. Such an arrangement keeps the property (and any appreciation in its value) out of the estate of your partner and thus free from any estate tax in your partner's estate.

Powers of attorney and living wills. A power of attorney is an instrument by which you appoint an agent, or "attorney-in-fact", to take almost any legal action on your behalf that you could take yourself. Powers of attorney can be very nar-

rowly drawn for specific purposes (such as appointing someone to deposit your pension checks and pay your bills while you take the grand tour), or broadly written to give your attorney-in-fact full power to act in your place. They can be written to take effect immediately, or upon some future event such as your disability. You may provide for the appointment of several attorneys-in-fact, who can act jointly, singly or in any combination that you designate in the power.

A power of attorney could be extremely useful if you become disabled. Without a power of attorney, a guardianship proceeding in the Orphan's Court might be necessary to handle your affairs. In a guardianship proceeding the court appoints someone to act as guardian of your person and/or property. Such a proceeding is cumbersome, and takes time and money. There is also the possibility that the guardian appointed by the court may not be the person you would have chosen to act on your behalf.

A power of attorney may also authorize your attorney-in-fact to arrange for your admission to a medical, nursing, residential or similar facility, to enter into agreements for your care and to authorize medical and surgical procedures. It is often a good idea to consider designating a committee of several persons to make health care decisions on your behalf, which might lighten what is often a difficult burden.

Health care powers are often set forth in a separate document called a "medical power of attorney," in which they are combined with a directive regarding your health care desires, commonly known as a "living will." Pennsylvania's Advanced Directive for Healthcare Act sets forth your right (If you are over the age of 18 or have graduated high school) to executive, an advanced declaration governing the initiation, continuation, withholding or withdrawal of life sustaining treatment. The declaration must be signed by you and witnessed by two individuals who are over 18 years of age. The declaration may, but need not, follow the statutory form.

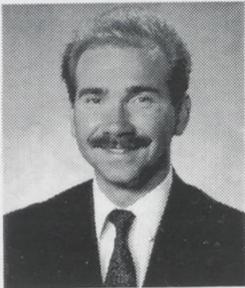
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A terminal condition is defined as an incurable and irreversible medical condition in an advanced state caused by injury, disease or physical illness which will, in the opinion of the attending physician, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, result in death regardless of the continued application of life sustaining treatment. A person is permanently unconscious if he or she has been diagnosed "in accordance with currently accepted medical standards and with reasonable medical certainty as having a total and irreversible loss of consciousness and capacity for interaction with the environment."

Once the declaration becomes operative the medical provider must also comply with its directions or make every reasonable effort for your transfer to another provider who will comply. The declaration may be revoked at any time. ✕

Timothy M. Anstine is a lawyer with the Harrisburg firm of Shagin & Anstine.

"Marriage" means the union of one man and one woman.

U.S House Judiciary Committee

I wouldn't regard it as a marriage, I think a marriage is between a man and a woman.

U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich's response to being asked if he would attend a wedding of his lesbian half-sister

Why are we so mean? Why shouldn't my partner of 13 years be entitled to the same health insurance and survivor benefits that some of my colleagues around here second and third wives are able to give them?

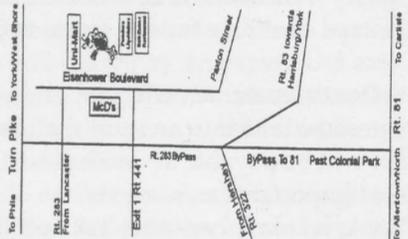
Openly gay U.S. Representative Steve Gunderson during the House debate on the Defense of Marriage Bill which passed 342-67

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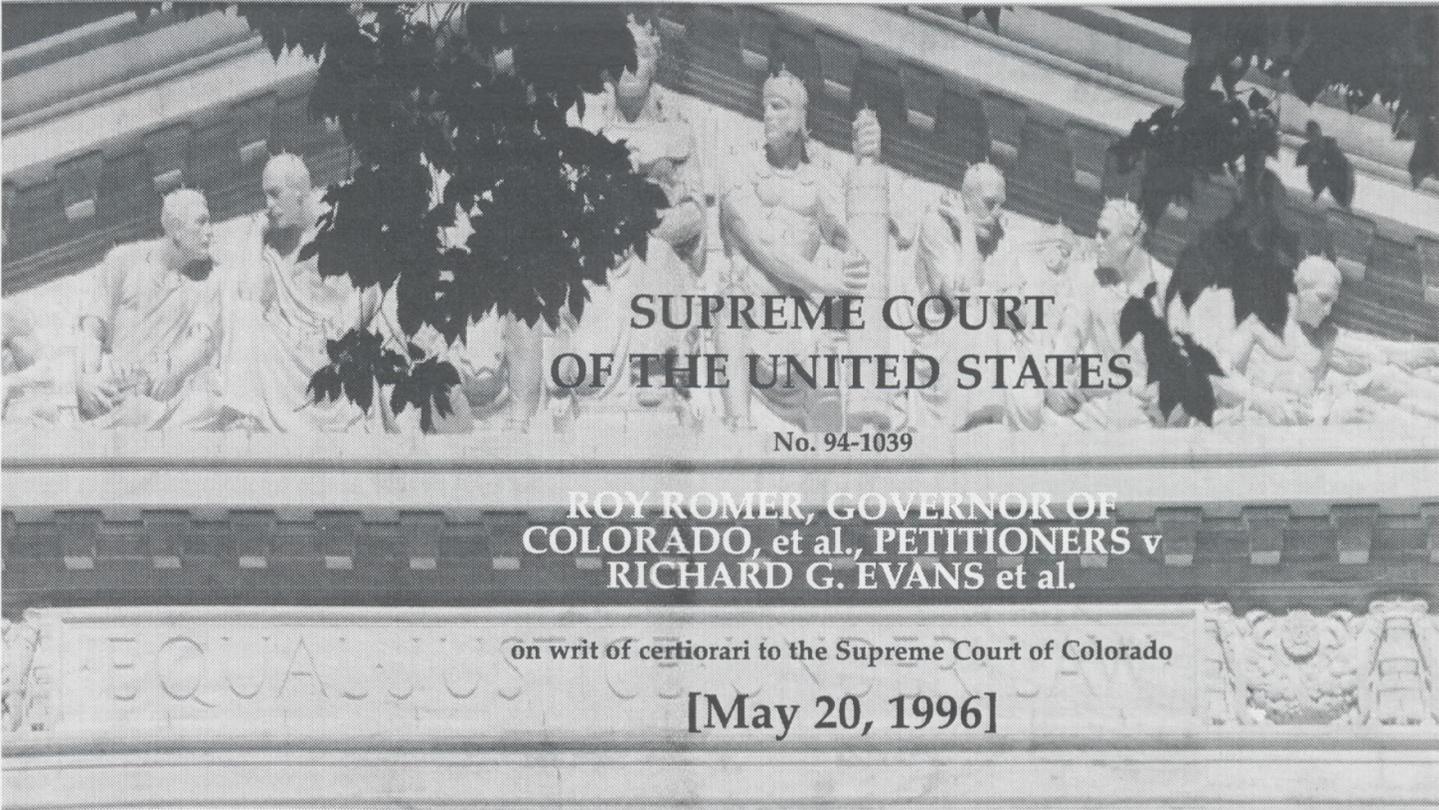
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**SUPREME COURT
OF THE UNITED STATES**

No. 94-1039

**ROY ROMER, GOVERNOR OF
COLORADO, et al., PETITIONERS v
RICHARD G. EVANS et al.**

on writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of Colorado

[May 20, 1996]

A Supreme TKO

The U.S. Supreme Court issues a landmark decision in favor of the country's homosexual populace. Following is an abridged summation of both opinions.

(Justice Kennedy delivered the opinion of the Court)

One century ago, the first Justice Harlan admonished this Court that the Constitution "neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens."...Unheeded then, those words now are understood to state a commitment to the law's neutrality where the rights of persons are at stake. The Equal Protection Clause enforces this principle and today requires us to hold invalid a provision of Colorado's Constitution.

The enactment challenged in this case is an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Colorado,

adopted in a 1992 statewide referendum. The parties and the state courts refer to it as "Amendment 2," its designation when submitted to the voters. The impetus for the amendment and the contentious campaign that preceded its adoption came in large part from ordinances that had been passed in various Colorado municipalities. For example, the cities of Aspen and Boulder and the City and County of Denver each had enacted ordinances which banned discrimination in many transactions and activities, including housing, employment, education, public accommodations, and health and welfare services. What gave rise to the statewide controversy was the protection the ordinances afforded to persons discriminated against by reason of their sexual ori-

entation...Amendment 2 repeals these ordinances to the extent they prohibit discrimination on the basis of "homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships."

Yet Amendment 2, in explicit terms, does more than repeal or rescind these provisions. It prohibits all legislative, executive or judicial action at any level of state or local government designed to protect the named class, a class we shall refer to as homosexual persons or gays and lesbians.

II

The State's principal argument in defense of Amendment 2 is that it puts gays and lesbians in the same position as all other persons. So, the State says, the measure does no more than deny homosexuals special rights. This reading of the amendment's language is implausible. We rely not upon our own interpretation of the amendment but upon the authoritative construction of Colorado's Supreme Court. The state court, deeming it unnecessary to determine the full extent of the amendment's reach, found it invalid even on a modest reading of its implications.

The critical discussion of the amendment, set out in Evans I, is as follows:

"The immediate objective of Amendment 2 is, at a minimum, to repeal existing statutes, regulations, ordinances, and policies of state and local entities that barred discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"Metropolitan State College of Denver prohibits college sponsored social clubs from discriminating in membership on the basis of sexual orientation and Colorado State University has an antidiscrimination policy which encompasses sexual orientation.

Sweeping and comprehensive is the change in legal status effected by this law. So much is evident from the ordinances that the Colorado Supreme Court declared would be void by operation of Amendment 2. Homosexuals, by state decree, are put in a solitary class with respect to transactions and relations in both the private and governmental spheres. The amendment withdraws from homosexuals, but no others, specific legal protection from the injuries caused by discrimination, and it forbids reinstatement of these laws and policies.

The change that Amendment 2 works in the legal status of gays and lesbians in the private sphere is far-reaching, both on its own terms and

when considered in light of the structure and operation of modern anti-discrimination laws. That structure is well illustrated by contemporary statutes and ordinances prohibiting discrimination by providers of public accommodations. "At common law, innkeepers, smiths, and other who 'made profession of a public employment,' were prohibited from refusing without good reason, to serve a customer."...the duty was a general one and did not specify protection for particular groups. The common law rules, however, proved insufficient in many instances, and it was settled early that the Fourteenth Amendment did not give

Congress a general power to prohibit discrimination in public accommodations...In consequence, most States have chosen to counter discrimination by enacting detailed statutory schemes.

Colorado's state and municipal laws typify this emerging tradition of statutory protection and follow a con-

sistent pattern. The laws first enumerate the persons or entities subject to a duty not to discriminate. The list goes well beyond the entities covered by the common law.

These statutes and ordinances also depart from the common law by enumerating the groups or persons within their ambit of protection. Enumeration is the essential device used to make the duty not to discrimi-

nate concrete and to provide guidance for those who must comply. In following this approach, Colorado's state and local governments have not limited antidiscrimination laws to groups that have so far been given the protection of heightened equal protection scrutiny under our cases...Rather, they set forth an extensive catalogue of traits

which cannot be the basis for discrimination, including age, military status, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, custody of a minor child, political affiliation, physical or mental disability of an individual or of his or her associates---and, in recent times, sexual orientation.

Amendment 2 bars homosexuals from securing protection against the injuries that these public-accommodations laws address. That in itself is a severe consequence, but there is more. Amendment 2, in addition, nullifies specific legal protections for this targeted class in all transactions in housing, sale of real estate, insurance, health and welfare services, private education, and employment.

Amendment 2's reach may not be limited to specific laws passed for the benefit of gays and lesbians. It is a fair, if not necessary, inference from the broad language of the amendment that it deprives gays and lesbians even of the protection of general laws and policies that prohibit arbitrary discrimination in governmental and private settings...At some point in the systematic administration of these laws, an official must determine

Amendment 2's reach may not be limited to specific laws passed for the benefit of gays and lesbians. It deprives gays and lesbians even of the protection of general laws and policies that prohibit that prohibit arbitrary discrimination in governmental and private settings.

Colorado's Amendment 2

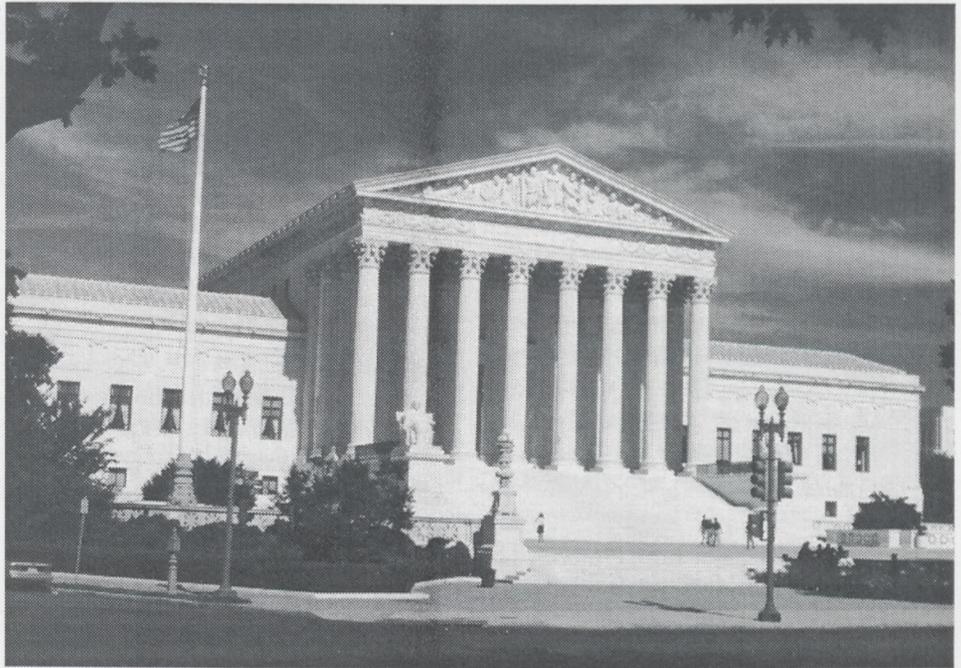
"NO PROTECTED STATUS BASED ON HOMOSEXUAL, LESBIAN, OR BISEXUAL ORIENTATION. NEITHER THE STATE OF COLORADO, THROUGH ANY OF ITS BRANCHES OR DEPARTMENTS, NOR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES, POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, MUNICIPALITIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, SHALL ENACT, ADOPT OR ENFORCE ANY STATUTE, REGULATION, ORDINANCE OR POLICY WHEREBY HOMOSEXUAL, LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL ORIENTATION, CONDUCT, PRACTICES OR RELATIONSHIPS SHALL CONSTITUTE OR OTHERWISE BE THE BASIS OF OR ENTITLE ANY PERSON OR CLASS OF PERSONS TO HAVE OR CLAIM ANY MINORITY STATUS, QUOTA PREFERENCES, PROTECTED STATUS OR CLAIM OF DISCRIMINATION. THIS SECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION SHALL BE IN ALL RESPECTS SELF-EXECUTING."

whether homosexuality is an arbitrary and thus forbidden basis for decision. Yet a decision to that effect would itself amount to a policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of homosexuality, and so would appear to be no more valid under Amendment 2 than the specific prohibitions against discrimination the state court held invalid.

If this consequence follows from Amendment 2, as its broad language suggests, it would compound the constitutional difficulties the law creates...In the course of rejecting the argument that Amendment 2 is intended to conserve resources to fight discrimination against suspect classes, the Colorado Supreme Court made the limited amendment is not intended to affect many antidiscrimination laws protecting non-suspect classes,...In our view that does not resolve the issue. In any event, even if, as we doubt, homosexuals could find some safe harbor in laws of general application, we cannot accept the view that Amendment 2's prohibition on specific legal protections does no more than deprive homosexuals of special rights. To the contrary, the amendment imposes a special disability upon those persons alone.

Homosexuals are forbidden the safeguards that others enjoy or may seek without constraint. They can obtain specific protection against discrimination only by enlisting the citizenry of Colorado to amend the state constitution or perhaps, on the State's view, by trying to pass helpful laws of general applicability. This is so no matter how local or discrete the harm, no matter how public and widespread the injury. We find nothing special in the protections Amendment 2 withholds. These are protections taken for granted by most people either because they already have them or do not need them; these are protections against exclusion from a almost limitless number of transac-

Homosexuals are forbidden the safeguards that others enjoy or may seek without constraint. We find nothing special in the protections Amendment 2 withholds.



The corner of First & Maryland Avenue where it was decided on June 30, 1986 to uphold a Georgia law stating homosexual actions could be tried and convicted as acts of sodomy (*Hardwick v. Bowers*).

tions and endeavors that constitute ordinary civic life in a free society.

III

The Fourteenth Amendment's promise that no person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws must co-exist with the practical necessity that most legislation classifies for one another, with resulting disadvantage to various groups or persons...We have attempted to reconcile the principle with the reality by stating that, if a law neither burdens a fundamental right nor targets a suspect class, we will uphold the legislative classification so long as it bears a rational relation to some legitimate end.

The primary rationale the State offers for Amendment 2 is respect for other citizens' freedom of association, and in particular the liberties of landlords or employers who have personal or religious objections to homosexuality. Colorado also cites its interest in conserving resources to fight discrimination against other groups. The

breadth of the Amendment is so far removed from these particular justifications that we find it impossible to credit them.

We must conclude that Amendment 2 classifies homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else. This Colorado cannot do. A State cannot so deem a class of persons a stranger to its laws. Amendment 2 violates the Equal Protection Clause, and the judgement of the Supreme Court of Colorado is affirmed. **It is so ordered.**

The Dissenting Opinion

(Written by Justice Antonin Scalia and join in with Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas)

The Court has mistaken a Kulturkampf for a fit of spite. The constitutional amendment before us here is not the manifestation of a "bare...desire to harm" homosexuals,...but is rather a modest attempt by seemingly tolerant Coloradans to preserve traditional sexual mores against the efforts of a politically

powerful minority to revise those mores through use of the laws. That objective, and the means chosen to achieve it, are not only unimpeachable under any constitutional doctrine hitherto pronounced (hence the opinion's heavy reliance upon principles of righteousness rather than judicial holdings); they have been specifically approved by the Congress of the United States and by this Court.

In holding that homosexuality cannot be singled out for unfavorable treatment, the Court contradicts a decision, unchallenged here, pronounced only 10 years ago, (*Bowers v. Hardwick*), and places the prestige of this institution behind the proposition that opposition to homosexuality is as reprehensible as racial or religious bias. Whether it is or not is precisely the cultural debate that gave rise to the Colorado constitutional amendment (and to the preferential laws against which the amendment was directed). Since the Constitution of the United States says nothing about this subject, it is left to be resolved by normal democratic means, including the democratic adoption of provisions in state constitutions. This Court has no business imposing upon all Americans the resolution favored by the elite class from which the Members of this institution as selected, pronouncing that "animosity" toward homosexuality...is evil. I vigorously dissent.

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I Let me first discuss Part II of the Court's opinion, its longest section, which is devoted to rejecting the State's arguments that Amendment 2

"puts gays and lesbians in the same position as all other persons," and "does no more than deny homosexuals special rights" ...This Court concludes that this reading of Amendment 2's language is "implausible" under the "authoritative construction" given Amendment 2 by the Supreme Court of Colorado.

In *Evans v. Romer*, the Colorado court stated: "[I]t is significant to note that Colorado law currently proscribes discrimination against persons who are not subject classes, including discrimination based on age, marital or family status, veterans' status, and for any legal, off-duty conduct such as smoking tobacco. Of course Amendment 2 is not intended to have any effect on this legislation, but seeks only to prevent the adoption of antidiscrimination laws intended to protect gays, lesbians, and bisexuals." The Court utterly fails to distinguish this portion of the Colorado court's opinion. (A) Colorado Rev. Stat., which this passage authoritatively declares not to be affected by Amendment 2, was respondents' primary example of a generally applicable law whose protections would be unavailable to homosexuals under Amendment 2.

The amendment prohibits special treatment of homosexuals, and nothing more. It would not affect, for example, a requirement of state law that pensions be paid to all retiring state employees with a certain length of service; homosexual employees, as well as others, would be entitled to that benefit. But it would prevent the State or any municipality from making death-benefit payments to the "life partner" of a homosexual when

...the principle underlying the Court's opinion is that one who is accorded equal treatment under the laws, but cannot as readily as others obtain preferential treatment under the laws, has been denied equal protection of the laws. If merely stating this alleged "equal protection" violation does not suffice to refute it, our constitutional jurisprudence has achieved terminal silliness.

it does not make such payments to the long-time roommate of a nonhomosexual employee. Or again, it does not affect the requirement of the State's general insurance laws that customers be afforded coverage without discrimination unrelated to anticipated risk. Thus, homosexuals could not be denied coverage, or charged a greater premium, with respect to auto collision insurance; but neither the State nor any municipality could require that distinctive health insurance risks associated with homosexuality (if there are any) be ignored. Despite all of its hand-wringing about the potential effect of Amendment 2 on general antidiscrimination laws, Court's opinion ultimately does not dispute this, but assumes it to be true. The only denial of equal treatment it contends homosexuals have suffered is this: They may not obtain preferential treatment without amending the state constitution. That is to say, the principle underlying the Court's opinion is that one who is accorded equal treatment under the laws, but cannot as readily as others obtain preferential treatment under the laws, has been denied equal protection of the laws. If merely stating this alleged "equal protection" violation does not suffice to refute it, our constitutional jurisprudence has achieved terminal silliness.

The central thesis of the Court's reasoning is that any group is denied equal protection is when, to obtain advantage (or, presumably, to avoid disadvantage), it must have recourse to a more general and hence more difficult level of political decisionmaking than others. The world has never heard of such a principle, which is why the Court's opinion is so long on

emotive utterance and so short on relevant legal citation. And it seems to me most unlikely that any multilevel democracy can function under such a principle. For whatever a disadvantage is imposed, or conferral of a benefit is prohibited, at one of the higher levels of democratic decisionmaking (i.e., by the state legislature rather than local government, or by the people at large in the state constitution rather than the legislature), the affected group has (under this theory) been denied equal protection. To take the simplest of examples, consider a state law prohibiting the award of municipal contracts to relatives of mayors or city councilmen. Once such a law is passed, the group composed of such relatives must, in order to get the benefit of city contracts, persuade the state legislature---unlike all other citizens, who need only persuade the municipality. It is ridiculous to consider this a denial of equal protection, which is why the Court's theory is unheard-of.

The Court's portrayal of Coloradans as a society fallen victim to pointless, hate-filled "gay-bashing" is so false as to be comical.

II

I turn next to whether there was a legitimate rational basis for the substance of the constitutional amendment for the prohibition of special protection for homosexuals. It is unsurprising that the Court avoids discussion of this question, since the answer is so obviously yes. The case most relevant to the issue before us today is not even mentioned in the Court's opinion: In *Bowers v. Hardwick*...we held that the Constitution does not prohibit what virtually all States had done from the founding of the Republic until very recent years---making homosexual

conduct a crime. That holding is unassailable, except by those who think that the Constitution changes to suit current fashions. But in any event it is a given in the present case: Respondents' briefs did not urge overruling... If it is constitutionally permissible for a State to make homosexual conduct criminal, surely it is constitutionally permissible for a State to enact other laws merely disfavoring homosexual conduct. (As the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has aptly put it: "If the Court [in *Bowers*] was unwilling to object to state laws that criminalize the behavior that defines the class, it is hardly open...to conclude that state sponsored discrimination against the class is invidious. After all, there can hardly be more palpable discrimination against a class than making the conduct that defines the class criminal."...) And a fortiori it is constitutionally permissible for a State to adopt a provision not even disfavoring homosexual conduct, but merely prohibiting all levels of state government from bestowing special protections upon homosexual conduct. Respondents (who, unlike the Court, cannot afford the luxury of ignoring inconvenient precedent) counter *Bowers* with the argument that a greater-includes-the lesser rationale cannot justify Amendment 2's application to individuals who do not engage in homosexual acts, but are merely of homosexual "orientation." Some courts of appeals have concluded that, with respect to laws of this sort at least, that is a distinction without a difference.

But assuming that, in Amendment 2, a person of homosexual "orientation" is someone who does not engage in homosexual conduct but

merely has a tendency or desire to do so, *Bowers* still suffices to establish a rational basis for the provision. If it is rational to criminalize the conduct, surely it is rational to deny special favor and protection to those with a self-avowed tendency or desire to engage in the conduct. Indeed, where criminal sanctions are not involved, homosexual "orientation" is an acceptable stand-in for homosexual conduct. A State "does not violate the Equal Protection Clause merely because the classifications made by its laws are imperfect,"...Just as a policy barring the hiring of methadone users as transit employees does not violate equal protection simply because some methadone users pose no threat to passenger safety,...and just as mandatory retirement age of 50 for police officers does not violate equal protection even though it prematurely ends the careers of many policemen over 50 who still have the capacity to do the job,...Amendment 2 is not constitutionally invalid simply because it could have been drawn more precisely so as to withdraw special antidiscrimination protections only from those of homosexual "orientation" who actually engage in homosexual conduct. As Justice Kennedy wrote, when he was on the Court of Appeals, in a case involving discharge of homosexuals from the Navy: "Nearly any statute which classifies people may be irrational as applied in particular cases. Discharge of the particular plaintiffs before us would be rational, under minimal scrutiny, not because their particular cases present the dangers which justify Navy policy, but instead because the general policy of discharging all homosexuals is rational."

