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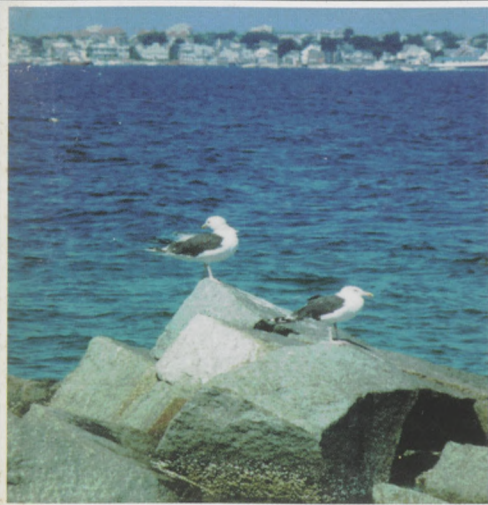
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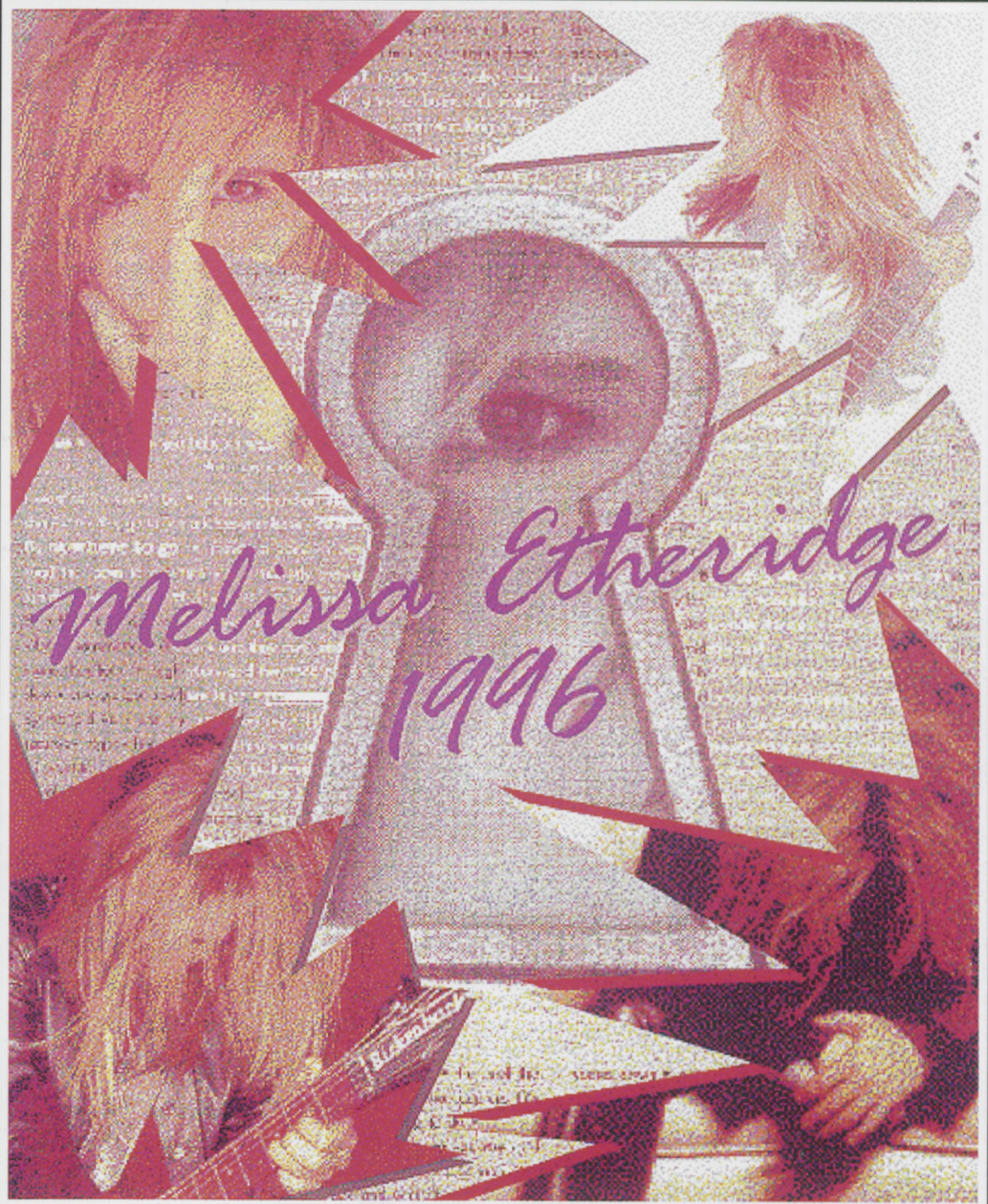
Of Central Pennsylvania



Our Travel Section
Rehoboth & Puerto Vallarta

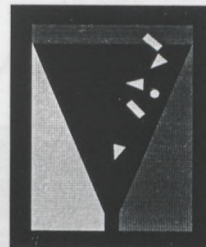


Fire From Hell...
Treasures From God



The crossroads Short Story

In Search



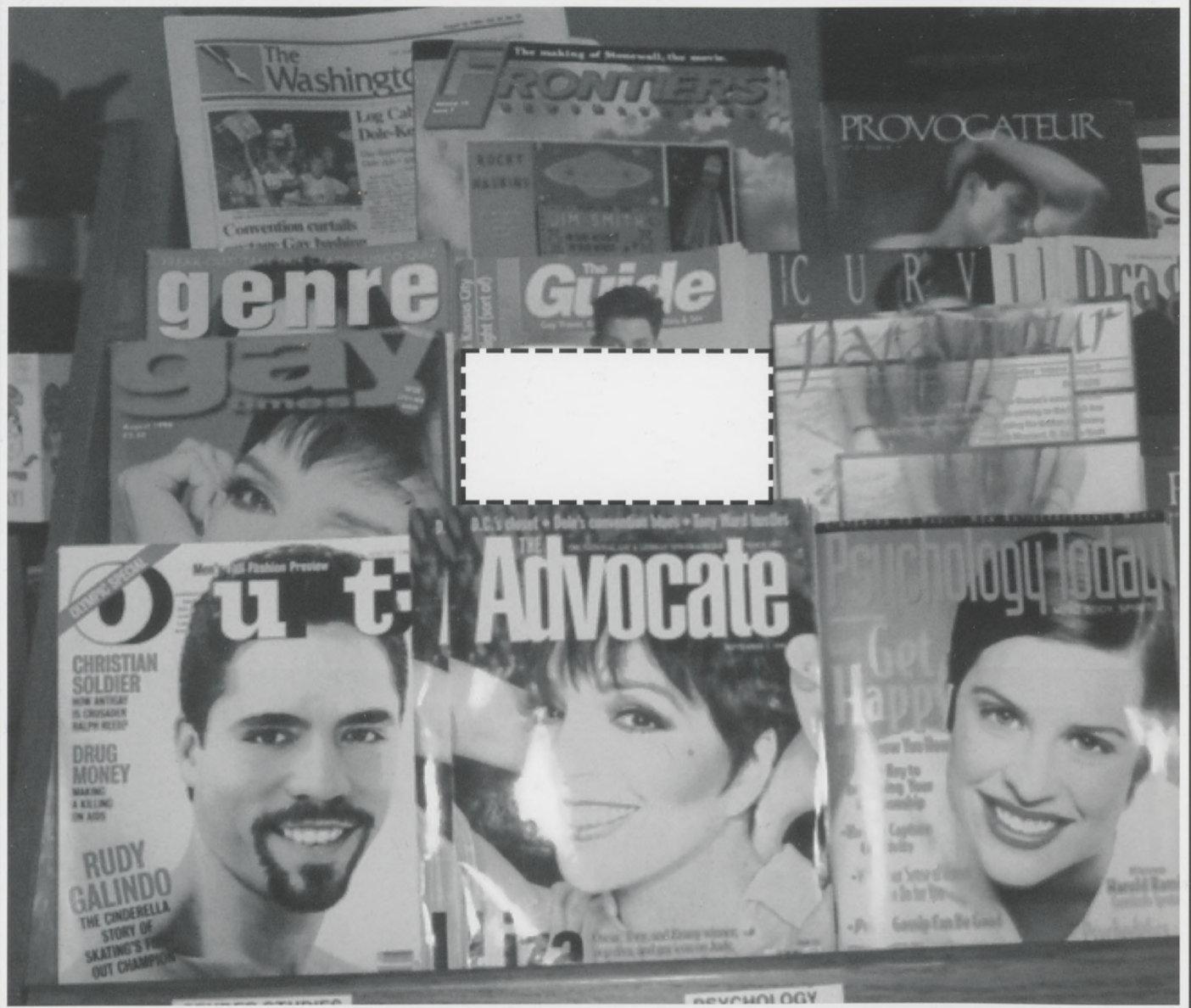
COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE !!!

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS ON:

SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISING, BUSINESS
CLASSIFIEDS, COMMUNITY CALENDAR AND
MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Plus

Lancaster's County Library and Pink Triangle Coalition Help Unlock The Key To Cervical Cancer...The 1997 Mr. Harrisburg Contest...The Debate Among The Presbytery...along with Biting The Biscuit, Horoscopes & Classifieds.



Looking for that special magazine highlighting the gay/lesbian/transgendered community in Central Pennsylvania?

Are you having trouble finding it?...

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rossroads

cross

"Building bridges from one community to another."

Harrisburg Patriot-News and the York Daily Record as well as mention on Harrisburg's WINK 104 has helped inform the public of our little gay periodical. As you'll notice in this issue, more advertisers are seeking space among the pages of our publication.

Most of this is in direct proportion to the increase of the quality of the magazine. That is not to say that *crossroads* is perfect. Time and again there have been mistakes found here and there in many an issue. Though we have increased the number of proofers, mistakes still seem to find their way in the magazine for which we apologize profusely. There also has been the problem of getting this publication into the hands of our subscribers in a timely fashion. Though we were proud, having gotten the issues in the mail days before the beginning of February, some did not receive it until February 7th. We are

working to tighten deadlines so subscribers receive it before the start of our publication period; before our vendors receive it for purchase. And though no one has said anything to us about the lack of coverage in the other major cities within our coverage area, *crossroads* is making a valiant effort to build a bridge to our brothers and sisters in the Central Pennsylvania region in order for their stories and struggles to be told.

The initial goal of *crossroads* was to disseminate positive and timely information to our target audience. For the most part, we have accomplished that goal and much more. During our first year, we have found a sense of amazement outside the Central Pa. region that our area could produce such a "quality" publication. Though we do not see ourselves as representatives for this area, we are thrilled that *crossroads* has become a reflection of the region and has created a positive buzz among those who peruse its pages.

Many have commented on the heart and soul that streams forth

Publisher's Note

April 1996. A new magazine hits a limited number of outlets in the Harrisburg and York areas. At the same time, issues are sent to the homes of fifty brave individuals; individuals who ordered six issues upon seeing a photocopy sample the previous July at the Central PA Pride Festival. The first issue, though crude when compared to recent issues, was the first publication that highlighted events that occurred in the area. Our revealing interview of Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit's Rev. O'Diam startled some (Pastor Eva's candor usually does). The review of Heaven restaurant, though positive, was untimely (not hitting the streets in October as we had originally planned). Much of the material between the fifty-two pages of the inaugural issue was indeed dated.

Flash forward to April 1997. Not only is much of the material fresh, but our goal of providing analysis of events and issues occurring within and affecting the Central Pennsylvania region, is constantly being met.

And we have gotten noticed. Articles in the

crossroads

Special Report: Breast Cancer 1996

The Other Community Health Concern

Including:

A Tribute to a Legal Warrior

along with Her Parting Words...

... "I've Had a Magical Life"



GETTING ORIENTATION INTO PA'S

ETHNIC INTIMIDATION ACT

The attempt to stamp out hate crimes against PA's sexual minorities

Part Two of our Interview with MCC's Pastor O'Diam



And Lots More!!!

Our Community Resource Insert Focusing this Issue's Spotlight on Harrisburg's Lily White & Company

The Pride Issue
VOL. 1 / ISSUE 3 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER \$3.95

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 Bennett

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Of Central Pennsylvania

The AIDS Quilt Returns to D.C.

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY NAMES SPOTLIGHT

RTHE RENAISSANCE MAN

Organizational Spotlight
Bi-GLYAH

Community Scrapbook
SIMPLICITY ATTRACTIONS JUDY!
PRIDE FESTIVAL '96

PLUS
Political Survey
The Gypsy Gourmet
Commentary
Horoscope
Here & Now
Resources/Classifieds



tory highlighting lesbigaytrans professionals, merchants and their friends' products and services. The *crossroads* Directory (30,000 complimentary bound editions in all) will be distributed across the state. This is a continual attempt to unify members and supporters of our target community. If you have a business or a service that can be of use to the community, please contact us at 1.888.976.2372 for information.

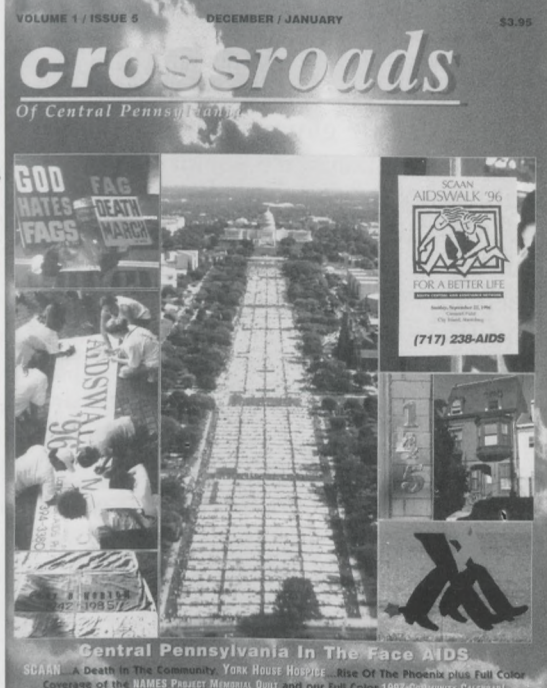
As *crossroads* continues to evolve and grow, we hope that our success will be indicative of the positive reflection, growth and increasing self-esteem of gays and lesbians across the Commonwealth. The impact many have made upon issues concerning each and every one---from same-sex marriages to those infected and affected by breast cancer and HIV; and from the nurturing of our young people to the attainment of civil rights--will continue to be highlighted within the pages of *crossroads*.

Last, but certainly not least, a thanks to you for your support.

Since the germination of the idea that became *crossroads*, I have received constructive criticism as to what should be included inside the magazine. Many valuable ideas, tips and pointers have contributed to the improvements continually seen within the consistently 52 pages of our periodical. Please feel free to call us at any time to offer suggestions, opinions, commentary, story ideas, poetry, photography, etc. that you feel you would like to see in *crossroads*. We are only as good as those who unselfishly donate that time and talent into making this a worthwhile and valuable tool in the effort to bring together people with like-minded philosophies.

Here's to the next 365 days of prose, analysis, critiques, and humor that will make *crossroads* a publication that all will be proud to place on their coffee tables and recommend to their friends.

DR. ERIC W. SELVEY



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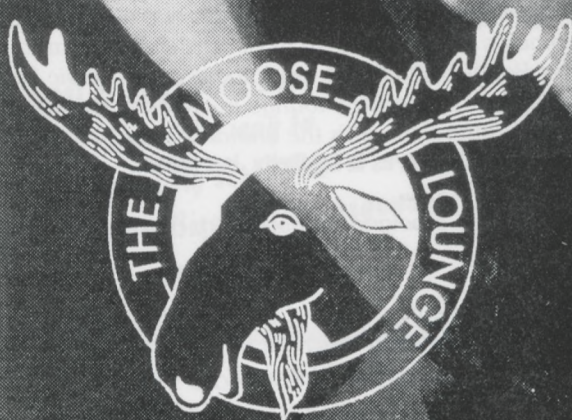
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crossroads

April/May

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Recent divinity school graduate Douglas Fauth inagurates crossroads' religion section with a look at the raging debate in the Presbyterian church in **Civil Rights and Stained Glass**.

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Fire From Hell...Treasures From God introduces us to the Shoemans who were forced due to the bigotry experienced in Middletown which culminated in the burning of their vehicle.

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Contributing writer Antoinette Natale kicks off the return of our travel section with her look at Delaware's Jewel of the Summer in **Ready For Rehoboth**. On temporary leave from his movie desk, Vinton Ash reports on his visit to **Puerto Vallarta: A Hidden Gay Paradise**. Nationally renown comic Linda Herskovic debuts her **Travels With Comic** column while crossroads repeats its review of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA in **It's In The Book**.

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Ray Davis returns with the in's and out's of coming up with the funds for **Financing The Real Estate Transaction**. In the same vein, **A Penny Saved Is A Dollar Invested** is an insightful look at providing for one's future.

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Intolerance by any other names smells just as bad

Your heart is in the right place, but I cannot believe you said "Religious intolerance is one thing. Overt racism is another" in the last issue of *crossroads* (Vol. I, Issue 6). To paraphrase Gertrude Stein, Intolerance is intolerance is intolerance.

I am, unfortunately, all too familiar with Sanford's style of Bible thumping, verbal gymnastics (Letters, Volume I, Issue 5). Self-serving interpretation of Judeo-Christian scripture historically has been, and continues to be, the source of vast amounts of egocentric, xenophobic hatred of anything "different." It is the cause of many of the world's wars and much bloodshed---from the Crusades and Inquisition to today's troubles in Ireland and the Middle East.

By quoting certain passages (whether in or out of context), a case can---and has---been made for all kinds of intolerance based on race, religion, gender and sexual orientation. Since I have come to believe that tolerance of others' differences is a good thing---letters like Sanford's only prove to me that if there is an omnipotent Supreme Being, the Bible (as it has come

down to us through many a biased translator) cannot be the infallible "word of God" that energizes the Fundamentalists and the Religious Right.

This is not a new concept and I do believe Sanford has the right to his beliefs and the right to express them---as long as his belief system is not incorporated into civil laws that impinge on the rights of others. The only ethical way to combat the Religious Right (or the KKK for that matter) is through example and education. What surprises me is that you consider his religious intolerance "one thing" and your friend's overt racism "another." You're right, both are taught, but a religious institution that propagates hatred against another religion, damns a particular lifestyle choice or teaches the inferiority of a gender is just as much at fault as parents who teach racism. It's always easier to "love thy neighbor" in a restricted community.

BOB FELLMAN



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Sharing a light moment at 1995's York Arēa Lambda fundraiser Judy! Judy! Judy! are Joan Wargo (right), Shayne Flowers (left) and Joan's life partner Ro Robusto.

A Silent Pillar

Michele DeCampli

The Central Pennsylvania women's community lost an icon this January. Joan Wargo, co-founder of the Women's Theater Guild, passed away due to medical complications Sunday, January 12, 1997. Joan affected those of us she knew and touched many inadvertently who never had the pleasure of meeting her.

Joan was a driving force within the Women's Theater Guild. She knew what talent Ro Robusto, her partner of 23 years, possessed for the gift of wielding the pen and Joan whole-heartedly encouraged Ro to share this gift with our community. Joan assisted Ro in establishing the not-for-profit organization that was to form in 1989.

You would always find Joan at every performance busy working on raising the mailing list, selling buttons, and encouraging people to get involved in community activities. With us, the ACTORS and DIRECTORS, she shared of herself like no other woman I have known. Joan allowed their home, she and Ro's place of solace, to be transformed into a rehearsal space on numerous occasions. With us, the INDIVIDUAL, she shared her exuberant laughter, her brilliant smile, her unequivocal friendship, and her unconditional love.

I met Joan Wargo during the summer of 1991 at The Unity Festival held at Ski Roundtop. It was an exceptionally hot day and the theater guild was set to perform "The Phase" indoors. There she sat, dutifully outside their performance making additions to their mailing list and selling

the pink buttons that would later become a running joke with the members of the guild.

They were a young group then. After enduring a not well ventilated performance of "The Phase" I went out and spoke with Joan for the first time, explaining that I had previously done work in theater and film. Her smile was warm and friendly. She of course got my address and encouraged me to get involved in their group.

I was busy at the time living my fairie tale life, with my fairie tale princess in our paper mache castle which, unbeknownst to me, was about to crumble - so who had the time to give to a group I knew little about? Needless to say, I proceeded to completely forget about the entire conversation Joan and I had until I received their next mailing.

Receiving that mailing got me thinking about becoming involved with the guild again. Luckily enough, a mutual acquaintance helped set the wheels in motion because I probably would not have initiated the contact.

We arranged a meeting at Ro and Joan's house. Not knowing what to expect, I came complete with resume in tow. I remember Joan's immediate laughter at the fact I had a resume. It was a hearty laugh, filled with spunk and character. I knew I liked her instantly. And so began our affiliation and, more importantly, our friendship. Time went on and so did we, growing and changing as a group, performing in different venues, under different directors, with continual changes in cast members, myself included. Yet the guild went on, with Joan silently at the helm, helping to steer the Women's Theater Guild upon its course.

We in the guild, as people, grew into a

▼ In Memorium ▼

family unit of sorts and over the years that "Like" for Ro and Joan grew into a silent Love, Respect and Admiration for the couple. Together, as Life Partners, Ro and Joan actively worked to share a piece of themselves with our community, teaching us how to do the same.

Joan helped to bring over 1,000 people into their world of love, life and laughter for just a little while through Ro's words. That number still grows today even in her absence. A former director for the guild, Deb Drury, is now in production on one of Ro's works in the state of California.

Joan Wargo continually gave of herself, asking for little in return. She found valuable options when the rest of us were ready to just give up. She was the peace-keeper between WRITER, DIRECTOR and ACTOR when each extended different concepts of how a part should be played. She was our pep-rally leader bringing newfound excitement to each performance. Most importantly she was our friend.

My favorite story involving Joan refers to my continual "political incorrectness" in reference to ladies. As a director of numerous shows in states including California, Louisiana, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, among others, I always ended my rehearsals with "Let's wrap it up Boys and Girls." Being this was no longer appropriate in an all female troupe, I amended this to "O.K. Girls; that's it...See you (next rehearsal day)."

Well, the first time Joan heard this, she about knocked my head sideways. I then proceeded to receive a two hour lecture on why it was completely unacceptable to call a Lady a Girl. But try as I might, Girl kept slipping out. It was an unavoidable habit. I would immediately apologize and it got to the point that Joan would say it with me, raise her eyebrows and smile. In the end, it came to be a term of endearment for us, but God help any other unsuspecting individual who might utter the "Girl" word. I probably ended up being the only person in the world who could get away with referring to Ladies as Girls.

Thank you Joan, for giving so much to so many. Your talents will be truly missed by everyone in our community. And though you were simply the silent pillar of the Women's Theater Guild, without you our voices would never have roared.

Lady, I really miss you. I love you my friend. X

Michele DeCampli was a stage, screen, and television actor, director, model, photographer and writer. While she still models part-time her main focus has now shifted to crossroad publications, Inc. as Public Relations Coordinator.



Hey kids! It's me again...Ms. Biscuit! It's a new year and I'll be bringing you many new things to chuckle over as well as wonder about. So let's get ready 'cause here I go.

On the first Monday of January, I was, by thunderous applause, crowned "Miss January" at the Stallions' "Miss Month" contest. As

always, I was dating Jose Cuervo that nite. It has been rumored that not only was I screaming, "Wait, I want to be Miss January," but also later that nite my breast was seen flying across Third Street from the door of The Strawberry Cafe. "#42", just where exactly is my left breast anyway?

We were then off to The City That Never Sleeps...at least when I'm there! Of course, I'm referring to Baltimore's Miss Gay Maryland America Pageant. It was held at the Hippo on West Eager Street. It started with twelve contestants, but by the end there were only five. It all came down to one of the girls' back-up dancers accepting a tip which thus disqualified her.

Top honors went to my good friend and sister Miss Jessica Douglas. She was crowned by none other than my idol, Maya Montana, who was there to give up her year's reign. The love and support she received from her parents that night was overwhelming. Good luck at Miss America ladies. You're both winners to me!



Back in Harrisburg we have had a busy February starting with the crowning of Miss February at the Stallions going to Hunter Almond. The question now being asked: "Will she give good month?"

On February 9th I dashed to the Raddison Penn Harris to the Stilletto-N-Boots production of "Cupid's Revenge" and yes, Cupid did get revenge that nite. Not that I would talk about it. I won't! So

▼ Biting The Biscuit ▼

that's why I write this column. So pack up and get ready.

I opened the show trying to "sell it," but no one wanted to buy it, "So I sat down on it." Miss Eman-in-a-dress as I so fondly call her was at the show, but missed both her numbers. Maybe one less cocktail next time girl. And let's not forget all those poor cows that had to die for those teddy's that Cassandra and Veronica were wearing. (Do cows produce vinyl?) I guess sometimes, moooooore is better.