It would not be enough for respondents to establish (if they could) that Amendment 2 is unconstitutional as applied to those of homosexual "orientation"; since, under *Bowers*, Amendment 2 is unquestionably constitutional as applied to those

who engage in homosexual conduct, the facial challenge cannot succeed.

The foregoing suffices to establish what the Court's failure to cite any case remotely in point would lead one to suspect: No principle set forth in the Constitution, nor even any imagined by this Court in the past 200 years, prohibits what Colorado has done here. But the case for Colorado is much stronger than that. What it has done is not only unprohibited, but eminently reasonable, with close, congressionally approved precedent in earlier constitutional practice.

First, as to its eminent reasonableness. The Court's opinion contains grim, disapproving hints that Coloradans have been guilty of "animus" or "animosity" toward homosexuality, as though that has been established as Unamerican. Of course it is our moral heritage that one should not hate any human being or class of human beings. But I had thought that one could consider certain conduct reprehensible---murder, for example, or polygamy, or cruelty to animals---and could exhibit even "animus" to ward such conduct. Surely that is the only sort of "animus" at issue here: moral disapproval of homosexual conduct, the same sort of moral disapproval of homosexual conduct, the same sort of moral disapproval that produced the centuries-old criminal laws that we held constitutional in *Bowers*. The Colorado amendment does not, to speak entirely precisely, prohibit giving favored status to people who are homosexuals; they can be favored for many reasons---for example, because they are senior citizens or members of racial minorities. But it prohibits giving them favored status because of their homosexual conduct---that is, it prohibits favored status for homosexuality.

But though Coloradans are, as I say, entitled to be hostile toward homosexual conduct, the fact is that the degree of hostility reflected by Amendment 2 is that smallest conceivable. The Court's portrayal of Coloradans as a society fallen victim to pointless, hate-filled "gay-bashing"

is so false as to be comical. Colorado not only is one of the 25 States that have repealed their antisodomy laws, but was among the first to do so. But the society that eliminates criminal punishment for homosexual acts does not necessarily abandon the view that homosexuality is morally wrong and socially harmful; often, abolition simply reflects the view that enforcement of such criminal laws involves unseemly intrusion into the intimate lives of citizens.

There is a problem, however, which arises when criminal sanction of homosexuality is eliminated but moral and social disapprobation of homosexuality is meant to be retained. The Court cannot be unaware of that problem; it is evident in many cities of the country, and occasionally bubbles to the surface of the news, in heated political disputes over such matters as the introduction into local schools of books teaching that homosexuality is an optional and fully acceptable "alternate life style." The problem (a problem, that is, for those who wish to retain social disapprobation of homosexuality) is that, because those who engage in homosexual conduct tend to reside in disproportionate numbers in certain communities...and of course care about homosexual-rights issues much more ardently than the public at large, they possess political power much greater than their numbers, both locally and statewide. Quite understandably, they devote this political power to achieving not merely a grudging social toleration, but full social acceptance, of homosexuality.

By the time Coloradans were asked to Amend 2, their exposure to homosexuals' quest for social endorsement was not limited to newspaper accounts of happenings in places such as New York, Los

Angeles, San Francisco, and Key West. Three Colorado cities---Aspen, Boulder, and Denver---had enacted ordinances that listed "sexual orientation" as an impermissible ground for discrimination, equating the moral disapproval of homosexual conduct with racial and religious bigotry. The phenomenon had even appeared statewide: the Governor of Colorado had signed an executive order pronouncing that "in the State of Colorado we recognize the diversity in our pluralistic society and strive to bring an end to discrimination in any form," and directing state agency-

The central thesis of the Court's reasoning is that any group is denied equal protection is that any group is denied equal protection. The world has never heard of such a principle, which is why the Court's opinion is so long on emotive utterance and so short on relevant legal citation.

heads to "ensure non-discrimination" in hiring and promotion based on, among other things, "sexual orientation." I do not mean to be critical of these legislative successes; homosexuals are as entitled to use the legal system for reinforcement of their

moral sentiments as are the rest of society. But they are subject to being countered by lawful, democratic countermeasures as well.

That is where Amendment 2 came in. It sought to counter both the geographic concentration and the disproportionate political power of homosexuals by (1) resolving the controversy at the statewide level, and (2) making the election a single-issue contest for both sides. It put directly, to all the citizens of the State, the question: Should homosexuality be given special protection? They answered no. The Court today asserts that this most democratic of procedures is unconstitutional. Lacking any cases to establish that facially absurd proposition, it simply asserts that it must be unconstitutional, because it has never happened before. "[Amendment 2] identifies persons by a single trait and then denies them protection across the board. The resulting disqualification of a class of persons from the right to seek specific protection from

the law is unprecedented in our jurisprudence. The absence of precedent for Amendment 2 is itself instructive. It is not within our constitutional tradition to enact laws of this sort.

When the Court takes sides in the culture wars, it tends to be with the knights rather than the villains--and more specifically with the Templars, reflecting the views and values of the lawyer class from which the Court's Members are drawn. How that class feels about homosexuality will be evident to anyone who wishes to interview job applicants at virtually any of the Nation's law schools. The interviewer may refuse to offer a job because the applicant is a Republican; because he is an adulterer; because he went to the wrong prep school or belongs to the wrong country club; because he is a womanizer; because she wears real-animal fur; or even because he hates the Chicago Cubs. But if the interviewer should wish not to be an associate or partner of an applicant because he disapproves of the applicant's homosexuality, then he will have violated the pledge which the Association of American Law Schools requires all its member-schools to exact from job interviewers: "assurance of the employer's willingness" to hire homosexuals...This law-school view of what "prejudices" must be stamped out may be contrasted with the more plebian attitudes that apparently still prevail in the United States Congress, which has been unresponsive to repeated attempts to extend to homosexuals the protections of federal civil rights laws...and which took the pains to exclude them specifically from the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990...

Today's opinion has no foundation in American constitutional law, and barely pretends to. The people of Colorado have adopted an entirely reasonable provision which does not even disfavor homosexuals in any substantive sense, but merely denies them preferential treatment. Amendment 2 is designed to prevent

Continued on Page 22

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Proceeds to benefit:
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 The Pride Festival
 The Human Rights Campaign Fund

November 9, 1996
 Mechanicsburg
Rillos Ballroom

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Complete and mail to FAB '96 / GLSH, P. O. Box 872, Harrisburg, PA 17108
 Keep me informed and let me know as soon as tickets are available.

Better yet, reserve ___ tickets at ___ \$50.00 ___ \$100.00 in my name. Contact me with complete information as soon as details are finalized.

Tell me how I can help.

I am interested in ___ Sponsorship ___ Volunteering

YES

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number (optional) _____



Hitler's Willing Executioners
"Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust"
Daniel Jonah Goldhagen
Alfred A. Knopf, 1996

So much has been written about the Holocaust in the years since it occurred that it is hard to fathom that someone now claims to have original insight into the "why" and "how" of its occurrence. Daniel Goldhagen, though, promises new insight into the old evidence of an event that changed the face of Europe and the world. Goldhagen's introduction to the book reads like an instruction manual on which aspects of our current understanding of the Holocaust, that which is based on current academics who have reviewed the evidence and have already given their thoughts, we must negate in order to see his point of view. This re-interpretation of the evidence seeks to focus on the perpetrators of the Holocaust, not just the Nazis, but the common German citizen who on one level or another must have known of the atrocities occurring around them. There are varying degrees of guilt for lack of a better term which Goldhagen explains, that these Germans allowed that events of the Holocaust to occur. Definitely risky business.

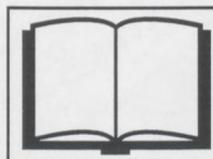
Goldhagen's first of six parts that make up the entire manuscript goes into the pre-WWII history of Germany to try to explain the overall society's feeling of antisemitism which allowed the Nazis to come to power, and armed with this general feel of underlying existing antisemitism, the Nazis were able to create the policies which eventually led to extreme events that took place later. He wants us to separate ourselves from German society, by this I mean not to project ourselves and our own societal development onto that of the Germans. One premise he wants to diffuse is that the main reason westerners have a hard time accepting that the common German knew of the atrocities of the Holocaust is due to the fact that we too are from an industrialized society with a relatively stable economy, much like the Germany of the late twenties and early thirties, and we assume that a Holocaust could never happen within our own society which is similar to that of Germany. By eliminating the similarities and looking at German society as one independent of all others with its own rules, standards, societal beliefs and history, it is easier to understand how these events occurred.

The parts are titled as follows: Part I: Understanding German Antisemitism: The Eliminationist Mind-Set; Part II: The Eliminationist Program and Institutions; Part III: Police Battalions: Ordinary Germans, Willing Killers; Part

IV: Jewish "Work" is Annihilation; Part V: Death Marches: To The Final Days; and finally Part VI: Eliminationist Antisemitism, Ordinary Germans, Willing Executioners. One can see from the part titles what Goldhagen will be researching with the final part acting as a culmination of the evidence offered in earlier sections.

Goldhagen's controversial recreation of these events makes for an interesting read. He does ask much on the part of the reader which seems to both help his premise as well as undermine it. That is if the reader must suspend current beliefs in order to glean the truth from these reinterpretations, then Goldhagen's claims are only as good as his reader. Goldhagen does use graphic scenarios and instances of German abuse inflicted upon the Jews. This is a difficult book to read, but if you are interested in how another man looks into the complexities of the Holocaust, it is well worth your efforts. The book is well-written and quite interesting, but you be the judge of how much you believe is true.

M.S. VIGUERS



Flesh And Blood
Michael Cunningham
Farrar, Straus and Giroux 1996

Flesh And Blood is the second novel by Michael Cunningham which traces the path of the family of a Greek immigrant through one hundred years and four generations. Cunningham's talent is apparent from the opening chapter when he describes the story's patriarch as a young boy. The scene shows the determination of an unnoticed youngest child to gain the recognition of his family by reaping a successful harvest on an unwanted and practically barren patch of land indifferently bequeathed to him by his father. In order to improve the quality of his small garden it was necessary to carry some of his father's rich soil to the spot, and since stealth was required and his pants had no pockets he was forced to carry the dirt, bit by bit, in his mouth. Powerful images such as this one are consistently found throughout the book.

One of Cunningham's best weapons in this ambitious tome is his power of description. His words are not overwrought and flowery, full of empty metaphors. Just the opposite--he transports the reader instantly to whatever setting he chooses, painting his pictures vividly with metaphors that are simultaneously unusual and crystal clear. It makes the reader feel a part of the situation, as though observing the occurrences through the eyes of a neighbor or a friend of one of the characters.

The second and perhaps most lethal weapon in the author's arsenal is his ability to create complex, memorable characters that the reader can become emotionally

attached to, whether that emotion is a positive or a negative one.

Constantine Stassos is the Greek immigrant who comes to America and marries Mary, an Italian American girl. He is poised and ready to claim his portion of the American dream. They have three children, Susan, Billy and Zoe, all three distinctly different from each other. The book traces their coming of age, breaking away from their parents and the complex relationships between the family members. These seem like commonplace subjects, and indeed they are, but therein lies their beauty. It is the commonplace occurrences and how we react to them in our everyday lives that shape who we are and what we will become.

The Stassos family could be any American family---indeed the reader may find striking similarities in his or her own life. It is the ability to identify with this family that makes *Flesh And Blood* such an enjoyable read. With is considerable and undeniable talent Michael Cunningham will undoubtedly be counted amongst this country's most gifted writers for a long time to come. X

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Out and About



At the northern portion of Central Pennsylvania lies a town that's nestled between two mountains. The town boasts a bar that has made an impression upon the local populace during the

have a good time. She's delighted that they enter her Downtown establishment since the locals are somewhat timid about coming into that part of the city after dark. (Don't worry, the bar is across the street from the local police station.)

Peachie, along with her husband Eric, are among the amiable staff that cheerfully tend to the desire of the thirsty customer; allowing each a welcome opportunity to get to know their patrons and the community to which they belong. "I love the community, but it's frustrating," says Peachie who senses the problems that gays and lesbians face in the Central Penn hamlet. Her support can be seen, in part, on the softball diamond as *Peachie's Players*, a local women's softball team, takes to the mound during the summer months in this, the second year of the bar's sponsorship.

A Peach of a Good Time

One of Williamsport's local drinkeries returns its support the community.

Eric W. Selvey

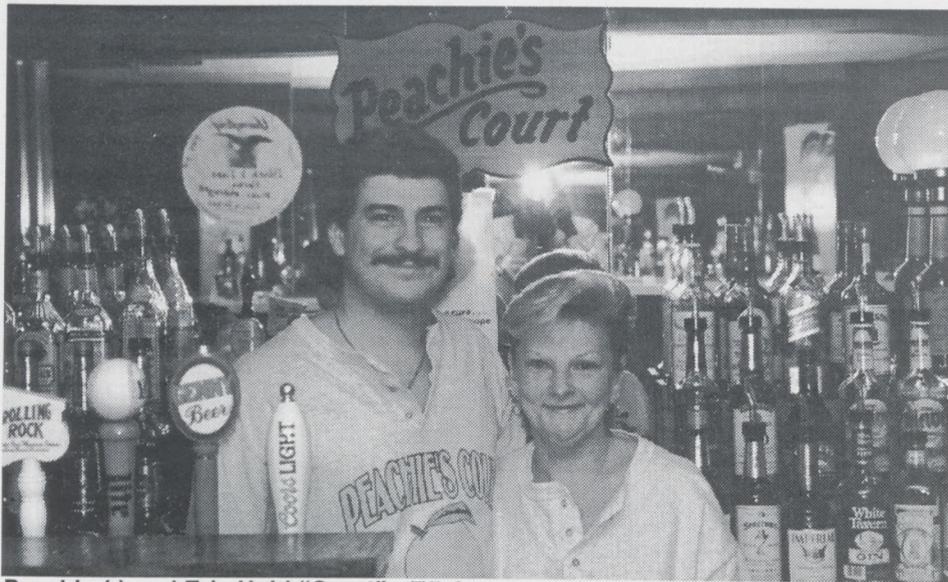
past eighties in one way or another. As the Court Grille, there worked a woman who used to wait upon its patrons, all too proud to have a job. After all the Depression and one did whatever it took to support a family.

Little did she expect that her daughter would one day become manager and subsequent owner of what is now known as Peachies' Court---named after the proprietor. The goings on at 320 Court Street are not out of the ordinary unless you take into consideration that it is one of two bars that proudly caters to the homosexual clientele (The Rainbow Room, which opened in 1995, can be found on West Fourth Street).

No matter. As Peachie views it, "people are very supportive of us here on Court Street." She gets a mixed crowd who knows how to

The affable Peachie knows the clientele so intimately that she has made close friendships via her stint as bar manager/owner. She even invites them to her home for parties and an eventual card game or two.

As with most gay/lesbian drinkeries, Peachie's Court enthusiastically rallies around causes that closely affect its clientele. Their unflinching support of AIDS Resource---the local AIDS support organization---is no cause du jour. They're proud of the \$200 they passed along via their recent Valentine's Day promotion as well as the Monday night card games (currently suspended) that brought funds to the cause. Though they don't keep a running tally of the money they raise, they estimate their 1995 contri-



Peachie (r) and Eric Hold "Court". *Tell them crossroads sent you.*

bution to this ASO as totaling over \$1,500. (In fact, their proceeds from the sales of *crossroads* are going to this ASO.) All in all, both are grateful knowing the financial conduit that is Peachie's Court has been extremely beneficial to the ASO.

AIDS patient relief is not the only cause the gears the bar into community action. Their community involvement has been beneficial to both the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (where the bar was sixth in the Commonwealth in ghost sales during the Halloween of 1995) and the Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots" campaign; last Christmas being their second year affiliation with that cause.

"Every holiday is a fundraiser," according to Eric who finds he doesn't have to worry about the responsibility of organizing charitable events. "People that come in at night really support any cause we espouse. In fact, if we need help with a fundraiser, they are very supportive."

Peachie's Court

320 Court Street • Williamsport

How to get there:

Go North on Route 15 into Williamsport. Stay in the right lane of the steel bridge following the curve off the bridge. Stay in the right lane and take a right at the first red light. go forward crossing Third Street onto Court Street. Peachie's Court is a few yards ahead on your right.

When asked to return to the bar Peachie, originally from Williamsport, literally saved the bar from a sheriff's sale by managing it with an option to buy. Her lifelong dreams of bar ownership were realized on February 24, 1995 when the Court Grille, which had been gay for four years, became Peachie's Court.

Their dedication to the bar and its customers is evident by its interior decor. Renovations in the kitchen and bathrooms along with the recent acquisition of a beer cooler are proof positive of their long term commitment to the community.

And what of the clientele? This "family" establishment proudly caters to patrons as far south as Selinsgrove, as north as southern New York as well as Wilkes-Barre, New Castle and Danville. It's natural for visitors to drop in on the locals at Peachie's Court. (I've found the customers at the bar rather friendly and not cliquish as found in other large metropolitan drinkeries.)

"Everyone's welcome," remarks Eric. Peachie's Court is "a people's bar, not necessarily gay or straight. We have a real nice packed bar at night as well as during the day." Business has been so good that the bar recently increased its hours of operation from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. allowing for a nice friendly little lunchtime crowd to gather.

A recent evening in March provided Peachie and Eric the opportunity

to thank their devoted patrons via their first year anniversary party. As with many a Saturday evening, the bar was packed that evening with enthused singles, couples and friends who reveled in the knowledge that there is a neighborhood bar that is unashamed of its commitment to the community and one that is going to be around for some time to come.

As Eric says, "Peachie cares sometimes too much about the community. But then, I think every business should." X

The Train

The low wail of a distant train.
Leaving for faraway places.
Beckons me in the night.
Telling of anonymous faces.

The box cars rolling along.
Steel gleaming in moonlight.
A road to unknown adventure.
Stretching out of sight.

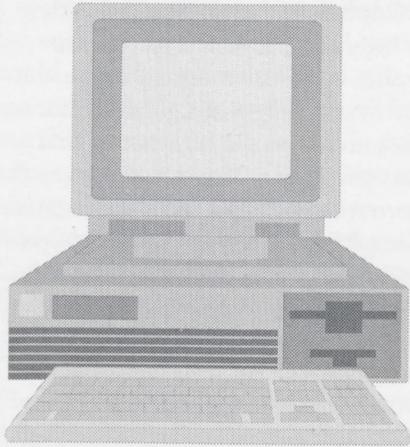
A roaring, restless spirit.
Guthrie's soul speaks to me.
A low sweet song.
Of love, war and poverty.

He rides throughout this land.
With his longing to be free.
This strong American man.
Who loves his country.

Guthrie's soul speaks to us of pain.
Of love, war and poverty.
Of faceless anonymity.
With the low wail of a distant train.

DELPHINE S. PILHAR

Surfing the Wild Net



When it comes to how we live our day-to-day lives, the biggest story of 1996---perhaps of the 1990s---is certainly **The Internet**. This phenomenon, or stories relating to it, has been on the cover of every news magazine more than any other, is the subject of many a weekly feature in almost every paper, becoming a regular feature in just about

What is the Internet?

Some are unaware that the Internet is not a physical thing, but simply the combined connections between many powerful computers (called servers), and the standardized language (or protocols) that allow them to communicate with and understand each other.

These interconnections, and the protocols to allow the connections to work, were developed roughly 20 years ago to allow college researchers, defense contractors and the military to share information easily and quickly. It was then called ARPANET, and was exclusively limited to scientists and other pointy-headed nerds. The system was limited to e-mail, file transfers, and basic things of that nature, making it not very interesting to anybody outside the computer and defense industry. Furthermore, one almost needed a degree in computer science to understand how to use it.

for quite a while.

It has only been recently, however, that people have come to realize the full potential of this interface. It's only in the past two years, that changes were made to the WWW protocol to include graphics, sound, movies, and 3D virtual reality. These changes not only make the WWW easier to use in some ways, but also make it more attractive, interesting and inviting.

Because of its ease of use, and attractive nature, the Web is probably the place where everyone will meet, gather information, and party in cyberspace. Therefore, I will devote a future article to the WWW alone.

What's Out There?

At this time, the Internet provides many different resources, running a variety of interfaces. Some of them are rather easy to use, some require some knowledge, but can be picked up very easily. Some are quite arcane and require much comfort and familiarity with computers and mainframes. For simplicity's sake, I will confine this article to the easy-to-use and popular resources.

E-mail. E-mail, or electronic mail, is the most basic service the Internet provides. Basically, if you are on the Internet, you can send any text, graphic image, sound, or anything that can be contained in a computer file, to anyone else in the world who has a connection to (and address on) the Internet.

These addresses are where everyone has learned how to pronounce "@" ("at," in case you haven't heard it used yet). The part before @ is an individual's identifying name, and the part after @ is the name of the service the person uses to connect to the Internet.

hyperzonk @ aol.com

For example, my address is: The **hyperzonk** is my nickname, or handle, on the Internet. **aol.com** refers to the service I use to connect to the

Hitching a Ride on the Information SuperHighway

America Online, CompuServe and others are pulling everyone reluctantly into the twenty-first century years prior to the advent of 2001. We begin a series of articles to prepare all for the coming technological deluge.

By Matt Miller

every medium. Even in advertising, the cryptic "http://look.at.me.com" is becoming almost a requirement. Never before have so many people known how to pronounce the "@" symbol. Even "dot-COM" has become a word that is, if not understood by, at least familiar to nearly everyone.

Clearly within the next 10 years, nearly every kind of information, almost every business, and quite a few social lives are going to have an extension on the "Net." Right now, however, even the most sophisticated haven't the vaguest idea what all the hoopla is about, much less what the Internet is and how they can become a member of the actualization of the Global Village. To help remedy that situation for *crossroads* readers here is a short primer on the Internet.

Fortunately, ARPANET evolved into the Internet, as the focus shifted away from the defense industry to collegiate education. This change in focus broadened the availability of topics within the service. As more services became available, more people became interested in using these services. This forced those who developed the net interfaces (the connection between the user and all of the technical aspects of sending information over the Internet) to make those interfaces easier for the average person to use.

Over the past five years, the ease of using the Internet has caused the overall network to grow at a staggering rate. The current rage is the World Wide Web, or WWW. The protocol used on the WWW has been around

Internet--here, America Online (aol), which is a commercial organization (there are also .gov-government groups, .edu-colleges and educational groups, .net-networks, .org-organizations, and several that refer to foreign locations, like .on.ca - Ontario, Canada).

E-mail is so revolutionary because it is so fast and so cheap. I've sent mail to a friend in Ontario that arrived within five minutes. Furthermore, since I wrote the letter before going online (connecting to the Internet over a phone line), all I had to pay for was the actual transmission time--in this case, for a letter of two pages, approximately eight seconds, which cost me about one half of a cent. I can practically hear the screams of agony from the presidents of the overnight letter companies, who charge approximately \$10 to get a letter somewhere by the next day, and around \$200 to get a letter to some locations within six hours.

You can also send computer programs, files, digital images, digital sound, digital video, and anything else a computer can store in a file via e-mail. However, because of the nature of e-mail, to send and receive anything other than a text letter, you must either have a special decoding program (called a uuencoder/decoder, which are available on the Internet for free), or you must subscribe to an Internet provider like AOL or CompuServe who provide

automatic decoding with their membership package (this is easier, because their program does all the work...you don't have to know anything about the process).

USENET. Newsgroups, or USENET, are the second most basic items on the Internet. Newsgroups are very similar to e-mail. The only functional difference between the two is that when you send a letter in a newsgroup, it goes to everyone who chooses to receive that newsgroup, instead of to just a single individual. There are thousands of newsgroups, to which you can subscribe at any time, or turn them off when they become boring.

With most programs for newsgroups, you can also look at a list of the messages' subjects and sender without reading anything but the ones in which you are interested. If you don't have newsgroup abilities with your Internet service, you can usually subscribe to it via a listserver, which sends you the newsgroup as e-mail. However, most Internet providers now have direct newsgroup access. I don't recommend using a provider service that does not.

In 1994, a list of current newsgroups (probably about 85% complete) contained over 2700. Today, the figure is much higher, as new newsgroups are added every week. Some newsgroups of particular interest to the gay and lesbian community are

listed below. This is just a short list of the primary groups; a more extensive list will appear in a future article.

Gopher. The first step to making the Internet user friendly was the Gopher system, so named because it burrows its way through the millions of resources on the Internet to find what you are looking for. It makes the Internet easy to use, not only because it simplifies searching for things hidden in the depths of the net, but mostly because it provides a uniform, menu-based way of accessing the different kinds of information available on the net.

Before Gopher, someone looking for information on the net had to know how to connect to a host computer, look for information by navigating and searching through directories, and then use FTP to transfer the file. That was just to get the file back to the home computer, where one had to subsequently figure out how to look at the file.

With Gopher, once you connect (which still takes some knowledge), all you have to do is type a letter corresponding to a menu item until you have found the exact item you are looking for. Then, that information is displayed.

However, Gopher only displays text, so to see graphics or hear sounds, you still have to know how to make that format work on your home computer. However, Gopher helps you along in transferring the

Gay and Lesbian Internet Resources

This brief list contains items prefixed by * are adult in content and should be visited with discretion by individuals 18 years and older. Keep in mind that the Internet is a free-speech zone and any area may occasionally contain explicit material.