There is, as always, one star that outshines the others. Her name was Stephanie Michaels! She came all the way from Virginia just to perform. I guess that's why she is Miss Virginia-at-Large. To bring a close to the nite, I thought "I Found Someone" so I flipped my wig to no avail. He still left with his wife. All money raised that nite went to Positively HIV and the Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian Youth Association (BiGLYAH). Thanks Wayne. You did, as always, put together a fun nite.

Glenda & Friends had a busy Valentine's weekend. The B-TLS' performance of "The Red Velvet Show," held Friday of that weekend, saw Glenda do her world famous somersault. Missy Monroe was Wynonna and broke a heel. (Girl, when they *tell* you to break a heel it is only a figure of speech!) Only one question concerning Sunday's show at the Stallions: did the co-hosts enjoy their treats?



Congratulations go out to Cassandra Van Horne on her recent win as "Miss Cellar of Manheim."

February 16th brought the Miss Hippo Pageant to Baltimore. There were only two contestants. Sad. Miss Vanity Starr won evening gown and talent competition, but lost overall to Tia Chambers. Lauren Mitchele crowned Miss Chambers at the all-star event. Congratulations Tia.

On Saturday, February 22nd the Pennsmen had their "Mr. Harrisburg Contest"! He's none other than *crossroads'* representative Rodney! Why should I, the diva over all, mention a leather contest in my exquisite column? Well, leather is, after all, a form of drag, you sillies.

Now some Idol Gossip...a famous quote overheard at 4 am: "Shoot me with your poison!"

March 9th brought the New Miss Harrisburg Pageant. Good luck has already been bestowed upon all contestants at the pageant held at the Stallions. Pictures, news and, of course, gossip, gossip, gossip concerning this annual event next time kids! Starr "Blow Dryer" Powers was the producer and promoter and at press time. I'm sure it was a memorable evening.

At this time, I want to reintroduce a very special person to our *crossroads'* readers. Her name is Peachie and she's the owner of Peachie's Court in Williamsport. About a month ago, I took the one and a half hour drive up to Williamsport to meet this woman. She is the most down to earth lady I've met. She stands about 5' and is a very funny lady. Together we are working on the "Miss Peachie's Court Pageant." So all of you girls up there better get your wigs and pumps out and get over to Peachie's so she can sign you up! It all will take place on April 19th. So pack your overnite bags and plan a trip to Peachie's Court. I'll be there...will you?

Most importantly, coming up on April 27th is the "Miss Neptune Pageant." It will be held at The Paper Moon restaurant in Harrisburg, which is adjacent to the Neptune. Will I be there? Of course, I will, and with the help of God and my friends, this diva will be Miss Neptune 1997.

It's time to bring this issue's gossip to a close, but before I do, It's Beauty and The Beast time...This tip is very close to home for me so pay attention. *When you have a show and plan on wearing a backless dress, shave at home (your back) and if you have to work after the show, please, oh please, don't drink two bottles of peach schnapps, a bottle of cheap (and I do mean cheap) champagne and a few beers because, my dears, because you probably won't make it to work! Instead, you'll spend last call at the Neptune saying, "Five more minutes, then I'll go to work."*

To my dear friend Carl, thank you for "Being My Valentine."

Until next time, this is your reporting diva saying, "Kiss, kiss, but don't smudge your lipstick."

Ms. B

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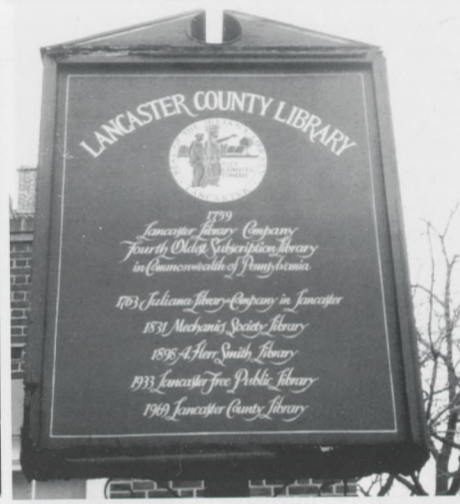
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How Much For That Display In The Window?

Lancaster's county library finds itself embroiled in a controversy involving a local gay community organization while its forty year policy comes into serious jeopardy.

Dr. Eric W. Selvey

Walk into the Lancaster County Library and upon climbing the next four steps, your right eye might catch a framed document with bold red and blue lettering. The Library Bill of Rights, adopted in 1948 by the American Library Association, lists six basic tenets explaining the purpose of the nation's libraries; the final tenet stating:

As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions.

If the library extended this principle to its windows, supporters of Lancaster's Pink Triangle Coalition probably feel the county facility followed this point to a tee. Opponents of PTC's recent display however may feel the county library stretched the point a bit too far.

The display in question, *Celebrating Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Stars*, went into the Duke Street window on November 29th and quickly became the subject of vigorous debate between residents within the Red Rose City and the library; the first of over 100 individual complaints reaching the library one week after. Letters to the editor of Lancaster city's newspapers expressed the outrage felt by many over the in-your-face attitude of PTC's display. No sooner had the display been erected, that it was dismantled and removed from the window.

The outrage within the community rocked the library's 40-year tradition of allowing local non-profit organizations to

display their ideologies in what the library stipulated to be for "cultural, civic or educational purposes." According to Mary Barnard, executive director of the Lancaster County Library, "Many individuals felt the (PTC) display more promotional than educational."

This was not the first time the Lancaster County Library found itself in the eye of the storm. Over the years, controversial themes such as the abortion pro-life/pro-choice debate, along with issues ranging from prevention of teen pregnancy and abstinence and animal rights to pro-hunting, have been the subject of discussion courtesy of the Duke Street window.

For the first time, however, a window display triggered a challenge by members of the community stating the library ignored its own policy guidelines. The challenge initiated a review process that began with a public meeting on December 16th (with the display present) with 150 in attendance. According to PTC spokesperson Mark Stoner, the majority of those present were in favor of the display. As '96 melded into '97, the library board began its review of its display policy.

Nor, for that matter, was this the first time the Pink Triangle Coalition figured prominently in the library's window. Stoner explained their 1995 *Love Makes a Family* photo display featured different representations of family groups including gays/lesbians couples, young couples with babies, single parent families, as well as the conventional *Ozzie & Harriet* families. "The purpose," according to Stoner,

"was to show the different forms families can take within our society and what people consider to be a family."

When the dust settled, the board felt that *Stars* did indeed meet the cultural, civic and educational purposes outlined by the library policy. A compromise was proposed that would allow the PTC display to appear, not in the on-street window, but within the facility's Windolf Room after the Grace Baptist Church of Lancaster's pro-family exhibit ended its three-week run.

The board did not escape the wrath of those who felt the display respectable. Board member Evelyn Lyons resigned after the library voted its compromise stating concerned that the library "did not honor (its) commitment to put that window display up for a full month. We had a policy and everyone agreed the window display fit the policy. And yet we chose, for political reasons or whatever, to remove that display."

Though talk of putting both, the family values' (featuring a Norman Rockwell painting) and *Stars* exhibits on display simultaneously, Stoner explained PTC's opposition to the idea feeling it inappropriate for both groups to publicly compete. He feared that both would appear in competition as the antithesis of the other's ideology.

There were those, even a month after the compromise was announced who vehemently feel the decision made was the wrong one. However, the board has found allies through letters of thanks, support and appreciation received. In fact,

some express surprise in the manner with which the board chose to address the matter.

One of the victims of the fallout appears to be the library's display policy. The board felt that the fundamental purpose of the library does not include exhibits; that the library was not in the business of window displays and thus ended the 40 year practice for non-profit organizations. Only library programs will have the opportunity to catch the eyes of passersby on Duke Street. "The most important thing is to offer material that spans a broad range," Barnard states, "as well as access to information and ideas (that may be) offensive or compromising."

Another victim of the recent debate may be the library's funding sources. The funding, a majority of which comes from the county and neighboring townships, is reliant upon contributions from private and individual donors. Barnard is uncertain whether personal donations, in this community of over 500,000, will drop due to the recent contention or, for that matter, the library/PTC compromise.

"This has been a very troubling and divided period for the library and the community," Barnard says summing up the two-month period of controversy. X

With An Eye To The Future

The tri-county South Central AIDS Assistance Network (SCAAN) closed its doors November 15, 1996 due to a lack of available funds for its programs. The Lancaster AIDS Project was awarded responsibility to serve the clients once serviced by SCAAN. Since November, LAP has undergone a name change to the AIDS Community Alliance which, in addition to its work in Lancaster and Lebanon counties, has taken on the case loads of Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties.

The following is a reprint from ACA's recent newsletter, Affirmations, written by executive director Leanne Porterfield outlining the current status of South Central Pennsylvania's services and the expansion of the former LAP.

One rarely has the ability to select their moments of opportunity. But one must be diligent to seize such moments when they come, perhaps not so much for the immediate result, but for the long term good.

Such was the case with the recommendation of the Executive Director and the unanimous decision of the Board of Directors to submit a proposal to the South Central PA AIDS Planning Coalition to expand our service delivery area to include Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry counties when the existing provider made the difficult decision to close.

And, in the ensuing weeks, we have been asked and have answered many questions, including those stated above. There are, in fact, many very valid and important reasons for our decision to expand.

The first concern was for the stability of the (then!) Lancaster AIDS Project with its current programs. LAP had long been committed to the concept of mergers or alliances for long range stability and survival. Adding Lebanon two years ago reinforced this model of joining programs. The program in the Capital region remained the only 'free-standing' AIDS service organization within our coalition region with which we could consider merger. Conversations about this concept had occurred with SCAAN staff more than a year ago. Although the action may have been slightly premature to our long range planning, had another organization been awarded this region, it may well have negated our efforts to pursue merged programs at any time in the

future.

LAP staff have been working for the past six months with other regional AIDS service organizations on a program to provide comprehensive managed care services for persons living with HIV disease, and the involvement of the larger base of clients which the former Harrisburg program represented was important in our ability to negotiate through this contract process. Although this was not about LAP solely, clearly the development of such a managed care network would be of great value to those to whom we provide services, and also would be a funding source for our case management program.

Our second concern was for persons living with HIV disease as well as their families and support networks. We believe firmly in the model of the community based organization, and in the need for a case management provider to not be a direct service provider, so as to avoid conflict issues and to best be able to advocate for client needs. We also carefully listened as consumers, volunteers, agencies and citizens shared their sense of wanting a community based organization to continue to be the AIDS service provider. Our proposal was the only proposal submitted from a community based organization and was accompanied by several hundred signatures of clients along with others who wanted to show their support for our efforts.

Finally, we believed that continuing to have the voice and face of an AIDS service organization in the Capital region of the Commonwealth was essential. With government funding cuts occurring across the human service system, it is important to be effective and visible in delivering services.

So we networked, and we wrote, and we met and we won! On November 18th we began to provide case management and support services to persons living with HIV disease in the counties of Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry. In the process of writing the proposal, winning the award and in attending countless meetings with anyone who wanted to ask, talk or hear, I have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of support. I look forward to developing positive relationships throughout the new counties, and to intertwining the county programs together into a quality continuum of case management and supportive services. X

**OPEN
OPEN
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STAGE
OF HARRISBURG**

April 18 - May 11

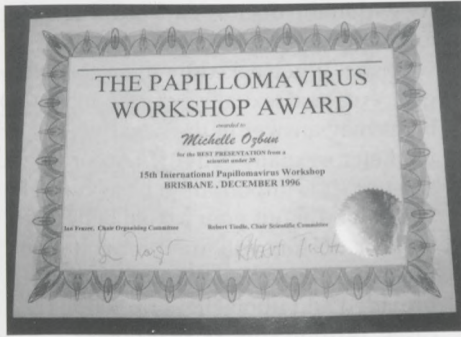
**Angels in
America**

**Part One:
Millennium
Approaches**

By Tony Kushner

232-OPEN





Into The Scientific Breach

Worldwide prominence is awarded to Colorado transplant Dr. Michelle Ozbun

whose work provides insight to the virus that may have far reaching consequences for all women--and lesbians in particular.

Dr. Eric W. Selvey

Scientific research is not unlike the game of *Clue*. Clues are presented, sometimes accidentally discovered, that lead to the unlocking of mysteries that will be of benefit to the welfare of the human populace. The past few years have witnessed a fount of information unleashed concerning the genetic nature of certain ailments that have had, in many cases, detrimental effects on both the body and the human psyche.

Biological studies have been successful in determining the exact genomes responsible for the deteriorating states in maladies ranging from breast cancer to cystic fibrosis to AIDS. Discovery of the molecular ins and outs have provided the *Peroits* and *Christies* of the science world never-ending evidence in the development of vaccines and drug protocols that may one day eradicate the somatic nuisances that continuously plague the human condition.

Such is the task currently undertaken by one Harrisburg doctor who was recently awarded a certificate for unlocking the last step mechanism of the organism responsible for cervical cancer--a condition of paramount concern among the world's female population. Colorado native Dr. Michelle Ozbun, a postdoctoral fellow at Hershey's Penn State University College of Medicine, has discovered novel mechanisms by which the human papillomavirus (HPV) can create the outer protein shell it uses in the production of new viruses.

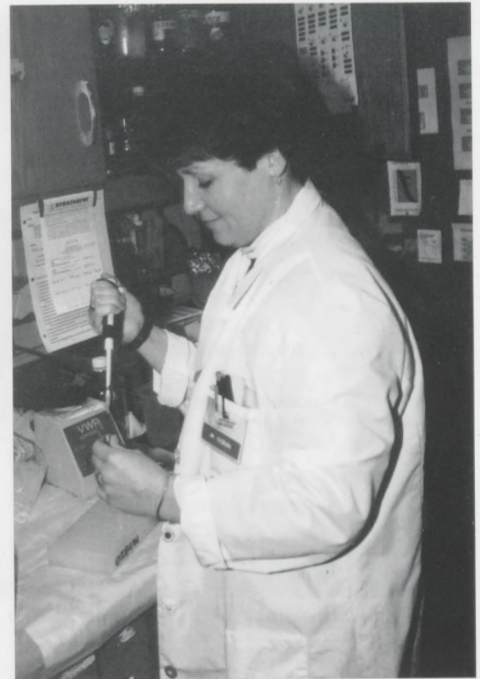
HPV is the causative agent for many benign conditions of the skin (i.e., warts of the hand, feet, and genital areas). However, genital warts fall into two categories: benign neoplasms (tumors) and malignant tumors. The latter is the area of Ozbun's expertise. In fact, there are over 70 different types of HPVs, but only about 10 types lead to genital malignancies.

In most cases, cervical cancer arises from the introduction of HPV into the genital region via sexual contact. This infection is necessary for the virus to carry out its opportunistic duties. Once present within the cells of the cervix, HPV commandeers the cell's machinery to make its own proteins and DNA. The small quantities of proteins made by HPV may escape the range of the immune system's radar. This covert activity seems to retard the ability of the immune system to effectively assist the body in defending itself.

In many instances, the virus reprograms the infected cell so that new viral DNA and proteins are made simultaneously. This results in the production of new viral particles that can infect other cells, either within that individual or by transmission to another person. However, sometimes HPV becomes inhibited in its ability to make new viruses. When this happens, a tumor may result. Says Ozbun, "Viruses are very tricky in that they are amazingly small entities that can really screw up the normal functions of a cell. Their small size and ability to overpower a cell make them interesting to study. They seem so simple and yet we don't really know how they work."

Although HPV is present in about 90% of all cases of cervical cancer, not every person infected with HPV will develop cancer. A woman has an 80% chance of infection with HPV in her lifetime. Yet, less than 5% of those infected will display any symptoms (e.g., an abnormal Pap smear or genital warts). Further, only about 15% of those with symptoms will go on to develop invasive cervical cancer. A whole host of circumstances that influence the outcome of the HPV infection come into play, including the virus type, the number of viruses, and the woman's general health status and immune system.

As with any other type of cancer, early detection can be the key to survival. An



individual infected with HPV may go ten or more years before exhibiting symptoms of cervical cancer. This latency period alone stresses the importance for regular check-ups. "The Pap smear is an important tool to catch cervical abnormalities before they go too far," according to Ozbun. Dr. Ozbun, a 32-year-old lesbian and Hershey Medical Center's representative to Penn State University's Commission for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Equity (CLGBE) "know(s) many lesbians don't have it done because they've associated all this with heterosexual activity. However, the fact is, we don't

Profile

Dr. Michelle Ozbun

Postdoctoral Fellow of oncological virology at Penn State University College of Medicine

Age: 32

Native State: Colorado

Education: Bachelor of Science in Microbiology,

Minor in Chemistry from Colorado State University.

Ph.D. for her work on the genetics of breast cancer from the Division of Molecular Virology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. Postdoctoral fellowship at Penn State University College of Medicine

Current Home: Harrisburg, PA

Community Activities:

Co-Chair of the Business Association of Gays And Lesbians (BAGAL)

Co-chair of Table Captains/Tickets for 1996's

Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB '96)

Volunteer with the Gay and Lesbian

Switchboard of Harrisburg (GLSH)

"Voice For a Cure" Breast Cancer Benefit Concert, 1996

Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity

Volunteer Judge for the Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair, 1996 and 1997



know all of the ways that HPV may be transmitted, so it's really important for all women to have a regular Pap smear."

Ozbun's interest in the subject of HPV stems back to her early desire to do AIDS research. Because there were no vacancies for students in the labs studying HIV at Baylor College of Medicine, her focus was redirected to the area of cancer research, specifically viral oncology. Ozbun acquired her Ph.D. following her research project on mutation of the tumor suppressor gene *p53* in the early stages of breast cancer.

Dr. Ozbun has been able to make her recent discovery via a system that permits the growth of human skin in the laboratory and using a cell line that produces HPV. The system, a creation of Dr. Craig Meyers, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Ozbun's current mentor, is also being used as an alternative to laboratory animal testing of certain drugs and other chemical agents prior to human use. Dr. Meyers is responsible for recruiting Ozbun to Penn State Hershey and encouraged her to seek funding for her postdoctoral training in his laboratory. A three year fellowship, beginning in April 1995, was subsequently awarded to Ozbun by the National Cancer Institute, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

Cervical cancer is a major issue of health concern among the world's female population. In women in developing countries cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Concern about cervical cancer is on the rise in wealthier industrial nations. In the 90's alone, incidence and death rates from cervical cancer have increased in the United States, where the malady has taken on socioeconomic importance. Women from

lower socioeconomic groups tend to be victimized by this agent more than those from the high echelons of the scale. In addition, black women generally have lower cervical cancer survival rates than their white counterparts.

The scientific literature indicates that women with a history of early sexual activity and those with multiple sexual partners are more susceptible to infection with the virus. Ozbun feels that the recent increase in the incidence of cervical cancer in the US is in part due to the "sexual revolution" of the 60's and 70's that deigned it acceptable to have frequent sexual experiences with a large number of partners.

The statistics on the incidence of cervical cancer are scarce to nonexistent among lesbians. In addition, little is known about the risk factors associated with transmission of the virus or progression of the disease in lesbians. This is due to a number of reasons, primarily the lack of controlled studies including lesbians. Also, many women do not come out as gay to their physicians, and so there is a limited recognition of lesbians as a group among gynecologists.

Dr. Ozbun finds herself aggravated when she meets lesbians who fail to have a Pap smear simply because they are currently not heterosexually active. She feels that the long viral latency period preceding the appearance of cervical lesions may give a false sense of security to many women who may have discovered their homosexual orientation after being sexually active with men. Although some women have never had a male sex partner, Ozbun feels these women also should have a regular Pap smear as it's unclear whether the virus may enter the cervical region by other means besides sexual intercourse.

The issues of comfort and confidential-

ity within the doctor/patient relationship are important are important for all women. "When asked by their gynecologist, 'Are you sexually active?', many lesbians may answer in the negative, assuming heterosexually activity." According to Ozbun, "It is important to be as honest as you can be about your sexual behaviors because doctors will interpret your condition based upon the information you have provided and upon similar previous cases." Ozbun stresses that honest answers from lesbian patients will benefit not only those patients, but also the physicians who are assimilating the information and the lesbian patients that follow. This will help put female maladies into clearer perspective for all women and clinicians alike.

Although genital warts in men appear to progress to cancer with much less frequency than in women, it is important for men also to be aware of the health risks associated with HPV infection. For example, it has been documented that a condom may fail to protect from exposure to HPV if genital warts are apparent on the penis. This is because the rough texture of the wart may actually break or tear the latex, a fact that may compromise "safe sex" altogether.

Since Ozbun has been a member of the CLGBE, she has recommended sensitivity training for the medical and nursing students in dealing with gay and lesbian patients at Hershey Medical Center. "I've often heard stories of doctors lecturing patients after finding out their female patients were sexually active but not using birth control. When a physician assumes a patient is heterosexual, it can make it difficult for the patient to comfortably disclose his or her sexual orientation." To Penn State's credit, the Medical College has promoted seminars geared toward educating the medical students and residents to ask more open-ended questions that promote a more comfortable atmosphere for lesbian and gay patients.

As for Dr. Ozbun, the clock is winding down signaling the end of her three year funding. Ozbun will be applying for further funding to extend her research with an eye toward the day when the department's combined research, along with its revolutionary system, will unlock more doors thus solving more of the mysteries that will benefit all. X



Civil Rights and Stained Glass

Douglas Fauth, M. Div.

In a new section for crossroads, recent divinity school graduate Doug Fauth tackles the religious aspects that affect the lesbian/gay/trans community; beginning with the decision the Presbyterian Church is in a position to make.

There's an old saying. There are two things you never discuss in mixed company: politics and religion. And no two subjects cut closer to our last gay nerves. Many of us who have sworn off organized religion quickly add that we feel a strong spirituality. We may even practice prayer or reading of scripture on our own. For many, the feeling is we have not given up on organized religion. It has given up on us.

In spite of, or even because of rocky relations with organized religion, many lesbian/gay persons, joined by supportive family and friends, continue one of the longest struggles for justice and equality. That struggle takes place within the sanctuaries of faith.

Ordination and leadership of noncelibate openly lesbian/gay clergy is a main litmus test of religious inclusion and justice. Although the Metropolitan Community Church, founded in the 1960's, is a well-known and much respected refuge in our lesbian/gay community, many feel called to hold accountable the institutions by which we were baptized, confirmed, taught and otherwise celebrated life passages.

While there has been action on lesbian/gay issues among a number of mainline religious bodies in the past year, the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA) are two bodies most notably dealing with the ordination issue.

In Spring 1996, Episcopal Bishop Walter Righter faced a possible heresy trial for ordaining openly gay, noncelibate Hummelstown native Barry Stoepfel, now a priest in the Diocese of Newark (NJ), in 1990. On May 15, following a well-publicized preliminary hearing, a church court ruled "there is no discipline of the church prohibiting the ordination of a non-celibate homosexual." The court was clear that it was not rendering an opinion of its

own on such an ordination. An attorney for Righter said, "It (the court ruling) is not saying it's OK, it's saying it's not illegal (by church law)."

The 7-1 ruling did, however, make the Episcopal Church only the second mainline denomination in which ordination of noncelibate lesbian/gay clergy has been allowed. In the other, the United Church of Christ, openly gay or lesbian persons have been ordained by a number of the denomination's 204 regional associations, each of which sets its own policies and standards for ordination.

In July 1996, the annual General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)---PCUSA---sent a proposed amendment of the church's Book of Order to the local bodies, or presbyteries, for approval. The General Assembly sets PCUSA policy and church law. Commonly called the "Fidelity and Chastity Amendment," it would, if passed, elevate current policy to church constitutional law. While it would affect heterosexual Presbyterians, the amendment would clearly bar noncelibate lesbian/gay persons from ordination, stating that among standards for ordination "is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage of a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness."

The 172 local presbyteries are expected to have studied and voted for or against ratification before the 1997 General Assembly in June. A majority of presbyteries must ratify the amendment for it to become part of the Book of Order.

Rev. Brenda Brooks, Associate for Social and Racial Justice for the local PCUSA Synod of the Trinity (headquartered in Camp Hill) says that, among the many variables affecting a vote, may be the personal touch. "People respond to people," Brooks says. "For many people this is talking about those we don't know. It helps to hear stories from folks who

A COMPLETELY UNOFFICIAL, SUBJECTIVE GUIDE to possible lesbian/gay-friendly places of faith...and why

SECOND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, HBG.
Has, until recently, hosted the Harrisburg Men's Chorus; in the middle of Harrisburg's gay ghetto.

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH, LANCASTER
Progressive, pacifist, "plain" tradition, said to be welcoming.

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, LANCASTER
Recent meeting place of PFLAG Lancaster.

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSES, LOCATED IN MOST AREA CITIES
Also known as "Quakers," the Friends have a quiet tradition of religious tolerance; often open their doors to new MCC congregations.

TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN, SUBURBAN HBG.
Newer congregation, reportedly very welcoming; hosted service when SCAAN closed.

ST. JOHN EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LANCASTER
Many lesbian/gay folks swear by it. Long history of sensitivity to minority, lesbian/gay and HIV/AIDS concerns.