Newsgroups (those prefixed by * are also adult in content)

soc.bi	bisexual social group
soc.motss	members of the same sex social group
*alt.sex.pictures.male	pictures of nude men
bit.listserv.gaynet	GayNet discussion list
alt.politics.homosexuality	gay and lesbian politics

***alt.sex.homosexual
clari.news.group.gays**

gay sex stories
news relating to gay and lesbian issues

WWW sites

http://www.out.com

Out magazine

http://www.gayweb.com/menu.html

GayWeb commercial information

***http://www.contrib.andrew.cmu.edu/nifty/men.html**

A list of gay images on the web

http://members.aol.com/hyperzonk

That's right, my home page, including links to lots of cool stuff. X

file, thus saving some headaches of using the Internet without Gopher.

To make "Gophering" even easier, a search tool was developed. Before the search tool was developed, you could dig through many Gopher menus for hours on end without finding the material you wanted. To prevent such fruitless wastes of time and energy, VERONICA (Very Easy Rodent Oriented Net-wide Index to Computer Archives) was developed. Using it is indeed much easier than remembering the full name. Most Gopher menus now include the item "Search Gopherspace with Veronica." After selecting this, you simply enter the target of your searches, and Veronica will give you another menu of items, in order of their pertinence to your search.

You can simply select a menu item that seems likely to lead you to the right place. If you selected the wrong item, it is very easy to back up to a previous level. Veronica makes navigating via Gopher much faster and more intuitive.

World Wide Web. Presently, the most popular part of the Internet is the Web. Much like all other aspects of the Internet, the Web consists of many documents located on the computers which form the Internet. What makes the Web special is that each document can point to another document anywhere else on the Internet. With the Web interfaces (called browsers) available today, all you must do to see the referenced document is point your mouse at the reference and click on it.

It works something like this. Say a web page has a paragraph like the following:

There are many cities in Pennsylvania with gay and lesbian businesses, including gay bars, bookstores, and magazines.

From this web page, you could click on gay bars, or any of the other highlighted, underlined items to go to more information about those. Each page on the Web can include these links to other information anywhere in the world.

crossroads

Also, since the Web has become popular, it has become possible to include graphics, animation, sound, and even miniature programs on a Web page. Many incredible things are now being performed on the Web. There are places you can go to talk in real time with other people, games and contests, live "Webcasts" much like a television show or newscast (though the pictures do not move in full motion . . . yet), news sites like CNN's with constantly updated coverage, and many other things.

Perhaps the most important things on the Web are the *search engines*, which allow you to enter a word or series of words, and have the search engine return locations on the Web which contain information about those words, in order of how closely the Web location matches your search. This makes it very easy to find whatever information you are interested in very easily.

The Web is such a huge phenomenon that I will devote an entire article to it in a future issue. Included at the end of this article are some "starter" Web sites of gay and lesbian interest to check out.

How Do I Get on the Internet?

There is a basic set of equipment you must have access to in order to be able to get on the Internet. You need a computer with a modem (preferably a 486 or late model Mac or better computer with a 14.4Kbps or faster modem), a phone line, enough money to pay for the service, and lots of free time.

Though some people may be lucky enough to have a direct Internet connection available at work or at school, most people access the Internet by having their computer call an Internet service provider. The service provider has the connection to the Internet and the computer resources necessary to access the Internet's protocols. The service provider connects you to the Internet and sends information your home computer can understand back through the phone lines.

There are now thousands of Internet service providers that have appeared within the last five years. AT&T, MCI and Sprint provide

Internet access, though you have to provide some "bells and whistles" to get everything out of the net.

America Online, CompuServe, and Delphi provide Internet access and give you the interface software you need to access almost everything without too much trouble. There are also many local providers springing up all over the United States, such as Pennsylvania Online in Harrisburg. Each provides various levels of ease of use and access.

Each provider charges a monthly or yearly fee, and most charge a nominal amount for the time you spend connected. America Online, the service I use, charges \$9.95 per month, and \$2.95 per hour after the first ten hours every month. There are also packages available through other services that charge \$19.95 per month for unlimited access.

Which service you choose depends upon how much time you plan to spend online, and what kind of resources you need the service provider to make available. My next article will provide more details about selecting a service that suits your needs. X

Matt Miller has worked in the computer business since age 12 and is currently employed at Daisy Data, Inc. in Enola. he does Internet consulting through his Millerthought Industries. Questions about the Net or computers in general can be addressed to CPI in c/o Matt on at his web address.

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***Congratulations in
celebrating another day of
PRIDE, in ourselves and
each other.***

An up-to-date look at issues confronting those with HIV.

Lenny Stein, founder of American Life Resources, unveiled a set of viatical life insurance industry standards at the POZ Life Expo held in New York City's Javits Center in June. The expo was sponsored by POZ Magazine and attracted 120 exhibitors and 6,000 people over two days. The purpose of the expo was to provide HIV-infected individuals with direct access to goods, services and information regarding the disease.

Stein has grown deep roots in the HIV/AIDS community. He founded the AIDS Project Los Angeles, a model agency for AIDS service organizations around the nation, and has served as a board member of the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

In an interview with *crossroads*, Stein said, "Viatical settlements are not purely a financial service. They are an AIDS service." There are approximately 50 life insurance companies doing viatical settlements. Stein is asking that all of the companies sign onto his "Viatical Bill of Rights."

"At first, we all thought that the idea of such settlements was maudlin, distasteful. Now we see what an enhancement to a person's life that early access to life insurance benefits, even at a reduced, but fair rate of return makes," Stein points out.

Stein is a passionate advocate for a high standard of ethics in the offering of viatical settlements. In a television interview from the floor of the Javits Center, he spoke at length about the need for standards. He was so wound up in the details of the interview and explaining how properly applied standards help consumers that he didn't even mention the name of his own viatical settlement company. Later, one of his colleagues chided him: "Lenny, you forgot to mention the name of our company."

The standards to which companies are asked to adhere are reprinted below.

THE VIATICAL BILL OF RIGHTS

(Name of company), in order to encourage the best business practices in the industry, and to assist sellers of life insurance in assessing viatical options, agrees to abide by the following standards and practices:

***WE WILL** inform potential sellers that viatication is one of several mechanisms for accessing cash benefits from a life insurance policy. We will encourage all potential sellers to work with a financial adviser to determine a course of action best suited to an individual's needs.

***WE WILL** comply with all applicable federal and state laws, and in those states which have licensing requirements we will be licensed and disclose our licensing status in informational materials to clients. Our advertising will either disclose our licensing status or provide a phone number for clients to call to verify our licensing status in their state.

***WE WILL NOT** engage in advertising practices that are false, misleading or deceptive.

***WE WILL** present the complete terms of all offers to sellers in writing.

***WE WILL** offer a range of options for monitoring the ongoing health of the seller after the purchase of the seller's life insurance policy, allowing the seller to select a monitoring method responsive to the seller's needs. Monitoring options will include, at a minimum, monitoring by mail and directly with the seller's physician.

***WE WILL NOT**, under any circumstances, divulge patient identifying information without the written informed consent of the seller. When seeking the right to disclose patient identifying information we will ensure that the seller's consent is informed by always providing, at a minimum, the identity of the specific person(s) or entities proposed to receive such information. We also will require all such person(s) or entities to sign a statement that they will never divulge patient identifying information without the seller's written informed consent.

***WE WILL** provide proof that the funds to purchase the insurance policy have been set aside in an escrow account controlled by an independent agent prior to our receiving documents which transfer ownership of the policy.

***WE WILL** never pay a finder's fee to any health care provider currently providing care to the seller.

***WE WILL**, at a minimum, provide sellers the right to return the proceeds and void the sale for a period of no less than 15 days after the seller receives the proceeds.

***WE WILL** include the following disclosures in every application:

---The possible availability of accelerated benefits and other mechanisms of accessing cash through one's life insurance policy;

---The potential tax, estate and probate implications of the viatical settlement pursuant to current federal and state laws;

---The potential impact of the viatical settlement on the seller's eligibility for Medicaid, SSI and other needs-based public benefits; and

---The potential impact of a viatical settlement on a seller who has recently filed for bankruptcy.

***WE WILL** disclose the names of any individuals or entities who will be paid by us as a result of this transaction.

***WE WILL** issue a copy of these standards and a statement that we abide by them with every application.

"From A Burning House"

Edited by Irene Borger, with an introduction by Tony Kushner, "From A Burning House" is a must read for anyone affected by HIV/AIDS issues. Borger is Writer-in-Residence at the AIDS Project Los Angeles. The essays represent a collection of stories by participants in Borger's Writer's Workshop. Local resident Jack Beard, recently deceased, had two of his essays appear in the Simon and Schuster paperback publication.

At \$14.00, the 356 page book covers the waterfront on AIDS themes. Some stories are humorous, some sad, some you'll never forget. Many you will identify with in meaningful ways. Mostly short in length, the stories are the heartfelt words of individuals, men from all walks of life.

The South Central AIDS Assistance Network (SCAAN) is offering a local Writer's Workshop based on Borger's work in L.A. Call 238-AIDS for more information.

New Drug, Viramune, Cleared As HIV Treatment

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved Viramune for the treatment of HIV. Manufactured by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceutical Inc., viramune is the first reverse

transcriptase inhibitor cleared by the FDA.

The FDA warns that the new drug, known generically as nevirapine, "should be used with at least one other AIDS drug because the virus rapidly develops resistance when nevirapine is used alone," according to the Wall Street Journal.

The drug's most common side effect is a rash. The FDA also advises that patients who experience a severe rash or one accompanied by a fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, or muscles or joint aches should stop using the drug.

The new medication is expected to be available in August.

Clinical Update on Oxandrin

Oxandrin is a synthetic anabolic steroid used to treat involuntary weight loss due to chronic infection and/or other clinical conditions which result in weight loss. The drug is taken orally and is adjunct to the treatment of weight loss. As with all information, regarding medical decisions and treatment, always consult with your physician before deciding on a course of treatment.

Got Questions on Managed Care?

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging is a good source of information on managed care and how it works. If you are on Social Security Disability and have your Medicare benefits in use, you may find it useful to call the department's APPRISE Program with any questions you may have. The number is 1 (800) 783-7067. Ask for the brochure "Managed Care Q & A: Answers to Your Questions about Medicare Managed Care in PA."

Free Insurance Seminars for People Living with HIV

The AIDS Law Project of Philadelphia is sponsoring free insurance seminars. The AIDS Law Project is a non-profit, public interest law

firm providing free legal services to people with HIV/AIDS throughout Pennsylvania. At each seminar, they will answer commonly asked questions about health, disability and life insurance and government benefits.

The seminar dates are August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11 all from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. and October 16 and November 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Seminars take place at 1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 1200, Philadelphia, 19107. To register, please call (215) 587-9377. Please call two weeks prior to the seminar you plan to attend if you require a sign language interpreter.

Local Quilt Chapter Plans Two Trips to Quilt

The NAMES Project, Susquehanna Valley Chapter, is planning two trips to Washington, D.C. to see the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt which will be displayed in the Smithsonian Museum area of the federal capitol complex.

The first trip is October 12, 1996; the second October 13th. The cost for either day is \$22. Each day the bus will leave the Harrisburg East Mall at 6:30 a.m. and will depart Washington each evening at 6:00 p.m. For more information about the local bus trips or to make reservations, please call (717) 234-0629. First come, first served.

If you are interested in volunteering with the actual presentation of the Quilt, you may contact Judy Pere, northeast Volunteer Coordinator, 1033 Southern Drive, Franklin Square, N.Y. 11010.

How Do I Know If I Have "Wasting Syndrome?"

A quick reference to assess your health status in terms of weight loss and AIDS-related Wasting Syndrome is to know a few facts. Always discuss these details with your physician. According to a Stadlander's

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newsletter, an individual whose ideal body weight is 150 pounds, who loses 5 percent of that weight, i.e., 7.5 pounds, is well on his/her way to protein and calorie malnutrition.

The same individual who progressed in his/her weight loss to 10% of ideal or 15 pounds can now be expected to live only an additional 1.5 years.

The Centers for Disease Control define wasting as a 10% or more loss from ideal weight. Keep up hope, wasting syndrome is treatable and reversible. Discuss any changes in weight with your physician.

AIDS Consumer Group Meets

The AIDS Consumer Group of the South Central AIDS Planning Coalition met on June 25 to discuss the formation of a Long Range Plan for the volunteer group. With the funding environment changing, it is vitally important that consumers affected by HIV/AIDS become involved in the process of allocating funds and making sure that the tax dollars are used to get the "biggest bang for the buck."

The group represents a 14-county region in Central Pennsylvania and has urban, suburban and rural representation. X

October 7 October 7 October 7 October 7 October 7

October 7 October 7

October 7!

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Talent in Review



Suzanna Mallow (l) and Andrea Jones
rock Harrisburg as Red Letter Day.

Red Letter Day

For those of us who went to the concert on July 12th at Stallions at 706 North Third Street it was a surprising and pleasant change from the usual fare of loud popular music. I enjoy popular music, (being loud seems to be a prerequisite) but many of us have been searching for a more sophisticated, cosmopolitan atmosphere where perhaps the musical strains of jazz could be heard.

Red Letter Day's music fits the bill on this on-again, off-again rainy summer evening. This CD release party provided a refreshing combination of folk and jazz. They played guitar with the smooth silky tones of the saxophone. Also in evidence, reminiscent of latter day folk music (or "letter day" folk music), were the mandolin and flute. With good lyrics and strong vocalization by both players they don't fit neatly into any one category but it

was definitely a unique and enjoyable experience. Everyone who attended the concert, agreed they would like to hear more of this new sound. Congratulations to Red Letter Day on the release of their new CD *4 Bowls of Color* and on their talent.

The Heaven Restaurant clearly has this potential. Unfortunately, the music on the floor below was almost overwhelming in sheer volume of the pleasant relaxed atmosphere above.

Everyone mutually agreed Red Letter Day's music was unique and enjoyable, as were the surroundings up in Heaven. Who knows, perhaps in the future someone will look down from Heaven and create a lounge/club where the gay milieu can relax and enjoy the soft, romantic strains of jazz or the blues, candlelight, a private chat, and a cocktail or some gastronomic delight finessed in the kitchen.

There I go fantasizing again.

DELPHINE PILHAR

Editor's Note: *Beginning in August, Stallions will move their Ladies' Night to Thursdays with the entertainment shifted down to the spacious dance area on the main floor/Third Street level.*

Harrisburg Men's Chorus

Imagine a hot summer's night inside a tent raised in a field in the Deep South. The minister has just finished his (her?) sermon to the masses. The end of revival week is upon the congregation who sit stoically but wasted after the hell and brimstone, testifying and signifying of their spiritual leader. Other than passing the plate, the only other order of business is the vocalization of the men and women sitting before them. All bedecked in their white shirts and black trousers and skirts, the choir prepares yet another hymn to sing to their brothers and sisters in Christ.

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The singers rise and deliver another powerful tune that would rock the pearly gates open all for the honor and pleasure of Him.

A church provides an interesting venue for singers especially if the music is apropos to the occasion. Such was the case Saturday, May 18th as the Harrisburg Men's Chorus attempted something a little daring. The 19 all-white male ensemble faithfully attempted to present the audience a program of African, Caribbean and black gospel music in a predominantly African American church---Harrisburg's Mitchell Memorial United Methodist Church.

Artistic Director Daniel Krynak, perhaps sensing the daunting task

presented before his group, remarked that the group was in the "midst of the most exciting thing we have attempted" with music "that is absolutely heart wrenching." Krynak's knowledge of the reasons behind the composition of the pieces sung was evidenced as he mentioned the people (perhaps "slaves" is a better term) who were made to feel lower than second class citizens who yet kept the faith and sang of the day they would "come out of oppression."

The question asked at this point would be: "Did they pull it off?" There were two barometers that I used to gauge their success (or failure)---My ears naturally and two ladies who planted themselves in the balcony to my upper right; two African American ladies in their sixties. I figured if anyone could determine the concert's enjoyment level it would be them.

As far as I am concerned, the men pulled it off with great aplomb. The concert began with the a capella *Welcome! Sing, Be Merry*---a tune commissioned by Chicago's Windy City Gay Men's Chorus. Quite fitting in that the slaves in the field worked while singing their praises to the Lord; without the backup of the Earth, Wind and Fire band I might add (Imagine that).

Soloist Steve Keefer made *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel* a personal signature piece as did Daryl Robinson with *Sweep Clean Mary* (no this was not the camp song of the evening but rather "a tribute to women who kept the house alive," according to Krynak). That's not to say there wasn't a novelty performance as Marvin Mernick, complete with Carman Miranda drag, gave his enjoyable interpretation to Harry Belafonte's *Jamaica Farewell*. Nevin Buck, Patrick Wallen and Andy Crone brought their fine talents to bear on *Keep in the Middle of the Road*.

All in all, HMC's soloists were in fine fettle though one could tell that the heat (did I mention that it was a surprisingly warm day which translated to the sanctuary) had an affect on the vocal chords. Not to worry, each gentleman pulled their part off



Masters of Music William Cooley, Jr., guest soloist (l), Dr. Tony Leach, guest conductor (r) and HMC Artistic Director Daniel Krynak bring the sound of Africa and black America to the masses.

with great aplomb.

The highlight of the concert was the Ben Allaway's *BANDARI: Inside These Walls*. Translated from the Swahili, this piece of northern African origin, presented in five movements, dealt with the processes involved in constructing the bandari, or "hut," and the hopes, spiritual qualities and dreams of generations gone by and those yet to come.

The personal fascination held by this reviewer was multi-fold: the elements of nature that were featured (that thing that make the African rain maker was a wonderful touch), the clear attention paid to the intricacies of the African dialect in their pronunciation of the language; a language not easy to learn, let alone pronounce.

As with most of their concerts, HMC found a way to invite the audience inside the bandari by taking time to instruct the audience of certain African phrases that were employed as echoes in this all-important piece. I found that surprising in that signature pieces of this nature, are for the performers alone. Cheers to the boys for their faith and courage to invite us in!

The overall professionalism and well-deserved respect accorded the composition must also be noted. The last movement, *Freedom Comes*, was a significant departure from the over-



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all tone of those that preceded it. It can be said that the combined talents could have let themselves get carried away with the swing inflections felt in the piece. In fact, I felt the last movement could have been used at the end of the film *Malcolm X* instead of the clearly opportunistic piece by Arrested Development.

Once again, the Men's Chorus, accompanied by the Central Pennsylvania Women's Chorus (CPWC) and guest singer William Cooley, Jr. made a difficult piece seem like a walk through the Serangetti as attested by the well-deserved standing ovation they received at the composition's end.

My only question is "What is it about instrumentalists that they can't control their enthusiasm," as evidenced by their overplaying of their instruments? Some of the lyrics were unintelligible due to their cheerful exuberance. I'm glad they're in the spirit, but please allow the rest of us to enjoy the words as written.

And what of the ladies in the balcony? Well, the BANDARI concluded the first half of the concert. As the second one opened, the ladies retook their places and remained through the rest of the concert. "So what?," I hear you ask.

Well, I didn't get to the guest conductor. Dr. Tony Leach, took over the reins after a fine performance by the

CPWC and transformed HMC into a gospel choir. As a minister of music at Harrisburg's St. Paul Baptist Church, Leach took 19 white boys (don't get offended) and turned them into the choir of revival. I closed my eyes and went to that tent in the field and found myself saying to myself, "You could not tell they were white."

Color should never be an issue where music is concerned, but to take this program to a predominantly black church, and to sing spirituals of the African American experience, you deserve the comparisons. The guys did fine as was evidenced by a lady who raised her arm and waved her hand back and forth ever so slightly. She was in the spirit of the hour (or was that the spirit was in her?).

As for the ladies in the balcony, they came along for the ride as they clapped and sang and swayed and applauded as they sat in the hardwood benches of their beloved House of God.

Dr. Tony Leach was havin' church; taking on the mantle of a shephard; guiding his flock--the chorus and the audience to the Promised Land. *Through This Ole Hammer* and *Oh Lord* (with soloists Chuck Atwell, Ted Neal, Robinson and Cooley), *Got a Mind to do Right* and *What Shall I Render*, the audience quickly grasped what was happening to them and came along for the ride. I don't know if we got there, but we sure had a great time trying!

Note to HMC: Your gamble paid off and you should be proud of the goodwill you spread in the community at large through your hard work and dedication to detail. X

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A Supreme TKO

Continued from Page 11

piecemeal deterioration of the sexual morality favored by a majority of Coloradans, and is not only an appropriate means to that legitimate end, but a means that Americans have employed before. Striking it down is an act, not of judicial judgment, but of political will. **I dissent.** X



By Eric W. Selvey

Someday someone will publish, if it hasn't been already, a companion piece to John F. Kennedy's *Profiles In Courage* that will chronicle those gays, lesbians and transgendered that live their lives with steadfast conviction without the daily fear of suppression that's imposed via their ignorance of the unknown. An appropriate candidate would be Harrisburg photographer Jennifer Warner.

A native of the Capital City, Warner's artistic talents began in the second grade; taking her to York's Academy of the Arts to become immersed in commercial art. Her work with paints led her to her current fascination with lenses and light. Having photographed landscapes, her last exhibit showcased California's Yosemite National Park, she currently is preparing to bring another subject to the fore; one a bit more personal and somewhat controversial: Central Pennsylvanian lesbians.

And why not? Warner has looked at life from both sides: Twice married, she became comfortable with her eventual discovery of her sexual orientation.

Through her eyes, Warner attempts to show this little corner of the world that lesbians, and by that extension homosexuals in general, desire to live

Through The Eye of the Beholder

A Chat with Jennifer Warner

a life as regular as the community at large.

Warner's work, some of which is exclusive to *crossroads*, depicts some women as they are and some as they wish to be: free and uninhibited. One need only to examine closely the black and white photos to be treated to images of stereotypical definitions that apply to our Central Pennsylvanian sisters: butch/fem, lipstick/diesel. The observer is well advised, however, to look deeper to discover a strong individual increasingly coming to terms day by day with her inner soul; setting the rules for her and her alone; establishing the parameters that will one day benefit her in her pursuit of the images that correctly depict the world in which she lives and one that the community at large should accept with full tolerance and understanding.

Her path will be a little easier if she remembers her own statement of guidance:

I think nature and the earth and finding a simple structure in all of us is where art really begins. We all can find beauty, inner peace and inspiration if we study our own true simple selves and the earth around us.

I don't know of any place that has had a photography exhibit locally on this subject. I decided for my own personal reasons to do this exhibit about a year or so ago. I've been thinking about it for a while, but I've been doing landscapes for the last six years. The community knows me as a landscape artist. So I'm more or less going from Yosemite to lesbians.

My last exhibit was my Yosemite exhibit and I wanted to do that...This year I decided to do this (the lesbian exhibit) because of my own personal change in my life. I basically came out about a year and a half ago.

Would you like that printed?

It's okay with me. I don't mind. I feel that it is really important for the

community to be seen and heard as just normal people because of the homophobia that I have seen in this area.

My exhibit is nothing shocking but shows people as themselves in their own environment; very soft subtle photography. And I feel also as an artist and a photographer that we as artists have the power to speak to the public in some form and I think personally that every artist should take a hold of that and speak on an issue just to help any community.

I've decided to do a couple social things, ...social issues at hands and take that in hand and present that to the public.

What is it that you want your pictures to portray? I'm that I will walk away from your exhibit with a different impression than what you're intending to portray.

I just want them to realize that there are no stereotypes. We are everywhere and everyone and you will see from the photos that there are extremely masculine women and feminine women. I feel that a lot of the community are stereotyped by the people who are not educated. The same goes with the male community.

The gay male community?

Yeah. And that's the way people expect to see them. But it's not like that at all. A lot of people say, "Oh, she can't be gay. She's too feminine. She's wearing earrings and lipstick."

And I think a lot of the lesbian chic type of TV shows are kind of portraying that, but they aren't taking us seriously. Sort of like capitalizing on the lesbian chic.

I think the community (at large) doesn't how many different types of women are lesbians.

You mention how people are comfortable with their perceptions of what is gay and lesbian. I'm reminded of the Morgan Fairchild character on Roseanne and Sandra Bernhart and people say, "Morgan



Fairchild?. Hmmm. I wonder if she really is a lesbian." You wonder if another can of worms is being opened here.

Right. People need to realize that there are no stereotypes that we are like normal. I feel that the lesbian community needs to be seen as people. The public needs to get used to (the notion) that we're here.

Since I've come out, I've seen so many women who are in hibernation. They are afraid of being themselves, They don't want their employers to know. I'm taking a risk with my employment. And I think it's really sad...

Do your employers know?

No, not that I'm aware of.

Do you think they will know after this inter-

view and the exhibit?

Probably.

And does that concern you or scare you?

Maybe to a certain point but I figure if it's a problem then I guess that's just too bad I'm just going to have to move on. And I don't really feel that I have to say what I am or who I am. But as an artist I need to express myself and I don't really feel that have to explain myself as far as being a lesbian.

Are you in a job that you are face to face with a client or with the public?

Yeah.

Because that could be part of a fear on the part of your employers. It's great that you feel that "accept me on my terms. Because

this is who I am and I can't change it."

Right. I have a feeling that I won't have a problem, but you never know. And I figure if I do, then I'll just have to move on. If they have a problem with it I'll talk to them about it, but I don't think I'm taking a risk by not talking to them about it before hand or not. I figure I'm just gonna do what I have to do as an artist. That's just the way I am.

You've been thinking about putting this exhibit together for two years?

Actually, it's only been the last year that I've been working on it. It's been about the year before that that I was thinking about it; during my coming out process. So it's been in my head.

Has this exhibit been somewhat of a cathartic experience for you?