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, HBG.
Said to be welcoming; advertised Lenten services in Harrisburg gay watering holes.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, HBG.
Have opened their doors to MCC, Lutherans. Concerned and other community groups.

CONGREGATION SHARAI SHOMAYIM (REFORMED), LANCASTER AND TEMPLE BETH SHALOM OF GREATER HARRISBURG, MECHANICSBURG
Rabbis Carl Choper and Jack Paskoff, respectively, are two of the area's non-MCC religious leaders eloquently speaking out against actions of the Elizabethtown Area School District Board.

UNITY CHURCH OF HARRISBURG
A number of lesbian/gay folks call the Unity Church "home." Unity Church has had an active presence in annual Pride Festivals.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LANCASTER, UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG AND UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF YORK
Progressive, with Judeo-Christian roots and style, but maintains a wide range across the belief spectrum; many local congregations have an organized lesbian/gay support/affinity group.

MCC OF THE SPIRIT, HBG. & VISION OF HOPE MCC, MOUNTVILLE (LANCASTER Co.)
Predominantly lesbian/gay congregations, actively involved in ministries of community outreach, witness, support and education in addition to worship.

know someone, but not everyone gets that privilege. Unfortunately, the stranger doesn't become visible."

Locally, the Carlisle presbytery (covering Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Juniata, Lebanon, and Perry counties) and Donegal presbytery (Chester and Lancaster counties) both of which cover most of south central Pennsylvania, have voted in favor of the amendment. As of press time, the national church news office, Presbytertel, reported that 30 presbyteries had voted against the amendment, 25 in favor. The report did not include the two local presbyteries, tightening the vote to 27 in favor.

According to Brooks, a final vote to ratify the amendment would raise a variety of painful issues and situations.

"How do you enforce something like this?" asks Brooks. "Do you go after someone on a suspicion? Do you pursue those who have been ordained because you just don't know? Do you go after the person who seems extremely secretive about their personal life? If this is ratified, expect the church courts to be clogged."

Meanwhile, the religious scene for lesbian and gay folks in south central Pennsylvania is diverse (See Resources page). While many of us call MCC congregations in Harrisburg and Mountville our spiritual home, there are wide ranging local choices, from the unitarian Universalists to Dignity to a wiccan/neo-Pagan coven to a gay Cloister.

Many of us are able to find a faith home among more liberal or progressive congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Mennonite Church, the Church of the Brethren, the United Church of Christ, and Reformed Jewish synagogues. Clergy and members are often supportive and welcome lesbian and gay presence and participation, but openness still varies greatly from place to place and person to person.

For those feeling religiously inclined, the best advice might be to follow heart and head and explore. A faith home may be in an expressly welcoming setting of mostly lesbian and gay persons or, for others, where beliefs vary widely and no explicit welcome or affirmation is made. And, for many, spiritual expression remains irreconcilable with any organized religion. ✕

Douglas Fauth, M. Div. is a 1996 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary and the first openly gay person approved for ordination by the Harrisburg Association of the United Church of Christ. Doug lives in York.

A Day to Celebrate the Gifts of the Lord



The Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit dedicated their new house of worship back in November in the presence of over 200 members and well wishers. For Pastor Eva O'Diam, it was a day that had long wished for--the day to continue the growth of a church within a new edifice. The congregation had been in the building since July and kept their Sunday evening services though they recently added services in the morning.

The afternoon service was an inspirational triumph courtesy of Rev. Arlene Ackerman, Mid-Atlantic District Coordinator (Top photo right with Pastor Eva O'Diam), advising the members to keep the church alive with its enthusiasm was all she had to do to keep the interest alive within a congregation who shared Pastor Eva's dream. The church was the proud recipient of a new Bible courtesy of Mountville's Vision Of Hope Metropolitan Church of the Spirit.

Of course, an MCC of the Spirit service would not be complete without the breaking of the bread and passing of the cup. Assisting in sharing of the sacrament of the body were members of the church as well as visitors from other MCC's.

Making a joyful noise unto the Lord throughout the day, along with the church choir was the group Kindred Spirits, area singer/songwriter Bobbi Carmitchell and the Harrisburg Men's Chorus (below).



Grabbing The Rainbow

J.R. Nevin

Since my column appeared in the December/January 1996 issue of *crossroads*, I've been asked to expand on the child abuse issue; to relay my story on a personal level. After weeks of inner turmoil, I've decided to cross this bridge. I do this in hopes that no one will feel so alone and that somehow, this will benefit my personal journey to wholeness.

My very first childhood memory is of me being in a dimly lit barn, giving oral gratification to a man in his fifties. The atmosphere and experience set the stage for what I would perform for the next 28 years. This first of many experiences created a multi-layered life that few adults, let alone a four-year-old child, would be able to manage.

Many seeds that would grow into personality traits, habits and attitudes were unknowingly planted into a child's mind. I'm now starting to understand how deeply rooted these seeds have anchored. I've chopped down several of these trees but pulling out the stumps and roots will be a lifetime of maintenance.

I can't remember how it started or what was said but something must have been said that would not allow me to tell anyone about the abuse. Being raised in a very strict religious atmosphere didn't exactly help the situation. As a very young child, you like to make your parents happy; the love, kisses and hugs are rewards for being a "good boy". The church drills into youth that "being good" and "pleasing Jesus" is their function in life. Jesus was always watching over and on you. He knew when you did "bad" things, lied to your parents, etc., but he was also the Shepherd that rescued the lost lamb.

As I stated earlier, I remember nothing about my childhood prior to the abuse, but I knew even then that what I was doing was bad. The knowledge that God could see I was doing these bad things produced guilt every waking minute. I was bad! (the very first seed planted), but I had faith that the Shepherd would appear and rescue the lamb. This didn't

happen. Thus another seed planted---the confusion of faith. I was a fertile sowing ground at age four. What four-year-old isn't? The seeds sowed on my field should have been sown much later in life. A four-year-old is not ready to make decisions or understand questions on sex, secrets, trust, faith or being a bad person. I wanted to be loved by others, especially by my parents, but who could love a "bad boy". So I couldn't risk the love by telling them that I was a bad boy. The double life would be my secret; my punishment for somehow making myself into a bad boy.

Another seed was planted along the way---an uncomfortable feeling with the word "love". I remember being eight-years-old and praying at the alter every Sunday night for God to kill me. I was taught that suicide was a sin, so God had to kill me in order to assure my entry into Heaven. I would ask for forgiveness of sin and pray that God would kill me right after so that I never sin again.

Obviously, this didn't happen either. I was so bad, so disgusting, that even God didn't want me. I figured, however, that only God knew my secrets so I decided to be as good as I possibly could, to please others at any cost in the hopes that God would change His mind. I read my Bible and the stories contained within, went to church, prayed, and participated in every church function I could.

God would still not kill me, but this line of reasoning started my doormat trait; allowing everyone to wipe their feet on me just to hide the bad, to be accepted and liked/loved...to be good. I still fight this logic. This was also about the time my weight started to quickly increase and my headaches (which started at age five) took on sickening strengths.

During adolescence, I got other males to like me because I was willing to give them oral sex. I discovered later that while they were pretending to like me for the "getting off", behind my back I was the joke of the day. This helps to germinate the seeds of mistrust, taking people at face value, trusting that what was said was what was meant only to be later disillusioned.

I was still being abused by the original abuser, but as I grew older, I found ways to hide. When I heard his car coming in the driveway or knew he was around, I would turn all the lights out, the TV off, and sit in the dark until he left. Another habit I hung onto was running and hiding from adversity. Even now there are times when, for no apparent reason, I get

the urge to run, to drive as fast as I can, to disappear. The feeling/impulse still has an overwhelming power that can overshadow every sense of logic I possess.

One thing I failed to mention was the confusion about the enjoyment of the physical sensations I experienced. This probably produced the most guilt. How could I enjoy any part of this terrible situation? This helped convince me that I was bad to the core. I was damned forever. How could I both like and hate something all at once? Yet another perplexing question for a four-year-old child, or for that matter an adolescent, who doesn't have the facilities to answer.

My family considered me to be their most unusual child, (no wonder). I didn't like to attend family functions, when family came to the house, I always retreated to my room. At times I was portrayed to be a snob. Reading was my way out. I could be anyone, go anywhere and do anything I wanted. I read to escape my world. I read to be handsome, to be smart, to be loved, to be needed, to be "normal". This was one of the few benefits I gained by being abused, and the area I'm from, well all the book reading made me a freak as well. Farmers don't have time to read.

I was a highly emotional child, would cry at the drop of a hat. I eventually discovered that there was also a strength about me. That was that I was different from other people. I had to make myself feel special. To do this I did things that were out of the ordinary for the area in which I lived. I was creative, imaginative and "artsy" all of which helped to create a physical barrier for the mental barrier I already had developed. I created a physical isolation to match the mental and emotional isolation I endured.

This is probably why I still live alone at age 33. I had no close friends, I had plenty of "friends" because of the doormat self-esteem, but no heart-to-heart friends. I love the movie *The Breakfast Club*. I wonder at times if I had a circle of friends to confide in during my teen years, would my life be any different. Wondering "if" crosses into a whole new world. For most of my life, the "What if?" question was ever present. I realize that everyone has "What ifs?" but for me, every direction of my life was "What if?". Would I be gay "if", would I have had a different career "if", would I be fat, would I be smart, would I have someone "if", "if", "if".

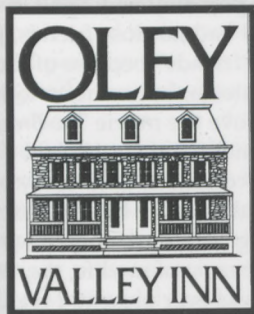
cont.

I read to escape my world. I read to be handsome, to be smart, to be loved, to be needed, to be "normal".

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Finally you have to stop or go nowhere. These are the basics and there are no words possible to relay the experience, but to fast forward. After two suicide attempts, years of self-loathing, crack addiction, countless unsafe sex partners, etc., I finally started to put things into perspective. *Started.* I don't know if I will ever be rid of all the effects of the abuse.

About three years ago, someone told me it was O.K. to like, even love myself. This concept scared the living hell out of me. Without the self hate, depression, the loneliness, what was left? They were all that I had and all that I was.

Funny, the letting go and change of direction has made space for more positive things in my life. Someone once said that I was an adult now, that I should grow up and forget the past. Problem is, I was forced to grow up at age four, and even now there are times I want to be childish. I want to remember a time forever lost (or stolen). When I was simply a child and had childlike thoughts. For those of you who actually understand this, don't let anyone tell you there is a time to grow up and a

time to forget. These are the very ones that have no idea what you've been through.

I, after living my own experience of child abuse, have no idea what you've been through. Everyone's experience is their own, but having my own experience will help me share someone else's abuse. Thankfully, I can now laugh, cry, scream and talk in a way that someone who was not abused can do. Sharing is the start. I could go on and on about the damages, and some might feel sorry, even shed a tear or two. But, for a victim of abuse, sharing is a way to do your own grieving for the lost child, it starts the healing process that needs no one else's pity. You might say, "Oh no!" to this idea, but I think a gay and lesbian survivor's child abuse group would a wonderful thing. I don't have time to put one together, but if someone has the time and energy, let me know.

Stay happy and safe, Next article will be back to community affairs...or the lack of them. X

regrets

*Sitting here missing you
 wishing there was something
 I could do*

*I don't know how long
 I've wanted you back -
 These feelings are still so strong*

*I never let anyone in
 until you came along
 and perforated my skin*

*I always thought I'd get over you
 now I know it's something
 I'll never do*

*If only I had one more chance
 to make you smile -
 to relive our dance*

*In giving me just a little time
 I could rekindle our flame
 and you'd again be mine*

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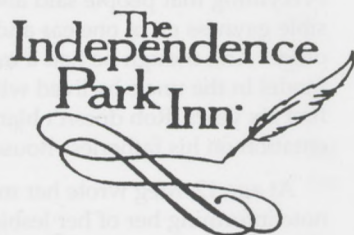
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fire from hell...

A Harrisburg mother and son tell of the turmoil and upheaval they experienced that brought them to the Capital City.

Dr. Eric W. Selvey

Tina Shoeman never dreamed of living in Harrisburg. She heard the city was not a good place to live. Her upbringing in Londonderry township was happy and safe unlike what the big city would be. As the youngest of six, Tina grew up under the careful watch of her mother and her three sisters teaching the many lessons that would prepare her for life.

Tranquility reigned within the Shoeman household as Tina grew up. Her family did not prepare her for the ignorance and hatred forced upon her and her twin children within the last few years all of which culminating in the tragedy which occurred in the early hours of August 24, 1996. Tina's 1985 Renault burst into flames that evening chalking up yet one more incident in a series that would attempt to shake her faith and triggered her mother hen reflex to take her brood into the security of the Capital City.

Tina Shoeman is the proud mother of twins—a 18-year-old boy and girl who are both gay. There is a humorous adage commonly shared among many gay men and women that states "mothers always know that their child is gay." Those that are truly loving simply hope their children will reveal to them their true sexual identity. This concept never occurred to Tina in the early years even though she did notice that Rob and Meg's psychosocial sexual roles were switched, "Rob was the girl, Meg the boy" Christmastime in the Shoeman household proved quite interesting. Close family members and friends knew not to give the traditional GI Joe and Barbie dolls to Rob and Meg, respectively. Both would scream and cry in front of their benefactors because they didn't like their gender designated gifts. "I taught them to wait until the family left before switching their gifts with each other," Tina fondly remembers.

Rob's artistic talents were evidenced as early as age four when he would design Barbie outfits on paper and make the dresses. Tina was proud of him and really thought that that was what little boys did. She allowed her kids to explore their cre-



ativity. This switch of gender roles provided another heartbreak for Tina when she had to discourage a distraught Rob from wearing the Easter dress he so desperately wanted to wear at age four. "They've always been that way. They were born that way. I had no problem with it, but I was upset to have to tell him 'no' because society would not accept such a sight."

As they were growing up, the friends and family always noted something peculiar about Rob, but never about Meg who insisted and believed at one point that her name was "John". Their behavior drew questions from friends, but she did not think much about it because she felt that was what kids did to amuse themselves on the road to growing up. Besides, being the youngest of six children, she never witnessed her brothers playing with trucks so this all was nothing more than part of the natural progression for her children.

What really began to concern Tina, as Rob began his journey through adolescence were his feminine mannerisms. She recalls the time when she sincerely asked her son to teach her how to walk because "I walk like a lumberjack." Rob thought his androgyny was a part of him, but now realizes it was nothing more than a defense mechanism in response to the hatred unleashed upon him. "I developed a lot of feminine traits like body language and my speech to a very dramatic extent early on because the world tells you how gay men are (wearing pink, big straw hats, carry bags, arrange flowers, decorate weddings)." It all seemed natural then but

looking back, Rob now feels more comfortable than he did during that phase of his adolescence.

Tina, an unwed mother with no male presence in the house for much of Rob's life, never felt that her son's early adolescent feminine traits or sexual orientation were caused by the lack of a male figure. Even as acquaintances talked, she let everything that people said about his possible gayness go in one ear and out the other. And though he had a male role model in the uncle he lived with only his first six years, Rob doesn't blame his orientation on his fatherless household.

At age 12, Meg wrote her mother a note informing her of her lesbian sexual orientation. In receiving the note, Tina discovered she loved Meg even more "because she needed me to love her more. I thought about what was ahead of her and knew she needed me more than ever." Even though she told her mother, Meg had plenty emotional problems which made Tina dote on her daughter more. Says Tina, "She's very proud of who she is." Rob's coming out, on the other hand, was a totally different story.

Sometime after she came out to her mother Meg, through her natural curiosity piqued by her brother's talent, "found" a sketch of two men in an embrace in Rob's briefcase. Torn between her devotion to both her mother and her brother, Meg took the drawing to her mother. Tina, figuring her son was gay, approached Rob about his sexuality which he totally denied it.

Giving Rob the benefit of the doubt,

●

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Tina let the subject rest. One of the reasons for the denial on Rob's part was the treatment that other gay children received when they revealed to their parents their orientation. Rob also felt he would add another uncomfortable burden to what he felt was his mother's already heavy load. In fact, he concocted a scheme that would find him telling his mother about his homosexuality after he graduated college. He wanted to keep it "nice, neat and clean" until then. During that time, Tina became terrified that Rob wouldn't have anyone to turn to if in fact he was gay. Her only hope was that he would confide in his twin because of their close relationship. He hadn't.

Rob did however have his art to fall back on. Expressing his fears and feelings through his work. He would create "beautiful pictures" of people deliberately falling off cliffs and buildings into pools of water. In retrospect, Rob describes that period as a twisted concept that he created to express his inner self; perhaps losing himself for a while in the fantasy world he created for himself.

Tina is amused when she tells of the moment when Rob came out to her about his sexual orientation though some may look upon the experience as a mother dragging her son kicking and screaming out of the proverbial closet. "I had to pull him out (of the closet) by his hair." Four days after his 15th birthday, found Tina driving Rob from the eye doctor's (with his new purple opaque lenses and faux blond hair). As they were driving along, Melissa Etheridge's *Come To My Window* came forth from the radio which provided Tina the opportunity to once again inquire about Rob's sexual orientation. Using a different tactic, she asked him if he knew that Ms. Etheridge was gay to which he lied and said, "No." Once again she asked if he was and the denial was coupled with the whining of "Mommomm" streaming from his lips. Tina replied, "I think you are and you're afraid to tell me." He confessed to his mother and asked that they not go home immediately, but instead divulged the hell in which he was living since the stirrings of his sexual being first occurred.

With everything finally out in the open, Rob found that one way to deal with his sexual identity was to tell anyone who asked him the truth about his orientation. This made him somewhat popular especially with the many underclassmen who found Rob more of a sideshow attraction. They approached him and asked if he was indeed gay only to find themselves amazed by his candor. Another way Rob dealt with his homosexuality was "gothic camouflage." Dressed from head to toe in black, with black mascara and eyeliner and jet black hair, Rob would dress in the style of the early 80's punkers as a way of warding off those who would desire to cause him bodily harm.

This did not prevent anyone from casting verbal abuse in his direction. There was the time the kids had a substitute teacher which practically gave Rob's student critics license to verbally abuse him while his friends sat in stunned amazement. The teacher, meanwhile, sat unconcerned looking at papers on his desk. Or the time to use Rob's words, the "emotionally distraught individual" who would stand in their yard waiting for Rob to come home after school crying and screaming, "get away from me faggot!," even though Rob was far away.

As the 1995-96 school progressed, peer harassment within the Middletown Area High School grew to alarming and potentially dangerous levels. As Rob's peers continued to give the 17-year-old a hard time, Tina decided to keep him out of school for three weeks in fear for his life. Tina and Rob were both convinced that the school did not seem to care when both met with Rob's principal and guidance counselor after the self-imposed exile. The cause of the abuse, in the eyes of the administrators, centered solely on Rob's makeup and gothic appearance. Both Tina and Rob are certain that the school felt that he was deserving of his punishment.

As for Meg, who had not been openly gay in the private Christian school she attended, but was appalled by one instance that occurred during her tenure. Tina tells the story of the time when the

school took Meg to a service where she was mortified by the jokes about gays coming forth from the pulpit to the amusement of the congregation. Meg has since left that school and recently began school outside of Harrisburg.

The Shoeman family practices the basic tenets of Christianity. All the Shoemans believe anyone can be gay and Christian. Meg, in fact, is very dedicated to the Word of God and plans on becoming a minister. Rob is not big on organized religion because of the open gay bashing by parishioners who, along with members of an intolerant clergy, drive people away from the church. While they lived in Middletown, the family was continuously amazed by the hypocrisy of those who called themselves followers of the Word. Rob was confronted by a family friend who inquired as to his sexual orientation. When he told her the truth, she responded that it wasn't true; that demons were talking. When she was finally convinced, she proceeded to call Rob an abomination

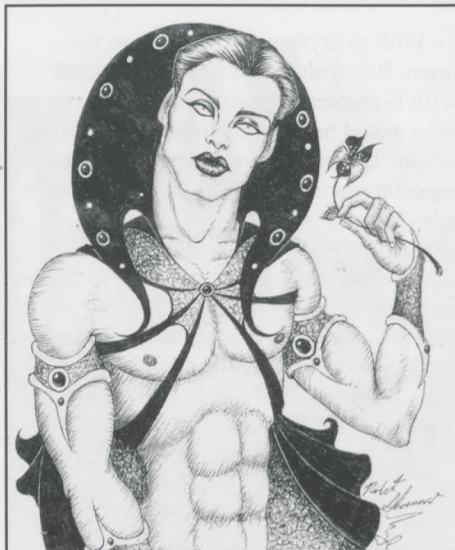


Surrounded by treasures is Tina (seated) and standing (from l to r) are Ryan, Rob and Meg. Cleo the dog cannot be seen in this 1997 family portrait.

...treasures from God

in the eyes of God. "Needless to say, she is not a friend anymore," says Tina. "He is from God, not an abomination to God."

They also feel that a person's sexual orientation is not a choice, but a decision of God. Tina "can understand where straight people come from (in their thinking) because I was raised in a Christian home and was taught at an early age by my church and family to believe that gay people go to hell." The gay brother of a family became a subject of intense interest for Tina. She continued to watch him and was amazed at how nice a person he was, but felt very sad that his soul was headed



Rob Shoeman Self Portrait, 1997

"Religion is within ourselves. I would refuse to sit in church and hear that my kids are going to hell. I got over that because I looked at my kids and saw what I raised and the goodness in them that is unbelievable. I wish I had the goodness in me that they have---the morality and the love and the compassion for people that they have. I've never met anybody else, except for my mom who had that."

for eternal damnation. Hence the fear for her children, especially Rob, who continued to carry the burden in silence throughout his early adolescence.

Tina finds Meg's present church very pleasant. Her daughter wears a rainbow fish that Rob made; the meaning of the colors probably lost on the congregation. Tina feels that "religion is within ourselves. I would refuse to sit in church and hear that my kids are going to hell. I got over that because I looked at my kids and saw what I raised and the goodness in them that is unbelievable. I wish I had the goodness in me that they have---the morality and the love and the compassion for people that they have. I've never met anybody else, except for my mom who had that."

The whole family had an ominous sense that something was going to happen during the hot summer of '96. Whether he was walking his dog Cleo or spending time with friends, both Cleo and

friends were openly taunted---guilt by association. Elderly women would whisper, "There he is." Though the family was unsociable, they became pariahs within the borough. They felt like the *Addams Family* and though his height would make people think immediately of *Lurch*, Rob jokingly admits he felt his gothic looks, black hair and black apparel gave him the appearance of *Morticia Addams*. (Tina: "He was much prettier.")

Rob anticipated bodily harm when he went out. He would go out early in the morning and, throw caution to the wind in the hopes that would actually happen. He did join up with BiGLYAH (the Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian Youth Association of Harrisburg) which became a comfort to Tina during one time of crisis in particular. Though Rob could put up a great facade, his trials by fire did at times force him into bouts of depressions. These periods found his creativity sorely suffering. Tina relates the night that she came home from work to find her son on the floor, curled in a fetal position and incoherently mumbling, "They took it all away from me, Mom. I don't have anything left." She immediately called BiGLYAH facilitator Melinda Eash for advice while Meg held her brother's head in her lap.

He even talked about moving away, removing the lightning rod threat from his family. A pang of desperation shot through Tina because she was not about to lose her son; not knowing where or how he was. It was immediately decided then and there that the Shoemans would pick up stakes and move elsewhere.

There is no doubt in Tina's mind that the fire occurred because of Rob's sexual orientation. Neighbors reported seeing three teenagers near the car sometime after midnight on the morning of August 24th. In fact, one of the neighbors recalled yelling at the kids to go away which they did. The phone in the Shoeman residence rang at 2:40 am and Tina, who was awakened by Rob who answered the phone, realized all too well that everything that summer, and throughout the preceding years, led up to this anticipated moment of dread. According to Tina, her movements became "robotic" in that she did what was necessary.

Rob was not surprised that something like this was happening. While firemen were attempting to extinguish the blaze, Rob put pen to paper and wrote:

It's 3:00 am. Our car is on fire, We are poor, My mother cannot afford to buy another one. This is getting really old...This is not the Deep South. This is not 1940. I am not black, but it sure feels that way.

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The matter-of-fact nature of Rob's description of that night is troubling, almost disturbing, until one realizes the courage that this 18-year-old acquired during his years of peer abuse and public ridicule. Rob is of the opinion that his experience makes him more understanding, almost empathetic, of the plight of blacks and Jews. "Deep down, I feel like it is 1940 and I am a colored boy. I feel sometimes, that I prefer, to spend more time with black people and Jewish people and anyone who has ever felt discrimination." As for those who ultimately were instrumental in driving he and his family away from Middletown: "I felt mostly disappointment for them because they felt they were driving me away with fear. They were actually driving me away with disgust because they were putting themselves down on a lower level. I feel bad for them. I pity them."