As far as...?

You say as an artist you feel that you need to find ways of expressing yourself and in a sense you're basically expressing who you are and what you believe. I believe that is the same of any artist no matter what form they use. Do you feel that by expressing what you feel is the lesbian form of view that maybe there is an extension of the photos that says, "This is who I am."?

Oh yeah. Definitely. I am definitely part of the community. There are so many things that get in the way of being ourselves in public. I come from two marriages which is my background so I've seen things from both sides.

Any children?

No, no children. The point is if you are nude in public, if you are homosexual or heterosexual that doesn't come into consideration. It doesn't matter as far as holding hands in public as a show of affection and being recognized as a couple.

I feel like now when I'm involved with somebody, I feel like I'm hiding. I can't really be myself in public. I thank God that both of our families accept it and they know it and it's there. On the whole, as the general, I want to represent myself within the community and show community a well-rounded view. Not the stereotype, nothing a shocking or porno-

graphic just an exhibit saying, "This is who we are, I'm a part of it and we are all just normal people."

It's just a way of visually speaking out and showing the community just as it is.

What's the buzz in the women's community about your upcoming exhibit?

There is so much excitement in the air about this exhibit. They are excited that somebody is showing their experiences to the public and selling their images as artwork. I hope to eventually make notecards from these prints because there are great possibilities for that.

I know I am helping the self-esteem of lesbians by displaying who we are. There are male exhibits of the body but you very rarely see anything on the female form as far as a specific subject.

Why do you feel self-esteem in the lesbian community?

Being stifled in the world and stifled in not being recognized as who we are. We're not allowed to get married, we're not allowed to be represented as an individual--causes for a lot of depression and alcoholism, a lot of withdrawing from the community and from the world because they are too afraid. That definitely has a lot to do with self-esteem.

I noticed the change in myself. When I was in the straight community, I did not have to hide anything. I had thoughts over the past years of being a lesbian but I didn't label myself, it didn't really come to the surface until about a couple of years ago in my head.

Before, I didn't have to think who I am, I already knew who I was. I didn't have to question anything. Now, I have to question my employer over this exhibit. I have to think of things as far as my personal life.

I understand there is going to be poetry along with your exhibit?

Yes. I know a wonderful poet who is supplying verses for certain photos within the exhibit.

Are the verses all one poem?

No. Though there will be a theme running through the verses, each



verse will be specific for a particular photo.

The titles of the photos, which I am still in the process of titling, are going to be incorporated with the verses and the photos as a whole. The total verse itself are just representation of poetic expression; of feelings underlying the thought of being a lesbian and their general feelings.

You don't have to answer this, because your answer could "out" someone, but is the poet a lesbian?

Yes. She has been a couple of years.

I just ask because I couldn't see a heterosexual woman or man for that matter writing poetry that expresses the lesbian experience.

She's been in and out of several relationships. She's an extremely good poet and I am extremely excited

by her incorporation with my photos.

How did you hook up with this person? Did she know that you were doing this exhibit? Did you know this person?

I knew this person as a friend in the past year and I've seen her poetry and read some of her verses. In fact, she let me read part of her personal book that she writes in that she doesn't really let anybody else read. She trusted my judgement and she knows that I appreciate poetry. She's excited as well.

Will she be at the reception (August 2nd)?

Yeah. She's one of the models too.

What are you trying to convey with these photos?

Each photograph is an attempt at capturing the personality of the individual. There is nothing to be read into what one sees. Take it as it is and

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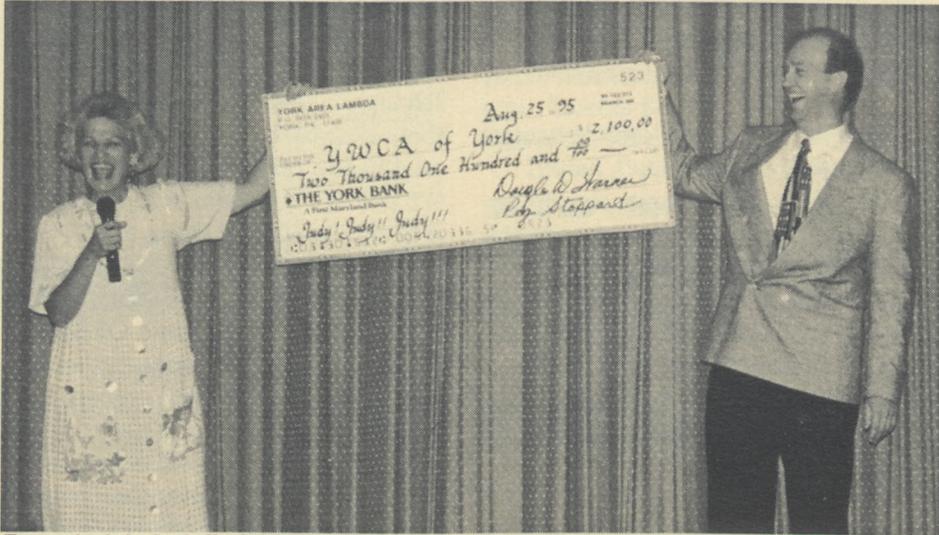
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From Judy!, Judy!!, Judy!!! With Love was this whopper of a check presented YWCA rep by then treasurer Doug Warner. The monies were to donated for the Y's women's health issues part of its program.

York Area Lambda

Eric W. Selvey

Political. Educational. Social...
the backbone to York's local gay and lesbian organization

According to its president Doug Warner YAL's purpose "is to be in the firestorm as a first line of defense for the greater York area." It is this philosophy that makes YAL Warner's first love. "Maybe it was my first phase of coming out to who I am. They were there when I came out. They were in the forefront of gaining civil rights in York. Warner has been involved with YAL for five years beginning as a member and rising up through the ranks as treasurer, vice president is at present, president.

On a personal level, Warner feels he no longer has to hide his sexual orientation which is best evident by his valiant attempt to get Blue Cross to modify their employment policy. He still wants to make an antidiscrimination policy at the Harrisburg based company towards homosexuals happen. His life became easier when he came out. he feels that gay-friendly persons will help gays attain their rights.

Political. Warner was involved in

the attainment of rights for gays in the City of York even though he wasn't out in at the time. Before approaching York's city council, Warner first went before a tougher group: his coworkers at Blue Cross. Warner was surprised by his bosses' acceptance, but became somewhat dismayed by the initial reaction of some of his fellow co-workers. However, after Q & A from his associates, relations now are better than ever. "You're winning when you're out in the forefront regardless of whether you win or lose because everybody tends to recognize the reasons of the battle."

YAL has won many skirmishes and lost a few. For instance, the Martin Memorial Library street level windows on the major thoroughfare of York's Market Street are used so that organizations can promote their events or purpose. YAL's first display two years ago announced the city's gays community pride in their sexual orientation. However, the second year brought a disclaimer from the library; making York Area Lambda the first organization to earn one. Warner says that YAL decided not to do one this year simply due to time constraints.

1994 saw the organization ask The York Daily Record---one of the city's main newspapers---to allow same sex personals in their columns. The Daily

Record modified the policy after YAL's meeting with the board resulting in their creating an alternative lifestyles section.

The organization found "alternative" an inappropriate moniker for the homosexual community. After more prodding from YAL, the paper put the same sex inquiries under the "One gender seeking" section, causing gays to search for personals intermingled with those for straights. The organization has not given up their quest for a separate identity within the section.

Another hardfought battle involved the restaurant chain which owns the Cracker Barrel chain that allegedly discriminated against gays in their hiring policies. YAL, which encompasses the greater York area, were unsuccessful in their attempt to get the York Township supervisors to enact an antidiscrimination employment policy in line with the city of York's ordinance in advance of the chain's moving to the area.

To this very day, Warner does not understand why gays and lesbians continue to patronize this establishment.

YAL's current cause celebre includes devising a strategy towards legislation passed banning state recognition of same sex marriages.

Educational. YAL has approximately 100 members with recruitment an ongoing process for the York area organization. Warner states that one way is for YAL to be literally visible in the community as well as in the print media via letters to the editors on issues of local interest as highlighted in the York Dispatch or the York Daily Record. "The average person (in any volunteer org.) gets burned out after two or three years and sometimes new blood, new ideas and new energy comes forward via the replacements that come forward to continue to lead the agenda that is important to them.

"It's important to find leaders and members. And the leaders are out there. You just have to find them."

YAL witnessed the fruition of two of their dreams: A group for

teenagers (MOIRA) and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Both organizations have since flown the nest and are successfully thriving at the present time.

Social. YAL's most recent successes include the *Judy!, Judy!!, Judy!!!* variety show (now known simply as *Judy!*) which began two years ago at Spring Grove's nightclub Altland's Ranch. Started from a concept of celebrating Judy Garland's birthday the annual event initially raised \$1,100 for the York County Visiting Nurse Assoc. for victims of AIDS and breast cancer.

The 1995 sequel moved to York's Valencia Ballroom with 400 a wide array of talent and raised over \$4,400 for Ordinary People, Extraordinary Needs (OPEN) and the YWCA's effort at health issues namely breast cancer education.

The ease of getting the twolocal beneficiaries to back *Judy!* due in part to their initial support of YAL.

Warner refers to both AIDS and breast cancer as invisible soldiers that deplete the ranks of those that otherwise could be utilized in the fight for equal rights of gays and lesbians. Thus, YAL's affiliation with both their organizations is so vital.

Doug was bare a resentment to fundamentalism that sees black and white in they are wrong and gays are wrong. The reason is basically due to his past as a fundamentalist which made it harder for him to accept his real sexual identity. He looks back at what he calls "his ridiculous past" at a religion that tried to set his straight, but which was, in itself, silly.

This year's *Judy!* returns to the Valencia and will be held Sunday, August 25th. In addition to the variety, this year's event will be coupled with an afternoon tea dance hours prior to the main event; a two hour intermission in between. The strategy behind the two events is to attract a different crowd that might otherwise not attend the evening's benefit.

Scheduled to appear are Aunt-May-O-Naise, the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, Lily White & Company, the Harrisburg

Men's Chorus, 3 J's and a C, Chris Quigley, Ray Myers, and the Flaming Susquehanna Squares.

Therefore, there are three separate sales options: Buying a ticket for the Tea Dance (\$8.00), a ticket for the show (\$12.00) or both. Patron tickets are \$30 and tabled of nine go from \$72 to \$270. To obtain tickets, call Kris at (717) 854-4018 or Doug at (717) 846-9636.

The beneficiaries for *Judy!* are held the same as last year: OPEN--- for HIV infected persons who are financially strapped and are struggling from day to day in their valient attempt to cope with AIDS and the YWCA vis a vis its all-inclusive concern with women's health care issues; an organization that is openly responsive to gay and lesbian concerns.

The future of YAL according to Warner includes bringing in speakers and of course finding a way to fund the speaker's series. The recent organization's attempt at establishing a clearinghouse of events for the gay/lesbian community, along with the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, is currently up and running.

JULY

27 - Central Pennsylvania Pride Festival - Celebration of Pride for lesbians and gays. HACC, 3300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, Noon - 7:00 p.m.

AUGUST

9-11 - Her Story Women's Bookstore's 4th Birthday Party. 2 West Market Street, Hallam, PA.

10 - MCC of the Spirit's Crab Feast in Baltimore. Call 236-7387 for more info.

10 - Manantongo Spirit Garden's Open House in Pitman. Free Admission.

11 - Susquehanna Lambda. Picnic in Waterville. Call Dan at 322-8793 for details.

15 - Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg Membership Meeting, 1514 N. 2nd Street, Harrisburg, 7:00 p.m.

17 - Business Association of Gays and Lesbians (BAGAL) - Bi-monthly meeting for lesbian and gay professionals and businesspersons. Call 795-9038 for time and location.

17 - Manantongo Spirit Garden's Bake Day Workshop, Pitman. \$17 registration fee.

24 - 1st Annual Champagne Charity Ball - Formal affair to benefit to the Harrisburg AIDS Residence Project and other local charities. Ramada Inn on Market Square, Harrisburg - 8:00 p.m. - 1 a.m. Tickets: \$23.00/person. Call Stormy at 238-2004.

25 - York Area Lambda. JUDY! - A benefit for OPEN and YWCA of York

for Women's health issues. Tea Dance - 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., Tickets \$8.00. Cabaret Show - 7:30 - 10:00 p.m., Tickets \$12.00. Valencia Ballroom, York.

26 & 27 - Harrisburg Men's Chorus. Auditions for the new year. Call Dan Krynak at 469-1377 for times and location.

SEPTEMBER

6 - 8 - Sisterspace of the Delaware Valley. The Weekend!!! Join 800 womyn in the Pocono Mountains on 1,000 beautiful acres. Lots to do. For more info, write SODV, 542A S. 48th St., Phila., PA 19143 or call (215) 476-8856. TDD (215) 747-7554.

6 - Unity Church of Harrisburg. First Friday Healing Service at Unity Spiritual Center, 4695 Charles Road, Mechanicsburg, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Call 737-8875 for more info.

15 - The 2nd Annual Laurie L. Williams Golf Benefit - Fundraiser benefiting breast cancer research and patient support at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Call 558-9237 or 566-8570 for more information.

22 - SCAAN - AIDS WALK '96. Walkathon to raise funds for Harrisburg's AIDS client support organization. Call 238-AIDS for pledge sheets and volunteer opportunities.

25 - Lancaster AIDS Network. The Great Lancaster Dine-Out. Call 394-9814 for locations.

29 - Unity Spiritual Center's first fund raising auction beginning at 12:30 p.m. Call 737-8875 for Silent Auction booklet.

OCTOBER

4 - Sweet Honey in the Rock concert to benefit the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Call 800.932.4632 for info.

11-13 - The NAMES Project Display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C. Call The Names Project Susquehanna Valley Chapter at 234-0629 for more information.

19 - Haunted Halloween Road Party at B-TLS. Call 939-1123 for details.

25 - BAGAL. Halloween Party at William Howard Day Cemetery.

NOVEMBER

2 - Wellspring Hospice. - Champagne Luncheon & Fashion Show. Lantern Lodge - 10 a.m. Tickets available

9 - FAB '96 - A black tie optional benefit for the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg and the Pride Festival. Rillo's Ballroom, Mechanicsburg - 7:00 p.m.

Resource Guide

With addresses and regular scheduled meeting dates.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/Central Susquehanna

Call Candy at 742-9530.

Meeting: Every fourth Monday at 7 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, Rte. 45 (near Brookpark Farm), Lewisburg.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/Harrisburg

3641 Brookridge Terrace, Apt. 201, Harrisburg 17109, 657-1712

Meeting: Every third Monday at 7 p.m. at Tressler Lutheran Services, 960 Century Drive, Mechanicsburg.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/Lancaster Red Rose

Unitarian Universalist Church, 538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster, 393-1733

Meetings: Every fourth Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/York

Call 843-3793 or 846-3271 for more information.

1050 Penn Ave. (Lutheran Social Services).

Meeting: Every first Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

PA Justice Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights

200 North St., Harrisburg 17101, 234-7273/234-2250

Pink Triangle Coalition

P.O. Box 176

Lancaster, PA 17608-0176

Pride Coalition of Central PA

909 N. 2nd St, Harrisburg 17102, 238-8112

REACH (Recreationally & Educationally Active Community Heroes)

P.O. Box 184, Scranton 18501

A community of lesbians, gay men & friends sharing through social and recreational activities.

Renaissance Education Association/LSV

Box 2122, Harrisburg 17105-2122, 780-1LSV

A non-profit support organization for transvestites, homosexuals and others interested in transgender issues.

Meeting: Every first Saturday.

Susquehanna Lambda

P.O. Box 2510, Williamsport 17703, 327-1411

Meeting: Every second Sunday at 6 p.m. at the AIDS Resource Alliance Office, 507 W. Fourth Street.

If you or your organization wish to revise or add to the Community Resource Guide, please send changes to

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c/o CRG,
P.O. Box 5744,
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**Or call us at 221-1220/1
or fax us at 221-1222.**

COMMUNITY DRINKERIES

Altoona

La Pierre

2523 Union Avenue
(814) 946-8195

Harrisburg

Neptune Lounge and Paper Moon Restaurant

268 North St., 233-3078 (M, NH)

Bar open 4 p.m. - 2 a.m. Mon. - Sat. and 2 p.m. - 2 a.m. Sun.

Paper Moon Restaurant: Tues. - Thurs. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Fri. & Sat. 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. & Sundays 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

233-0581

Stallions

706 N 3rd St, Rear, 232-3060 (M,D,E,K,YC,WC)

4 p.m. - 2 a.m. 7 days a week.

New York, New York Deli: Open M - F 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Heaven Restaurant: Open Th - Sat 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Sundays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

233-4681

Strawberry Cafe

704 N 3rd St., 234-4228 (M,V,YC,WC)

2 p.m. - 2 a.m. Mon. - Sat. closed on Sundays.

Lancaster

Tally Ho and Loft Restaurant

201 W Orange St., 299-0661 (MW,D,YC)

6 p.m. - 2 a.m. Mon. - Sat. and 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Sun.

Loft Restaurant Lunch Mon. - Fri. and Dinner Mon. - Sat.

Reading

Chances Are

935 South St. (below Adams Apple), (610) 373-7929 (W, D)

8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Fri. & Sat. only.

Nostalgia

1101 N 9th St, (610) 372-5557 (W, NH, E)

9 a.m. - 11 p.m., til 2 a.m. Fri. & Sat.

Red Star

11 S 10th St, (610) 375-4116 (M, D, F, OC)

5 p.m. - 2 a.m. W-Sun, Closed Mon., Open 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Tues.

Scarab

724 Franklin St., (610) 375-7878 (M, D, YC)

8 p.m. - 2 a.m., closed Sun.

COMING JULY 19TH

Parlor Trix Show Club & Excentrix Dance Club

124 N. 4th St.

Formerly Marylou's

Scranton

Silhouette Lounge

523 Linden St., 344-4259 (M, NH, L, WC)

10 a.m. - 2 a.m. closed Sun.

State College

Chumley's

108 W College St., (818) 238-4446 (M, WC)

4 p.m. - 2 a.m. & 6 p.m. - 2 a.m. Sun.

Players

112 W College St., (818) 234-1031 (G, F, D, V, YC)

9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Gay Sunday only.

Wilkes-Barre

Rumors Lounge

315 Fox Ridge Plaza, 825-7300 (MW, D, F, WC)

5 p.m. - 2 a.m. Wed. - Sun. & 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Mon. & Tues.

Selections

45 Public Square, 829-4444 (MW, D, WC)

7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Mon.-Sat. closed Sundays.

Williamsport

Peachie's Court

320 Court St, 326-3611 (MW, D, F, S, V)

9 a.m. - 2 a.m. Mon. - Sat. & 11 a.m. - 2 a.m. Sunday.

The Rainbow Room

761 W 4th St, 320-0230 (MW, D, F, S, V)

1 a.m. - 2 a.m. closed Sunday.

York

Altland's Ranch

RD 4, Spring Grove, 777-4479 (MW, D,E, YC)

8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Fri. & Sat. only.

Fourteen Karat

659 W. Market St, 843-9159 (M, NH)

7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Mon.-Sat. Closed Sunday

DJ Fri. & Alternate Sat.

AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Community Resource Program

P.O. Box 3116, 963 Biglerville Rd., Gettysburg 17325, 334-8344

Providing education/prevention, outreach, case management services and support groups for people living with AIDS, their family and friends.

Support Group: Every Thursday for people living with HIV/AIDS. Call for time.

AIDS Resource Alliance, Inc.

416 W. 4th St., Williamsport 17701, 322-8448

Living Room: A social gathering every Wednesday for people with HIV/AIDS, their family and friends.

Call for time.

Support Group: Every Thursday for persons with HIV/AIDS in recovery. Call for time.

Board Meeting: Every second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (Open to the public).

AIDS Project of Centre County

301 S. Allen St., Suite 102, State College 16801, 1-(800)-233-AIDS

Support Group: Tuesdays for people with HIV. Call for time.

Berks AIDS Network

429 Walnut St., P.O. Box 8626, Reading 19603-8626, (610) 375-6523

Comprehensive AIDS services and prevention/education.

Community AIDS Network

102 Hartine Science Center, Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg 17815-1301

Footprints in Time

P.O. Box 292, Reading 19603, (610) 376-1510 and

P.O. Box 1565, Allentown 18105, 1-(800)-889-6148

Housing, support groups and referral services available for HIV-infected individuals.

Franklin Area AIDS Network

P.O. Box 356, Chambersburg 17201, 261-1800

Support Group: Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. for persons infected with and affected by HIV disease and AIDS.

Board Meeting: Every first Thursday (Open to the public).

Classroom 1, Chambersburg Hospital, 112 N. Seventh Street, Chambersburg. Call for time.

Lancaster AIDS Project (LAP)

44 N. Queen St., Lancaster 17603

394-3380/Hotline: 394-9900

Rainbow Home of Berks County

Building 27, Wernersville State Hospital, P.O. Box 300, Wernersville 19565-0300, (610) 678-6172

South Central AIDS Assistance Network (SCAAN)

2-A Kline Village, Suite A, 25th & Market Sts., Harrisburg 17104, 238-AIDS

Board Meeting: Every fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. (Open to the public).

Wellspring Hospice

230 Chestnut Street, Lebanon 17042, 270-9965 FAX: 394-9915

York Health Extended Social Services (YHESSI)

101 E. Market St., 2d Floor, York 17401, 846-6776

An AIDS social service organization providing case management services for infected individuals.

Support groups, individual and couple counseling and educational outreach also provided.

York House Hospice

145 S. Duke St., York 17403, 846-5872

An in-patient home with three beds and one crib for persons dying from AIDS. Family and patient counseling, palliative medical/nursing care also offered.

CULTURAL ARTS

Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

P.O. Box 60426, Harrisburg 17106

Harrisburg Men's Chorus

P.O. Box 3302, Harrisburg 17106, 236-SING(7464)

Rehearsals: Mondays at 7 p.m. at Second UCC, Green & Verbeke Streets

Bingo: Fridays at 9:30 p.m. at Riverside Hall, Uptown Shopping Center

Lily White & Company, Inc.

P.O. Box Harrisburg 17110-0703, 232-2918

An entertainment troupe that produce drag shows, as well as mainstream gay plays, while raising money for HIV/AIDS service organizations and gay and lesbian groups.

Rehearsals: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Call for location.

Women's Theater Guild

P.O. Box 3042, Shiremanstown 17011

RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL AFFILIATIONS

Bretheran/Mennonite Council for Gay & Lesbian Concerns of Central PA

6214 Lemon Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520

Chalice Orchard Coven

Contact Phone: 854-8714

Wiccan/neo-Pagan religious group with a gender -and -orientation-mixed membership which is LesBiGay supportive.

Dignity/Central PA

Box 297, Harrisburg 17110-0297

Gay and lesbian Catholics and friends

Worship Service: Sundays at 5 p.m. Potluck Dinner: Sundays at 6 p.m.

Dignity/USA North Central PA - Lycoming County

94 Kinsey St., Montgomery 17752, 547-1329

A support, worship and social group for gay, nongay & bisexual people and friends. Also providing HIV support.

Worship Service: Sundays at 7 p.m. at the AIDS Resource Building, 507 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport.

Fellowship of Light (Jewish Synagogue)

1820 N. Third Street, Harrisburg 17102

Gay and Lesbian Spiritual Fellowship

Call Dennis at (814) 949-5852 for information

Conducted every third Friday at 7 p.m., Altoona.

Lutherans Concerned of Central PA

c/o Messiah Lutheran Church

6th & Forster Streets, Harrisburg 17102, 232-4819

Second Sundays: Meeting for gay and lesbian Lutherans and friends - 7 p.m.

Mahantongo Sprit Garden (Formerly Christianbrunn Kloster)

R.D. 1, Box 149, Pitman 17964

The only gay cloister in the United States who, as post-Christian Harmonists, act as one in the Holy Spirit. Work retreats are offered and visits are welcome to the 63-acre cloister.

Metropolitan Community of the Spirit

P.O. Box 11543, Harrisburg 17108

Office: 1818 Green St. #1, Harrisburg 17102, 236-7387

Church: 2953 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg 17110

Worship Service: Sundays at 7:00 p.m.

11 a.m. services will be added Sunday July 28th and will continue for two months.

Christian Education Classes: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, Lesbian & Gay Concerns Committee

1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg 17113, 564-4761

Worship Service: Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster

538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster 17603

Unity Center for Spiritual Growth

Unity Church of Harrisburg

4696 Charles Rd., Mechanicsburg 17055, 737-8875

A church that honors the diversity of each individual and creates a space for exploring personal spirituality.

Worship Services: Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Church of the Spirit

130 E. Main St., Mountville 17554, 285-9070

Worship Services: Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Social and bookstore follow services.

Harrisburg Area Women's Night Out

SOCIAL GROUPS

Call Lavender Letter at 732-8010 for more information.

Lancaster Area Ladies Night Out

392-0441

Lancaster Men's Cover Dish

304 N. Hoover Ave., New Holland 17557

For information, send request with \$2 for postage and handling.

Pennsmen

P.O. Box 401, Harrisburg 17108

Susquehanna Club

P.O. Box 10122, Lancaster 17605-0122

Camping and hiking for gays & lesbians.

Volleyball

Salvation Army Gym, Penn & Cumberland Sts., Harrisburg 17102
Every Tuesday and Friday.

York Area Single Women's Potluck

R.D. 1, Box 13588, Zeigler's Church Rd.,
Spring Grove 17362, 225-6042
Call Thursday for reservations.

York Area Women's Potluck

825 S. Newberry St., York 17403, 848-9142

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg

SWITCHBOARDS

P.O. Box 872, Harrisburg 17108, 234-0328, (M-F 6-10 P.M.)

Board Meeting: Every third Thursday at 7 p.m. at 1514 N. Second Street, Harrisburg.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of North Central PA

Box 2510, Williamsport 17703, 327-1411 (M-F 6-9 P.M.)

Meeting: Held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. for new and current volunteers. Call Rick at 322-1786 for information.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of State College

P.O. Box 805, State College 16801, (814) 237-1950 (6-9 P.M.)

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Helpline

c/o Family and Children Service, 2022 Broad Avenue,
Altoona 16601, (814) 944-3583

Lancaster Gay & Lesbian Helpline

20 Toll Gate Station, Box 14, Lancaster 17601, 397-0691, (Su, W, Th 6-10 P.M.)

Allies/Dickinson

YOUTH/STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Dickinson College, Carlisle 17013-2896

Allies/Millersville

P.O. Box 134, Millersville University, Millersville 17551

Allies/Franklin & Marshall

P.O. Box 3220, Lancaster 17604-6192

BLGLASS & SDAC

Box 58, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove 17870, 372-4302

Bi, Gay & Lesbian Youth Association of Harrisburg

(BI-GLYAH)

c/o GLSH, P.O. Box 872, Harrisburg 17108, 234-0328

For youth 14-25.

Meeting: Every first and third Friday at 1514 N. Second Street. (Use side entrance.)

Center for Counseling and Human Development

Ben Franklin Hall, Room 17, Bloomsburg Univ., Bloomsburg 17815, 389-4255

Free Spirit

Kerr Union, Box 113, Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg 17815

Social group for lesbians, gays and bisexuals on and off campus.

Meeting: Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Alumni House

GALA

P.O. Box 3220, Lancaster 17604-3220, 399-6192

Gay & Lesbian Youth Group

Meeting: Every Other Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at UU Church, 416 Franklin Avenue, Reading.

Gettysburg College Lambda Alliance

Gettysburg College, Gettysburg 17325, 372-4302

Kutztown Women's Center

Room 138, Old Main, Kutztown 19530

Kutztown University Lesbian, Gay, Bi Support Group

Call (610) 683-4655.

Lesbian/Gay/Bi Concerns Office

Bucknell University, Box A-252, Lewisburg 17837, 524-1609

LGBSL, Office of Human and Cultural Diversity

Box 213, Woolridge Hall, Lock Haven University, Lock Haven 17745, 893-2154

Matrix

Franklin & Marshall College, C-2373, Box 3003,
Lancaster 17604-3220, 399-6192

MOIRA

Lesbian, gay, bi youth in York.

Meeting: First Monday and third Tuesday. Call 854-6613, 292-5368 or 244-5264 for more information.

Office of the Chaplain

Bucknell University, Lewisburg 17837

Penn State Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay Student Alliance

310 Hetzel Union Bldg., University Park 16802, (814) 865-3327

Meeting: Monday at 6 p.m. held in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center.

Pink Triangle of HACC

Student Activities Office, HACC, 1 HACC Drive, Harrisburg 17110,
238-5833

Meeting: Every Monday at 3:00 p.m. for HACC students and faculty only. Held at Whitaker Hall Room 107. Call 780-2526 for more information.

Shippensburg University Counseling Center

Wright Hall, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg 17257, 532-1481

SMYLE (Sexual Minority Youth of Lancaster and Environs)

656-4152

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance

P.O. Box 417, Reading 19603, (610) 775-0214

Business Association of Gays and Lesbians (BAGAL)

P.O. Box 135, Harrisburg 17108-0135

Dialogue

P.O. Box 297, Harrisburg 17108-0297, 561-8689

Discussion Group: For lesbians and gays held every first and third Monday at 7:30 p.m. at 1514 N. Second Street. (Enter through side door.)

Gay and Lesbian Comm. Awareness Council of Central PA

200 North St., Harrisburg 17101, 234-2250

Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Transgendered/Friends (AA State College)

Meeting: Sundays at Centre Region Senior Citizen Center, 120 S. Fraser Street, State College

Gay/Lesbian Organization Reading/Allentown (GLORA)

P.O. Box 1952, Allentown 18105

Interweave

c/o Unitarian Universalist Church, 538 W. Chestnut St.,
Lancaster 17603, 393-1733

Lambda AA/Harrisburg

c/o GLSH, P.O. Box 872, Harrisburg 17108, 234-0328

Meeting: Every Monday at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 8:30 p.m. at Friends Meeting House, Sixth & Herr Streets.

Lambda AA/Chambersburg

Meeting: Every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at 240 N. Seventh Street.

Lambda AA/Lancaster

Meeting: Every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Friends Meeting House.

Lambda AA/York

Meeting: Every Thursday and Friday. Call 292-1665 for time and location.

Lambda Alive

Box 4313, Reading 19606

Lancaster Lambda

Box 8283, Lancaster 17604-8283

Lancaster Pink Triangle Coalition

Box 176, Lancaster 17608-0176, 393-2883/392-2729

Meeting: Every fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Lancaster AIDS Project, 44 N. Queen Street.

Lavender Letter

Box 60184, Harrisburg 17106, 732-8010

A newsletter by and for women.

Lehigh Valley Homophile Organization

P.O. Box 1633, Allentown 18105

Live and Let Live Gays in AA

Meeting: Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Front & Windsor Streets (Entrance rear of the church.), Reading.

Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt

1906 North Second Street, Harrisburg 17102, 234-0629

enjoy.

Some of your photos tend to portray the stereotypical lesbian woman—the short hair, and in the case of the body builder, what one would consider the masculine muscular tone of the arms.

But I feel that that needs to be shown because it's part of the community.

Yes it is. This to me, being a gay man looking at these photos is what helps to define the diversity...

That's exactly my goal---to define the diversity of the community more than anything. As with any piece of art work, that is what this series attempts to show.

I have to ask this, in one your photos, there is a model who does not expose her face. Was this your intention or did she not want to have her face exposed?

No she did not and that's the reason for that.

That's fine because the photo stands on its own merit. How many photos will be on display?

22 photographs.

Will they be on sale at North Street (Grocer Trading) as well?

Yes, they'll all be on sale.

There's a lot of power and strength that

comes from your photos.

Thank you.

It's a good thing that gay men will get to see these photos in that they will be able to draw strength from them as well.

I know a lot of gay men. I agree. They have their own personality as well---the leather sunglasses---they're very alternative people as well.

Are you afraid of any political statements that could be derived from your art?

No I'm not really afraid of it. I'm sure that I'm going to get kind of statements; there is a possibility. I'm taking a risk for myself and my career.

And there's no doubt about that. With photos like these, a straight photographer could take them and no one would bat an eye...

...Exactly.

However, when you're looking at a photo with two women kissing or cuddling then for some, it could be considered crossing the line. And that's to say that they are pornographic because they are not.

Yeah, I know some people will think that but I will ignore that.

Well after all, your last name's not Mapplethorpe and you're not NEA money.

Right.

Where do you go from here? Are you going to try to take your photos on the road?

I'm going to try to exhibit them in New York. I haven't found a place there yet. Harrisburg is my starting point. My friends at North Street are willing enough to open this up for me which I really appreciate.

I would like to take it to a larger city. I had my landscapes exhibited in New York at 57th and 5th Avenue about a year and a half ago. I'm hop-

ing to take it there. If not, perhaps Philadelphia.

Are you going to do more photography?

Oh yeah definitely. I want to do something for the gay males. I've had a lot of request and people who are inviting themselves to be models.

I kept saying that I promise that I will do an exhibit on the gay males. I have a lot of gay male friends, especially in the art community and I know dancers, drag queens, and artists and musicians who would love to have their pictures taken.

Who knows where it will lead? I have no idea. I'm just kind of going with the flow in expressing myself; taking one day at a time.

We didn't talk too much about your sexual identity. Are you finding out new things about yourself?

Oh my word yes.

Is your photography helping you with that?

My photography is helping me a lot and my art has always helped me. As with any of my art, whether it is a social issue or just expressing myself as an artist, my art always helps me to grow.

This exhibit is definitely helping me to grow. Whenever I can express myself through art I'm constantly learning something new about myself.

Great! Do you like yourself?

Yeah I do.

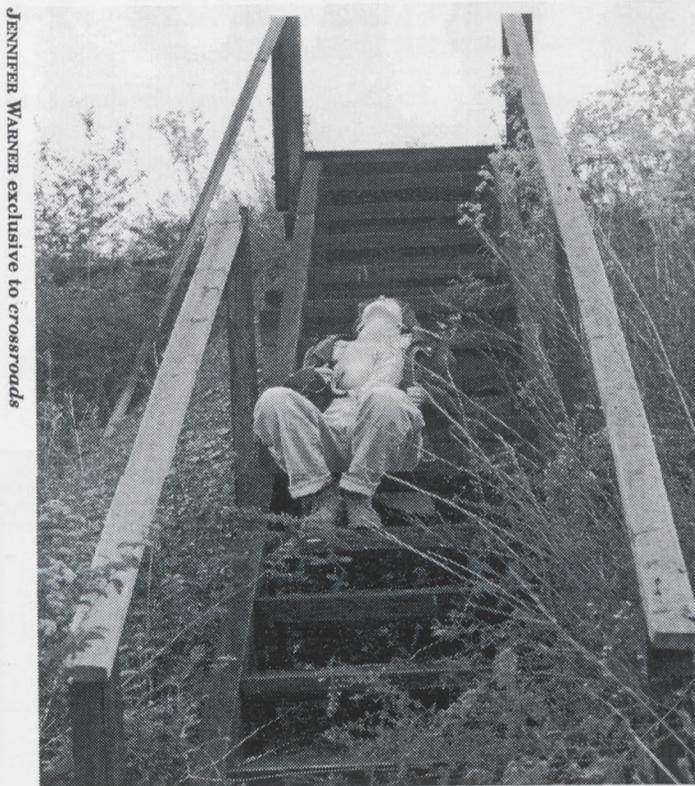
More than three years ago?

Oh yeah, much more. I've had major growth happen in myself.

It shows in your photos. I hope a lot of people get the same feeling about your work that I have.

That's nice to hear because this is really new for me because as I've said before, I've mainly been a landscape artist and people get a lot of emotion from those pictures. There is, of course, a big difference between portraits and landscapes. I've done portraits before but not really as an exhibit. X

The exhibit can be found at North Street Grocer & Trading at 231 North Street Harrisburg from August 1st to September 30, 1996



JENNIFER WARNER exclusive to crossroads

StarGazing With Marakay

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) Moon's aspects with Mars of 5th and 16th make these great days for important business or financial transactions. Ruler Mars is in Cancer this whole month, a great time for forging ahead with new ideas; go ahead, stick your neck out. Lay low on the weekend of the 25th---head for the beach, or relax at home.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) Ruler Venus spends most of this month in Cancer; if you've ever wanted to play Martha Stewart for your friends, this is the month to do it. How about a weekend getaway party? This is also a great month for financial deals, especially in real estate. Enjoy some quality time with your friends as summer winds down.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) Gemini spends quiet time this month, preferably on the beach with a good book. The weekend of the 17th is the perfect date for you to get away from the crowd. The 21st and 26th are the best times for dealing with that very difficult person...This month, remember---you are your own best friend.



CANCER (June 21 - July 21) It may take a little effort to keep focused this month; Cancer is not only never bored, but Crabby is also close to overworked. Don't lose your sense of humor over the small stuff. Romantic possibilities peak 19th through 21st; it's a conspiracy that these are all weekdays. Annoyances fade as Labor Day approaches.



LEO (July 22 - August 22) Ruler Sun begins the month in your sign---it's no surprise that you're taking charge of matters. The 12th through 14th is double-Leo phase with Moon in Leo as well. Generosity abounds, but watch out for being drawn into somebody's personal soap opera. The month is yours---enjoy it!



VIRGO (August 23 - September 22) Mercury is in your sign most of this month. The Virgo eye for detail is enhanced considerably by ruler Merc. Be patient when explaining the obvious to a completely baffled friend; don't worry, they'll get the message eventually. Don't believe everything you hear from that "reliable source."



LIBRA (September 23 - October 22) Friday the 16th starts your party weekend, Libra, but don't kill your pocketbook. The beach calls you; will you listen? Watch out for some tension with loved ones this month; can Libra keep work and professional life in balance? Accept your need for change.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21) Mars in Cancer this month signals possible unease or restlessness; it's best solved by action. Scorpio needs to do this month; it's time to take a few risks, or go ahead with that major gamble. If you've got the chance for a business trip, take it. Goals are achievable this month.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20) Caution is key word this month; busy Sagg doesn't seem quite as inclined to "take the plunge" as usual. Practical matters are highlighted; people are looking to you to be the organizer for their project or idea. Don't be afraid to share concerns with a friend.



CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19) Your urge to accomplish everything on earth this month is noble, but be realistic. Frustration with obstacles creates unwanted opportunities for conflict. Take a deep breath; let go of that grudge. Creative opportunity presents itself to you; let yourself roll with it.



AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18) Old friends crawl out of the woodwork to catch up with you; force yourself to make time for them. Watch out for your natural instinct to take on too much responsibility for other people. Put some of that energy into a more general social or service project right now.



PISCES (February 19 - March 20) Pisces looks for summer to wind down quietly; your idea of the perfect August weekend is getting a chance to catch up on reading. Personal relations take an unusual turn this month: who did you meet at the beach? Your imagination is active; friends consult you to shed new light on a problem. Go with the creative flow.



AUGUST

Sun enters Virgo on Thursday, August 22, 1996

VIRGO, the sixth sign of the Zodiac, is noted for preciseness, intellectuality, and fastidiousness---remember Felix in "The Odd Couple?" Remember Bert on "Sesame Street?" Typical Virgos. Virgo loves detail, exactness, and reserve; it's the sign for book editors, accountants, inspectors and the occasional anal-retentive type. Don't let relaxing be a chore, Virgo...

CELEBRITY VIRGOS: Richard Gere, Greta Garbo, Christopher Isherwood, Lauren Bacall, Leonard Bernstein.



Impulsive Aries takes on some new directions this month. A new project offers desirable responsibilities. Social opportunities throw you back in with old friends and introduce you to a few new ones---but don't get carried away, that new one isn't Mr. (or Ms.) Right. Be spontaneous.



Venus and Mars spend most of their month together in Leo; normally placid Taurus is more social than usual. It may not be "business as usual" at work this month; however, all indications are "go"---just possibly for that raise? Stick to your guns in a debate.



Caution is key this month; your friends may love your wit, but don't hurt yourself while attempting that Jerry Lewis impression. No, it's not that bad, but keep yourself coordinated---physically and mentally---this month. You may need to spend some time helping a friend sort out their problems.



The 6th through 8th mark a period when you may be especially sensitive to emotional issues, whether others' or your own. Things look up the 11th, a good day for Cancer to handle important business, as is the 16th. Romantic matters look to the early part of the month for interest.



Leo feels a real urge to "put things right" this month; your usual sense of needing to do the right thing for others is heightened. Libra influence tempers Leo aggressiveness---is that what's got you purring like a kitten, or is it that new interest of yours?



Ruler Mercury spends the better part of September in your sign. You call it "having things to work on" your friends call it "dropped out of sight." You win; you do have work to get done now. Examine an offer carefully before acceptance this month.



The weekend of the 14th and 15th is a great time for meeting new people, especially if you're relationship-oriented right now. Ruler Venus in Leo makes this a highly social month

for you anyway; go mingle. Take a really lazy Sunday on the 8th; lunar conjunctions first with Mars, then Venus as Venus enters Leo could be disorienting. You've got the rest of the month to go wild!



Virgo energies this month temper Scorpio action with the chance to review what's going on---are you really satisfied with things as they stand? You have the ability and the knowledge to improve the situation; will you let yourself do it? Your friends are willing to support you if you take the plunge.



Mercury in Virgo puts the breaks on Sag swift-ness, giving you a chance to look at what you're doing before you do it. For you, that can be a switch. The 6th, 14th and 27th are good days to exercise extra caution in business and financial matters (watch out for some likely eating binges these days, too). Realize that you can't do it all at once, and give yourself a break.



This is a great month for practical Cap to put things in order, but don't get ruthless about it; what you may want to simplify or pare down has meaning to someone else. Be diplomatic about it, and you'll fare much better. Work winds up on a positive note this month; it's a good time to start some long range planning.



Virgo influences for the earlier part of the month make introspective Aquarius even more reflective than usual. Take a long walk on a Fall day and watch the leaves do their bit. Aquarius needs a little stress reduction right now; arbitrate that difference you're having right now rather than getting radical about it.



Venus in Leo puts our Fish friend in the spotlight. Easy-going Pisces can always find someone or something to be a pet project, and it looks as if Pisces just did it once again. Resist that awkward tendency to drop your projects before they're finished, though, Pisces. Seeing this one through will impress you with your results.

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SEPTEMBER

Sun enters Libra on Monday, September 23, 1996

LIBRA, the seventh sign of the Zodiac, represents a pair of scales, symbolizing balance. Libra likes balance, harmony and moderation. Friendly, sociable and usually popular, Libra likes to relax and have a good time. Libra is noted for its artistic temperament; this is the home sign of actors, writers and musicians.

CELEBRITY LIBRAS: Oscar Wilde, John Lennon, Montgomery Clift, Gore Vidal, Patricia Ireland, Julie Andrews

The crossroads' Editorial

By the time you read this, it's possible you've attended at least one celebration of what's termed as "gay pride"—a term that encompasses a positive feeling about who you are whether you're gay, lesbian or transgendered.

This inward swell of warm fuzzies for some has taken a while to amass as well as to come out in the open to attend an event of such proportions. The acceptance of one's sexual orientation is a big step from the initial realization that one's inner self may be out of step with the rest of society; unnatural as the majority who would have it proclaimed so.

It's a bold step one takes when they find themselves in the midst of others of their ilk to celebrate an orientation that only increases the diversity contained within the collective whole called the human race.

The question asked repeatedly this time of year becomes one of consternation: "Why do we celebrate gay pride only once a year?" "We should be 'gay' more than one day out of the year."

The question tends to rank right up there with one that regular church attendees ask as the notice the increase of attendance on sacred holy days: "Why do people come to church on this day of days only to disappear throughout the other regular days of worship?"

Individuals of various faiths believe that to show the world you believe in a higher power and their teachings, one must carry themselves through life as an example of those teachings—"Do good deeds" is the catchall here.

But what is it to be gay? Is it to display a rainbow (or leather) flag? Those in the know view them as more than a beautiful banner hanging from that house over there. In fact, this flag exhibition has exploded exponentially within the last ten years. Proof positive that people are becoming more comfortable in displaying their sexual proclivity via something as non-threatening as this beautiful symbol of

pride.

More lesbians and gays are heading to the movie theatres thanks to Hollywood who knows where a majority of the economic power in the entertainment industry lies. *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Men on the Side*, *To Wong Foo...*, ...*Two Girls in Love*, *Birdcage* are prevalent examples of this.

We are also strolling into the theatres and strolling down the aisles with people of the same sex in full view of the ticket vendors, ushers, the projectionists, as well as the straights in the audience.

It's wonderful to see groups of men sitting together laughing at lines you know were intended all along for homosexual audiences alone. (In fact, it's worth the price of admission to laugh at lines that the heterosexual populace tend to find difficult to grasp.

Going to mainstream book stores such as Walden Books, B. Dalton's, Borders' or Encore and inquiring about Leslie Feinberg's *Transgendered Warriors*—a history of transgendered individuals—or for that matter the new *Gay and Lesbian Almanacs* is a step in the right direction. Just asking the location of the gay/lesbian section of store is a bold move that signals a higher personal comfort level for the inquisitive consumer.

On top of all this, the current spate of books published dealing with gay, lesbian and transgendered issues, would not have occurred if there weren't a continual interest in a past that's as colorful, interesting and exciting as the history of our U.S. of A. Someone is buying these books and we salute them. Maybe it's you.

To openly discuss the current political climate and the decisions that affect what was once called "the disenfranchised" is vogue in every metropolitan area. "So what?" you may ask, "We've always done that in the bars and boardrooms during our monthly meetings." True, but not in the op ed pages of our local newspapers where we are eager to send

responses to articles articulating topics that affect in a positive or negative manner. One can view community members on highly visual local media such as "Live At Whatever" on our television stations.

And what about the radio talk shows—local and national—that discuss "The homosexual agenda" and its threatening ramifications for the majority who become incensed by our "brash" display for the right to be treated as more than second class citizens. Commendation goes to gays and their allies who continue to set the record straight (as it were).

And what about the events. This topic, covered in the first issue of *crossroads*, continues to be of great import. To advertise an event of huge significance to the lesbian and gay community within the pages of the local paper or on the airwaves is another bold move; one would wager that the step would not have been taken ten years ago.

Hmmm. All of these activities can't occur over a span of 24 hours. It's taken us years to get to this comfort level and would be an understatement if one said we've got a long way to go (baby).

For the cynics within our community, the celebration of lesbian/gay pride is a culmination of any year that witnesses an increase of advancements in the exhibition of pride that we as a people make, in a responsible manner, to show the world who we are—individually as well as collectively.

Allow us the opportunity to gather together and to prove to ourselves that showing the world who we are is nothing more than a good thing that can only help foster tolerance and understanding in a non-confrontational manner. To network with others of our kind, as we do at these yearly celebrations, is but to strengthen the bonds inherent within our decision to live our lives to the fullest—leaving these annual events with a firmer commitment to move forward and not retreat into the closet ever again. ✕

It Seems To Me

Rick Nare

It seems to me that we can learn a valuable lesson from the Religious Right. The recent Supreme Court decision on the Colorado Gay Rights case and the pending decision on Same Sex Marriages in Hawaii demand a united effort.

Our achievement of rights for Gays, Lesbians and others may well hinge on how well we can adopt the techniques implemented by the religious fundamentalists. Despite their doctrinal differences they are able to unite in the political arena. It's that unity that makes them a powerful political force.

The Religious Right represents a wide spectrum of fundamentalists, yet they strongly support Patrick Buchanan, a Roman Catholic. What is the glue that holds them together and prevents their splintering into many small, ineffective factions? I believe the key to their success is simple; they stick to the basic issue.

Learning a Lesson From The Religious Right

Support of the family as they perceive family life is their *only* agenda. It does not matter that the rest of the Republican Party may be concerned with the Contract with America, the minimum wage, national debt, or a host of other issues.

In contrast, I can recall the "platform" of the Gay and Lesbian March on Washington held several years ago. It contained a wide range of issues. The list was long, diverse and impossible for any one individual to register total support. The result was division and bickering, even among the event's organizers.

While I looked forward to being part of that march, I stayed home because I believed my participation would have implied my agreement with all that platform pro-

posed. I could not support the effort because the issues stated as planks of the platform were simply too diverse and contrary to my beliefs.

I personally am strongly pro-life and anti-suicide. I watched my eight-year-old son die minute by minute during a three week period from a vicious cancer. I also have been schooled in the traditional Roman Catholic Church. These two experiences, I suspect, have strongly affected my position on these issues.

At the same time, I can readily see that other individuals can be equally influenced in favor of abortion or suicide by losing a wife, daughter or partner in childbirth. I also understand a person wanting to end the suffering of another due to AIDS, cancer, or another terminal illness. Our diverse positions does not mean we are right or wrong. They simply reflect our diverse opinions based on life experiences or beliefs.

I can readily accept and respect differences in opinions on abortion and suicide. If they were part of a supposed Gay Rights agenda, however, I would feel obligated to strongly oppose that agenda. Why? Abortion and suicide are not part of the Gay Rights issue.

We may well ask, "Shouldn't we demand larger budgets for AIDS research? How do we support efforts to stop countries from killing whales? Don't these issues and many others deserve our support and attention?" Yes, they may all deserve our support, but as separate lobbying efforts. When we begin to mix **the** fight for constitutional rights for gays and lesbians with other issues, we are doomed to failure.

Let's learn a lesson from our opponents on the Religious Right. If we keep the issue focused and everyone united under a single purpose, we will achieve our goal. Without a basic unity of purpose, we are doomed to failure.

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Rick Nare is a professional writer and journalist who has served as editor-in-chief and a columnist of a weekly paper for twelve years. He is the current editor of the York Area Lambda and runs Rick Nare Marketing, Publishing and Communication Services in Glen Rock, Pa.

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Grabbing the Rainbow

J.R. Nevin

Here we go! You have opened (for the most part) your closets. Let's try opening your minds. I'd like to take a moment to reflect on bisexuality. I'm talking

about the right thing, not when one of the heteros has too much to drink, makes this claim and uses it as an excuse to go to bed with someone of the same sex. I'm talking (and not from experience) of my idealized concept of the true bisexual.

I used to be very gay mainstream about this issue in that "admitted" bi's were people afraid to commit to being gay or lesbian. Age and hopefully wisdom has made me reconsider this position. Actually, I am quite envious of my concept of the bisexual community. I realize there are "bi's" out there that are bisexual because "getting off" is the only thing that is important, as my momma used to say, "Any port in a storm." This, however, is not what I hope that bisexuality is about.

Bisexuality is about finding a partner that best meets your wants and needs in a relationship. The true bisexual looks equally at both sexes and finds the person that most fulfills relationship potential and focuses on that relationship. The ability to act sexually with either sex with no hang-ups actually baffles and amazes me. I wish my small mind could expand so as not to be locked into the "titles" and "roles" I have let mentally be assigned.