Knowing of no other place to go, the family immediately turned an cautious eye to Harrisburg for their next home. Rob and his family combed the Capital City for "gay" neighborhoods; searching for the places that proudly hung their rainbow flags and the cars with their multicolored stickers that would help to identify their new nesting spot. When they first moved to Harrisburg, Tina often cried at night not only because of the unpleasant memories of the incident, but because they were relegated to be in a city where she did not want to live. However, because of Rob's ties to BiGLYAH, she decided to move to an area that would be more accepting of her children.

The case is closed and was termed "accidental," according to Middletown's former Fire Chief now First Assistant Fire Marshall for Dauphin County Martin Nevel. "Arson is the most difficult case to prosecute based on circumstantial evidence. Seldom is there a witness who will come forward."

In cases such as this, physical evidence is looked at including the physical origin of the fire and its probable sources. Evidence such as sublime motive, third party accounts and extenuating circumstances including harassment and threats are then investigated.

Nevel interviewed Tina and Meg Shoeman the same morning of the blaze and though he was told about the problems and harassment the family faced, and Rob's sexual orientation hassles, there was insufficient evidence to prove the case was arson. In fact, no one came forward to substantiate any suspicious

Tina's love for her children knows no bounds and is certainly reciprocated by the respect and affection they show her. "I'm very lucky to have her," says Rob adoringly of his mother. "She prefers to have gay children instead of straight ones...she feels most comfortable when her house is filled with gay children. It's wonderful she feels this way." In addition, she has always had difficulty dealing with straight people because they have a hard time dealing with her kids and that is why she wants to live and be around gay people.

Tina becomes frustrated when she hears stories of children who are turned out of their homes because of their gayness. "I can't understand how intelligent people can do that. Their children are the same exact persons they were before they tell (their parents) of their orientation. My kids are a gift, my earthly treasures that God gave me to guard like a pirate. There is nothing more precious, that means more than the love between a mother and a son." Rob kiddingly says Tina is psychotically devoted. She hopes that people can be proud of what their children are no matter what their sexual orientation is.

Psychotic or not, this 35-year-old mother of two feels her family's trials are setting her on a heaven-directed course to perhaps provide a service for other gay and lesbian children. Though she considers herself a bit of a hermit, she looks forward to the annual gay and lesbian Pride Festivals--"The event of the year."

The family has settled comfortably in their own little gay ghetto of Harrisburg.

behavior that occurred that evening.

All evidence collected by Nevel was turned over to the Middletown Police Department who determined that the fire was accidental in nature. Case closed.

Tina shared a letter with *crossroads* she received from her insurance company back in October 1996. The company, called upon by the owner of the garage in front of which sat the burned out Renault for coverage of damages, found the blaze to be of a suspicious nature:

Based on the findings of the investigation, it was determined that the fire was caused by the application of an open flame to ordinary combustible and, possibly, ignitable liquid.

When told of the letter, Nevel said that it is not uncommon for third parties to be asked to investigate the fire. He requested *crossroads* to send him a copy (which was sent) so that he may be able to examine the evidence that the company had to determine its conclusions. X



"Deep down, I feel that it is 1940 and I am a colored boy. I feel sometimes, that I prefer, to spend more time with black people and Jewish people and anyone who has ever felt discrimination."

Mother and son at Harrisburg's Memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

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The encouragement and love given to Rob during this period further strengthened the family into the cohesive unit it is today. Tina doesn't worry about Rob's safety as much as she did when they lived in Middletown. Some gays know Rob by sight. Others know the name but don't associate it with him. They have found a place where gay couples walk down the street, a church that accepts her family (MCC of the Spirit) and neighbors and friends who have been nothing but supportive. Even her clinging to her son has eased because she no longer fears for his welfare as she did in the recent past. He is now playful again and funny. The sun is shining and the art is once again flowing.

Rob's works include paintings, one of which was inspired by Annie Lennox's *No More 'I Love You's'* (in which he features drag queens dressed in ballerina garb descending a staircase) as well as small figurines and sculptures and his ink drawings. He has had showings in Lancaster and Camp Hill where he has had success selling his works. In fact, upon her recent visit to the Capital City, Human Rights Campaign spokesperson Candace Gingrich was presented a personally crafted sculpture by none other than Rob Shoeman.

He has found a steady boyfriend in Ryan who Tina adores and has immediately adopted as her own. She finds Ryan a calming influence on her son for which she is grateful. Rob has found his life is much more serene since the tumultuous 1996 for which he is grateful.

Their station in life is what, Tina feels, what God wants. For Rob, stability is here. As open as he is about his sexual orientation, so too is he about the love he has for his mother and sister. In their words, the roller coaster ride they've experienced together is nearing an end. The ride could not have been completed solely by any one of them. Ironically, it is Rob who is thankful for all that occurred for he now sees how easy it is to deal with problems and that there are worse things to worry about.

In the aftermath, Rob was warned by many that the Harrisburg School District would be more of the same and therefore, Rob is spending what would have been his senior year, delving full time into his works of art. Rob will work to get his GED and be able to trade it in for a high school diploma which will fulfill the dream that Tina had when she held her children in her arms all those many years ago.

Tina does not think Middletown has looked for the perpetrators of the crime.



In fact, she strongly feels that they were very glad to get rid of the Shoemans. Tina has not heard from the Middletown officials though she admits not leaving a forwarding address for fear that the terrible events may begin anew.

Tina gives this advice to parents: "I get all my strength from my faith. I draw everything from there. The best thing I can say, what I've done, is pray and don't stop loving them and remember that they are the same person they were before they told you. The goodness inside them is not changed."

Rob advises the following to his gay peers: "The less you talk about it, the less they know, the less comfortable they would be." He feels for his boyfriend who must tip toe around the subject of his sexual orientation with his parents. Though his parents know, and PFLAG information was given to them, the subject is rarely discussed, not fully digested by his parents; pretending that Rob is just a friend and not Ryan's love interest. "If you're going to come out, you can't come out a little bit, but all the way." X

Changing Places

*How different would it be
If I were you and you were me
Would you see the world as unselfishly as I
Or be afraid to experience, rather to die
Would you deny all that we've achieved
Just to hide in your closet full of deceit
Could you wake up and think every single day
That I love you no matter what they say
It doesn't matter that they believe us wrong
I know with you is where I belong.
How would it be if I were you?
I would give people a chance,
A thing you never do
I would pray for the good of every man
Not just people you'd touch with your hand.
But most importantly I would love to say,
I would live for each and every day.*

MISTY HOFFMAN

It's getting there. Can you feel it? Before you know it, the first warm rays will hit us and before you know it, you have summer fever. Where will you go? crossroads takes you to the southern part of Delaware. For many this three to five drive will cure whatever ails you.

Ready For Rehoboth

Antoinette Natale

When I first arrived in Rehoboth Beach several years ago for an extended weekend, with my partner, I was somewhat unsure of where to start my vacation. This was my first trip to Rehoboth Beach since grade school. Wandering around town aimlessly was adventurous, as well as a learning experience. Things have drastically changed since grade school!

Resting barside with a cold drink, I met Steve Elkins. (Steve is the Executive Director of LETTERS From CAMP Rehoboth). Steve was able to point us in the direction of where to eat, sleep, dance, and especially lounge on the beach! Now, the trip had become more fulfilling and exciting.

Be sure to make accommodations in advance. Rehoboth Beach has become an extremely popular place to visit for a wide variety of people from neighboring states and areas along the east coast. I have had the pleasure of staying at several places offering comfortable, affordable, and enjoyable atmospheres. My favorite B&B came from a recommendation from Steve, and I have not been disappointed since my first visit.

Accommodations range from hotels, to B&B's, to cottage rentals, it all depends on your preference and your partner's too! Hotel accommodations consist of Brighton Suites Hotel on First & Wilmington Avenue, or Summer Place Hotel located on First & Olive Avenue. If you enjoy the rush of the ocean waves caressing the beach, additional hotels are located along the boardwalk. In the opposite direction of the ocean, a short jaunt to the outskirts of town, The Shore Inn and Renegade Motel offer a complete package

all in one place. Lodging, food, dancing, a bar, and a pool can be enjoyed by all who stay at either 703 Rehoboth Avenue or 4274 Highway One.

Guest houses and B&B's are in abundance forcing one's selection process to be similar to that of a partner for life. Be careful to select what gives one pleasure both on the taste buds and the body. Recommendations include Accommodations by the Sea on Hickman Avenue, Mallard Guest House with two locations, Lake Avenue and Baltimore Avenue, and The Lighthouse and At Melissa's (say "Hi" to Melissa for me), both on Delaware Avenue.

Additional guest houses include Cabana Gardens on Lake Avenue, Guest Rooms at Rehoboth on Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Guest House on Maryland Avenue, Sand in My Shoes on Sixth and Canal Street, Silver Lake Guest House on Silver Lake Drive, and Woody's Guest Rooms on Field Lane. Enjoy the accommodations!

A relaxing place to start the morning is in the courtyard on Baltimore Avenue. Sip a mug of coffee from cuppa jo' and a good gay or lesbian magazine (*crossroads*) and/or book from Lambda Rising. If you feel a little competitive, play a game of checkers. Each table contains a painted-on checker board with an enormous mug (26 oz) cupping the red and black pieces.

For breakfast, try the Dream Cafe' on Baltimore Avenue featuring a wide variety of freshly baked goodies, specialty coffees and teas, espresso bar, and a Key West juice bar. Or try the best New York style bagel in Sussex County at Pierre's Pantry on First & Wilmington. Pierre's Pantry also offers freshly baked pastries.

Continue the morning with a stroll around town visiting the variety of specialty shops located within close proximity of one another. Depending on your interest or taste of the day, stop by one or all of the retail shops. If your taste is for clothing and accessories, shop the L.A. Connection, Out Wear Gear, or The Edge all located on First Avenue. Browse through Fever located on Penny Lane and Boxers & Drawers located on Baltimore Avenue.

Looking for a gift for yourself, friend, partner, or even your pet? Browse the unique retail shops located on Baltimore Avenue. Recommendations include Gourmet by the Sea, Earthly Wonders, Stone Heart, and Critter Beach. Or stop by the various art shops and galleries located throughout Rehoboth Beach, such as, Art Closeouts/Ocean Gallery on Wilmington Avenue, Seashore Galleries Ltd and

▼ Travel ▼

Studio 608 both on Baltimore Avenue.

Wrap up your morning shopping spree with a sandwich or salad for lunch at one of the many cafes. Each cafe offers an extended menu selection of unique appetizers, salads, sandwiches, and desserts. Try one of the following "hot spots." Back Porch Cafe on Rehoboth Avenue, Cafe Teria on Wilmington Avenue, Dos Locos, Beach Dawgs, and Iguana Grill on Baltimore Avenue. A familiar place to grab a sandwich is at Subway Sandwiches located on Wilmington Avenue.

Time for some sun and fun on the beach! Join the general masses (husbands, wives, children, moms, dads, etc) that can be found between Virginia Avenue and Hickman Street. Women venture east to the North Shores of Henlopen State Park for solitude and peace with the Men traveling west to Poodle Beach for throng and commotion.

Smooth the lotion on thick to avoid a sunburn and an uncomfortable evening. The women enjoy volleyball and football on the beach, with the men enjoying the music and bodily sites. Walking hand-and-hand on the beach, swimming in the ocean, and kissing are among the popular activities throughout the morning and afternoon hours on the beach by both the Men and Women alike.

Cap the day off with a warm shower together, or alone (make it a cold one) for preparation to the evening of dinner, dancing, and socializing. The selection process now begins again with an outfit to wear, happy hour to join, food to eat, and bar to drink/dance into the early morning. Slip into a new outfit purchased earlier in the day or an outfit packed neatly within your luggage. Reservations for dinner are highly recommended and most owners do provide this service, along with their suggestion on where to dine. Choosing from a plethora of restaurants offering a wide array of ethnicity can be overwhelming.

Now, let's socialize! Where to go for happy hour? Blue Moon, Cloud 9, and Savannah's offer happy hour specials. Hopefully, dinner is still an option after a few drinks, liquid diets do not provide the best nutritional value, especially after a day in the sun.

Dining recommendations include Blue Moon on Baltimore Avenue, Celsius and Fusion on Wilmington Avenue, Cloud 9 on Rehoboth Avenue, and Savannah's on Wilmington Avenue offering American cuisine. Chez la Mer on Second Avenue offers French and American cuisine and Dos Locos on Baltimore Avenue offers

Mexican cuisine. Mano's on Wilmington Avenue offers Italian cuisine and Planet X on Wilmington Avenue offers Vegetarian cuisine.

Other restaurants include The Cultured Pearl on Wilmington Avenue which offers Japanese cuisine, La La Land on Wilmington Avenue and Oscar's Seafood on Rehoboth Avenue both offering American cuisine. Leave room for dessert!

After dinner, join both old and new friends for drinks, music, and dancing at one of the many bars in town. Blue Moon, Fusion, and Savannah's offer a bar area with music. Cloud 9 and The Renegade offer a bar area and dance floor. Live music can be found at The Frog Pond on First Avenue. Call ahead for dates and entertainers.

If a relaxing evening with coffee is the alternative to dancing, stay put, or venture to the courtyard on Baltimore Avenue. A midnight stroll along the boardwalk or beach is always romantic.

Regardless of how a day in Rehoboth Beach is planned, there is never a dull moment due to the plenitude of things to do all year round. And one thing you can count on--Rehoboth Beach is one of the safest beaches along the east coast.

For more information, pick-up an issue of *LETTERS From CAMP Rehoboth* from the many retail shops, restaurants, guest houses, or the office of CAMP Rehoboth. To receive a copy at home, join CAMP Rehoboth at 39 Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971. Back issues may also be obtained at the CAMP Rehoboth office nestled between cuppa jo' and Lambda Rising on Baltimore Avenue. See you in Rehoboth Beach! X

Puerto Vallarta: A Hidden Gay Paradise

Vinton Ash

You, my readers, I am sure have two immediate questions. Why am I, one of the movie reviewers for this mag, writing a travel article? Second, why "hidden" Puerto Vallarta, Mexico?

First, I am not sure I will be returning to my movie desk any time soon after making last issue's Academy Award predictions.

Now for the item at hand. PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO. It truly is a paradise waiting to be discovered by the East Coast gay community.

Just back from an extended vacation (six weeks this year, four last and possibly eight weeks next). This place is unbelievable. The beauty, the people, the food and the weather cannot be beat.

First and foremost, where to stay? Do not stay near the airport. Staying there you could be anywhere, Miami, Atlantic City, etc. To get the real flavor of the city and the people, stay near the Los Muerto Pier. Descanso Del Sol Hotel, Vallarta Cora Hotel, Casa De Los Arcos Vacation Villa would be good choices.

There is a wonderful gay beach nearby where for the price of a drink you can have a lounge chair for the day. The best and most popular spot is Tito's, the blue chairs. There at that beach you will see all the gay people who are in town. Most of them are either from Canada or Northwest U.S. I don't think in the ten weeks that I have been there I have met more than five people from the eastern U.S.

We in the East have not yet discovered this paradise. Maybe after this article, you will be one from the east that will venture to this Pacific Bay community. I feel if it was good enough for Liz and Richard and now Peter O'Toole, it must have something going for it. You will remember this is the spot that was chosen for the filming of Tennessee Williams' *Night of the Iguana*.

Shopping for that special gift or decoration for your home is an enjoyable experience either on the beach from the beach vendors or in the smart shops that line the many streets. Bargaining is expected in most locations especially on the beach. Do not pay much more than half the first price mentioned. It's a game that can be enjoyable for all. Just don't get too uptight.

Puerto Vallarta is at the bottom of a 'U' shaped bay. One trip that I have found very enjoyable is taking a forty-five minute water taxi ride up that left side of the 'U' to a primitive beach town called Yalapa. Back in time. Electricity for four hours a day. No roads leading in or out. Beautiful beach with several beach side restaurants. There is also a hotel with each unit a separate thatched covered hut overlooking the beach and the surrounding mountains. Most romantic.

Don't expect the Hilton, though. If you plan on staying overnight, take a flashlight with you. Mighty dark after 10 pm when the electricity goes off. If this is a day's outing, the water taxi will return at

3 pm to pick you up and return you to P.V. You get back just in time to get ready for cocktails at sunset.

There are two gay places to have these cocktails. The first is the top of a hotel called Descanso Del Sol. They have converted the penthouse into a bar with a small kitchen where complimentary hors d'oeuvres are served nightly. The other place is the rooftop bar of Paco Paco. This year, as well as last, this bar was the hottest gay spot in town.

Not that cocktails are over and you are feeling no pain, it is time to find a spot for dinner. There are many little inexpensive Mexican restaurants. One that was recommended to me is Lunatics--a rooftop eatery two blocks down from Paco Paco. Not a typical Mexican menu and a little more expensive, but worth it.

Be prepared for this piece of news. The three gay bars do not get going until around 12:30 am and then they go until 5 am. So a nap might be in order after dinner.

Los Balcones Disco Bar (Juarez 182) is the oldest gay bar; semi-popular this year with an earlier crowd. Zotano Gay Disco Bar (Morelos 101) has a pool table and tales with built-in sofas for those quiet conversations. Club Paco Paco Disco Bar and Paco's Ranch (Igancio L. Vallarta 278) is the wildest. In the Ranch bar there are three stripper shows nightly. Drag shows on the weekend are held in the Disco Bar. Good music on the first level. Second floor has a pool table and oval bar. Up a flight will be a restaurant next year and a level above that is that is the aforementioned rooftop bar.

Well after a "hard night", one might be inclined to want breakfast before exposing ones bod to the sun. Two suggestions I have. The Gallery and Restaurant Cafe-Bar "Piramide" (Basilio Badillo 272) was found to be most enjoyable. The setting is a beautiful patio with a fountain and lush vegetation. Your Mexican waters Paul and Juan are most pleasant and the breakfast most divine.

The other suggestion is to go to the beach, get your chairs at Tito's (blue chairs), order breakfast, take a swim while it is being prepared, they have your coffee and eggs. So civilized here in Paradise.

So there it is as I see it. If you have any questions, I can be reached through crossroads.

No, back to the movie desk. See you in P.V. or at the movies. X

▼ Travels With Comic ▼

A new feature debuts with this issue as nationally renown comic **Linda Herskovic** offers her special insight on a variety of topics. This issue the subject is travel.

Travel is a topic near and dear to me. As a lesbian standup, I travel a lot (although, business has been slow as of late if anyone wants to hire me, I've got my bags packed). I've been from California to Maine to Florida to Provincetown to do my shtick. And since I don't change my entire act for each city I visit, I've got to hope that they get my New York humor (I know what Woody Allen and Seinfeld went through).

Last year, I toured through the south, performing in hard-to-find gay clubs sandwiched between Elk's clubs and Waffle Houses. Indiscrete, unmarked buildings on nameless streets. Half the time, I had to give up my afternoon to take a test ride to find the club in question. I'm neurotic like that anyway. The experience was so unlike New York where the clubs proudly display pink triangle flags announcing Fag and Dyke Night tonight.

The Southern tour went something like this: Biloxi, Mississippi told me I talk a "lee-tle" too fast and I thought maybe they should listen a little faster. Slidel, Louisiana put dollars in my jeans and grabbed my breasts, clueless that I was telling jokes. Hell, I stopped telling the jokes, took the money and ran. In Pensacola, Florida, I opened for a male stripper who chased me through the crowd, buck naked (the last time I saw an exposed man was well before I left New York, on the subway). Somewhere in Alabama there was a hard core dyke bar, believe it or not, where I left the stage with chants of Linda, reminiscent of the old Arsenio show with a bit more gusto. But these women scared me, insisting I play pool with them all night and grabbing at my ass while I bent over to make precision shots. (I couldn't wait to get back to my

feleabag hotel, alone!) And in New Orleans, the crowd got together and bought me a hurricane (a potent alcoholic beverage) and my first taste of alligator (tastes like chicken).

For the most part, I enjoyed the trip. Some places put me up in nice hotels. Most places put me up in Motel 6 dives. One place put me up in a seedy motel which catered to ladies of the night. I was awakened on both sides by high pitched moans (they were faking it).

Although the road can get lonely I love seeing sights in new places (I loved following the Amish around in Lancaster, for example), and experiencing the uniqueness of each place. I mean, even cows are a sight to see for cityfolk like me. Also, traveling gives me a plethora of material such as the time I was staying in Atlantic City and I ventured into the casino to play the slots and was body checked by an elderly woman who insisted it was her machine. She announced the whole row was hers. Kind of possessive over things she didn't own, I thought. I was just glad I didn't meet her in the bathroom. "All the stalls are mine," she would've declared while I did my business in my pants!

I got to spend three months in the gay mecca of Provincetown this past summer. One month would've been fine. Problem was, I was the new girl in town so I had to work twice as hard to get people into my show. If I met a pretty woman, first I had to convince her to come to my show, then to go to bed with me--in that order! (So it didn't happen as much as I would've liked.) I was on the topless beach every other day, handing flyers to greased-up topless chicks and all I could talk about was the show because I had to cover the whole beach; so I didn't have time for idle pick up talk. On one occasion, I did get a thrill on the beach when I saw a little girl pull the bikini top out from under some pretty woman lying on her tummy. Of course, the woman had to chase the little girl to get her top back. I was privy to it all. And the whole incident only cost

me a piece of candy! I had to find ways of entertaining myself.

On my days off, in restaurants, on the whale watch, all I could do was write material and figure out how to get these men and women who supported the standard gay comics to try something new and different. Needless to say, I needed a vacation after that vacation.

I wouldn't give up the traveling part of my job. I just can't wait until I'm doing so well that I'm picked up by limo and deposited in four-star hotels. But no matter how rich and famous I get, I'll always enjoy slumming it with the locals, as long as my bodyguard assures that nobody paws me! X

Linda Herskovic is a gay stand-up/writer based in New York who travels the country to spread her joy. She can be seen on Lifetime, HBO, and Comedy Central in all their cancelled shows.

OFF STAGE....



The 1997 Central Pennsylvania Pride Festival



Harrisburg Area Community College

July 26, 1997
Noon - 6:00 p.m.

Vending, Advertising,
Entertainment &
Sponsorship Opportunities!
Call 717.234.6644
or 1.888.976.2372

Join us at Heaven restaurant on Sunday, April 20th for a Pride Rib/Seafood dinner. Only \$15.00!
Two seatings: 5:00 & 6:30 pm. Call 717.234.6644
Seating is limited...Call Today!
706 N. Third Street in The Stallions complex.

Also...Watch for Miss Gay Pride 1996 and her Pride shows throughout Central PA!
Both events benefit the Pride Festival!

See the Community Calendar for all Pride Festival events and dates.



**TAURUS,
THE BULL**

The second sign of the Zodiac

Taurus, an earth sign, is ruled by Venus; you may be practical, all right, but scratch you and you bleed romance. Eva Peron in "Evita" is the perfect Taurus---practical, opinionated, patient, and, just maybe, a bit of a romantic anyway. Taurus is noted for business judgment; you'll get ahead, Taurus, if you put your mind to that, rather than that romantic streak

**CELEBRITY
TAUREANS**

- Alexander the Great*
- James Buchanan*
- Gary Cooper*
- Tim Curry*
- (Aries/Taurus cusp)*
- Edward II*
- Sigmund Freud*
- Lorenz Hart*
- Katherine Hepburn*
- John Paul Hudson*
- Edward Lear*
- Rod McKuen*
- Eva Peron*
- Ma Rainey*
- Dick Sargeant*
- (Aries/Taurus cusp)*
- William Shakespeare*
- Alice B. Toklas*
- Uma Thurman*
- Rudolf Valentino*

April 1997

ARIES (March 20-April 19): Take charge, Aries; you've got less standing in your way than you think you do. Beware of those minor irritations around you; you're more likely to be distracted by them than you are to notice your real concerns. Don't create your own headaches, Aries!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ruler Venus starts in Aries, entering your sign just in time for Sun to enter Taurus as well. Travel plans are best for the beginning of the month, but romance is likely to heat up towards the second half. Relax and enjoy, Taurus; you deserve it.

GEMINI (May 20-June 21): Mercury spreads the month in Taurus, but goes retrograde halfway through; ideas may flow more readily early in April, but you'll find yourself better organized with them later in the month. Taurus brings a bit of a stubborn streak, however; just manifest your usual lovable side when you dig in your heels.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancer's energy is up this month; don't be afraid to start a new venture. Patience pays off the last week of the month, especially at work. Be willing to let go of an old hurt; it's time to kiss and make up---don't be afraid to be the one who makes the first move.

LEO (July 22-August 22): Go ahead and roar, Leo! Leo's full of ideas this month, and potential for success of a new project is great. Watch out, though; you can't always be the one in charge, and you need to be willing to compromise with a leader or organizer to make your plans work. Travel's a great idea this month..

VIRGO (August 22-September 22): Patience, Virgo, patience! Just because you have a practical bent doesn't mean that everyone's as organized as you are; relax, and let people have a chance to catch up to you. Mid-month is quirky; retrograde Mercury throws a crimp in your plans. Be clear in your communications with others now.

LIBRA (September 22-October 23): Indulge your creative side early side early in the month---and perhaps that romantic side as well. An old friend is seeking you out right now; can you be found, or are you wondering in the clouds? If you keep focused, there's excellent financial potential for you shortly before month's end.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21): Work goes well for you this month, but a particular assignment is slower than projected, maybe even stalled. Expect it to ease up just before month's end. The roadblock in your personal life is much less real than you give credit; don't create an issue that doesn't really exist. Stay calm.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21): Heavy Aries influence energizes Sagg; do you really need to be moving at higher speed than you are? Low gear has its joys, too---don't overdo it, either at work or in your relationship. Trying too hard doesn't settle anything. The 23rd and 24th are great days to pull back at work and take stock of matters.

CAPRICORN (December 21-January 19): Ability to achieve is high early in the month; if you have major plans, accomplish them before the 13th. You may find yourself having to really operate under pressure from the 13th through the 16th; don't worry, things do get better! Spend the rest of the month taking it easy; you deserve it.

AQUARIUS (January 19-February 18): April is a great time for Aquarius to make plans for future events; just be sure to think first and act later. Impulse is tempting right now, but resist. Long-term strategy will be rewarded for you, personally as well as professionally.

PISCES (February 18-March 20): Communication with friends is better than anticipated; use this opportunity to solve a lingering personal issue. Your patience will be rewarded on business matters right now; be diplomatic, but hold your ground.

May 1997

ARIES Sun and ruler Mars both in earth signs put you in position for accomplishing practical goals; expect to clear up a work project more rapidly than originally anticipated. Check on a relative or old friend; unexpected changes are in store for them. Resist the temptation to overdo it---at anything, work or play.

TAURUS Ruler Venus enters Gemini; goals are achievable. If you've been looking for part-time work or a second income source, this is the time to go after it. Social activity is on the rise; did you plan your Memorial Day weekend far enough in advance? Your friends find you the center of attention---enjoy.

GEMINI You may feel restless at the beginning of the month, but May settles into fun for busy Gemini. Pack your bags; travel is just what the doctor ordered for Memorial Day. Avoid debate with a stubborn friend or co-worker; there's nothing to be gained by locking horns.

CANCER Slow and steady, Cancer; don't rush into anything this month. Take it easy most of this month, and be patient; remember, things aren't always personal. Communication improves at the end of the month; wait until then to settle that misunderstanding.

LEO Take a deep breath, Leo; patience is required to get through those work and business obstacles you've been staring at. Talking it out with involved parties will be well repaid this month. Unexpected allies emerge; take advantage of their support.

VIRGO It really is possible to have plain old-fashioned fun, and Virgo finds it this month. Blow that money on the concert or show tickets you really want; you deserve the treat. Getting away for the weekend with a new friend has its charms right now---or consider getting away to make a few new friends.

LIBRA Travel is your goal, Libra; don't plan Memorial Day at home! You'll find yourself seeing personal matters much more clearly with a little distance. Relationship

potentials are high right now; take advantage of the current situation.

SCORPIO It's not necessary to play your cards so close to the chest right now; you're naturally reserved, but you don't need to keep such a tight lid on matters. Relax, Scorpio! Get yourself in a warm spot on the beach this month, and let yourself unwind. Even though work's going well, it isn't your life!

SAGITTARIUS Aquarian energy in Jupiter bolsters independence and determination; it also increases ability to succeed professionally, so take advantage of it. Trust an old friend in a major personal matter; they're willing to help if you let them. Follow your instincts this month.

CAPRICORN Mars in Virgo inclines you to chart your own course right now. Don't give into that temperamental streak when momentum slows this month; patience is your big virtue, Cap. Creative pursuits are rewarded right now, especially pursuit of the right person!

AQUARIUS Aquarius takes a turn to the practical side this month; it's time to get those "dull" housekeeping matters out of the way to make room for summer! Put your mind to the perfect summer vacation; you've worked hard for it. Spend Memorial Day with friends this year.

PISCES Cheer up, Pisces! The beach is waiting for its favorite water sign to show up again. Meanwhile, enjoy yourself; the social platter is full. Try to avoid locking horns with a friend or coworker with very fixed opinions; you won't convince them, and you'll only tire yourself. Tact is your best move this time.

Marakay Rogers, Certified Tarot master, is a registered Tarot advisor and astrologer with over ten years' experience in the Harrisburg and York areas and offers consultations and workshops through Divine Light Books in Steelton.



GEMINI, THE TWINS

The third sign of the Zodiac

Gemini represents the mythical twins, Castor and Pollux; these two represent the two sides of your personality, as "Doonesbury" did with George Bush and his "evil twin, Skippy." Gemini are noted for being inquisitive and spontaneous---but also for being restless and inconsistent, the flip side of the same coin. Your moral? Leave your evil twin at home, Gemini.

CELEBRITY GEMINI

*Sandra Bernhard
Beau Brummell
Michele DeCampi
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Judy Garland
George III
Allen Ginsburg
Wild Bill Hickok
James Ivory
Joan of Arc
Paul Lynde
Marilyn Monroe
Cole Porter
Harold Robbins
Richard "John-Boy" Thomas
T.H. White
Walt Whitman*



It's In The Book

Looking to go over the rainbow for the perfect summer place? Check out this repeat from 1996; the newest travel book on the block. You'll agree it's much more than just a travel guide. **Eric W. Selvey**

You're preparing to go on that long-awaited vacation. Or maybe you're looking to get away for a weekend excursion. Do you want to go somewhere new? Some place you may have heard much about, but you weren't really sure what your friends told you about a certain resort was really worth the risk? Where are you going to stay? What restaurants are gay-owned or gay-friendly? And for that matter, which predominately male drinkeries are really friendly to women?

You could go to your Odysseus guide or that dog-eared, out-dated Damron's Address Book to find info that's spotty at best as to what the current hot night spots and neighborhood bars frequented by the locals.

However, you could spend \$19.50 and purchase **Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA**. The company that puts the "rave" in travel has published a brand new guide chock full of information germane to the gay and lesbian community about bed and breakfasts, guest houses, and gay-friendly hotels.

"Popular" drinkeries and restaurants are also mentioned in order to make it convenient for the gay travel-leery visitor in their choice of their destination of relaxation.

This guide, written by Andrew Collins ("a gay white male in (his) mid-twenties") is quite informative in that it provides the obligatory (in comparison with other gay travel guides) skinny on bars, coffeehouses, nightclubs, restaurants, and bed and breakfasts. And for those who care about such things, **Gay Guide** also does a good

job apprising the reader on the hostleries that are mostly gay, straight or mixed.

Of special importance to lesbians, is information on the gay-dominated establishments that are truly hospitable to the female clientele.

Collins acquired most of his information either by his own observations or by talking to the residents of each city. Among the meccas highlighted are Provincetown (P-Town) (which gives mention to locally owned ShireMax Inn), Fire Island, Key West, Rehoboth Beach and San Francisco.

Other cities mentioned include in alphabetical order (Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Miami, Nashville, Las Vegas, New Orleans, St. Louis, San Diego, Tuscon), and the not-so-obvious (Aspen, CO, Douglas, MI, Jerome, AZ, Santa Fe, NM, Saugatuck, MI, Sedona AZ). Baltimore, D.C. and N.Y.C., cities frequently touched by Central Pennsylvanian feet, are also highlighted.

Gay Guide also provides price ranges for restaurants and B&B's in the sections **Sleeps** and **Eats**, respectively. As in other Fodor vacation guides, the number of dollar signs indicates the cost of accommodation and sustenance i.e., the more dollars signs, the more costly.

Alas, though billed as "The Most Comprehensive Guide For Gay and Lesbian Travelers," those looking for Central Pennsylvanian hot spots will be sorely disappointed. The only Pennsylvanian city featured in this 489-page volume is the City of Brotherly Love; Pittsburgh is not even mentioned. Still, even with New Hope's inclusion within the pages describing PA's largest city, **Gay Guide** is still worth the cover price.

A brief history of each area is also given for the avid of sightseers. (There were things about New Hope I knew nothing about).

Along with the individual micro history lessons is **The Lay of the Land** section with descriptions of the most popular attractions in each of the targeted cities. Telephone numbers and addresses are given for art galleries, museums, monuments as well as for restaurants and bars. Bookstores, clinics, gay media, gyms, switchboards and AIDS service organizations round out each city in a section

known as **The Little Black Book**.

Sex clubs, video arcades and porn shops, as well as adult theatres are also featured with the most popular listed along with their telephone numbers.

What also makes this more than just an interesting read is the insight Collins gives to certain cities: Philadelphia ("may just hold America's gay future"), Key West (On the 801 bar: Crowd: ...local, colorful, outgoing drunk), Baltimore ("Don't visit Baltimore with high expectations of the gay scene."), or D.C. ("In bars, locals are apt to determine your desirability according to how well your image jibes with theirs.")

Humor is aplenty as Collins tongue-and-cheek displays can give one pause to chuckle.

ON PROVINCETOWN: *In general, the July crowd is more of the stand-and-model variety...The ratio of women to men drops during the summer, when the buff beach boys seem to sun amok.*

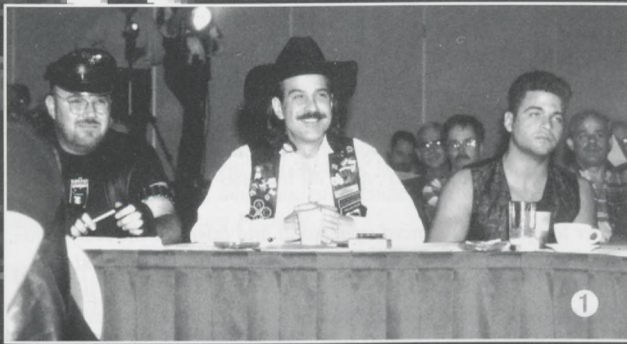
ON PHILADELPHIA: *Just about anywhere three queens are caught tanning together is immediately dubbed 'Judy Garland Memorial Park...'*

ON SAN FRANCISCO: *The owners of (The Wild Side West) don't like to think of it as a lesbian bar, but come see for yourself: There are an awful lot of them in here.*

All-in-all, even if you are not in the mood for travel, this book is a marvelous read if only to provide information on points of interest. One wonders whether the rainbow colors on the front cover is a nice touch or a sales gimmick.

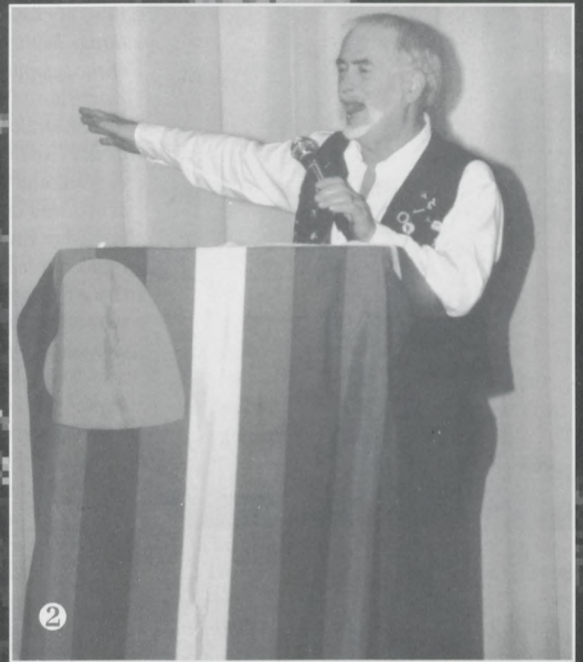
Warning: For those who still veer towards the language of the politically correct, usage of words such as dyke, faggy and queer are used, however rather conservatively in number, mainly due to the "colorful language" of the author's generation. X

Mr. Harrisburg Contest 1997



So you want to represent the Capital City, eh? Become the big

man on campus? Wearin' that long ole sash and struttin' your legitimacy throughout the year? Well, before you consider signing up for next year's contest, you should read this submission by *crossroads'* contributing writer Jim Cassell. His detailed account of preparation for the big event may encourage or scare you. Either way, a grand time was held by all.



Photos:

- 1 THE EVENING'S JUDGES INCLUDED BOB RAYMOND, MR. BALTIMORE EAGLE, ED GLASER AMCC PRESIDENT, LOCAL MALE VIDEO STAR COLE YOUNGBLOOD
- 2 CONTEST COORDINATOR BOB DEIBLER INTRODUCING
- 3 THE EVENING'S M.C. ITO LAMÉ.
- 4 CONTESTANTS FOR THE EVENING'S FESTIVITIES (LEFT TO RIGHT) RODNEY, BOB, JIM AND CHRIS.
- 5 JILL CARTER, Ms. INTERNATIONAL LEATHER 1996

DIARY OF A CONTESTANT

JANUARY 17, 1997

While interviewing Bob Deibler for the February issue of crossroads "All things leather..." the subject of the infamous "Mr Harrisburg Contest" came to a head. Bob asked me if I would like to run in the pageant and after a couple drinks and crossroads' publisher Eric Selvey's input I decided that I would enter the contest. I had no idea what this entailed but I was already feeling anxious. What had I gotten myself into over a couple of cocktails and a conversation of leathersex?

I mean who do I think I am? Realistically I am 32

and no longer have the taut body I had at 22 while living the starving artist routine in the East Village of New York City. It was easier then to make my pecs perky and my abs visible. Yes, ten years later my body had shifted; gravity had begun to take it's toll on my butt. It may be cutting it close but I am joining the East Shore YMCA and doing what I can to tighten up what pizza and beer had loosened up. I need to gain that extra edge to compete.

There is one major dilemma that I am facing; I have been asked by Dr. Selvey to represent crossroads and Michael Shefit, (the owner of Stallions--Harrisburg's popular gay entertainment complex), to represent the establishment where I am a bartender and doorman. Do I represent the man who gives me a paycheck or the man who publishes my writing? I am sure I am worrying too much about it anyway. In the meantime, I'll keep pounding the weights and sweating the Stairmaster and cutting out the beer. Being that it is also the dead of winter I am going today to the "Sun Capsule" in Lemoyne to purchase a rent-a-tan in an attempt to bronze this mayo colored skin.

Now I have got to bribe someone (Shelly? Daryl?) to take me to Baltimore's Leather Underground.

Finally, I'll be bringing my love of leather out of the playrooms I have experimented in so much in New York and Los Angeles during my wilder days. I am busting out of the leather closet and bringing in to the stage. My final coming out.

If nothing else transpires from this, I am hoping to "hook-up" with some hot numbers after the contest. After all, I am always available for leather consultations...the only thing lacking now is my self-esteem. (I know some will find that hard to swallow...so to speak.)

I have turned to the pages of International Male to look for my "street wear" but have decided that IM is just not tough enough.

JANUARY 18

I spent the night with a wonderful blue eyed man that I have spent some time cruising at the Stallions while working the door. I am seeing him again tonight and am excited about it. Today I have had a great workout and while on the Stairmaster decided that for the "underwear competition" I would wear a black unitard and Harley boots accented by mirrored shades. For talent I think I have decided on doing a monologue from Jeffrey. After spending time in college and New York doing theatre it basi-

cally is the only talent I am capable of.

JANUARY 19

Took an extra trip to the gym today just to sweat on the Stairmaster and relax in the steamroom.

Later I took off to the Neptune to meet a friend of mine for a drink and after talking to various Pennsmen I realized that the talent portion of the show was not exactly what I had imagined. I realized that if I did a monologue the audience would fall asleep; after all this was a leather run not the community theatre.

Going later to Stallions I danced up a sweat and talked to the ever popular bartender Carl Maxwell. It was by Carl's suggestion that I do a strip number for talent. My stomach dropped but he had a point. Now I just need to find a talented way to remove my clothes.

JANUARY 21

I have talked to Bob Diebler today about the contest more in depth. He suggested that I get together with leather expert **Jim Latshaw** who custom fits leathergear and toys. Sounds like a good idea to me! After talking only briefly to Jim Latshaw I decided to go for it and wear only a leather cod piece for the "underwear competition." I have also decided on the correct music for the strip number; Born to be Wild. I have also made the decision to represent Stallions and to find the perfect candidate to run for crossroads. I know just who to ask.

BALTIMORE WEEKEND

I have taken a fall for the man I have mentioned earlier. Brad and I had an incredible time at the Miss Maryland Pageant and since he is the one who knows the art of competition, I have asked him to help me in an arena of which I have no prior experience. I've decided that coming Monday, I would get a fat test at the YMCA to mark my progress. In the meantime, I am beginning to rack up quite a VISA bill on replacing the leather goods I retired in L.A.

FEBRUARY 4

That night I had vivid nightmares of illicit public sex on North Street and of bartending at Stallions in the nude. Everyone on the dance floor was indulging in sins of the flesh and it seemed quite normal. The room was dark and foggy and smelled of sweet musk, although I was scared I was quite excited. It seemed so real that when I woke up I had to take time to get my bearings about me. Yes, I was in bed with the man I loved and I immediately got out of bed and wrote it down.

FEBRUARY 5

The dream seared my mind all through my workout at the gym. What did it mean? Was it my own dark fantasies rising or was it my own deep rooted fear of exposing myself to this small community and the leather-scene?

FEBRUARY 6

I have confirmed to Mr. Shefit that I would represent Stallions and I have found crossroads their candidate. His name is Rodney who's very easy on the eyes and above all is not stuck on himself. I met him previously



Mr. Harrisburg

at the bar when I was planning my infamous underwear party in Zone 4. He was one of the first men to be put on the guest list for this skimpy affair so I figured that he would enjoy doing the contest with me.

FEBRUARY 7

I pounded myself at the gym today with a new workout partner Tom Weaver who approached me asking me to train him on free weights. I agreed because I needed a spotter to get my bench max back of 225 lbs. Tom was a lot stronger than I imagined so it was easy to trust him as a spotter.

I also recieved a phone call from the facinating Jill Carter, Ms. International Leather, who wanted to know more about the Pennsmen run and the Mr. Harrisburg Pageant.

FEBRUARY 8

Another great workout at the Y and then a healthy dinner before rushing off to work at Stallions. On Saturdays, the entertainment complex is packed with over 400 people just looking to have a good time or searching for that special hot someone with whom to spend the night. And why not? You've got Barry's charming personality as your bartender in the poolroom, the crazed personalities of crossroads' diva Biscuit and Phil bartending on the dance floor, a jazz pianist in Heaven restaurant during dinner and last, but hardly least, the creation of Zone 4 on the fourth floor where Barry Calaman spins flawless alternative deep house and of course, me at the cover door ready to talk, give loose advice and walk you to your car if needed. By this time Daryl has plastered flyers around the club advertising the contest; there is no way out at this point and my reasons for doing it have changed. I no longer am looking for a night of scandalous affairs because I am content with Brad.

FEBRUARY 9

I went to the Stilettoes'N'Boots show at the Radisson with Brad. Except for the hot pockets and Minute Rice dinner, a good time was had by all. M.C. Biscuit kept the show rolling and it was good for me to see the Radisson where I would be exposing myself soon enough.

FEBRUARY 10

At the gym today I met another one of the contestants whose name is Bob and I realized that my work was cut out for me since Bob is a leatherman who knows his trade. But I have only heard rumors of his private dungeon...

FEBRUARY 11

Tom has talked me into taking step aerobics at the gym to burn more unwanted fat. But I am having a great time getting ready for this event and have already met all the contestants.

Later that evening Bob Fellman, president of the Pennsmen, called a meeting at the Neptune so all the contestants could meet each other and go over some loose rules that may apply to the pageant.

FEBRUARY 13

I went to the East Mall and purchased the Steppenwolf tape with Born to be Wild. Later that evening Brad suggested that we



FEBRUARY 21

"Meet the Contestants in Zone 4." Stallions was packed with leatherman from various surrounding cities as well as from Canada and Zone 4 was magically transformed into a replica of any big city Eagle leather bar.

I was a nervous wreck as Brad strapped me into my leather har-

make velcro tear away clothes for my talent-sleaze number and we were at work ripping clothes and sewing them back together. Ripping clothes is something that I have always enjoyed. A thought came to mind as we sat talking about the number over a Coors' 16-ouncer. Why not take a "pounder" on stage with me and shove it down my red g-string at the end of the number. Not exactly talent but none the less an attention getter.

VALENTINE'S DAY

An incredible day for me since this was the first time in seven years that I have had someone to spend it with. To make the night complete I pre-ordered dinner at Heaven and had a bottle of champagne waiting. Micheal provided us with impecable food and service. The romance and testosterone were on high as we exchanged gifts and mushy words of emotional intoxication, what happened thereafter is not printable...

FEBRUARY 15

Woke up after a steamy night and went straight to the gym on high. Later that night at Stallions I talked to the other contestants as they came to the bar in the hopes of finding out any information I could find to ease my own fears. No one talked and I discovered nothing.

FEBRUARY 16

A night of dangerous spontaniety. After bartending Sunday night and making some damn good loot, I convinced Brad to come pick me up at the bar and take off on a road trip to Baltimore at 5 am. We arrived around dawn and checked into some sleaze hotel because all of the respectable ones were booked solid. The less than desirable accomodation only accepted cash, required no identification and you were given a roll of toilet paper and towels at check in; no one cared when you checked out.

After getting all of four hours sleep we headed to the Leather Underground to shop for a cod piece and a 10-gauge nipple ring. Finding three pieces that I liked I tried them all on and with some help from the sales clerk and my cohort a decision was made. A quick trip through the toy section completed the purchase and we were off to Central Station for a great dinner before heading back to the 'Burg.

THE FITTING

Tonight Jim Latshaw fitted me for my leather harness and a mule bit chain harness that accented the leather cod piece I had purchased. We had a blast bonding me in choker chains until the right look was achieved. I felt more confident about the coming weekend.

FEBRUARY 20

My rip-a-way clothes were complete as was the rest of my attire. I packed everything with check lists in seperate bags and waited for the weekend.

Contest 1997



FEBRUARY 22: THE MAIN EVENT

That morning Tom Weaver gave me a haircut and a straight razor shave before we headed with Brad to Wilson Leather Shop to find a leather vest for the interview portion of the pageant.



We drove the sales clerk insane as we bombarded her with questions and fitting room keys.

Going to the Radisson by 4 pm to set up and get a quick look at the runway we headed directly to the complimentary suite for a cocktail party hosted by the ShipMates. Vodka quickly took the edge off as we closed the open bar and went to dinner to locate the perfect table. It seemed to me that Brad and Tom's boyfriend had already chosen the table while Tom and I were paying homage to the makers of Absolut because a dozen red roses awaited me at the table and a dozen white roses awaited Tom. I was

finally relaxed; but what made dinner sensational was that fate took a curve as International Ms. Leather, Jill Carter was shown to our table with her submissive and houseman. We had intriguing conversation about leather-sex accented by Tom's spirited remarks inspired from many Miller Lites. It kept me entertained until it was time to take our places backstage.

Ito Lamé (above) showed up just in time looking devilishly delicious complete with a custom fit leather mini skirt and an adorable "boytoy" on a choker chain. Her playful and eccentric personality lit up the stage as

ness in the bathroom and then we climbed the stairwell to Zone 4. It was quite an experience and I was so nervous I didn't even hear my bio/intro read by Dr. Selvey as I took my walk on to the dance floor to provide a preview of coming attractions.

Mistress of Ceremonies and not a beat or quick witted comment was missed between drag entertainment [via Ito, Lily White as Ruthless' Sylvia St. Croix (below left) and Glenda] as well as category competition.

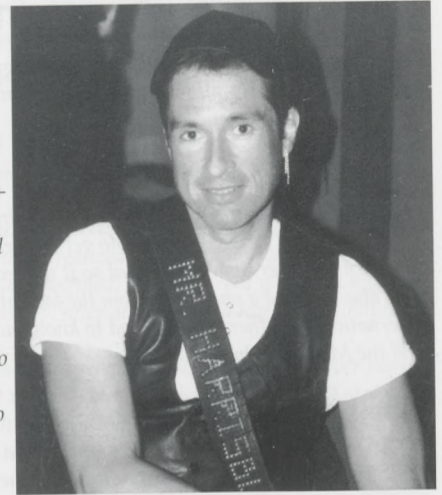
All the contestants bonded together as we hurriedly undressed, dressed and undressed time and time again. Although there were no blatant stares, eyes darted around the room to check who was packing what and how much. (No one including the dressers came up short)

Then it was time for my sleaze number. It was now or never and dug deep within myself to pull out the exhibitionist within. I threw myself into slut mode as I ripped the clothes from my body and fell to the runway simulating all forms of sexual activity before crawling like a mad dog to the end of the runway where I did my "thing" with the Coors' 16 oz. before shoving it down my g-string and drenching my crotch. There wasn't much left to the imagination.

Afterwards, we were escorted one by one back to the stage by Glenda before Ito read the results. As it were Chris Greene, Mr. Neptune was third runner up. I was second runner up and Bob, who had fierce talent, was first runner up. As I predicted when I asked him to run, Rodney was the new Mr. Harrisburg sponsored by crossroads magazine. The former Mr. Harrisburg, Forrest, was handsomely present to place the sash around Rodney and give up his title. The crowd made everyone feel good about a job well done.