Don't start barking. I am very comfortable and proud to be gay. There are times, however, when I wonder if my "freed" mentality is not as closed and labeled as the het-

ero's world. Could I, in my haste to identify myself, go from the hetero world to the exact opposite without realizing I could have stopped in the middle and have been very happy? I know that right now, I am where I have to be and am happy being solely gay, but does that mean I must shut all other doors to be viewed by the gay community as "politically correct?" I have heard the gay and lesbian community be very harsh on the bisexual community for beneficially straddling the fence.

I am very pleased to see the younger generation has made an effort to include the bisexuals, even as far as using the moniker in the name of their organizations. Now, if we could only get the old farts and separatists to see the importance of including bisexuals in all rights campaigns and agendas, I think that, in the long run, the ones to benefit from this total merger is the gay and lesbian community. The newer generations are, to a degree, rejecting labels; the bisexual community is growing in leaps and bounds, (maybe not in this immediate area, but eventually we will catch up). Our arrogant way of snubbing this part of the community will haunt our community in the long run.

I have a sincere admiration of the true bisexual community. They have decided that they do not have to choose between the two sexual options of being straight or homosexual. With the choice comes an inane snubbing from both sides. The heterosexual world has decided to lump the bi's into the gay community and calling us "alternative lifestyles." Many from our community have balked at this concept..."yak, yak, yak...confused...wah,wah, wah...unlike us...pooh, pooh,...unwilling to be out...yahda, yahda, yak, yak, wah, wah, pooh."

Wake up! How could we dare force our concepts and standards onto another community? We as gays should know how this feels since straights have tried to do the same thing for centuries. How long do you think the bisexual community will tolerate the same treatment? Our ultimate goal should be human equality---plain and simple. I think the lumping together of all "alternative lifestyles" can only benefit everyone. This lumping expands our membership in the fight to live as we choose with dignity.

The gay and lesbian community should embrace the bisexual community and the many resources that come with this growing community. The bisexual community is a true example of open-mindedness. Don't be so ready to tilt your nose high and deem them cowards for not making a choice. They have already made their choice of not choosing the sex...but choosing the person. X

NOT ALL BATTLES ARE FOUGHT WITH A SWORD.

OCTOBER 11-13, 1996

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PROJECT
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We will unfold the AIDS Memorial Quilt to show the nation that we care, we remember and that, until there is an end to AIDS, we are not going away. Please join us.

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Tony Bucher Repent and be Saved...?

You and your special one or some friends are enjoying a beautiful day. You have gone to New York, Baltimore or some other area to enjoy a gay pride celebration or a similar event.

You make your way through the city enjoying the events and conversing with others who, like you, have come to share the day. As you make your way down the block, you suddenly find yourself besieged by what appears to be an angry mob being held back by the police. At first you may be unsure as to what all the commotion is about until one of those persons waves a Bible at you and you hear those all too familiar words, "Repent and be saved."

As these words cut through your heart, your mind races to assimilate this unprovoked attack. Here are perfect strangers who do not know you, who have no idea what your life is like, they have no idea what your values are and are too busy yelling to listen to anything else!

How often have we been faced with such an attack. Supposed Christians using the Bible to attack and promote hatred and prejudice. One does not have to be religious to realize the Bible was never meant to be used like this. But time and time again we run into these assaults on our right to be ourselves.

In many cases, our initial reaction may be to yell back. Not that this is necessarily wrong, but in the end, these people will usually not listen to a word you say and you usually go away agitated and your day is a bit tainted.

Although remaining calm in such a situation is sometimes easier said than done, I would like to envision the following response and the effect it might have:

Looking straight at one of my attackers and say, "Thank you for your concern for me, but there is no need to worry about me. God already has a place in Heaven for me. However, I will pray for you to be forgiven for using the Bible to promote hatred and prejudice.

Turn around and away without saying another word or even giving them any more of my attention.

I think this response would shock them and may leave them speechless. If really lucky, they may even take a moment to think about what they are really doing. Any similar type of response would probably have more of an impact than yelling back, which is what they want you to do. And one not have to be a religious person to use such an approach. The premise is to take your attacker by surprise. And after all, are we not a more dignified people than to stand on a street corner and yell at some mis-informed people? **X**

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At The Speed of Sound

Aaaaaah! Another sweltering summer in Central Pennsylvania, where it's not just in the heat, it's the humidity! The hardy citizens have emerged relatively unscathed from one of the harsher winters of recent years only to be plunged into the opposite extreme, where one need only exist to break into an uncomfortable sweat. Some may seek solace in air conditioning or a favorite watering hole (swimming pool or bar, whatever the situation demands!), but for those not privy to those sorts of luxuries, the only relief to be found may be a splash of cold water or a refreshing drink.

Likewise, there is so much new music to be listened to and new artists to be noticed that it becomes overbearing at times, the combined efforts of everyone to be heard rising to a din in one's ears. But search diligently enough and your efforts will be rewarded.



Just as a frosty mug of your favorite beverage with fat droplets of water sliding languidly down the glass offers relief from the heat, the Cowboy Junkies with their new album **Lay It Down** offers a comparable oasis in a veritable musical desert.

Others follow trends, hoping to catch a wave that will propel them to the apex of superstardom; not so with the Cowboy Junkies. Singer Margo Timmins, along with her brothers Michael on guitar, Peter on drums and bassist Alan Anton have stayed true to themselves on this, their fifth studio album. Their trademark sound remains essentially unchanged, clean and smooth as a cold glass of milk, with Margo's distinctive voice as the centerpiece which makes the band instantly recognizable.

The band has not broken any new

musical ground with this record, but they still remain intensely listenable. Lyrically the subjects range from the melancholy to the severely depressing, yet not every subject is sad. *Musical Key* remembers a pleasant childhood with two loving parents, and *Angel Mine* portrays a couple who have been through many trials but still remain true to each other.

Other titles include the first single, *A Common Disaster*, *Lonely Sinking Feeling* and *I Just Want to See*: "I don't want to be no chalk line drawing / Toe-tagged question mark, until identifying / I don't want to fuse with no economy seat / Fuel some fireball at 30,000 feet / I just want to see what kills me." The topics may be grim, but there is some comfort to be found in the fact that we've all been to these places that the Cowboy Junkies go, comfort in knowing that you're not alone.

Cowboy Junkies will be on tour with Sting this summer, making an already pricey ticket even more worthwhile; check them out if you can. In the meantime, give **Lay It Down** a listen; those who appreciate the beautiful and the eclectic will not be disappointed.

CLARE A. CRAIG

Twister

Original Soundtrack

1996 Warner Brothers Records Inc.

The logo for the Mission Impossible movie series, featuring the words 'Mission Impossible' in a stylized font with a circular graphic behind the word 'Mission'.

Original Soundtrack

1996 Island Record

"It's A TWISTER! It's A TWISTER!"

Zeke, *The Wizard of Oz*

Hollywood tornadoes have come a long way since Dorothy was sucked up in hers and gently set down in Munchkin Land. The artistry and imagination of Steven Spielberg and Michael Crichton combined with

Talent in Review

Cowboy Junkies

9:30 Club - Washington, D.C.
April 15, 1996

It was only fitting that the band found themselves at Washington, D.C.'s 9:30 Club on April 15, the deadline for filing income tax forms. The band's strong appeal was proven by a sold out house with tickets priced at \$25 each. The stage was draped in star white to imitate the album cover, but the look was softened with comfortable chairs for the musicians and a stool for Margo beside a pedestal table which held a vase of fresh flowers and a cup of tea for the singer. All this contributed to a very intimate setting which truly complemented the music.

The audience got their money's worth as the band played the new album almost in its entirety. Highlights included *A Common Disaster*, the moving *Lonely Sinking Feeling*, and *Angel Mine*, which was introduced on their 1989 debut *The Trinity Session*. Of their four previous albums this was the best represented, with the set including *Misguided Angel*, *Blue Moon Revisited (Song For Elvis)*, and the popular covers *I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry* and *Sweet Jane*.

For the last song of the evening the band chose *Something More Besides You*, **Lay It Down's** opening cut. The bursts of guitar which highlight the song in its recorded version were even more brilliant and striking in the live setting, a marvelous ending to a truly sublime show. And as if the audience hadn't already gotten what they paid for, Margo graciously offered to stay to greet fans and sign autographs afterwards.

modern day special effects technology have produced a film where the thinness of plots is more than made up for

crossroads

by the intense situations in which man (and woman) stand in the face of "the dark side of nature" in a quest to solve the mysteries of the twister phenomenon. It's only a matter of time before this movie follows in the footsteps of "Days of Thunder" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and becomes an amusement park thrill ride.

Just as memorable is the film's soundtrack, which runs the gamut of musical styles from the bluegrass and country sounds of Alison Krauss & Union Station and Shania Twain, to the heavier rock sounds of Red Hot Chili Peppers, Soul Asylum and the first new music from Van Halen since 1995's **Balance** CD. The band contributes the CD's opening cut entitled *Human Being*, which figures prominently in one of the more intense sequences of the film. Brothers Edward and Alex Van Halen also provide the final track, an instrumental called *Respect The Wind*. Also notable is *Talula* (BT's *Tornado Mix*) by Tori Amos---a remixed version of her original which features altered lyrics to fit the twister theme. k.d. lang contributes *Love Affair*, a lovely ballad crooned with her usual skill and finesse. Alternative acts Belly, Lisa Loeb and 9 Stories and Goo Goo Dolls also provide tracks.

This soundtrack also features the first collaboration between Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham since their Fleetwood Mac days. *Twisted* was written by Nicks and produced by Buckingham, with Mick Fleetwood on drums. The reunion comes as a surprise and a treat for fans since it is well known that the two had not been on especially friendly terms in recent years.

For the music fan who enjoys a little bit of everything, this compilation with its swirl of different genres certainly delivers. It also serves as a great souvenir to a movie which has already become one of this summer's blockbusters.

And speaking of summer blockbusters, two words: **Mission: Impossible!** Tom Cruise's star power and some magnificent special effects have catapulted this film to the top of

the box office charts. Too bad the soundtrack couldn't have reached such dizzying heights. The brightest spot on the CD is the movie's theme, reworked 90's style by U2's Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen, Jr. The collection also features *I Spy* by Pulp, Bjork's *Headphones* and *Dreams* by the Cranberries. Also included are several instrumental tracks from the score by Danny Elfman.

If you read the fine print and take note of the asterisks on the back of the recording, you will discover that ten of the CD's 15 tracks do not appear in the movie at all. And it can still be called a soundtrack? Hmmmm...

For those interested in the movie's theme, there is a maxi CD-5 available with five different versions of the song, including an 8:53 remix by Junior Vasquez.

C.A.G



It's not a wonder that Tori Amos lovingly refers to the instruments she plays as "girls." The ominous bulk of the Bosendorfer piano, the delicate harpsichord and the antiquated harmonium organ are all reduced to humble and willing servants beneath her skillful hands, conforming to her every musical whim. And her whimsy is infinite, it seems.

Boys For Pele is Amos' third album, and on it she has ascended to a level of musicianship which she had not achieved on her first two CD's, **Little Earthquakes** and **Under The Pink**. Her melodies are simple and gorgeous in their simplicity; the arrangements range from the sparse to the ornate. Amos' classical roots are made apparent through the use of the Sinfonia of London and a horn section called the Black Dyke Mills Band. However, this is by no means a classical album. In fact, it defies any sort of characterization, given Amos' unique style. She is generally placed in the alternative rock slot, which is

fitting in an ironic sense; her individuality offers a true alternative in a genre which has defied its name by becoming the mainstream.

For instance, get ready to have the harpsichord's delicate baroque image smashed to smithereens before your eyes. Amos tears into *Professional Widow* with a vengeance, the strings of the instrument threatening to snap under the strain. Similarly, on *Blood Roses* the harpsichord is played through a Marshall cabinet, the amplifier preferred by many of the loudest and heaviest rock bands around. The lyrics redouble the anger of the song: "When chickens get a taste of your meat/when he sucks you deep/sometimes you're nothing but meat." The most moving pieces on **Boys for Pele** tend to be those that feature the simplest arrangements. They showcase Amos' considerable instrumental talent as well as her unique style, which can range from angry wailing to the most delicate of notes that trail off into a long breath of air.

Lyricaly Amos has always been superior, and her work on this album is no exception. Though her poetry leans toward the enigmatic, there is no mistaking the intense emotions that come through in her voice and playing. Some of her ideas are also quite provocative, as in *Muhammad My Friend*, where she treads on the thin ice of blasphemy and challenges the most basic foundations of the Christian faith:

Muhammad my friend/it's time to tell the world/we both know it was a girl/back in Bethlehem/And on that fateful day/when she was crucified/she wore Shiseido Red and we drank tea/by her side.

The serious Tori fan will also want to check out the CD singles available for *Talula* and *Caught A Lite Sneeze*. The import and domestic versions each offer a different set on non-CD tracks, all of which are as excellent as anything which appears therein. Most notable are BT's Synethasia Mix of *Talula* which clocks in at 11:27, and a beautiful reworking of *Amazing Grace*, Tori-style. The *Sneeze* singles feature different sets of *Silly Songs*, including the childhood favorite *This Old Man*.

If Amos is allowed to progress with minimal interference from the music industry's powers that be, she will undoubtedly remain a musical force to be reckoned with for many years to come. Her efforts and successes also contribute to the advancement of women in a largely male dominated business. But politics aside, **Boys For Pele** is a brilliant album which solidifies Amos' position as one of today's brightest musical talents.

C.A.G.

Walking Wounded

Everything But The Girl

1996 Atlantic Records Recording Group

Definitely drawing on Tracey Thorn's recent collaboration with the techno based massive Attack and striking which the iron is still hot from the club and MTV success of the single *Missing*, *Everything But The Girl* (EBTG) returned with **Walking Wounded**. The CD is a fusion of jazz and trip-hop loops coupled with Thorn's isolated and ambivalent vocals that cover familiar terrain for the band, but this time it is re-invented along with their sound. The lyrics on the album aren't as developed as they were on prior efforts, but they sure are catchy and accessible to the listener.

The CD begins with *Before Today* in which Thorn demands "I want your love and I want it now." The entire CD is permeated with this type of lyrical impatience. It's as if the band is telling us that there isn't enough time to do everything we want so we must take what we can get and move on in the hopes of better things to come. This theme appears on many of the tracks whether Thorn is speaking of broken relationships, finding the inner child (*Big Deal*), or needs (*Flipside*).

This twelfth full length CD, the total combined between import and U.S. releases, finds Thorn and Ben Watt on new ground exploring and

stretching their music to create a mood that is prevalent throughout the entire disc. Of course, the first single "wrong" appears twice on the disc, first in its radio edit form and then at the end as a remix done by none other than Todd Terry whose remix of *Missing* became the hit that finally introduced mainstream America to EB TG.

As with their other CDs, Watt and Thorn share much of the lyric and music writing credits on these tracks. One thing that makes this album unique is that Thorn carries all the vocals with Watt harmonizing on a few tracks while concentrating mainly on the music which by no means could be considered filler while Thorn is silent.

This is one CD where the music was meant to speak to the listener as much as the lyric. On *The Heart Remains A Child*, Thorn wrote both music and lyric and this track is most reminiscent of earlier EB TG efforts. The break from the past occurs when Watt is free to experiment with the various loops he has created. He builds a musical texture that both compliments and enhances Thorn's strong vocal delivery. The combination makes for a powerful listening experience. If you're looking for a quirky, danceable CD to keep you occupied this summer then look no further and GO BUY THIS DISC!

M.S.VIGUERS



On George Michael's newest studio CD, his first in five years, he explores themes of aging and maturity. The album is slickly produced and showcases the artist's voice in a way that none of his prior releases has done. The album is smooth as it moves from track to track although longtime fans may be disappointed to hear that the tempo never truly reaches the dance beats of his earlier efforts. This is not to say that the

Talent in Review

Tori Amos

Constitution Hall - Washington, D.C.

April 26, 1996

Tori Amos played the first of three consecutive shows at Washington's D.C.'s Constitutional Hall. The capacity crowd sat spellbound in between bursts of appreciation for this stellar performance. Included in the set from **Boys For Pele** were the opening numbers *Beauty Queen* and *Horses*, *Little Amsterdam*, *Blood Roses*, *Doughnut Song*, and a spirited performance of *Caught A Lite Sneeze*, in which Amos started at the Piano and executed a 180 degree turn to the harpsichord while still singing. She performed two cover tunes---R.E.M.'s *Losing My Religion* and stunning rendition of *Over The Rainbow*. Her 1991 debut **Little Earthquakes** was well represented by the inclusion of *China*, *Leather*, *Me And A Gun*, and *Crucify*. Surprisingly, Amos only included one song from 1994's **Under The Pink**---*Icicle*.

Many of her more popular singles were also excluded from the set, such as *God*, *Cornflake Girl*, *Silent All These Years*, and the newest release, *Talula*. But this fact was only mildly disappointing given the intensity with which she delivered the songs she did choose. Assisted only minimally by a guitarist and the occasional programmed track, Amos captivated the audience for the duration of the set, interacting with the crowd as though she were playing for a group of intimate friends. X

C.A.G.

songs on **Older** aren't remix friendly, they certainly are, but the dance versions aren't the ones on the album. That wasn't a problem with this reviewer.

On his hiatus, Michael's voice has grown, either that or he learned how to use that powerful voice to his

advantage. Another positive note is that the artist produced all his songs so as to focus on what element of each song he felt was most important. That focus paid off. As stated earlier, the post-production work on all the songs is exemplary. Whether it be the single *Fast Love*, where Michael samples the Patrice Rushen tune *Forget-me-nots*, or *Spin The Wheel* where the muted trumpet gives the song a uniquely adult feel, George Michael doesn't allow one aspect of the song to overwhelm another which creates an evenness that one tends not to expect from an artist in the dance genre.

As a matter of fact, that pigeon-hole view that Michael is a dance artist is exactly what he is trying to counteract with *Older*. He deals directly with this issue on the title track when he states

Strange/don't you think I'm looking older?/but something good has happened to me/change is a stranger/you have yet to know.

(And by the way, even if he is "looking older" he sure as hell ain't looking bad.) This mature approach seems to work for him although it probably took some getting used to.

Which is exactly what Michael's fans need to do, get used to the idea that this multi-faceted singer/songwriter is leaving behind his youth-oriented bubble-gum pop for something more substantial, more contemporary. After a couple of listens I'm sure you won't find it too difficult to do. This album is definitely worth your attention.

M.S.V.



On this, the eighth installment from independent artist Ani DiFranco, we find Ani as defiant and angry as ever. She speaks the truth as she sees it with no regrets and no

apologies. On the first track *Untouchable Face* we find our narrator lamenting a relationship that will never happen mainly due to the fact that the object of our desire is currently involved with someone else. We have mixed feelings about this involvement, we are both happy for that person and sorry for ourselves. This is the conflict from which the song arises, as does our narrator's anger. Ani's in your face songwriting style doesn't back down from this anger, but expresses it simply and honestly.

There are several stand-out tracks on the disc, namely *Superhero*, which explores the vulnerability one must inevitably endure while going through a relationship and *Napoleon*, which takes a swipe at an artist who decided to go with the record company's offer of fame and fortune written from the point of view from one who chose not to sell out. Both tracks have their own integrity which the artist allows to come through on their own merit. Another stand-out is the inclusion of a re-interpretation of the hymn *Amazing Grace*. On this cut Ani pushes at the boundaries of convention without making the traditional song bend to her will. She plays within the song's context without distorting its meaning.

As with most of her other releases, DiFranco plays most of the instruments throughout the CD as well as writing all of her lyrics. Dilate showcases her talents in both of these arenas. Her voice is personal and has the ability to convey the underlying emotion of the words even if what they are expressing is not necessarily what they are saying. Although *Dilate* explores the many nuances of interpersonal relationships, DiFranco seems to be able to take this to different levels within a particular song. She does this by allowing her own vulnerability to come through the music and it works.

Even though this CD is less political than her earlier releases, it is no less powerful in its content. The cut *Adam and Eve* discusses a seemingly personal relationship, but it also cuts hard as an argument for how man

and women relate overall and the stereotypes men have created for women. But even so, DiFranco refuses to incorporate these stereotypes into her own being by choosing to *leave you to your garden/and the beauty you preferred/and I wonder what of this/will have meaning for you*. I wonder what she found when she left...maybe she'll tell you. *Dilate* is definitely a strong work. If this is your first DiFranco album, then congrats on the discovery. If you're already the proud owner of other DiFranco CD's then this is a welcome addition.

M.S.V.



It's amazing how any sort of random sensual stimulus---a sight, a scent, a sound---can send one hurtling back in time to a specific moment or period in their past. Songs in particular seem to possess this power in vast amounts. For those of us who grew up in the seventies, we have for the most part established ourselves and are now old enough to have a past to look back on. The natural penchant towards nostalgia would explain the success of the new "all seventies, all the time" radio format that may be found at a frequency near you.

There are also dozens of different series of various artists compilations which feature retrospectives on the seventies and eighties. It's delightful to listen to this music again and remember where you were and what you were doing at the time that it was current---that is if it doesn't make make you feel too old!

One particular artist that made a significant contribution to the eighties dance pop genre was Jimmy Somerville, who entered the scene in 1984 as the leader of England's

Bronski Beat. Their first and possibly best known single, *Smalltown Boy*, catapulted the group into the limelight and cemented Somerville's position as one of the most recognizable voices of the decade. Following Bronski Beat's demise he co-founded the Communards, after which he embarked upon a successful solo career.

In 1990 Somerville released **The Singles Collection**, a compilation of some of his best work from 1984-1990. The anthology appropriately opens with *Smalltown Boy*, and includes *Why?* and *I Feel Love/Johnny Remember Me* of Bronski Beat fame, and the Communards' covers of *Don't Leave Me This Way* and *Ain't Necessarily So*, plus *There's More To Love Than Boy Meets Girl* and *Disenchanted*. From his solo album *Read My Lips* Somerville includes the album's title track and his hit cover of the Bee Gee's *To Love Somebody*.

Somerville's talent lies not only in his voice, but also in his ability to stand as a representative of the homosexual community around the world, taking pride in himself and helping others to do the same. Through his example he shows that gays and lesbians are people with the same hopes and dreams as everyone else and are entitled to the same rights and privileges granted to all citizens of the free world. Would that all would take heed to his message. ✕

C.A.G.

There was one point where our daughters, Gloria and Barbara, told me they didn't want to hold hands with their little girlfriend anymore. They were afraid people would think they were homosexuals.

Anita Bryant

It's alright for anybody to be who they are, just as long as they don't let their dogs shit in the street.

**Bette Midler
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The crossroads Short Story

Dear Journal:

It was Saturday, November 23. By quarter of eight, I was all dressed up and very excited. Grabbing my coat, I listened to my grandmothers talk about the city ("People shoot you up there...Lock your doors; there's been a carjacking at Moon Township.") I'd learned not to defend my actions so that the conversation would be cut short. After simply agreeing to her advice, I bid her farewell. Before anyone in the house knew it, I was on the highway, heading for the big city.

Let me explain why I am excited. I

ALPHA BATHHOUSE OMEGA

by Delgardello

guess you should know some background info since I'd only started writing recently.

About a year and a month ago, I went to the city for Halloween. Not knowing Pittsburgh well, I had my Ex lead me around. We went to a bar, meeting a couple of Jim's friends, then we headed for the bathhouse.

The Bathhouse!

All the novels I'd read talking about the "Sexual Seventies" of the gay community were all about to be reality. (Just recently, I told my brother's spouse that I'd give up a year of sex just to have a year in the 70's. The spouse was shocked! Ignoring his reaction, I continued to praise the raw energy and wild sexuality described in the novels.) I wanted to live and breathe *Dancer from the Dance*, then disappear like *Malone* did. With everyone watching, I'd swim off into the darkness and unbeknownst to all, I'd be back in the 90's. (Maybe that's what *Malone* did. I'll have to send a letter to Andrew about that!)

The bathhouse was almost surreal to me. I felt as if I was only an observer, partly because I was drunk (I'm not an alcoholic!) and partly because the place was the object of my wor-

ship. The pool (actually it was more of a vulgar decoration) was in the basement, next to the sauna. There were rooms full of beds, dark, but very public. Also, you could rent your own room. It all fascinated me, but frightened me, too. Sex was the norm here! I was so scared that when a guy tried to get it on with me, I wanted him out of my sight!

A year and a half later, my mixed emotions were forgotten. Again, I wished to relive the seventies. Of course I thought about the AIDS issue, but repeatedly told myself that God, where He or She was, would

protect me. While I was driving, I felt "avant-garde." I was young! If God wanted me to live past forty years, S/He would keep the virus away. Hey, it works for some people and I was sure that it'd work for me.

I was downtown at 9:00 and parked in one of its garages. Two doors down was the bar where I was supposed to meet Jim. While catching up on news, we checked out the bar scene. Jim said the bar used to be full of young people. Yep, many were ten years my senior. We left after a few drinks, hailed a cab (D.U.I.--it's unaffordable), and told the driver to take us to the bathhouse.

The Bathhouse!

On the way, Jim said that he had a lover, but they hadn't been having sex. Well, I was a bit jealous (not over the sex part). Jim had a lover to keep the bed warm, not I. I didn't want to be depressed so I ignored all references to my Ex's significant other. It required effort.

Yes! The place was the same. We went in and found that the rates had gone up, probably to compensate for all the legal troubles the city was giving them. I paid a "locker" fee and Jim paid for a room. An old man

behind the window took the money very casually, offered to put some things in the safe deposit box, which we passed, then gave us little white towels. Mine was torn but I couldn't care less. I was in a time machine. A towel with a tear seemed to be a minor detail compared to the environment.