Shortly thereafter, we all headed to Stallions leathered to the nines for the victory party and to spend my award money on many cocktails at the bar. After tiring of dancing and imbibing I took my leatherboy home for my own victory party....X

In our Pride Issue look for the Mr. Harrisburg Interview and yet to come, an in-depth look at leather historian Jill Carter.



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The Womyn's Hour

The girlz speak out. A candid group discussion. Sex, drugs and birth control.

Naomi C. Butorac

"Have any of you seen the movie *Showgirls*? I counted 43 tits in that movie. Now that's a lot of tit. And I just think that was totally unnecessary. It's called, 'let's excite the male populace with all these hot bi - chics.' Like, Elizabeth Berkley is going to get in on a threesome with Joe Blow and his underaged high school dropout trailer hoochie."

This was Jeni's response to my first question of the day: Do you feel that your lifestyle has been accurately portrayed in the media? And that film *Cruising* too." Joy added, speaking almost as if she hadn't meant to. "That was really horrible. With that psycho killer who picked up all those leather guys and murdered them. It was like, coming right out and saying, 'If you're a faggot you deserve to die.'"

"I hate that word. Any curiosity on where it originated? It's a bundle of sticks right? Dig deeper than that. Go all the way back to the Salem witch trials. Where the supersititious Puritans of Salem burned menstruating women and midwives at the stake. Do you know what those base, demented people did when they ran out of kindling?"

"They would run to the nearest house of a town spinster or reclusive bachelor. Men and women who had never married and kept mostly to themselves. Homosexuals. And they would whisk them out of their beds and pitch them into the hungry flames. All the while screaming, 'Burn faggot burn!'"

"What about *Bar Girls* and *Go Fish*? Or *The Amazing True Story of Two Girls in Love*? There are three very positive lesbian films that are all as recent as 1995," I pointed out. "Yeah," Jodi countered, "but not too mainstream. I mean, did any of those movies hit the theaters? If they did it was in New York or L.A. You can bet they weren't playing just your average town in middle America."

I saw Joy almost wince at this and when I glanced for the microphone. "But

still look at all the progress we've made in the past thirty years. Mainstream or not this kind of stuff wasn't ever even heard of until the mid-eighties and even then it was tres taboo."

I also think women are starting to get a lot more visible role models." Jen expounded, "k.d., Melissa, Hillary Clinton. I mean these women have some serious clout."

"Yes," Jodi agreed, "But look how the media has butchered Hillary's rep. If women start showing any kind of political knowledge or aspiration they're wiped out."

"Or if not, then they're met with at least ten times the resistance of their male counterparts. I mean look at all that drama surrounding Camille Paglia. I thought Rush Limbaugh was going to have an aneurysm."

Just wishful thinking I guess.

"Okay," I surmised, "So the most power that women wield at this point is centered in the entertainment field.

Authors, artists, musicians, actresses. But there's a problem there too, because our one strong visible ink keeps weakening itself. Look at straight comic Brett Butler and dike cartoonist Diane Dimassa for example.

"Both battled with serious addictions for years. Noted they've both managed to jostle the monkeys off their backs, but they are the exception to the rule. Women are one of the largest target groups for drugs and alcohol. And we're bombarded with these twisted messages everyday. You're not thin enough, pretty enough, feminine enough, smart enough, or maybe you're just three out of four so you're adequate. People who feel powerless tend to give up and stop trying.

And since none of us is ever going to meet the impossibly high standards that society has set for us we succumb to disease. Eating disorders, alcoholism, depression and drug abuse are the four main reasons that women are sabotaging their own potential. Plus, a lot of us are enablers, or inadvertant victims of addiction."

"My father's an alcoholic," Kelly, our token straight girl, stated matter-of-factly as we situated ourselves around the potato chip bowl. "And it's not like it's ruined our family or anything." (Dubious cocked eyebrows followed this statement.) "Okay, so it has. But it's not so obvious because we live in a pretend house. Like, it's a great place to visit but..." She trailed off at that and Jodi pounced on the ball she had dropped.

"I think addiction is becoming an expected part of our culture. Especially among women. I mean, although we're on

the rise socially we still tend to fall into these victim traps. The American dream is a lie okay? There isn't equal opportunity for all, only for white, upper class, males. you know, life's not fair and I'm not saying that every time something doesn't go your way you should light up a crack pipe. But when you're not getting equal pay for equal work, and you're not portrayed honestly in the media, and the whole world is telling you you're a second class citizen it's hard to look past all that propaganda."

"I like to get high," Jen interrupted, flipping her long hair over her shoulder and giving me a Cheshire cat grin. "But I'm not much of a drinker. When my parents got divorced my mother met this 'wonderful man' and she'd go out drinking every night with him and leave me and my brother alone. The drinking didn't start until after she caught me and my girlfriend together when I was thirteen. So I don't know if I drove her to drink or what."

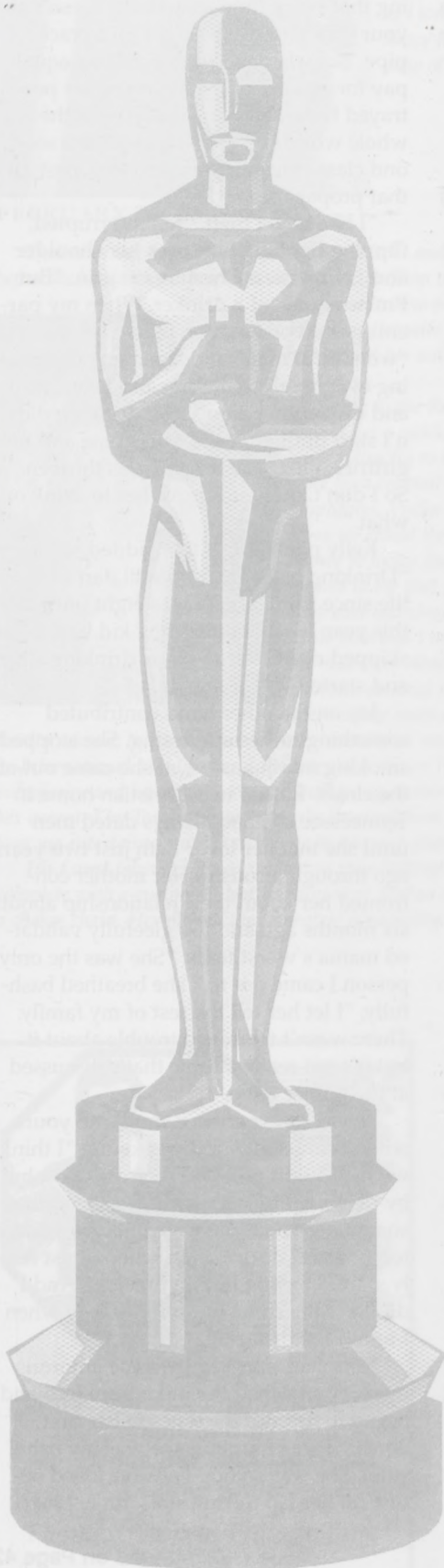
Kelly paused and then added, "Drinking has been a normal part of my life since from when I was eight until just this year. I was an unhappy kid, and I just skipped right over the beer drinking stage and started with Seagram's."

Joy on the other hand contributed something rather interesting. She stopped smoking marijuana when she came out of the closet. Raised in a Christian home in Tennessee she had always dated men until she met her lover Beth just two years ago through a cousin. Her mother confronted her about their relationship about six months ago and Joy gleefully validated mama's worst fears. "She was the only person I came out to," she breathed bashfully, "I let her tell the rest of my family. There wasn't too much trouble about it but it's not really a topic that's discussed at the dinner table."

"I had an experience similar to yours when I came out," Jodi spoke up, "I think we're brought up to be heterosexuals, but by the time I hit puberty I'd realized that something about me was different. I was a tomboy and during high school I just really started feeling like an outsider. And I didn't really come out until college when I found the theater."

Now Jeni, sparked by some amorous memory snatched the mike from Jodi and began to recount the woes fo her first crush. "I was four and she was my baby sitter. She was so hot. I always loved sitting on her lap during story time. I met

Continued on Page 42



©AMPAS

Part I Best Actress

1. Mary Pickford for Coquette
2. Bette Davis 1935 for Dangerous and 1938 for Jezebel
3. Joan Crawford for Mildred Pierce
4. Sophia Loren for Two Women
5. Katherine Hepburn for Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
6. Liza Minnelli for Cabaret
7. Sally Field for Norma Rae and Places of the Heart
8. Geraldine Page for Trip To Bountiful
9. Jessica Tandy for Driving Miss Daisy

Part II Best Actor

1. Marlon Brando for On the Waterfront
2. Sidney Portier for Lillies of the Field
3. John Wayne for True Grit
4. Jack Nicholson for One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
5. William Hurt for Kiss of the Spider Woman
6. Paul Newman for The Color of Money
7. Michael Douglas for Wall Street
8. Dustin Hoffman for Rain Man
9. Daniel Day-Lewis for My Left Foot

Part III The Stumpers

1. Movies with animals in the title: Dances With Wolves, The Dear Hunter and Silence of the Lambs
2. The Maltese Falcon was John Huston's directorial debut
3. Humphrey Bogart was married to 1997 Best Supporting Actress Oscar nominee Lauren Bacall

Part IV Best Picture

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 1927-28: <u>Wings</u> | 6. 1973: <u>The Sting</u> |
| 2. 1931-32: <u>Grand Hotel</u> | 7. 1981: <u>Chariots of Fire</u> |
| 3. 1943: <u>Casablanca</u> | 8. 1987: <u>The Last Emperor</u> |
| 4. 1948: <u>Hamlet</u> | 9. 1991: <u>Silence of the Lambs</u> |
| 5. 1963: <u>Tom Jones</u> | |

Part V Sing, Sing a Song...

1. Days of Wine and Roses (from movie of the same name) - Andy Williams
2. Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head (from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid) - B.J. Thomas
3. Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah (from Song of the South) - Bob B. Soxx and The Blue Jeans
4. The Windmills Of Your Mind (from The Thomas Crown Affair) - Dusty Springfield
5. Evergreen (from A Star Is Born) - Barbra Streisand
6. For All We Know - The Carpenters
7. Can You Feel The Love Tonight (from The Lion King) - Elton John
8. Love Is A Many Splendored Thing (from movie of the same name) - The Four Aces



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 ___ Yes ___ No

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___ Student ___ Other

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Size of household ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3+

What other publications (gay & lesbian) do you read?

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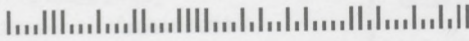


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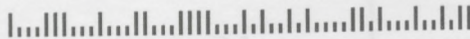


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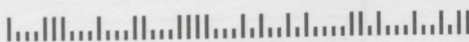


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Will the Real Oscars Please Stand Up?

Michele DeCampli

I don't know about you, but I chose to boycott the Academy Awards this year. It seems nominations were based more on personal relations within the Academy than on actual talent. What other reason could possibly be given for passing up the incredible film *Evita*?

From Alan Parker's beautiful direction in three prime locations to create the authenticity of the feel for Argentina during that time frame, to the wonderful portrayals of each of the primary characters this film was as close to flawless from



a stage to screen adaption my eyes have seen since *Steel Magnolia's*.

This film was by far, in my opinion, the best of the year. I was intrigued from the first moment of the film and found myself enveloped in both it's beauty and subtle ironies. Rarely does a film engross me as fully as *Evita* had done and there is no one facet of this rare diamond that can take credit for that.

From the authenticity in replications of actual events, to the detailed script adaption by Alan Parker and Oliver Stone as well as a complimentary and well-rounded cast. Cinergi pictures went all the way with this production right down to the costumes for each character.

To receive no major nominations is in my opinion an outrage. How could they possibly ignore Madonna's portrayal of Eva Peron?!! Simply because they have a bad taste in their mouth when it comes to Madonna? My opinion is, "Tough s**t!"

She was the most sympathetic character I saw this year! Who cares who they think she is. Thanks to the Golden Globes for recognizing talent and not a name (or lack thereof---this seemed to be a theme with the Academy this year).

Speaking of the Golden Globes, who else from *Evita* was nominated?..Oh, that's right just about everybody...Just

checking.

O.K., back to the why not's. Hollywood just doesn't know what to do with musicals. They never really have. So I guess I can forgive them for not nominating the picture. (Although I can't help but wonder what was the big deal with *Fargo*...Did anyone get that movie at all?)

Do you suppose Antonio Banderas just has "Melanie" fallout? Could they just not figure out what character he was defined as? Because really if that was the case, I can help the Academy. Just give me a call. And was it just me or is he a much better looking version of the always passionate Meatloaf?

And though Geoffrey Rush from *Shine* has been quoted as saying "There's a hunger out there for genuine emotion, for stories that have some artistic principle---the things that defy market research." I would have to ask wherein *Evita* does one of those characteristics not apply.

Oh well, for what it's worth I have



said my piece. *Evita* is a well rounded film from every aspect. The actors are multi-talented, the script impeccable for a screen adaption, the direction outstanding. Who cares what the Academy says? I'll be at the theater again on the night of The Academy Awards paying homage to the film I believe most deserved not to be ignored this year. Disney handed you this film on a silver platter---don't let it be tarnished by any lack of overrated nominations. This is the film to see! X

Michele DeCampli reviewed the *Evita* movie soundtrack in our December/January issue. She really liked that too.

The various stages of Evita as Madonna shares screen time with (clockwise from top) Jonathan Pryce's Juan Peron, Antonio Banderas's Ché and Jimmy Nail's Augustin Migaldi.

Photos courtesy of Cinergi/Hollywood Pictures

Understanding "Women's Music" If It Wasn't For The Women

Bobbi Carmitchell

*If it wasn't for the women, women
We would not be living, living
We would not be joyful, singing
Loving and be living women.*

HOLLY NEAR

I took a trip down to Virginia recently with my mom. Skyline Drive to be exact. We've been making this trek together for so many years that I've lost count. I used to work up in these mountains in the late seventies. This is where my performing career got its start. I spent almost three years here, taking my first terrifying steps towards life as a professional musician, I was fresh out of high school with absolutely no idea of what I wanted to do with my life. I remember being drawn to this place by its sheer beauty and simplicity. These are some of the oldest mountains in the world and still little has changed since the Park's beginnings in the early 1930's. I guess that's why I return here every year. Somehow these mountains are a marker for me. A point in time where I can retrace my steps back to my beginnings, when my identity was just starting to take form.

While driving on this smooth surfaced road that hugs the Blue Ridge Mountains, Mom and I started thinking about the workers who built this 105 mile drive and the sacrifices they must have endured to make our trip here so effortless. It took seven years to complete this road---all done by hand. Think about that for a minute. It was 1931. There were no hydraulic tools or equipment to speak of. Seven years to build one road.

So, right about now, you're probably wondering what any of this has to do with Women's Music? Well, see if you can follow me. I do have a tendency to drift...

To understand Women's Music, we need to go back to the early 1970's. It was quite an exciting time of change, challenging the old ways and not taking "no" for an answer. The feminist movement was in high gear and nothing seemed impossible. The options for women musicians, composers and singers were extremely limited. From Fanny Mendelsohn, (Felix's sis-

ter), a gifted composer, to the Girl Groups of the 1960's, women were still primarily at the mercy of the men in the big chairs. We had little or no creative license. Those were the rules.

With the current for change charged by the feminist/lesbian movement, a group of women from California decided to change the rules. They figured if the record execs did not want to record their music, they'd simply form their own record label. So, Olivia Records was born. Based in San Francisco, it was the first All Women's Music label in the country, manufacturing and distributing only music by and about women. Over the next few years, they were responsible for such albums as **Turning it Over**, **Lavender Jane Loves Women** and **The Changer and the Changed**---the first women's music album to sell over one million copies.

Finally, women all over the country were hearing women like **TERESA TRULL**, **MEG CHRISTIAN** or **CRIS WILLIAMSON** singing about themselves and by themselves. It showed young women, like myself, that they were no longer alone in this big, cruel, straight, male world. It was the spark we needed.

Women's Music Festivals started popping up all across the country, mostly in rural, out-of-the-way locations on privately owned lands. Once there, we could relax in safe spaces, meet women from all walks of life, and hear our music. A number of festivals are still going strong today. The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival just celebrated its twentieth birthday. The Grandmother of Festivals, this annual mid-summer event offers an international mix of female musicians, dancers, poets and comediennees with an average attendance of 10,000 women from about every country in the world. I believe every woman owes it to herself to attend at least one festival in her lifetime. Perhaps another article on that later on?

Women's music is deeply rooted in the folk or acoustic vein. The use of storytelling through music was, and still is, important in the communication of our lives. Early line-ups at festivals would be filled with "GWG"---Girls With Guitars. Even though the label applies to me, it's fair to say that we were getting stuck with that format. We needed variety. Bands like the jazzy **DUECE** or the salsa-based **THE BLAZING REDHEADS** grew in popularity and became more visible on the festival circuit. We also started to take ourselves a little less seriously. Let's face it, fighting for tolerance can be a pretty intense lot in life. We had to loosen up sometime. Songs like Arizona-based songwriter Jamie

Anderson's *Straight Girl Blues*, Seattle's Dos Fallopia's *The Camp Song* or Sue Fink's *Leaping Lesbians*, took direct aim at our own seriousness. And we laughed right along. Sue even came up with the classic *Camp Nowannaveenie* product line of sweats, hats, etc.

Soon the next wave of women started making their own lanes on the roads paved by the Olivia generation of the '70's. Women began to market their own form of music outside the comfort of the festival family. College-based radio stations started carrying Women's Music programs in their rotation. "Sophie's Parlor" in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia's "Amazon Country"* are just a couple of progressive programs more than willing to fill the community's need. Female bookstores and music catalogs from across the country carry a diverse selection of music by women at a grass roots level. Ladyslipper Catalog recently celebrated 25 years. This North Carolina-based company is the most complete resource for women's music, film, books and videos in the country.

Now you can even go into Encore Books and find a "Women's Music Section" where you find a mix as diverse as the mainstream's. Bands like **TRIBE 8**, a hard core punk group, or **THE DYKETONES**, a '50's band or the classical work from **MUSICA FEMININA**. All women, all expressing themselves in their own unique style, but still deserving of the title of Women's Music. If asked to describe a waltz, we'd talk about 3/4 time and meter and a good beat to dance to. Punk certainly has its own style. Same with classical and '50's music. But Women's Music is all of these genres and more. The bottom line? Women's Music is anywhere women are...anyway you choose to spell it...Women, Wimmin, Womyn, whatever your own self-expression may be.

From the woman with her 4-track recorder in her basement, to Melissa Ethridge at the Grammy's to Olivia's 25th Anniversary concert at Carnegie Hall, we are making our voice heard. We're all part of an intertwining fabric that allows our uniqueness from everyone else, yet holds us all together.

And as I leave these mountains tomorrow, I think I'll head home and dig out my Meg Christian album, put on *The Road I Took To You* and retrace some old steps.

*This program can be found Sundays 9:00 p.m. on Philadelphia's WXPB and its sister station in Harrisburg---WXPB 88.1. X

Bobbi Carmitchell is a singer/songwriter of women's music. Carmitchell is currently organizing June's Raise Your Voice For A Cure---a breast cancer research fundraiser in Harrisburg.

Ms. Ether is not doing any press at this time," came the implacably calm, I-have-all-the-power-in-this-conversation voice on the phone.

"Really, anytime in the next several weeks would be fine, just a ten-minute call if..."

"She's not doing any press at this time. In fact, she arrives in your little town just before she goes on, and she's leaving immediately after the concert." Smart of you, Ms. Ether, I think to myself. Someone must have warned you about this area.

"Well, may I send you a faxed request with all the information about our magazine--just in case Ms. Ether starts doing press in the foreseeable future?"

"If you'd like," the cool voice replied, and rattled off a fax number.

"Thank you." I hung up, and stared out my office window.

Missy Ether, openly lesbian musician, was coming to town, and my job, like it or not (I did) was to get an interview at some time around the concert. My friend and editor publishes the only "alternative" magazine for this region, and the interview would be a tremendous boost for the fledgling 'zine. Not to mention what it would do for my social life. *I'm the only one--in town who's talked to her on the phone...*

No press at this time. I was far from discouraged. I was sure that persistence would pay off.

At coffee later in the week, my broker exclaimed, "Did you hear? They're pregnant!" No, I had not heard. No press. No wonder.

Before you pass judgment on my journalistic prowess, let me explain I am a free lancer of the freest kind. My editor is kind and I write for free. Generally, I'm more interested in being an advocate for local gay and lesbian teens, or for gay and lesbian parents involved in custody battles, than I am in celebrity interviews. But for this interview--well!

Being a small-town gal, I still ascribe to "nothing ventured, nothing gained," and I faxed the magazine's interview request to the press agent in NYC. I received no response. My editor faxed another request a few days later. Same response. The concert date was fast approaching.

I first learned of Missy while still living in Texas, when my sister (then living in New Mexico and too broke at the time to have bought even one CD), pirated a copy of Ether's first CD onto tape for me.

I listened to it while I ran several miles every day.

"She's gotta be a dyke," I told my sister.

"Why? I can relate to everything she sings," my hetero sis replied.

"What does that prove? Anyway, thanks for the tape," I answered.

I didn't attend an Ether concert until 1989. It was a relatively small venue in an auditorium, only one bus out back, but the show was great. The next day I wrote to my parents that Ether would be big, to keep any eye out for her name in the future, and to attend one of her concerts. I was more certain than ever that Missy was lesbo.

"No," my sister argued, "That new song about a boy in his fortress is about her affair with Bono, of U2."

"Really?!" I asked, incredulously. I had been so sure.

"Yeah. My friend in L.A. called to tell me."

"Oh. Damn." But I kept listening.

Then, of course, Missy came out.

"Ha!" I gloated to my sister.

"Oh yeah," she yawned, "Ed (the L.A. friend) met her the other day when they were both walking their dogs, and called to tell me she would be coming out," finished my well-connected and never-scooped little sister. (Has anyone else noticed that the baby of the family always seems to know everything?) "Ed said he didn't know who she was until after they had been talking for a while. When he figured it out, he told her my name and that I was the one who first gave him her music," sis finished smugly. I lamely asked what kind of dog Missy had, to which my sister scoffed, "I doubt Ed noticed."

In the final days before the concert, I began to worry that Ether or her press agent might actually call. *When the gods want to punish you, they give you what you ask for...*

It was time to contact my support crew. Becky gave me practical advice for The Interview.

"Follow a direct examination approach, not a cross-examination format," she drawled. Becky and I attended law school together in Texas. Becky's team won the mock trial competition. "You don't want to shut her down with a simple yes or no question," Becky counseled. No, wouldn't want to do that. It occurred to me that I hadn't been hanging

out with the most entertaining crowd in law school.

Another law school buddy, Karen, (who is also a former model and television actor) advised, "Stay very calm. Those people don't like an overly excited reporter." Those people? Reporter? I wondered whether I should let Karen do The Interview, since she is one of "those people."

Lastly, my kid sister didn't offer advice so much as begin to hint she was much better suited to conduct The Interview, what with her connections and all. I had no doubt that she was checking plane schedules and would try to arrive in time to steal my interview. (Another thing about the youngest--they always get everything they want.) I resolved to not call her again until after The Interview.

Until the day of the concert, I kept expecting that phone call to come through. I alternately hoped the call would come, or prayed it wouldn't. I kept the Ether file on my desk, filled with my oft-revised interview outline and several recently-gathered press clippings. My significant other, who has a rosier outlook on the world than do I, requested I invite Ms. Ether over for dinner when she called, as she must be tired of restaurant food. (Perhaps the feeling of disbelief I experienced at that moment was akin to what the press agent in NYC felt upon hearing my request for an interview with Ether.)

The concert was great, and was later ranked by the local newspaper as the best of the season, largely due to the "second stage" performance Ether put on for the cheap seats. Our friends visiting from California enjoyed the evening and were impressed by the lack of traffic problems here in Dutch Country. I had encouraged another friend, Dana, who had never even heard of Missy, to attend the concert. She did--and has now attended almost every concert of Ether's since. (Dana has slightly more discretionary income than most...). Dana's significant other, Barb, did not attend the concert and no longer speaks to me. My explanation of having innocently extended a one-time invitation to Dana to get out of the house for an evening fails to sway Barb.

and you left no souvenirs...

"Did you see Missy on Letterman?" my broker asked me several days later.

"No."

"She was great! They even talked

In Search of Missy Ether or My Misadventures in Celebrity Journalism

by Tish Frederick

about the baby! Dave thought it had already been born."

"Wow." No press, I guess, didn't include a chat with the host of a major television program.

"Another letter to the NYC press agent.

Hello, hello. The answer's still no. I began to have a sneaking suspicion that I was dealing with the person in the mailroom who poses as a press agent whenever a non-national journalist calls. Still, in case the person at the other end was legit, I persisted.

"Have you seen the cover of Newsweek?" Dana asked me the following week.

"No," I replied, beginning to realize that I may be slightly too free with my journalistic lancing.