We walked through the lobby, which had a couch, a sofa chair, and cable television. When we got to the locker room, there were men who undressed then wrapped themselves with towels. Next to the door was an old-fashioned coin operated machine selling shampoo, aftershave, etc. Jim led me upstairs to where the rooms were. Once inside, we shed our clothes and like others wrapped ourselves with the skimpy towels. Horny as hell, we couldn't contain ourselves as we decided to have sex. Jim was relieved, but still horny. He went out of the room amongst the strangers of the bathhouse. I, still nervous as the last time (but sober), followed him like a dog.

Activities in the building were nearly nonexistent. Many were simply waiting, lying around, or just watching porn videos in the halls. Persons who rented rooms would leave their doors ajar, waiting for an interested participant. In one room, two men whose ages seemed to double mine, sat watching television (every room had one). In another room, a drag queen flirted with a man. Other rooms simply had men lying on their beds attempting to show their equipment to onlookers ("browsers" the right word? No, that would make one think of the Intery, that's cool. The Bathhouse: The SuperSex Highway).

The definition of a "public room" is: a large room where beds are positioned in parallel order next to each other, while we frolick. At one corner, an orgy was in the making. Around the participants was a circle of observers. The actors of sex paid no mind to the others. They simply worked on their object of sex.

The halls were full of men stand-

ing around, waiting for an invitation, which was eye contact. As time wore on, activities increased and were more intensified.

Then, I saw him. He had looks that were definitely my type. I was paralyzed, fascinated with my arousal. This pseudo-underground culture was making sense.

He noticed me.

Then a thought came to mind. I thought, "How Roman." It was then I realized that this was not a 70's thing. Bathhouses were a part of civilization in the West and in the Mediterranean Sea. The Romans had bathhouses and they must have been invented by gay men. Orgies took place in temples, but this was the Glory of mankind. Wasn't this a cool twist of history?

Not knowing what to do, I followed Jim, who also noticed him. The guy followed me. There were thousands of ants in my body as butterflies mated in my stomach. I know they don't but you get the idea. When we got to the basement, Jim handed me the keys, wished me luck and disappeared. He did this against my will! I went to the sauna and simply sat there.

The guy came in. He was Malone in the flesh, my Mr. Bathhouse. It was as if my entire life depended on him. My entire gayhood, this man held in the crotch of his thighs. He walked in front of me, gave brief eye contact, then walked on.

Feeling numb with my first rejection in a time capsule of the Sexual Seventies, I escaped to my room. Mr. Bathhouse was standing in the hall, watching me enter my room. I'd left the door open, but he walked by without an inkling of interest. Shortly after that, Jim entered.

"Jim," I whined, "he was after you not I."

I didn't realize the fact that Jim entering the room could have made my rejector think that we were interested in a threesome. Jim said the guy was not after him. Mr. Bathhouse had passed him, too. "But there are others out there, too."

This optimistic turn was not enough for me. I wanted Mr. Bathhouse and only him. Feeling nau-

seous, I laid down on the bed. To much smoke was giving me a headache.

Jim went to get some drinks and left the door opened.

Mr. Bathhouse passed by four times (yes, I counted). I didn't invite eye contact with any men, including the one who was following Mr. B around. Funny, now that I think about it, I had an undeclared chastity for a guy I knew nothing about. I didn't even see his penis. Was I becoming too emotional?

My Ex returned. We drank a bit (fruit juices) then we went at it again. He got his rocks off, but not I. I was sick, depressed, and confused.

Why, Mr. Bathhouse, why? I found him but then he suddenly had no interest in me. Did he figure out that I was new to the scene? Like a virgin who becomes obsessed with his first?

I was a virgin.

It wasn't fair.

In the room, I tried to get some sleep. Jim was out, prowling amongst the masses. Exasperated, I was angry that I wasn't able to receive anything I wanted. The Bathhouse, the Sexual Seventies, and Mr. Bathhouse. Was I holding back? Was I not going with the flow? Too choosy? Too uptight?

So many questions that for a moment I did not even know who or why I was. Then, I went in search of something. Anything to get me out of the room.

In the sauna (I kept returning there, didn't I?), one guy was getting a blow job and another was "ramming" another. There were two more men in the room, both lying naked on the benches. One of the two struck me. Not because of his physical beauty, but because to me, he looked like Jesus. All skin and bones, long straggly hair, blue eyes. The divine look-alike looked at me. I made the sign of the cross. He didn't look too pleased as I left the room.

The pool was empty. The halls were less populated as the hour became early morning, the dark public room still carried the intense sexual atmosphere. There were two separate orgies going on. I was not

aroused and upon finding Jim, who was participating in one of the orgies, I dragged him to our room.

"Do you find me attractive?" I asked as if all hope relied on his answer.

"Of course, yes."

Sweet man. "Should I lose some weight? Go on a crash diet?" Look like Jesus Christ, I asked in my mind.

"No. I like you the way you are."

Flattering, but nothing helpful. I needed something...an activity...that would right all the wrongs in this scenario.

Why, Mr. Bathhouse, why?

"We seem to be good for each other when we're not lovers," Jim said.

Our relationships were marred by long distance and career goals. Well, actually, I wanted to live to the fullest while Jim seemed to be doing a better job at it. I, a man who lived in the boondocks, was comparing myself to a city boy.

Nothing's fair.

"Are you saying that this is an affair?"

"Well, yes."

"An affair is love?"

"Yes," he answered. "I've always loved you."

I looked away, watching the porn videos on the television. Reading my expression, Jim left.

There I was again. Alone.

(By the way, this "storybook" writing style...it's getting BORING. I think I'm going to start writing as if I were writing to a best friend, which of course would be you. O.K.?)

Subject Title: "An Interview with a Dead Vampire"
Author: Die4U@triangle.com
To: PuddyCat@rose.com
Created: 23-Nov-1986 03:47pm Lines: 163

Dear Glenda:

I'm sorry I hurt you. I wish I didn't tell you. Well, I did, but I wish it didn't turn out this way. Saturday was quite a day for me. Something that shouldn't have happened, but did and I'm going to tell you in the best way I can: writing.

I got a call from mother Saturday morning. I was going through those

ten pamphlets that my doctor had given me and when she called, I just didn't want to shift worlds again. I told her that I was gay and you won't believe this: Dad and Mom have always known. I was furious but not because my mother had taken power away from me. She was very supportive and the whole nine yards, but when I told her that I was HIV positive, she broke down. My mother tried to be supportive, but when she talked about a cure coming around, I told her to face it, your son is already dead. We got into an argument where I screamed that she was in denial and then hung up. I believed that I was dead. Really dead.

It was sick, what I did. I was in a mind state that's hard to explain. This moment was so overwhelming I think I took it out on Mother. She was an innocent bystander. I was angry that she was innocent and me, being the sinful HIV man, was not. I don't know what to say, but I plan to make arrangements to see Mom and Dad. I still can't believe they knew all along.

Well, day became night as I sat by my window, watching the traffic roar by. In front of me, an empty cup. The cup you gave me as a souvenir from France. Jack stopped by but I didn't answer the door. I was angry at him, too. Everything I thought about, I hated, despised, and was angry. Finally Jack left and I laughed, a sudden victorious feeling overcame me.

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Just when you thought it couldn't get any wilder, I began to actually believe that I was a vampire. A vampire who had decided to live and to once again live out my life as the "mortals" do. I felt like I had lived for centuries, knowledge-wise, and my mind began to stimulate itself by entertaining many ideas. The bathhouse would be my "hunting grounds" and I would rule with my so-called immortality. The Temple, which was the bathhouse, was mine, a god, for the gay and bisexual community. I, the Vampire Victor, would prosper with a large following. The followers would have been called "The Children of the Bathhouse."

All vampire novelists were wrong. A vampire was immortal not because he lived forever but because he continues the legend. Sounds very heterosexual, doesn't it? Do you think AIDS is a way for the gay community to create families? More of a real family setting. People from all walks of life coming together for one purpose. That's the real definition of family.

I went to a couple of bars to see if I could pick somebody up. No luck there. Clothed men did not stimulate me as the men in towels did. However, I stayed a little longer, looking through a vampire's eyes. These young men who could not envision life beyond the age of thirty would sacrifice their lives for one night of passionate sex. It fascinated me. We were of the same age, gender, and sexual orientation, but we were different. I was eternal and they would become dust. Or perhaps they would be the "Children of the Bars."

"Children of Casual Sex." Or, "Children of Alcohol and Sex." Never mind. I had resolved to let them come up with their own name. I was a vampire-god and I had a following to create.

I must stop here for a moment to tell you something. Do you know that tingly feeling you get when you really want something? I had that all the way through this. I was "high" on this vampire role. I allowed this sensation to carry me. I wanted to see where it could take me or how far this went. I didn't want to feel angry.

It may seem strange to you, but it was as if all my anger was collected and stored in my scrotum. Disgusting thought, yes, but all over, I felt tingly.

The bathhouse was thriving with a life of its own. It was crowded, not unusual on a Saturday night and there were orgies everywhere. The people knew what they were doing. The bars were full of people with hidden intensions of different desires, but here was simple communal sex. In my Temple, people knew only one desire or intention: naked human flesh.

To me, this was a ceremonial gathering. These people were welcoming me to claim the Temple. It was as if they begged for a religion. Yes, it was quite ridiculous of me to think that but then, I couldn't control myself. I didn't want to anyway.

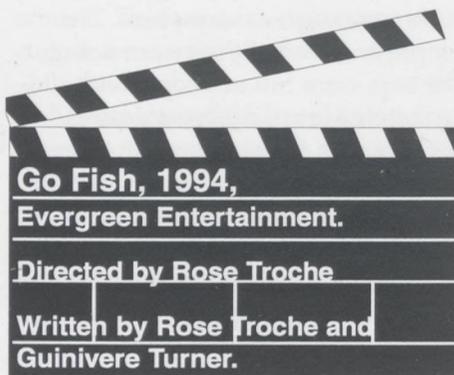
I went about searching for my virgin. Virgin meaning someone who did not have sex that evening. Of course, men groped me, flirted with me, and talked dirty to me. I simply focused on my taste. I wanted a "perfect" virgin to celebrate my "rebirth" and the claiming of my Temple. The so-called virgin would also be celebrating. The firstborn of my family! He'd be second in charge. The heir to the immortal legend I would begin. Needless to say, I found him.

A little background here, Glenda so you'll know why I had chosen him in the first place. I'd seen him before, a poor, frightened man. I'd almost chased him all around the bathhouse. Strange, when I passed him in the sauna, he saw me, but did not follow me to a more discreet place. This was about a year ago. I'd remembered him because he was the only one I'd known who turned down sex with me at the time.

I, a vampire-god, forgave him and had selected the first "Child of the Bathhouse Temple." I led the mortal into my quarters, which was the most reputable room. The red light from the hallway didn't come into the room; it was the darkest. The bed inside was king size, the largest in the building. In my head, it was fit for a

Continued on Page 46

Guest Video Reviewer
Ms. Rhea Wynd



The Truth about Cats, Dogs And An Occasional Ferret

Lonely babes, abandoned dykes, clinging couples, familial crisis, sexual exploration, internal homophobia—have I left anything OUT? *Go Fish*

covers all these areas, and more, in an easy-to-watch format. The film opens with chalkboard-style titles (Guinivere Turner) and is entirely in black-and-white, with occasional use of grainy and blurred effects (Rose Troche). I have heard wildly different opinions of this film, with most opinions running to the negative.

I liked this film the first time I viewed it, and I like it better with each viewing. Perhaps for many viewers the film is too honest about the things which trouble us most—loneliness, the awkwardness of getting to know someone we really like, and the internal homophobia so prevalent in our community (a topic rarely addressed openly by any of us...)

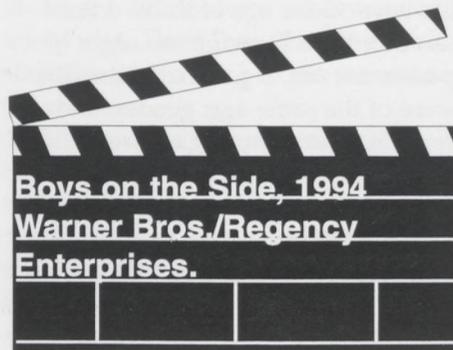
The two main characters, Ely (V.S. Brodie) and Max (Guinivere Turner) are, in their own ways, insecure and lonely. Ely uses an absent “partner” as a barrier between herself and the risk of intimacy. She describes herself as “being generally petrified of any interaction except for dogs, cats and

an occasional ferret.”

Max longs for a meaningful relationship, but can't see beyond her narrow fashion sense, and thus uses her choosiness as a barrier between herself and intimacy. Ely and Max are surrounded by a community of dykes of all colors, but all about the same age, who would like to see the two of them become a couple. A subplot evolves around the free and easy Daria (Anastasia Sharp), who seems to want to bed any woman within reach. Daria's internal homophobia is brilliantly portrayed by a lesbian jury taking her to task for taking a man to bed.

The film moves quickly, with metaphoric transition images which reflect the characters' moods and feelings. The acting is not professional, but is often painfully realistic per my own experiences and observations. Give this video a try, and view it as more than just the story of two dykes in search of each other—view it as a story of a lesbian community.

For those of you who want standard Hollywood pablum, I'm sure Whoopi will have another sexless lesbian movie out soon...



No Main Dish

I have come to wonder (every pun intended) whether Hollywood lesbians ever get to have sex. Very little progress has been made since Ms. Sarandon was seduced by Ms. Deneuve in *The Hunger*—in fact we seem to have lost ground. *Boys on the Side*, remains, at best, a mediocre lit-

tle film, in spite of credible performances by Whoopi Goldberg, Drew Barrymore, and Mary-Louise Parker. Yet many lesbians LOVED this film. Are we all just lap dogs for any mention of lesbos coupled with an appearance by the Indigo Girls (all puns intended)? On the positive side, for once, the story contains a straight female character who has contracted AIDS from unprotected sex with a man (Parker)—but wait! By the end of the film this woman may have become a lesbian. A sexless, passionless possibly-lesbian, whose dying hand is held by the sexless, passionless, lovelorn, Black lesbian (Goldberg).

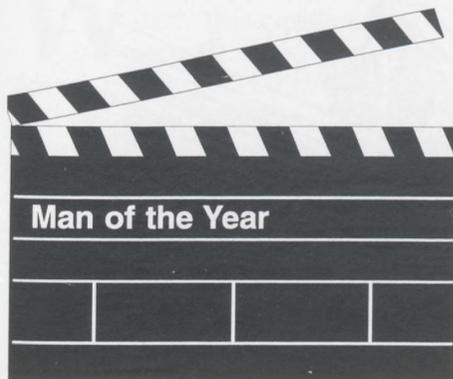
Other than the races of the two characters, this scenario is boringly familiar. Remember the film version of *Fried Green Tomatoes*? Sexless, passionless lesbos (or were they lesbians?) who occasionally hold hands while one of them dies. (In the book, *Fried Green Tomatoes* at the Whistle Stop Cafe, the main characters were clearly lesbians. The film so transforms the relationship as to make it unrecognizable as a lesbian romance.)

Hollywood does seem to persist in its homophobia against lesbians. The two pseudo-lesbians are on the run from the law with their felon friend (Barrymore). Being heterosexuals, the felon and her male paramour are visibly sexually active, as evidenced by Barrymore's pregnancy and blatant detailing of their encounters.

Goldberg never is seen in less than long sleeves and slacks (even in the desert), and she and Parker only get a piece of birthday cake to share. The most sexually-active lesbians in the film are the Indigo Girls in background cameo appearances throughout the film.

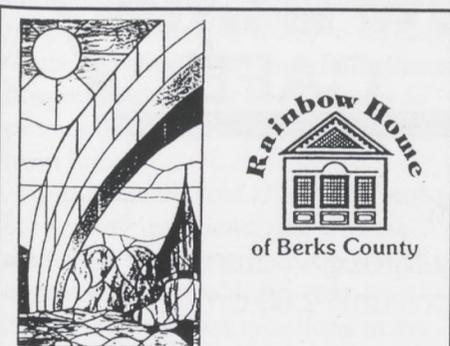
Boys on the Side has few original ideas, but flows in a predictable manner which seems comfortable to the viewing masses. The only redeeming feature of the film is the soundtrack, from Arista Records—buy it! Rent *Boys on the Side* if you must, but *Go Fish*, *Bar Girls*, and *The Hunger* are

more entertaining, and at least allow that dykes (even vampire dykes) do have a passionate, sexual side.



Man of the Year Wins Big at Phila Film Fest

Sorry, sold out. If you were one of the fortunate and got to see the film *Man of the Year* at one of only two screenings during the second annual Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Film Festival then for 90 minutes you were thoroughly entertained. This film follows the coming out of Dirk Shafer, *Playgirl's* 1992 Man of the Year. A satirical comedy, documentary and tear producing drama, this movie has it all. Cleverly directed and starring Dirk Shafer who



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introduced the film and then fielded questions afterward. Besides being a man who is good looking with a great body, Dirk also has a personality that is charming, witty and disarmingly shy.

On Friday night July 12, Dirk appeared at the 12th Air Command Bar (formerly Equus and Hepburn's) after the first screening. Knowing ahead of time, I went to my file of *Playgirl* magazines and wouldn't you know I was about to find a four-page nude layout of Mr. Shaffer. Able to fit the magazine into my pants pocket and armed with a pen, I made my way to the Command Center. After complementing Dirk on his smile, not on the movie till Saturday when I saw the second showing, I asked if he would be gracious enough to sign the layout. Shyly, and with some embarrassment, he signed "To Vinton: With all my love, Dirk Shaffer: and proceeded to show his new boyfriend the layout. Well, don't you know, I and my magazine were in great demand for the rest of the night. Good for me. Sorry, about the diversion. Now back to the review.

The camera followed Dirk during the year as he tried to represent *Playgirl* magazine. The problem comes and continues to come and complicate the situation when Dirk needs to hide his gayness for the benefit of all the lady readers of the magazine. There were some very touching moments when Dirk had to come to grips with the facade he was projecting. The interview with a crazed female fan was one of the side-splitting moments of the film. Throughout the film she is seen interviewed at her place of employment. An exotic dancer, in love with a gay centerfold, who can't accept the truth, abruptly ends the interview. By the end of the movie, you feel a sense of relief for Dirk that the year is over and the charade can come to an end. Go see this film if you get the opportunity or better yet, rent the video when it is released.

Dirk Shaffer is currently involved in four other directing projects. If this,

his first try, is any indication, we should be on the look out for more entertaining films.

As for the film festival itself, having missed the first one, I made it a point of attending this year's event held in July. What a well run, entertaining and solidly supported event this turned out to be. Starting on Thursday night July 11 with the screening of *Stonewall* to the final showing on Sunday July 21 of *Talk of the Town*, this festival truly had something for everyone. With seven different locations throughout the city where the films were shown and a schedule that was well publicized made the logistics easy and simple to follow. A special added bonus to some of the screenings was having the director present to introduce and answer questions and make comments at the end of the film.

Do we here in Harrisburg, have the facilities, the desire, the know-how to host a film festival? There has been some talk of late to the effect that we do and should. I would like to see us try to put such an event together. After all, we have succeeded with the Gay Pride Festival this year. Let's try our hand at hosting a film fest. If we start now, maybe by next summer we could have our First Annual Harrisburg Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. I, for one, would not miss that one. X

VINTON ASH

My attitude toward anybody's sexual persuasion is this: without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.

Frank Zappa

All my life I wanted to look like Liz Taylor, now I find that Liz Taylor is beginning to look like me.

Divine

Every man should own at least one dress---and so should lesbians.

James Adams Spahr

It hasn't been more difficult; it's been more interesting.

Heidi Frazier on growing up in a gay household

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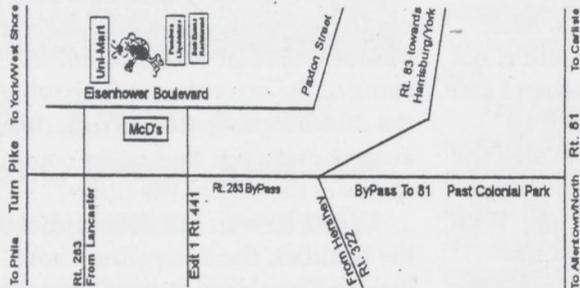
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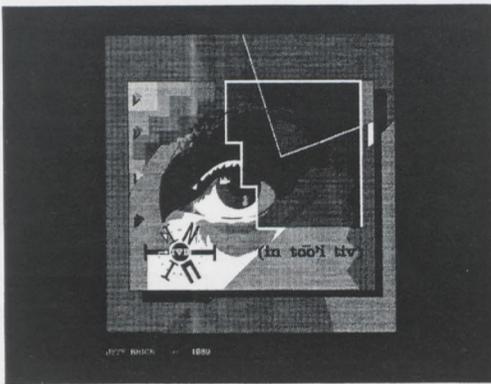
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Secrets of the Mind

What is bipolar mood disorder? This question was recently asked of me by a friend. He was told by his boyfriend that he has this condition. Even though he wants to be supportive, he had many questions and worries.

First and foremost, the sincere concern my friend presents is an invaluable asset in understanding both his boyfriend and the disorder. Bipolar mood disorder is a syndrome that is not a normal reaction to life difficulties. The signs and symptoms may vary somewhat from person to person. In fact, there are three types which can help confuse and frustrate the afflicted, their family and friends.

Because of this, it is important that one know the specific type. Overall bipolar mood disorders feature episodes of major depression interspersed with episodes of mania and/or hypomania. There are distinct period(s) of elevated, expansive, or irritable mood accompanied by increased activity, flight of ideas, pressured speech, decreased need for sleep, and/or distractibility. The onset of symptoms may be gradual or often sudden. With mania the mood disturbance is severe enough to cause significant problems at work, in relationships and social activities. Sometimes hospitalization may be necessary to protect the patient and/or others from harm.

Now having said all of this, probably scaring my friend and you the reader, let me reassure that effective treatment is available for this disorder. One of the first questions to my friend was if his boyfriend was on medication, and in treatment with a gay-friendly therapist and/or physician who can ensure a positive, affirming environment.

After a long history of homosexuality being classified as a mental illness, and with many homophobic attitudes across all professions, due care is needed. Being gay does not mean one cannot be mentally ill, but having a knowledgeable, sensitive clinician who understands the differ-

ence is essential to making the most accurate, complete diagnosis and providing successful treatment.

The clinician may include the significant other(s) for supporting the history given by the client and to ensure understanding, compliance, and affirmation of both. By building such alliances, treatment outcomes may be much better. Finding therapists and physicians can be a problem anywhere, but perhaps more so in rural areas. Luckily, the telephone can prove a valuable tool to question potential therapists and physicians as to their comfort level in treating gay clients/patients.

Generally, the treatment approach is two-fold. First, the use of medication and second, psychotherapy. Research has shown that psychotherapy, combined with mood stabilizing medications, works best. By helping the individual better understand the disorder, its specific symptoms and the need for medications, therapists and physicians together can provide improved success rates of treatment for the individual and their significant other(s).

Compliance with medications, coping with their possible side effects, developing a realistic attitude and strategies toward changes in percep-

tion, mood, thinking and personality are areas in which the working relationships between the individual, the therapist, and the physician are necessary.

Because of the profound effects of this illness, the need for a supportive network is important. Significant others, family members, and friends all play a valued part for providing feedback to the affected individual. Obviously, whenever possible, they should be included in the treatment process.

Luckily, my friend is involved with his boyfriend's treatment now and they are both doing well. They were able to find a caring and affirmative therapist and psychiatrist to help them through this difficult period.

Please note: This is only generalized advice and should not be considered as a specific treatment plan. If you need to, you should seek professional services. ✕

Dr. Fred Stoner is a practicing psychotherapist in South Central PA with extensive experience in individual, relationship, group, and family therapy as well as providing consultation and training in these areas.



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god in his own temple.

The man was shaking all over, but I soothed him with words and intimate touches. because he was nervous all over made my vampire scheme all the more exciting and real. I was drowning myself in my power. My child was visibly enjoying my company. He clung onto my every word and touch.

Erotica. I kept him close to my body. Our skin never left each other. I kept on touching him all over as if I was smoothing out the folds on his skin. He groaned in pleasure. I kissed him, full on the lips. He responded with passion. The passion that I thought I had lost long ago. I suck on his nipples and laid him on his back. Between his legs, I rubbed my hard cock against his. He held fast onto me, legs and arms as i lightly bit his neck. it was a bite hard enough to cause a small hickey. My child moaned so very loudly. I loved every moment of it. We were having a great time. I know I was.

Close to ejaculation, I asked him if he'd wanted my seed. We were lying next to each other and this would have been beautiful if I wasn't in my state of mind. The mortal seemed puzzled. He, too, seemed to be lost in another world. I wondered what world it was. He said he wanted me. My seed is my whole, I told him. That, too," he said. We'd looked into each other's eyes. In his eyes, I saw a young man who had brilliant potential. This mortal was human. I can't say that I knew the difference, but a mortal was someone who was going to die; a human was someone going to live. Maybe it was because I'd loved him that I saw as a human.

We then kissed, it was beyond passion. I lost my erection and saw myself as completely evil. This power I had was no longer a luxury but a burden. I loved him yet I had to destroy him. Maybe it was the price of power. My vampire image was shattered and the tingly feeling was replaced by a lump in my throat.

I left the room and also left what was to be my temple. Everyone was

oblivious to what had transpired just moments ago. The people in the bathhouse became aliens to me. Once we were all on a common ground, but now, we were different. I had a responsibility and had caught what was an apparition to them. They had a responsibility quickly forgotten at the sight of a penis. They were the true vampires for they thought themselves immortal.

Glenda, I didn't know who I was anymore. I still don't. I guess it all depends on the eye of the beholder. That man didn't belong there. The ironic thing I this was that I have come to look up to this guy. He's inspired something within me, but he did the incredible: he turned a vampire into a human. This man, almost a Child of the Bathhouse, is now my Child of Hope.

I wonder if he knows that he is immortal?

Victor

P.S. Hope your visit to Paris was more fun that before.

Dear Journal:

I've been thinking and I've come to a conclusion that there is no such thing as coincidence. I'll be the first to agree that strange happenings do occur such as loving a very attractive man to find out that he loves you or meeting a guy at a supermarket who happens to be your long forgotten biological brother last seen when your parents disowned you. The point is: everything happens within the Web of Life. People are bound by a web, pulling us together. It's the "click" we feel and that is the explanation of strange happenings. I have a theory: the scientist in us wants to believe in "coincidences," and not in something unseen or holistic like the Web.

"What made me think?," you asked before fainting.

Two words: Mr. Bathhouse.

Since we last spoke, he moved into the hospice. At first, I couldn't believe it, but when we were eating, we made the longest eye contact in my life. He knew I knew and I knew he knew. the day after his arrival, we

warmed up to each other in art therapy. Actually, he broke the ice by asking for the color red.

Visualize the entire world in red. That was what filled my mind.

We went out to the movies, visited museums, and did little errands here are there. I mean, Victor is a wonderful guy to be with. His life is so full of experiences, a container of rainbows with different hues. I'm so attracted to him, even though the medications and treatments made me impotent.

Once, I confessed to him that I've called him "Mr. Bathhouse." He laughed, but his eyes were distant and sad. I wondered why.

I love him. This boy loves, loves, loves him. My first true love.

One day, we got into a nasty argument. It was a simple thing. He wanted to get a crystal vase for me, but I was trying to be honest and preferred another vase. The difference was the price tag. my choice was cheaper. As the "debate" dragged on, I said something bad. I told him that we were going to die anyway.

We didn't speak for two days. I was walking by his door and heard him crying. I went in, stripped, and got into his bed, holding him all night. Victor fell asleep like a baby in my arms. It was such a good feeling.

"That," as Glenda, Victor's best friend would say, "is love to the V!"

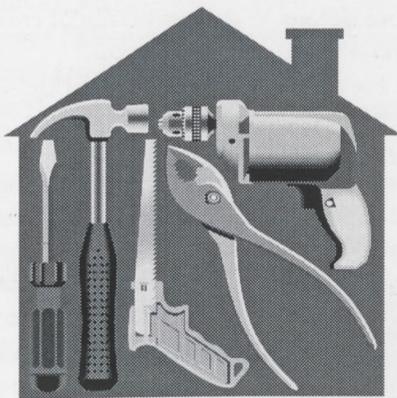
The next morning, we awoke together and kept in my embrace. In the morning sun, I saw two burn marks on his neck. They looked like a mark of a vampire's bite. I asked him what was it. He had a serious look on his face and explained that the marks were a "scar of our ironic humanity." I didn't have time to ask more questions because I had an erection. Victor asked me I needed a condo. We giggled, then we laughed very hard. We made balloons out of the condoms prepared for educational panel sessions. Then, we quoted our speeches, making them sound really ridiculous or suggestive. After that, we mimicked the questions that would be asked. laughter and more laughter. Imagine: Two naked men laughing and mocking the people they're educating! Then, I mimicked, "Have you

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ever knowingly infected another partner?" I kept on laughing but Victor began to cry. Not knowing why but I cried with him.

I always say the damndest things.

Victor Brett Peters died a week later and his ashes were spread on the Allegheny River. The only person who came to collect is possessions was Glenda. His mother was in "mourning." Glenda and I went for what was to be our last dinner.

During our dinner, Glenda gave to me a letter written in the past by Victor. She was quiet when I read it and reread it. I didn't know what to say so I said, "Our ironic humanity." Today, Glenda is happily married with two kids. As she was showing me the pictures of her children, I commented on how one of them looked very much like Victor. She laughed. It was one of those laughs where you put two and two together. No! I said. She insisted---Yes! How Front Runner can you be? I told her that, too. then she reveals that he book was the origin of the idea. You see, back in her fag-hag days, when Glenda believed that she wouldn't find a man who wasn't married or straight, she convinced Victor to give her semen examples. Well, she got married and couldn't bring herself to inseminate herself. To top it all, she found that her husband was sterile. Lo and behold, "River" was born. Then came along "Victor." Two boys by Victor, and no no and her husband knew about it. Glenda told me that there was no offense intended but she'd hoped that her sons would not be gay. She wanted grandchildren and everything. I'd asked her if she missed her "fag-hag" days. After some tears, she said no. All her friends are dead and it was simply a little more safer to be friends with straights (I beg to differ). Tears and laughter, then we parted.

The dinner date stuck to my mind not only because of the letter but because the strangest thing ever happened to me. I went to the bathroom because of a diarrhea attack and was pleased that it was a handicap-equipped stall (the handle bars are

helpful). The toilet seat was warm; someone had just used it. I wondered what it would be like to feel body heat, but my meditation stopped when I realized that I'd forgotten how it felt. I struggled to hold back my tears but I couldn't. Bawling right there in the stall, I tried to be as quiet as I could. I tried to get up, holding onto the handle bars with both my hands and using my neck to move my body forward, but I stopped. The position struck me. A flashback of the look-alike Messiah became almost reality in my consciousness.

Remaining in my awkward position, I cried out, "My Victor, My Victor, why have you forsaken me?" Then, I got what would be a vision. The bathroom sort of faded and all I saw was Christ Jesus dying on the crucifix. At his feet, there I was, kneeling and weeping. Victor was standing next to me. Jesus said, "My Son, Behold your Love of the Soul," and to Victor, he said, "My Child, Behold your Love of the Heart." Tears came to my eyes as I once again saw Victor, full of color and moving, and I looked heavenward. There, the clouds parted and Jesus stood, embracing Lazarus. Their smiles were truly genuine. Behind them was Victor, smiling in the same manner. Thunder was later discovered to be a man, cute but has wild look in eyes, pounding to use the only stall of the room. I'm almost sure Glenda knew what I'd gone through in the bathroom. How I did must have baffled her.

I buried the letter in Victor's choice of a crystal vase. Then, I lit a candle and watched it float down the river as the vase sank.

The Web of Life.

All cemeteries contain buried treasures turned into dust, but Victor is now a treasure baptized in the river and forever, he gives life.

The river is his Temple and soon, I will be his first child.

Our ironic bathhouse: sex and lovers.

Our ironic humanity: life and death.

Oh, God, entertain us some more.

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BITING THE BISCUIT



first runner up was Tina Valentine and the reigning Miss Neptune 1996 went to Serena Schaeffer.

Serena did a comedy act as her talent. Faboo! She was so good, I thought she was Joan Rivers before the face lifts. As for the evening gown, let me just say "Wow, it was definately worth a month's rent."

Congratulations to Serena, Miss Neptune 1996. The special guests that evening were all fabulous also. The list included Miss Starr Powers (former Miss Capital City), Miss Michelle Leah Sterling (a former Miss Stallions), and the reigning Miss Tally Ho Poison was also there. Thank you ladies. One quick footnote "Nice outfit Michelle."

Next we dashed off to see the girls come together in Cabaret shows in support of Lily White. Glenda and Michelle have put



Glenda: ...you showed us all that there's more to being a Queen than putting on a dress!

together shows in each of the four Harrisburg clubs to help raise monies for this summer's performance of *Who Framed Lily White?* This series of cabarets kicked off with a show at the Strawberry Cafe and a wonderful time was had by all. My date

that night was as always "Jose Cuervo" so you know I missed a few words to my songs but had fun missing them.

Next, we were off to the ladies' bar in town

called B-TLS. Thank you ladies. Your support was greatly appreciated. I'm especially glad you found the missing



Serena Schaeffer: Joan Rivers before the face lifts.

earring in the basketball game. We all loved your establishment (and you

give great stage)!

The next destination was The Neptune where Glenda and

Michelle served up the meat with a sidewalk cookout. They were the hostesses and took turns flipping burgers and hot dogs in full drag. (Whoever found Glenda's eye lash on their burger? See Glenda, she's giving a \$50 reward for it!)

Final stop was The Stallions for the last Cabaret!---Thank God! You should have seen these girls go! Once again, a good time was had by all.

Michelle & Glenda, you girls have worked really hard to put these cabarets together. On behalf of Lily White and Comany, I want to say "Thank You" and we love you for it.

Coming soon will be the second annual Miss Gay Pride Pageant. Good luck to all of the contestants. Look for more details in the next issue of *crossroads* and I'll have the scoop.

Please look for me at the Pride Festival. I'll be the one walking around in a \$1,000 gown. You will have to pin the dollars on it to make it that expensive, but I know how you Harrisburg kids are---that'll be no problem. I'll bring the dress and pins,

you bring the dollars, we accept \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, and \$100 dollar bills. We're not picky, just pretty!

Michelle Leigh Sterling: Nice outfit!

So until next time, this is your Drag Reporting Diva saying "Kiss, Kiss", (but don't smudge the lipstick). X



Hello and welcome to my world for those of you who don't know me.

I'm the prettiest woman in captivity "Ms. Biscuit!"

In this column I hope you will find some fun things to read and maybe just a little bit of juicy gossip. So let's get started, sit back and enjoy.

I want first to talk about the Miss Neptune Pageant. Wow, what a night!

Glenda, Miss Neptune 1995, you did a great job all year long as well as your very classy farewell that night! During her reign as Miss Neptune, Glenda raised about \$5,000 for the Harrisburg community. My wig & pumps go off to you. Great job Glenda, you showed us all that there's more to being a Queen than putting on a dress!

On to the pageant. There were six contestants. I was contestant #5. All of these ladies put their all into this night. Glad I wasn't a judge! The 2nd runner up was Carlotta Jalopena, Harrisburg's own "Spanish Fly." The

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Maxi Priest - *Man with the Fun*
Robert Miles - *Dreamland*
Roger Miller - *The Benevolent Disruptive Ray*
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Me'Shell NdegeOcello - *Peace Beyond Passion*
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Prince - *Chaos and Disaster*
Queers - *Don't Back Down*
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Sir Mix-A-Lot - *Return of the Bumpasaurus*
Patti Smith - *Gone Again*
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Travis Tritt - *Double Trouble*
White Zombie - *Supersex*
Edgar Winter - *The Real Deal*
Trisha Yearwood - *Everybody Knows*
Neil Young with Crazy Horse - *Broken Arrow*



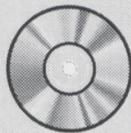
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Stan Freberg - *Stan Freberg Presents the U.S. of A., Vols. I & II*
The Impressions - *Further Impressions*
Iron Butterfly - *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida*
Paul McCartney - *Red Rose Speedway*
Mike Nichols & Elaine May - *In Retrospect*
Patrice Rushen - *Straight from the Heart*
Carly Simon - *Come Upstairs*
Patti Smith - *Easter/Horses/Radio Ethiopia/Wave/*
Dream of Life/ Patti Smith Masters
Ray Stevens - *Gitarzan*
The Who - *Quadrophenia* (remixed, remastered)



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The Del Vikings - *Best of*
The Diamonds - *Best Of*
Peter Frampton - *The Backlot Series*
Lesley Gore - *It's My Party:*
The Mercury Anthology (1963-1969)
Freddie Jackson - *Greatest Hits*
The Lettermen - *All-Time*
Liza Minnelli - *16 Most Requested Songs*
Grandmaster Flash - *Best of, Vol. II*
Grass Roots - *All Time Greatest Hits*
O'Jays - *Best Of*
Gram Parsons - *The Early Years Vols. I & II*
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Various Artists

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Please do not send cash.

Deadline for next issue is
August 30, 1996.

In Memorium

crossroads regrets to inform its readership of the following deaths:

Larry E. Wright (1958 - 1996).
Larry's connection with the gay community culminated in his election as the first (and only) president of Harrisburg's short-lived Gay and Lesbian Task Force (1981-1982).

His major accomplishment as leader of the group was successfully acquiring a proclamation from Harrisburg Mayor Stephen R. Reed recognizing one week in June 1982 as "Gay and Lesbian Pride Week;" a practice that continues to this very day. Another effort begun by the task force was the inclusion of "sexual orientation/preference" phrase added to the city's existing Human Relations Ordinance-- finally approved by City Council in 1984.

Through Larry's steadfast leadership, the first AIDS fundraiser was conducted at Harrisburg's Orpheus nightclub (presently The Vault) raising over \$500 for the Infectious Disease Unit of the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center; prior to the creation of today's AIDS service organizations.

Anyone wishing to memorialize a loved one in this column can send their info to crossroads.

Would you like to inform our readers about your services...free of charge?

crossroads is offering businesses and professionals the opportunity to place a four line ad in our next issue (Pride issue) at no expense.

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"Our commitment to the community begins today."

The Last Word?

J.D. Kennedy

1996 has provided Americans with a decision that may affect contemporary man and woman for the rest of the century. The dilemma is shattering for a choice made now will be fraught with repercussions of worldwide

proportions. So here it is: should we, upon entering our local dance club or reception hall, bother to learn the Macarena or stick with the venerable Electric Slide?

For those continuing to hibernate due to winter's severe bite, the latest craze sweeping the dance halls of America is to the multi-cultural tune by Los Del Rios. The dance includes specific motions replete with arm extensions and momentary hand placements on particular portions of the body that probably have prompted Madonna to applaud for a minute and a half. The sixteen-bar dance step ends with a hop and a quarter turn to the right before starting the sequence once more.

Never, since the dance inspired by the reemergence of Marcia Griffith's Jamaican-flavored ditty has the dance floor become so vibrant. Wedding receptions must be a little less tedious due to this Spanish-language composition and its companion dance. The opening strains of the newest song sensation cause people to run to the floor like lemmings to the sea in a foolhardy attempt to display their hipness while others look on with cocktail in hand envious of their fellow exhibitionistic Danny Tario clones.

The dance is banal and trite; in effect trivial. You don't move anywhere. One would have trouble seeing why one would want to expend the energy in a dance that takes you nowhere. At least the Slide was a fun exercise in futility. Moving from side to side, up and back, made for interesting meetings in that one wrong move could land you on top of whoever. (Hmmm.) One expends more energy moving to and from the dance floor than during the 4:23 of the radio edit.

Not since the Electric Slide has a dance so tedious as to make one wonder what fascination there is in performing its movements. I suppose that there is more excitement in non moving at all that from one place to another.

The Macarena prompts one to look at the other major decision that will be made within the coming months. The major players in this game of geopolitical importance will attempt to convince us to support them. Messrs. Clinton, Dole, Perot, et. al. will once more compete in the quadrennial beauty pageant that is the race for president—a competition fraught with warts and all.

My intent is not to convince you to make a decision for one or the other. It is to bring to fore the triviality that the race for the presidency has become. And it is character that is going to be the major player in the decision process. Let's face it, there is enough instances to go around.

Let's start with the present White House occupant: Mr. "I'm going to allow gays to serve in the military with the stroke of my mighty Aurora" Clinton. We all know where that got us. Well it seems that was just the hors d'oeuvres. Along with the bravado of the 1992 campaign, we got Whitewater which reared its ugly head at the beginning of the last campaign only to be side-stepped by Bill & Hill as an issue.

However, thanks to D'Amato and company, the circle appears to be tightening around the President as he and Hillary do the Arkansas shuffle around what appears to be land for campaign funds. After \$40 million of our tax money (Enough to pay for snow removal of the eastern part of the Keystone State) where has the accusations, questioning, rerouting, testimonies gotten us.

However, the President and the First Lady have not helped themselves. The lengthy time it took for White House documents to reach the Senate Banking Committee probing this mess. Come on. Records mysteriously turning up in the family quarters months after they were first spotted. Puh-lease. The explanations were as plausible as "But I didn't inhale."

No one seems to care about a real estate deal gone sour as is evidenced by the President's approval ratings since the beginning of 1996. In fact, Clinton hovers over Dole by 15-20% points for whatever reason. Whitewater has had no effect as was witnessed by the public's reaction nearly two months after the indictments of the McDougals and now former Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker.

And then there's Filegate. (By the way, can we stop attaching "gate" to impending scandals.) Note to White House Press Secretary Mike Curry: Just tell the press and those concerned what happened, what role Chris Farley look-alike Craig Livingston played in the mess and move on. You're less than clever explanation (and I paraphrase) "If we told everything at the beginning, the Republicans would have jumped on us anyhow" doesn't quite wash.

I didn't realize that a Democratic president would be so nostalgic as to bring the spectre of Nixon, Haldeman, Ehrlichman once again to the forefront of the nation's psyche. Mr. Curry, waiting to see how Filegate plays out beyond the Beltway may have cost your man points. Such disingenuousness can cause you to ready that resume three months from now.

Meanwhile, the former Majority Leader's indecisiveness has not bode well. According to "The Choice", Bob Woodward's tedious replay of Washingtonian politics of the last two years (an eternity in politics), tentative decision making played a major role beginning with whether or not Bob Dole was going to enter the race for the White House. To those in the Dole camp, the purjorative front runner, had to be convinced to run since he's viewed by those in the party as the party's standard bearer. His half-hearted conviction is likened to that of Mr. Bush's who also felt he had to vie for the prize once more; a weak attempt that may have cost him his home at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. Dole's indecisiveness has also caused people to



wonder who is running the presumptive Republican nominee's campaign. One need only to look at last fall's comedy of errors when the Log Cabin Republicans (if that name is a moniker for Lincoln, the party we now know as the Republican is no longer the party of Lincoln) donated a \$1,000 contribution to the Dole campaign only to have it returned and eventually reluctantly accepted by the Dole for President folks. Dole said that the money would not have been returned if only had he known; a crisis would have been averted and the skies would not be cloudy all day. As seventies' sitcom maven Emily Hartley said, "Oh Bob!" Or as RuPaul would say, "You need to stop, child."

If that weren't enough, it has come to my attention that the new and improved Mr. Dole at first wanted tolerance for pro-choice women framed as a plank within the confines of the Republican platform only to later change his mind and bending to the wishes of the conservatives who seem to run the party with a tight brown glove. Such conviction you displayed for the freedom of women.

And what of the drubbing Katie Couric faced over her repeated inquiries of the Republican candidate's position on the "non-addictive" nature of nicotine. The new and improved Mr. Dole was not supposed to show his fangs even under the most grueling of questioning. Well, I suppose the politician who shouted "Stop lying about my record" to a sitting President in front of millions of TV viewers eight years ago cannot change overnight. Nastiness has a tendency to linger. Just ask Leona Helmsley.

Which brings us to Boss Ross. After he convinced Richard Lamm, former Colorado governor, of getting into the race under the banner of the Reform party, (bankrolled by Perot himself), Mr. Perot decided to play Lucy and pulled the football from his up and running Charlie Brown of a candidate the day after Lamm announced his candidacy for the coveted title as "First Candidate of the Reform"---a party that is bankrolled by Perot cash. Note to Mr. Lamm: Your search of footnote status is commendable. However, I think you better look first at who's going to be in bed next to you after considering you've had intercourse with a rubber tainted with sand in the KY.

Perot has been considered as nothing more than a Cape Cod sand fly in the scheme of all things national (Re: "great sucking sound" of NAFTA) with a bite that lingers two or three days after a Larry King appearance. His bad habit is continuously insinuating himself into the national limelight with Jacksonian proportions (Jesse, not Andrew).

All of these players are lining up for the August climax---the nomination by their respective parties for the

anointment, the September start, possible October surprise complete with debates (I'm waiting for another Ford-type gaffe. Remember when Mr. Ford set Poland "free" from the clutches of the Soviet Union?) and its eventual conclusion prior to our giving thanks that it's all over.

And for what? The prize seems to have been trivialized in the recent past. Politicians are crying louder these days. Or is that whining? *Waaah, they are let out the back of airplanes! I'm telling mom you're playing the same games we did when we had majority control.* Their philandering continues even though they know the reaction of their constituents would be anymore than supportive. I suppose it's okay as long as you don't get caught like Messrs. Packwood and Reynolds.

I'm afraid the presidency has been trivialized. No one seems to stand ride in the saddle again. We don't expect another FDR or even a Lincoln, but we expect our leaders to fess up to their faults and move on. Granted, information hits its target with frightening speed and accuracy. However, you make a mistake, apologize and move on. You make a promise in the name of sincerity and renege on it, your promise has been broken due to political expediency and that is not the way to retain voting blocs.

The last great President, in terms of trust and inspiration is, dare I say it, was Ronald Wilson Reagan. Yeah, I honestly believe he slept during his eight-year tenure as Chief Executive, but he brought a distinctive aura to the Oval Office that hasn't been seen since except perhaps the halcyon days of the Persian Gulf War when an Era of Good Feeling, however brief, blanketed the nation the annihilation of the Iraqi army.

When Iran Contra Affair reared its ugly head, the 38th president, after a week of "Who did what and when?," appeared before the U.S. public and announced that as captain of the ship, he took full responsibility for the chicanery that erupted on the page of the country's morning papers.

That's a leader for ya. Take the blame even though you personally may have had nothing to do with the actual machination of the wrong doing. Reagan knew how to do the Electric Slide. He went to and fro, front and back and eventually earned his place, if not in the history books, but in the hearts of his countrymen (and women).

Our so-called leaders are doing the Macarena---dancing in a circle, vogueing for the cameras, not really getting anywhere. If anything, the character question should be each candidate's concern and addressed immediately. "True Lies," Dole's example of *the* perfect motion picture for the family, may turn out to be the major theme throughout this year's campaign. We don't expect candidates once elected to tell the truth. They should remember, however, at this time of cheer and goodwill, that they too live in glass houses.

The trivial pursuit of the presidency is just that and the American public is weary of it. Don't be surprised if the body politic does an Electric Slide right by the polling stations. I don't advise that, but at this point, what is a disgusted populace to do. X

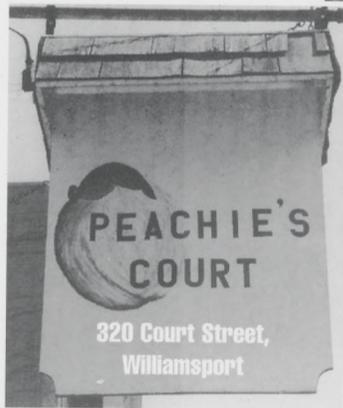
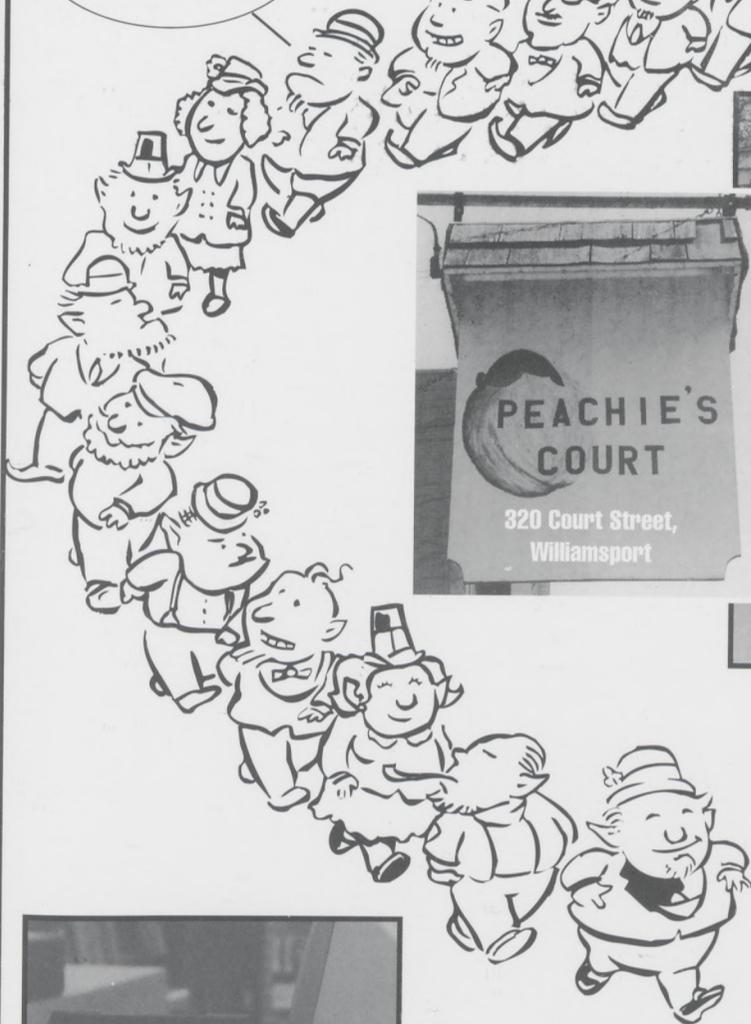
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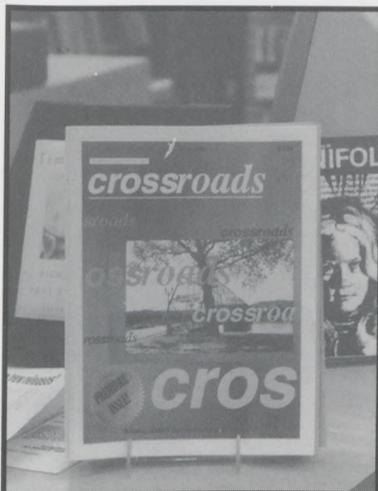
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