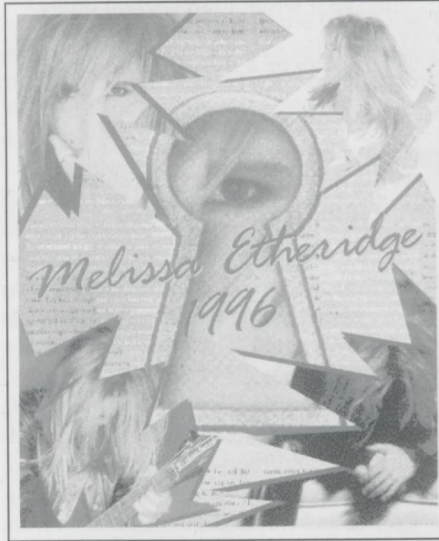
"They are both on the cover, and there's a long article about them and the baby!"

"Great," I replied, wondering at Newsweek's lack of press status. I guess their reporters' admission badges at major events read "NOT the press." My suspicions about the NYC press agent returned, stronger than before.

Then, of course, there were the appearances on Leno, Oprah, Maury, 20/20...

When you wish upon a star, makes a difference who you are!

Finally, I understood! "No press" in NYC means "no piddly, podunk press." The Interview would never happen.



Perhaps I should change my small town thinking to "no matter what is ventured, nothing gained..."

Naw. I'd try again, if given the chance. Optimism is my fate.

The rest of the year Dana kept me posted on the concerts, on the names of the road crew she met, and on who she had guitar picks from (one from a band member and one from Missy). I used to be Dana's business attorney, but I became worried about having to bail her out of jail long-distance as she became more daring at each concert. "I touched the toe of her boot while she was on the second stage!" Dana crowed during one phone call. "My god! What did security do?" I

asked, getting ready to take notes in case this call was the only one Dana was being allowed by the local authorities. "They rolled their eyes, shook their heads and smiled," she confided, "I don't look very dangerous." (Dana briefly lived in a convent early in life, and is now a retiree doing exactly what she wants with her time. Like flying all over creation to attend concerts.) Dana now owns a personalized and autographed picture of Missy. *No press at this time, but groupies welcome...*

The year and Ether's tour ended. Dana still calls occasionally to relive the glory days of her time as a groupie, but has gone back to her volunteer work. I continue to rally support for local gay and lesbian teens--my kids--who are treated unjustly. I haven't revised my Ether interview outline now in several months, but the file remains in my office (appropriately labeled and filed alphabetically). Maybe this is better. The Interview That Wasn't can be made into a great story... then again, Missy could need a break from motherhood--just a ten minute break. I think I'll fax NYC, again, just to remind them that Piddly, Podunk Press will still be happy to do The Interview. The phone could ring any day now...X

Accompanying artwork courtesy of local graphic artist Leah Nicole Gazzana proprietor of Lee ah Graphics.

Hey everybody! It's me again!!!

Michele DeCampi

better known as Shelly.

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**O.K...DID I MENTION
HELMETS ARE A
REQUIREMENT AS WELL!**



Harry Long

Something which never ceases to astonish me is how symphonic music dating back centuries is readily available for any symphony in the world to pick up and begin working on. Yet, some of the most interesting American symphonic work, the scores written for movies, are for all practical purposes unavailable. We can hear it any time we put on a video of the film. However, the sheet music an orchestra needs to play it doesn't exist.

The reason for this lack of availability boils down to storage space. Studios regularly trash-canned not only their film scores and music tracks, but extra scripts, production memos, even prints and negatives which were eating up precious room. Of all the components with limited future use, the scores seemed the most expendable. Symphonies wouldn't bother playing them unless they were "suitably" rearranged, a la the "Warsaw" or "Spellbound" concertos. And the release of the soundtracks themselves wasn't seen as viable until the 1950's and the age of hi-fi LPs.

Now, though somewhat lagging behind in appreciation of the films themselves, we're experiencing a renaissance of appreciation of the scores. But, since the materials are sparse or nonexistent, scores must be reconstructed from three or four stave piano-conductors' scores and by listening to a film's audio track to determine the orchestration (which means trying to listen to the music through dialogue and sound effects, not to mention primitive recording equipment on films from the 1930s). When the conductor's scores are not to be found, reconstruction is done totally by ear from the audio track!

So perhaps we shouldn't bemoan the unavailability of music from this or that

film but celebrate what is available, not to mention the companies who bring it to us. On the other hand, after finally catching up with the 1935 *She* on AMC a few weeks back, I'd kill to have a recording of Max Steiner's score.

One company dedicated to releasing reconstructed scores is Marco Polo, which has been at it for several years. The best thing about Marco Polo and their most frequent reconstructionist, John W. Morgan, is that they're not snobbish in their approach. While some companies will only deal in "class" films, even when the scores are mundane, Marco Polo exhibits a refreshing eclecticism, as evidenced by several recent releases.

Three collections of suites, *Historical Romances*, *Captain Blood* (a swashbuckler compendium) and *The Monster Music of Hans J. Salter and Frank Skinner* illustrate the breadth of their releases.

While the first two feature some movies which are excerpted on other CDs, the actual cues presented at least are fresh (and digital premieres); and the

Salter/Skiner disc represents a genre of music almost no one else has bothered to tackle.

Captain Blood, in addition to the titular Korngold suite, also presents an all-too-brief excerpt from Miklos Rozsa's *The King's Thief*. As a Rozsa fan I would have rather had a lengthier excerpt in exchange for the suite of Victor Young's music for *Scaramouche*.

Young was one of the most used composers in Hollywood in the late 40s and 50s, but his work has always struck me as a bit shallow. Melodically lovely, but nothing more. Given that *Scaramouche* was a light, colorful romp, the movie and composer were well-matched, but in terms of talent, Young is out of his depth on this collection.

Max Steiner's music to the 1935 version of *The Three Musketeers* gives a demonstration of what a light romp can sound like. In fact, the Steiner section is the real revelation of the album. If this



▼ Reel Music ▼

music is less epic than his work on *King Kong* or *She*, it doesn't descend into the ponderous syrup of much of his later music. And since the film has since been overshadowed by remakes, this jubilant score has gone virtually unheard. Nonetheless, it does help make a case that Steiner did his best work at RKO.

Korngold, who had one of the earliest juicy contracts for a film composer, is also represented on "Historical Romances" with an overture from *Juarez* and an unidentified cue from *Devotion*. Steiner is also on hand again with a suite from *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, one of his better scores for Warners, and here receiving a lengthier excerpt than in previous collections. Again the treat is a lesser-heard piece, a suite from Alfred Newman's *Gunga Din*.

When George Stevens filmed *Gunga Din*, he missed humor and heroics to such an extent that the studio executives, confused by the rushes as to just what the hell was being created, nearly pulled the plug on the project; only the intervention of the film's stars kept it alive. It may have puzzled the suits, but audiences loved its mixture of screwball and adventure, and it's fair to say that films such as the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* trilogies would not exist without the template of *Gunga Din*. Newman's score matches Stevens' audaciousness at every turn, jaunty and dramatic by turns, with sweeping melodic passages and startlingly counterpointed rhythms. Newman was an expert pop tunesmith, and as such has often been unfairly lumped into the Victor Young mold. *Gunga Din* is one of several scores (*Captain from Castille* would be

another) which puts the lie to that, and it's a joy to have it given a fair hearing.

In the category of seldom-heard and underappreciated, no disc qualifies better than *The Monster Music of Hans J. Salter and Frank Skinner*, which collects suites from the duo's scores for *Son of Frankenstein*, *The Invisible Man Returns* and *The Wolf Man*.

Salter and Skinner, working together and separately, created most of the music for Universal 1940's fantasy films. These three represent their earliest collaborations as well as Universal's next-to-last gasps at producing such films with decent budgets---they certainly represent the last

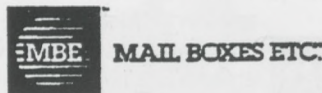


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(There's no room for a copier
or a fax. So he uses ours.)

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three with reasonably intelligent scripts.

Although Universal was notorious for recycling music in their lower budgeted films, these three had mostly original music and show Salter and Skinner at their best. The score for *Son of Frankenstein* matches this slower, more philosophical film as well as Franz Waxman's more celebrated score, "Bride." The whirling strings would become associated at Universal with any theme of science run amok and future monster attacks would be underscored with a

variation created here, a theme that relentlessly gathers speed and volume. *The Wolf Man* cannily suggests the hunt in its featuring of brass instruments. Most unusual is the underscoring for *The Invisible Man Returns*, a sci-fi variation of Hitchcock that uses luscious melodies for strings which could be equally at home in any Bette Davis soap of the period.

Given the difficulty of assembling materials, it is understandable, if regrettable, that so much of what is being issued on golden age scores is in the form of "samplers." When a full score is recorded, it tends generally to be from a high profile film regarded as safe bet. Marco Polo has two full scores among their recent releases, and one of them is anything but a safe bet.

Hitchcock's first American film, the glossy, big-budget *Rebecca* gets full-scale treatment from conductor Adriano and the Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra of Bratislava. It was also Franz Waxman's first chance to really strut his stuff a mere four years after *The Bride of Frankenstein*, a film which caused MGM to snap him up, only to bury him in fluff like "The Philadelphia Story."

Unfortunately, this was to be the case for much of Waxman's career: tons of syrupy goop only occasionally relieved by a *Sunset Boulevard* or a *Taras Bulba*. *Rebecca* represents a maturing; while "Bride" is a highly original, but disparate score, "Rebecca" is more of a piece. If it occasionally succumbs to the syrup to come, it also features the sensuous melodies he was capable of, and in the fire at Manderley sequence, the highly idiosyncratic rhythm and orchestration which would always be a hallmark. *Rebecca* is the only film reviewed here whose original orchestrations are mostly intact.

The wild card in the releases, however, is the full score of *House of Frankenstein*.

On the surface, this may seem an unlikely candidate for full restoration. True, Karloff's return to Hollywood after his Broadway triumph in *Arsenic and Old Lace* prompted Universal to pump more money into the film than was their wont at the time, but the script was a tired, tired, tired rehash. Even die-hard fans of the Universal thrillers hold it in low regard except for the acting contributions of Karloff, John Carradine and J. Carroll Nash. But since Salter teamed here with his fellow refugee from Hitler, Paul

Dessau, this film just happens to boast some of the most remarkable music of the 40s.

While incorporating, to a limited extent, some themes from previous Universal product (the hunting-horn theme for the *Wolf Man*, for instance), the bulk of the score is original. And thanks to avant-gardist Dessau, the

work is colored by off-kilter xylophone runs in the *Dracula* segment and deliciously dissonant music for the *Chamber of Horrors*. The atonalities of the score reportedly horrified Universal executives in a way the film could never have managed; whatever dissuaded them from replacing it is unknown---perhaps they just needed to get it to the theatres too soon---but we're fortunate to have it. With the acting, it is easily one of the highlights of an otherwise unremarkable film.

The Marco Polo releases are uniform in the quality of their packaging and production. The sound quality and the conducting of Adriano, William T. Stromberg (with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra on the horror films) and Richard Karfman (leading the Brandenburg Philharmonic Orchestra of Potsdam) create faithful performances which are dynamic as well as respectful of their sources. The liner books are generously illustrated and informative, if not as outrageously complete as those from Monstrous Movie Music or Turner/Rhino. In short, Marco Polo is one of the class acts in film music releases. X



**Ima
BT**

Warner Reprise Records, 1996

Dance music is a genre that has grown in popularity by leaps and bounds in recent years. Nary a CD single is released that doesn't boast of multiple remixes by DJ This and Mixmaster That. Even the beloved ballad *Don't Cry For Me Argentina*, recently reincarnated by Madonna, has failed to escape the DJ's needle and a good bludgeoning by a thudding backbeat. How does one make sense of such a saturated market? It doesn't help that most people hear this music in dance clubs, an environment not very conducive to listening, what with all the flashing lights, gyrating bodies and free-flowing alcohol. Besides, who goes to the dance club to listen to music anyway?! So how can a listener choose from the hundreds of dance artists and compilations and find one that is "just right?" Enter BT, an artist who might help make that decision much easier.

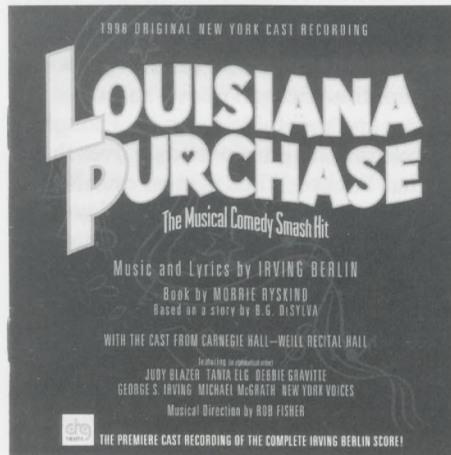
BT is short for Brian Transeau, and his first album, *Ima*, is a 2-CD extravaganza which contains more than two hours of music. All the high energy drum tracks and electronic pulsings are in place, but there is also a spiritual element present in BT's music - in fact, he credits Deepak Chopra with inspiration on a track entitled *Divinity*. Another track, *Embracing the Future*, has a soothing beginning; ocean surf combined with the chirping of katydids give it an almost ethereal feel. Soon the dance beat kicks in, but it does not diminish the mood set at the start of the piece. It is actually enhanced by the inclusion of whale and dolphin song. The combination of these elements produce a decidedly unique sound.

Vocals are minimal on *Ima*, but the most notable ones come from guest Tori Amos on the track *Blue Skies*. This is not their first collaboration: BT remixed Amos' *Talula*, a track from her most recent effort *Boys For Pele*. Amos' vocals crackle with their trademark intensity on *Blue Skies*, and BT manipulates and alters them skillfully on this track.

Given the ethereal undertone prevalent throughout *Ima*, the album nevertheless possesses all the energy, pulsating beats and electronic effects of a superb dance album. It is just as appropriate as party music as it would be as an aural backdrop to a work environment. BT is a promising new artist, and one who hopefully will

not be swept away in the current wave of dance artists.

Clare Craig



**Original Cast Recording
Louisiana Purchase
DRG Theater, 1996**

Not to imply that this reviewer is jaded, but it does take some doing for music to bring a smile to this face. This CD does it. There's a bit of orchestration in the overture that provoked a chuckle, and there was complete enjoyment for the next hour. And, as it turns out, for many hours after that.

The experience is that of hearing a brand new Irving Berlin musical, although *Louisiana Purchase* is anything but. It opened in 1940 and enjoyed a then-respectable Broadway run of slightly over a year. After it closed in New York, *Louisiana Purchase* toured major cities for another year.

For whatever reason, it fell between the cracks. The show produced none of the "standards" we associate with Berlin. The utterly forgettable movie version, starring Bob Hope and minus most of the music, didn't help. Singers recorded music from the show and sheet music was published, but it just didn't stay in the public's consciousness.

Happily, *Louisiana Purchase* was resurrected in a concert version last summer, and the cast recording was recently released by DRG Theater. The music is a blast, the performance are what Broadway shows once were all about, and virtually every number has something going for it.

Listening to this disc is like discovering a trunkful of Irving Berlin songs, whether *Sex Marches On*, *Outside Of That I Love You* (with a rhyme of "Iorgnette" and

"born yet" that predates *Carousel*), *What Chance Have I With Love?*, *Latins Know How*, *Wild About You* and many others.

Of the shows' ballads, the best comes early in the show. *It's A Lovely Day Tomorrow* is a mist-producing song by itself, but put in terms of when the show was produced (just before World War II), it's quite a touching song, certainly among Berlin's finest. Why it never caught on is anyone's guess.

It's all here: outstanding performances of tunes that are everything you would expect from a '40's musical, whether comedy tunes, dance numbers, big band songs, or some of the closest quartet singing ever written (originally for a group called The Martins and in this recording performed flawlessly by New York Voices); music that takes you back to a time that sounds like a lovely era to visit.

While the cast is most entertaining, special mention should be made of Michael McGarth, Debbie Gravitte, George Irving and Taina Elg, who sing their roles perfectly, and Judy Blazer, who turns in yet another fascinating performance. Music director Rob Fisher obviously understands and loves this music.

Louisiana Purchase is perfect for people who love Irving Berlin, who love older musical theater, who like to hear singers get into character and hear characters sing, and those who are just curious about the music from that era. Without reservation, this is one of the most surprising and satisfying CDs of its kind. Dim the lights, start the Overture, and let it happen.

David Walker

**The Wizard of Oz In Concert:
Dreams Come True
Jackson Browne,
Natalie Cole, Roger Daltrey,
Joel Grey, Jewel, Dr. John,
Debra Winger, Nathan Lane,
David Sanborn,
Phoebe Snow, Ronnie Spector
Rhino Records, 1996**

It's that time of year again...or it used to be. Spring always gave us kids a reason to not only anticipate the day of equal light and night, but the television showing (for the umpteenth time) of the *Wizard of Oz*. The 1939 MGM classic, which attained cultural permanence via its airings on the CBS network beginning



in the fifties, forever placed actors Ray Bolger, Billie Burke, Jack Haley, Margaret Hamilton, Bert Lahr, and Frank Morgan in the minds of those who otherwise may have entered kitsch oblivion.

Of course Judy Garland's career, already on the rise, was boosted into Hardy heaven due to her stellar portrayal of Dorothy Gale. Her rendition of *Over the Rainbow*, the only major Oscar won by the film, has been duplicated, but with the exception of Patti LaBelle, her version has been unexcelled...until now.

The Wizard of Oz In Concert: Dreams Come True, the CD companion to the 1996 TNT cable channel produced special, contains what can be considered the best version of the beloved classic. Performed by current pop phenom Jewel, *Over The Rainbow* proves that as long as she doesn't let her nowfound success go to her head, her career has miles to go.

The performance, a benefit for the Children's Defense Fund, takes the film and places it on the stage. Along with the Boys Choir of Harlem, who portray the diminutive citizens of Munchkinland, most of the musical performances are quite outstanding.

No longer running on empty, Jackson Browne proves more than adequate as the Scarecrow. His *If I Only Had a Brain* is quite superb and would be considered better than the film version if it weren't for the cerebrally burnished memory of Ray Bolger's loose dancing. Still, I cannot say enough about his version...so I won't.

Former Who front man Roger Daltrey is admirable as the Tin Man. Shades of Whodom (from Whoville?) spill nostalgically forth as Daltrey puts his *Tommy* experience to good use. And is it my imagination, or do the performances of Browne and Daltrey seem emblematic of the eras of pop music they represent?

1996's Pop Darling of the Year Nathan Lane displays his stage acumen with his portrayal of the Cowardly Lion. Not a sin, just an interesting observation. In *If*

I Were King of the Forest, Lane treats the listener to a taste of what he does best--ad libbing:

*"If I were king of the forest
Not queen, not duke, not prince
(or The Artist Formerly Known As Prince).*

One of the wrinkles in this otherwise delightful CD is Debra Winger. Her portrayal of the Wicked Witch is rather tedious and painful to listen to. Though it is a role that requires one to go over the top, her Wicked Witch is most dreadful. Maybe they should have called Glenn Close whose Cruella DeVille was more than over the top, and yet quite breathtaking in a fur-loving way. Either way, it increases my anticipation of the day when Roseanne will take over the coveted role. Happy days will indeed be here again!

Another disappointing feature is Natalie Cole whose vocals are wonderful, but whose spoken lines are uninspired. Still, the voice behind *This Will Be and Unforgettable* can be forgiven. Her soulful Glinda can stand comfortably beside Lena Horne's similar *Wiz* portrayal.

In spite of Ms. Winger and Ms. Cole, a treat can be found in the reemergence of Phoebe Snow who sings the *If I Only Had a Brain/A Heart/The Nerve* reprise. Where have you been Miss Snow? Come back little Phoebe.

The rendition of *The Jitterbug*, removed from the final edit of the film, is a welcome addition to this compilation (the movie version can be found on the updated Rhino release of the film soundtrack also released last year).

Other luminaries (Joey Grey, Ry Cooder, David Sanborn) round out a CD that surprises and, if one ignores the "acting of the Winger/Cole axis, entertains the kid in all of us. Get it if you want to breather from the original film soundtrack. It indeed does the original proud. X
J.D. Kennedy

The Womyn's Hour

Continued from Page 33

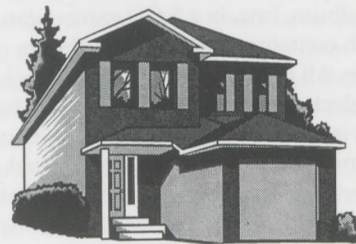
my first girlfriend when I was thirteen. But until we hooked up I was pretty much a twelve year old slut.

When I first came out I hid behind the guise of bisexuality. For some reason it seemed an acceptable medium. Once I'd adjusted to that I catapulted out of the closet, and joined the ranks of the full-fledged perverts."

"My cousin blames her bisexuality on her ex-husband," Joy explained. "She says he introduced her to the gay life because his fantasy was to have two women at once. So after she started experimenting with that, she met a friend of my partner's named Gale, and decided that she was going to be gay. That lasted for about two months. And then she got a C.B. radio installed in her car. And decided that she

Continued on Page 44

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Bye, Gail

Eugina Shelton

An unsettling emptiness fills me as I watch the van leave. Rocks and dust are spit from beneath the tires as she takes the long rutted driveway a bit too fast. I want to say "Wait! Come back! We're not through!" I raise my hand to signal to her but I stop before I wave her back. Time separates us now.

I was so eager to see my friend. In many ways we grew up together. We met in nursing school. We were full of idealism and dreams. We were going to save the world together. We shared warm beer and sang *Seasons In The Sun* to the tinny radio that sat beside my dorm bunkbed. I waited up for her the night she lost her virginity. I danced at her wedding and held her firstborn son as if he were my own. As our families grew and our lives changed we'd kept in touch with phone calls and cards. There were times I wouldn't hear from her, but none as long or as cold as this most recent span. After many months, we finally made plans to spend time together.

It was good to see her. She looked the same to me as she did that first day in

nursing school twenty-three years ago. It had been too long since we'd talked.

I hugged her to squeeze away the years that had come between us. I waited for the warm glow to melt the layer of ice that seemed to encase her. She hugged me back, but it was not real.

She tried hard, too hard, to like my new lover. She told me many times that she is thrilled by my happiness and fully accepts my newly discovered lesbianism. Who was she really trying to convince?

I tried to understand her fear. Was she running from me? Was she running from herself? I imagine it is hard to know where you fit in when your best friend loves another woman. Maybe it is more than that, though. Maybe she is afraid of my strength. I left a bad marriage and defied society to do what was right for me. She can't.

I could think about it forever and I probably won't understand. Anyway, knowing won't fill this gnawing empty spot inside me. I wanted to spend a lazy morning with her, drinking too much coffee and finding that warm place we once knew. I wanted to show her the spot where my lover and I exchanged vows. I wanted her to meet the horses. She really had to go. Another quick hug. Was she afraid to touch me? Was she afraid to be

too close? We said a quick goodbye full of the false promise of keeping in touch as she crawled into the safety of her van.

Now I pull my sweater tightly around my body as a sudden breeze sends leaves swirling about my feet. My stepdog dances around me inviting me to play. I rub her velvety ears and walk back towards my house. I realize that I am different. I am home. I have found peace. Perhaps this is why my oldest friend and I seem to have nothing to say anymore.

The van crests the hill and she is gone.

X

Her Hands Were a Lily

*She reached up with the insides
Of her translucent wrists locked together,
Her fingers bent and slightly apart
Age spots like brown withered edges
On white petals of a cut flower.
Her son bent over her bed,
And in the last seconds of life
She cupped his chin
In the center of the lily.*

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WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY? - COMEDY OF ERRORS
LEND ME A TENOR

The Womyn's Hour

Continued from Page 42

was going to be a lot lizard and sleep with all these truckers. So she was seeing Gale and all these truckers at the same time. Whoever showed her the most attention was who she would sleep with at that time. I don't really believe that she's bi, but the attention that she gets from Gale keeps her going while the guys are on the road."

I think bisexuality is just a confused state of mind," Jen interjected. "I think they just need to pick or be pushed in one direction. Y'know, gay or straight. Check one box please."

I cut her off then. "But that's the same attitude that homophobic straight people have about gays. We just need a little push in the right direction. I mean, I'm not bisexual so I can't claim to understand it. But I'm not going to risk being pretentious when I myself can't see the entire picture. The point is, we're all minorities: gays, lesbians and bisexuals. There is some horrible discrimination towards us as a group and I don't feel that we can afford the luxury to have prejudices among our own."

"Yeah I can agree with that," Jodi said, "I mean I've been bashed by straights more than once and it's a really alienating experience. I mean, the reason we have gay bars and support groups is so that we don't have to feel like we're on the outside looking in. I mean, Jen and I were harassed in Philadelphia by some woman who screamed at us that we were going to hell.

"Another time I was walking by the

river with an old girlfriend and this freak who was standing like, knee deep in the Susquehanna challenged us to a pissing contest. The gay community provides a kind of sanctuary from those sort of attacks and I think bisexuals are just as entitled to that haven as the rest of us.

I nodded, "We have enough trouble with flack from straight U.S.A., can we really afford to create problems for ourselves? Homosexuals aren't even protected by the law in a lot of cases. No marriage. Meager job protection. And adoption is next to impossible."

"I personally would like to get married one day," Jen chimed in. "But all this fear mongering and bull from the White House and the Religious Right is probably gonna keep that from happening for the next twenty years."

"Now wait a minute, I think we need to be more concerned about getting equal rights under the law, before we start getting paranoid about whose going to violate them." I interrupted, "What good is it going to do us if we're granted the right to marry, but can still be fired if we're gay? I mean, homosexuality is still illegal in thirteen states."

"I worry about that at my job," Joy confided, her anxiety plain. "I work at a daycare with mostly two year olds. And I'm afraid that if I come out I'll be fired."

"These are trying times," I nodded solemnly. "So tell me, what keeps you going? What makes you keep pushing for what you need to survive? Why haven't you given up?"

"I realize that I'm probably the youngest person here," Kelly said, "And you probably all see me as naive and ide-

alistic, but I just keep telling myself someday things will get better. I mean things have improved twenty times since the fifties. And it's not like progress just stops. Sooner or later somebody has to bend."

"I see women really evolving into indispensable assets in the new millennium," Jodi said, "Progress is slow, but we're starting to be taken seriously. Doors are starting to swing open now for the first time. It's not going to happen all at once, but I believe we're on our way to losing these Old Testament stereotypes that have been limiting our growth for so long."

"Love keeps me going," Joy sighed, brushing her bangs away from her face absently. "As long as I'm in a secure relationship, the outside world doesn't seem to matter as much. Or reality just doesn't cut so deep. What other people think or how they judge me doesn't hurt as much as it used to, because I have enough invested in myself as a person. I'm not ashamed of who I am. I'm confident about my lifestyle. And at least I know that if any obstacles are in my way, I didn't create them for myself."

"I have a lot to do," Jen demurred. "Things that are unfinished. New experiences. I still have to find time to grow up and I'm not doing that until I'm good and ready. I'm only twenty for God's sake; who am I trying to impress? I keep going because I'm not a coward and because life can be great sometimes. And because I like telling people who have a problem with me that I'm not going to apologize for my behavior. I love getting high and eating ice cream right out of the box and having multiple orgasms. I practice the most effective method of birth control on the planet: lesbianism. I like life. And I think that the fact that I have the courage to live life the way I want to just brings me one step closer to empowerment."

Personally, I stick it out in pure anticipation, because women unhindered possess unlimited potential. Sooner or later we're all going to start building bridges instead of burning them. I sense that an incredible awakening is not too far off in the future.

To quote Leslie Bricusse: "Now is the chance to take charge of our fate. Deep down you must know that tomorrow's too late. One rule of life we cannot rearrange; The only thing constant is change." X



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Financing the Real Estate Transaction

Ray Davis

In many ways, financing has become much easier than before thanks to lenders and investors offering community reinvestment money, government bond and grant money. These funds often mean funds at reduced interest rates, reduced down payments, closing cost assistance and increased income tax credits.

Many times these special opportunities are available to first time homebuyers or those who have not owned real estate within the past three years.

Since many of these special programs are aimed at first time homebuyers, underwriting guidelines may be a bit more lenient, allowing more flexibility guidelines may be a bit more lenient, allowing more flexibility for buyers with unique financial circumstances, slightly higher than usual debt loads, etc.

However, due to increased loan defaults, certain underwriting guidelines have become more stringent, including scrutiny of buyer's credit history, verifications of sources of funds and employment history.

Conventional vs. Non-Conventional

Financing. In a general sense, financing falls into two categories---conventional and non-conventional.

Typically conventional financing requires a minimum of 3% or 5% down payment, which must be from the buyer's own funds. The lender will verify that these are the buyer's own funds, and have been in the buyer's bank account for two or three months prior to the loan application date.

Non-conventional financing would generally refer to FHA or VA financing. Contrary to what many believe, this type of financing is not reserved for first time homebuyers. The main difference from conventional financing is that FHA and VA loans are government insured loans. Any homebuyer may qualify for an FHA loan, but you must be a veteran and meet

Most people agree that the most enjoyable aspect of the Real Estate buying process is "the search." Typically, buyers enjoy spending endless hours searching for the perfect home. ♦ Many would also agree that the financing aspect is the most intimidating! This does not have to be the case. With a bit of education, the proper counseling and affiliation with a competent loan originator and financing institution, the process can be swift and painless. ♦ In this article, I will attempt to provide a basic and general overview of the financing aspect of real estate. Space will not allow me to offer specifics of different types of financing. When you are ready to consider a real estate purchase, consult your realtor or some local lending institutions for more specific information and financing options tailored to your situation.

certain eligibility requirements to qualify for a VA loan.

With FHA and VA loans, a buyer does not have to have funds of their own---ALL funds used for down payments and closing costs may be a gift from a family member. Whoever a buyer uses gift funds, the donor must complete a gift letter and often times the source of the funds is verified.

How Much Money Do You Need?

In addition to the down payment, there are closing costs involved with a real estate purchase. Closing costs include items such as title insurance, transfer tax, loan origination fees, tax and insurance prorations, recording and notary fees.

Closing costs may average 5%-7% of the sales price of the home. Buyers with limited funds may decide to ask the seller to help pay some of their closing costs, and the amount of seller may pay depends upon the specifics of the financing program.

How Much Can I Afford? To qualify a buyer for a mortgage, a lender will use income and debt ratios. Typically with conventional financing, a buyer's monthly mortgage payment may not exceed 28% of their gross monthly income. For buyers with monthly debts such as auto loan, student loan, credit cards, personal loans etc., the mortgage payment plus monthly debts cannot exceed 36% of the buyer's gross monthly income. Special financing programs will often use "extended ratios", such as 29% and 41%, for buyers with slightly higher than usual debt loads.

Whenever a lender calculates a buyer's mortgage payment, the figure will include principal repayment, interest, property taxes mortgage insurance (if required) and homeowners insurance. Taxes and insurance amounts are generally held in an escrow account by the lender and payments made for the buyer when the premiums are due.

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What Are Points? Must I Pay Them? I will oversimplify the answer to this most commonly asked question! Points may be considered prepaid interest. One point equals 1% of the amount you borrow. For example, on a \$100,000 loan amount, one point equals \$1,000. The more points you pay, the lower interest rate you may get. Unless you are financing with a special program, you do not have to pay points. Points are generally paid with your closing costs.

Discuss with your lender if it would be advantageous for you to pay points. Generally speaking, if you intend to own your home for more than five years, it may be in your best interest to consider paying points.

Should You Be Pre-Approved For a Loan?

With some very basic information, your realtor or lender can pre-qualify you for a loan. Pre-qualification merely means that based on the information you have provided, it is pre-determined what amount of monthly payment you can afford.

A pre-approval means that the information you have provided, such as employment and income, assets and debts, has been verified by underwriters and that credit history is satisfactory. Pre-approvals are becoming faster (sometimes two to three weeks) and can be very valuable when your realtor is negotiating a contract for you.

Documentation you will need for a mortgage interview includes W-2 statements for two years, paycheck stubs for the most recent month, two months bank statements, and copies of most recent loan statements and credit accounts. Other documentation may be required depending upon your particular situation.

What Lender Should I Use? There are many factors to consider here. Most often the first thing a consumer is concerned about is the interest rate. needless to say, this is always a major factor in the decision, but there are others to consider as well: lenders' "junk fees", the processing and servicing of your application, ability to meet timelines, and availability of special financing programs tailored to the needs of the buyer.

Remember the following:

***Consider being prequalified well in advance of making a purchase. This will answer many questions, and alleviate unnecessary concerns.

***Every buyer's situation is different, and a professional can help identify the most advantageous financing for you.

***Be completely honest with your loan

officer. Withheld information regarding credit problems, debts and gaps in employment can cause delays. With acceptance explanations, these obstacles can be overcome.

***Save documentation (tax returns, bank statements) which you may need in the future.

***Have a credit report run from time to time. Even with today's technology errors occur, and with monitoring on your part, your credit report can be kept accurate and up to date. X

Ray Davis is a Realtor for Jack Gaughen Realtor in Harrisburg.

A Penny Saved Is A Dollar Invested

Shane Radford

Are you like me? I'm a single gay man, over 40, no long term partner. I come from absolutely nothing, financially speaking. No family inheritance, no trust funds were ever open in my name. My parents were work-a-day people, American born children of turn-of-the-century Russian immigrants. Living pay check to pay check, my parents never were taught the value of saving and investing. I'm not even as lucky as my parents. In my entire adult life, I've never held a long term 9-5 job. My income is sporadic.

However, I was lucky that one of my first bosses on a temporary office job I held as a teenager, taught me the value of a dollar and the necessity of saving and investing. Advice that has certainly come in handy now that I'm passing through the financially insecure '90's. Her name was Carty Hanson and I haven't seen or heard of her in more than twenty years, yet I'm still playing the little saving game Carty taught me with one dollar bills. This game can be played with bills of higher denominations,...but who can afford?

Carty showed me that each one dollar

bill is identified by the city that it was printed in. There are twelve cities in the U.S. that print paper money. Look at the face of the bill. One of the twelve city names is printed on a circle surrounding that city's identifying letter positioned just to the left of the picture of George Washington. In each inner corner of the bill is a number also identifying that city. For example, bills printed in Philadelphia, are identified by the letter 'C' and the number 3 in each of the four inner corners. Carty taught me to make a game out of collecting twelve dollars. She told me to check my dollar bills every day. Usually bills that we get back in change when making purchases with larger bills. The game was to collect twelve one dollar bills, each from a different city of printing origin, one through twelve, 'A; through 'L'. I would then have saved \$12 without even trying, just by playing this little game. I was then to place the cash in a small interest savings account in the bank.

Twenty years ago, the U.S. Treasury was offering much high interest rates on Savings Bonds than it is today. You could purchase a \$25 Savings Bond for the amount of \$12.50. That's what I would do with money saved in a small interest account. Today, the smallest savings bond purchase that can be made is a \$50 bond, purchased for \$25.

In the 1990's, I've been playing the same game, but with a higher denomination and for less interest. However, if you, like me only have small amounts of money to save and invest at any given time, a U.S. EE Treasury bond will still give you more interest than a simple savings account or a money market account. This decade has found me collecting two sets of \$12 bills, add a dollar to it and with the twenty-five dollars, purchase a \$50 bond.

These days, the trick is to know how and when to cash in or roll over these bonds. After maturity, which usually is a few years, a bond will continue to earn interest at it's purchase rate for thirty years, even if the interest rate on new purchases has dropped, and it has, drastically from twenty years ago.

A typical bond owner deciding for one reason or another that today is the day to start redeeming bonds, may grab a stack of them and cash them in, not realizing that he may have cashed in the best performers and kept the weak ones.

$$\text{\$12} + \text{\$12} + \text{\$1} = \text{\$50?}$$

AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Community Alliance (Former SCAAN)

Satellite office located in the Visiting Nurses Association Facility
118 Washington St., Harrisburg 17104, 233.7190

44 N. Queen St., Lancaster 17603 (Former LAP)
394.3380 / Hotline: 394.9900

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 Thurs. at 7:00 pm (Open)

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 Hartline 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 pm for persons infected with
and affected by HIV disease and AIDS.

Board Meeting: Every first Thursday (Open to public).
Classroom 1, Chambersburg Hospital, 112 N. Seventh Street,
Chambersburg. Call for time.

Positively HIV

P.O. Box 88, Lemoyne 17043-0888
731.LIVE (5483) email: gmwhite@hivnalive.org
World Wide Web: <http://www.hivnalive.org>

A support system of choice giving hiv-infected individuals the
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Rainbow Home of Berks County

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Wernersville 19565-0300, 610.678.6172

AtlantisWeb.org

Nationwide non-profit internet and intranet web server.
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Additional information at <http://www.hivnalive.org/synergy.htm>
A Bell Atlantic Internet Solution
sponsored by Positively HIV, Inc.
email: synergy@hivnalive.org

Wellspring of Lebanon, Inc.

230 Chestnut Street, Lebanon 17042, 273.8826 FAX: 394.9915
A hospice open to all persons who have HIV disease.
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York Health Extended Social Services (YHESS!)

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vices for infected individuals. Support groups, individual and couple
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737.7104

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94 Kinsey St., Montgomery 17752, 547.1329

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

Worship Service: Sundays at 7 pm 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 pm, Altoona.

Lutherans Concerned of Central PA

c/o Messiah Lutheran Church

6th & Forster Streets, Harrisburg 17102, 232.4819

Second Sun.: Mtg. for gay / lesbian Lutherans and friends at 7 pm

Mahantongo Spirit Garden

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 Church of the Spirit

2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg 17110, 236.7387

Worship Service: Sundays at 10:30 am & 7 pm.

Christian Education Classes: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Every Second Thursday: Lesbibigaytrans Parenting Group
at 8:30 pm

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg,

Lesbian & Gay Concerns Committee

1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg 17113, 564.4761

Worship Service: Sundays at 10:30 am

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 am

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Church of the Spirit

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

Worship Services: Sundays at 10:30 am and 7 pm
Social and bookstore follow services.

SOCIAL GROUPS

Gay/Lesbian Book Discussion Group

Encore Books, Hampden Center, Mechanicsburg 17055, 761.2665
Every third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm to 9 pm
January thru November.

Harrisburg Area Women's Night Out

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.

Susquehanna Valley Bears

P.O. Box 8523, Lancaster 17604

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

SWITCHBOARDS

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg

P.O. Box 872, Harrisburg 17108, 234.0328, (M - F 6-10 pm)

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 pm)

Meeting: Held every Wednesday at 6 pm 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 pm)

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,
(Sunday, Wednesday & Thursday at 6-10 pm)

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Allies/Dickinson

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

BGLASS & SDAC

Box 58, Susquehanna University, Selingsgrove 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.)

All telephone numbers are in the 717 area code unless otherwise noted.

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 pm at Alumni House

GALA
P.O. Box 3220, Lancaster 17604-3220, 399.6192

Gay & Lesbian Youth Group
Meeting: Every Other Wednesday at 7:30 pm 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 122, Parsons Union Building (PUB), 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: Third Tuesday at Unitarian Society of York
Call 852-8543, 684-6310, or 757-4270 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

SUPPORT 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, 795.9038

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 pm at 1514 N. Second Street.
(Enter through side door.)

**Gay and Lesbian Community 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 pm and Fridays at 8:30 pm at
Friends Meeting House, Sixth & Herr Streets.

Lambda AA / Chambersburg
Meeting: Every Tuesday at 8 pm at 240 N. Seventh Street.

Lambda AA / Lancaster
Meeting: Every Tuesday at 8 pm 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 pm 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 pm 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

**Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/
Central Susquehanna**
Call Candy at 742.9530.
Meeting: Every fourth Monday at 7 pm 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 pm 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 pm

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/York
Call Charles at 846.2560 for more information.
Lutheran Village, 750 Kelly Drive
Meeting: Every first Tuesday at 7:00 pm

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 Festival of Central Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 5065, Harrisburg 17110, 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, 780.1578
Email: akira@ezonline.com
*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 pm at the AIDS Resource
Alliance Office, 507 W. Fourth Street.

York Area Lambda
P.O. Box 2425, York 17405-2425, 846.9636

Send revisions and additions for Resources to CPI
c/o Resources P.O. Box 5744 Harrisburg, PA 17110-0744

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April

5 Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg
Annual Volleyball Tournament sponsored by the Metropolitan
Community Church of the Spirit to raise funds for GLSH. Penn State
Capital Campus, Middletown, 1:00 pm. For more information call
GLSH at 234.0328.

5 AIDS Community Alliance
Benefit: *Stars of Fantasy*. Mulberry Art Studio, 21 N. Mulberry St.,
Lancaster, 8:00 pm. Call 399.9928/394.3380 for tickets/information.

6 crossroad Publications, Inc.
Birthday Party: Come out and celebrate our first anniversary with our
special guest DJ Heidi Linn from 7 pm - 11 pm on Stallions' Main
Dance Floor. 706 N. Third St., Harrisburg.

13 Harrisburg Memorial Gardens
Grandma's Cotillion (or I'm Coming Out). Men perform in drag for
the first time in this one time performance to raise funds for
Harrisburg's Riverfront Memorial Gardens. Stallions, 706 N. Third
St., Harrisburg, 8:00 pm. Cover. Call 233-4681 for information.

**18 - May 11 Angels In America
Part One: Millenium Approaches**

Tony Kushner's Tony Award winning play to be performed at Open
Stage of Harrisburg. Opening night price of \$25 includes perfor-
mance and reception for the benefit of the AIDS Alliance for Greater
Harrisburg. Call 232.6736 for ticket/benefit information.

19 Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus
Concert: *Music! Music! Music!* Unitarian Church, 1280 Clover Lane,
Harrisburg, 8 pm. Tickets: \$10. For more information, call 469.1377.

19 Metropolitan Church of the Spirit
Bingo & Boogie. 2 hour bingo/2 hour dance. MCC building, 2973
Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, 7 pm. Call 236.7387 for more info.

20 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
Surf or Turf Dinner. Prime Rib or Salmon Dinner, \$15.00. Heaven
Restaurant, 706 N. Third Street, Harrisburg. Seatings at 5:00 & 6:30
pm. Reservations suggested at 232.8112.

May

4 AIDS Community Alliance
AIDSWALK '97. Harrisburg, Lancaster & Lebanon. Call Lisa Gockley
at 394.3380 for information.

9 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
Benefit: Female illusionists *Glenda & Friends*. All tips go to support
the Central PA Pride Festival. B-TLS, 891 Eisenhower Blvd., Hbg.,
9:30 pm. Cover charge. Call 939.1123 for more information.

10 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
See May 9 event. The Cellar, 168 S. Main St., (Side Entrance),
Manheim, 11:30 pm. Cover charge. Call 665.1960 for more informa-
tion.

17 Harrisburg Men's Chorus
Concert: *At The Hop*. Harrisburg Community Theatre, 8:00 pm.
Tickets \$8 & \$10. Call 236.SING for tickets.

June

7 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
See May 9th event. Altland's Ranch, Spring Grove, 8:00 pm.
Cover charge. Call 225.4479 for information.

**7 - 8 Central Pennsylvania Parents and Friends
of Gays and Lesbians (PFLAG)**
Pocono Region Conference. Days Inn Airport, 800 Eisenhower
Boulevard, Middletown. \$60.00 registration fee includes conference,
materials, lunch, break snacks, dinner, evening entertainment, and
continental breakfast. Lodging \$64.00 additional. Call 657.1712 for
further information.

8 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
See May 9th event. Stallions, 706 N. Third St., Hbg. Cover charge.
Call 236.3060 for information.

20 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
See May 9th event. Peachie's Court, 320 Court St. Cover charge.
Call 326.3611 for information.

▼ Resources ▼

22 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania

See May 9th event. Tally Ho, 201 W. Orange St., Lancaster. Cover charge. Call 299.0661 for information

July

12 York Area Lambda

Judy! This 4th annual fundraiser benefits OPEN for people living with HIV and PFLAG of York's Youth Suicide Prevention program. Valencia Ballroom, 142 N. George St., York. Talented individuals who would like to perform should call Doug at 846.9636. Tickets: Patron \$25 for reserved seating and \$15 for general admission. Call Charles at 846.2560 for tickets.

20 Lily White & Company

Tenth Anniversary Show. Annual fundraiser featuring those wacky *female illusionists extraordinaire*. Performer search underway. Ramada Inn on Market Square at 8:00 pm. Ticket price TBA. Call 232.2918 for information.

24 Central PA Pride Festival

Miss Gay Pride Pageant. B-TLS, 891 Eisenhower Blvd., Hbg., 8:00 pm. Call 233.3172 for applications and event reservations. Cover charge. Benefits the Central PA Pride Festival.

26 Central PA Pride Festival

Harrisburg Area Community College, 3300 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, 17110, Noon - 6 pm. Call 232.8112 for vendor & advertising information.

Listings are free to all non-profit organizations. Boxed organizations/support services are new additions or updated (underlined) since our last issue.

Next Deadline: 4/25/97



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STALLIONS

4 pm - 2 am Daily
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706 N. Third St. (Rear Entrance) • 232.3060

STRAWBERRY CAFE

Monday - Saturday 2 pm - 2 am
Closed on Sundays
704 N. Third St. • 234.4228

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TALLY HO

Monday - Saturday 6 pm - 2 am
Sunday 8 pm - 2 am
201 W. Orange St. • 299.0661

THE GALLERY LOUNGE

Tuesday - Thursday & Sunday 9 pm - 2 am
Friday & Saturday 5 pm - 2 am
10 S. Prince St. • 299.3456

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SISTERS

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Sundays 12 pm - 2 am
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254 S. 12th St.
215.545.8088

READING

CHANCES ARE

Fridays & Saturdays only 8 pm - 2 am
935 South St. (below Adams Apple) • 610.373.7929

THE RED STAR

Tuesday 8 pm - 2 am
Wednesday - Sunday 5 pm - 2 am
11 S. 10th St. • 610.375.4116

SCARAB

Monday - Saturday 8 pm - 2 am
724 Franklin St. • 610.375.7878

SCRANTON

SILHOUETTE LOUNGE

Monday - Saturday 10 am - 2 am
523 Linden St. • 344.4259

STATE COLLEGE

CHUMLEY'S

Monday - Saturday 4 pm - 2 am
Sunday 6 pm - 2 am
108 W College St. • 814.238.4446

PLAYERS

Gay Sunday only 9 pm - 2 am
112 W. College St. • 814.234.1031

WILKES BARRE

RUMOURS LOUNGE

Wednesday - Sunday 5 pm - 2 am
Tuesdays 8 pm - 2 am
315 Fox Ridge Plaza • 825.7300

SELECTIONS

Monday - Saturday 7 pm - 2 am
45 Public Square • 829.4444

WILLIAMSPORT

PEACHIE'S COURT

Monday - Saturday 9 am - 2 am
Sunday 11 am - 2 am
320 Court St. • 326.3611

THE RAINBOW ROOM

Monday - Saturday 1 pm - 2 am
761 W. 4th St. • 320.0230

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Debut date: Pride issue
See our ad page 5



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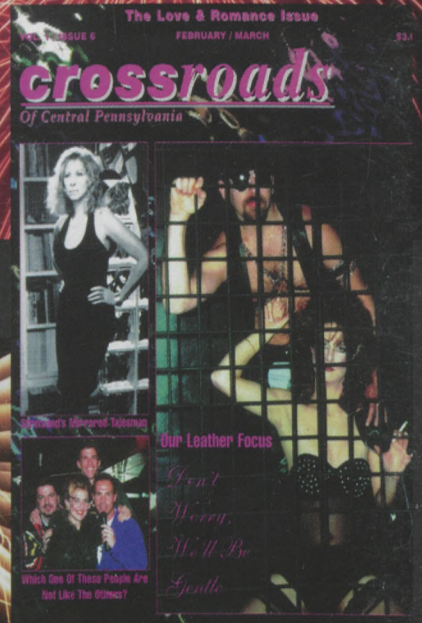
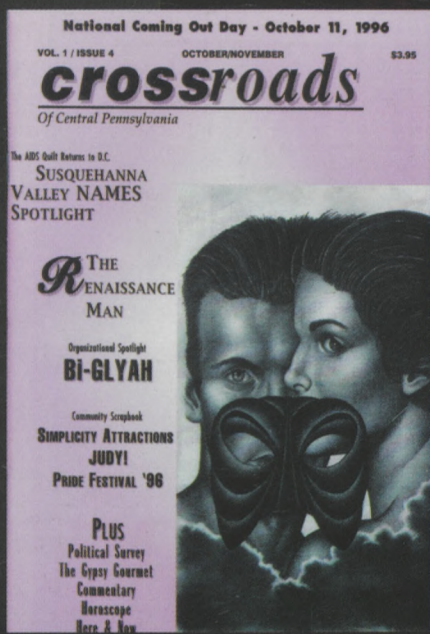
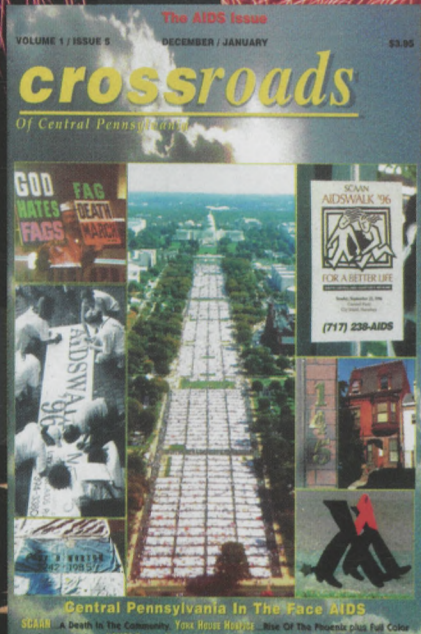
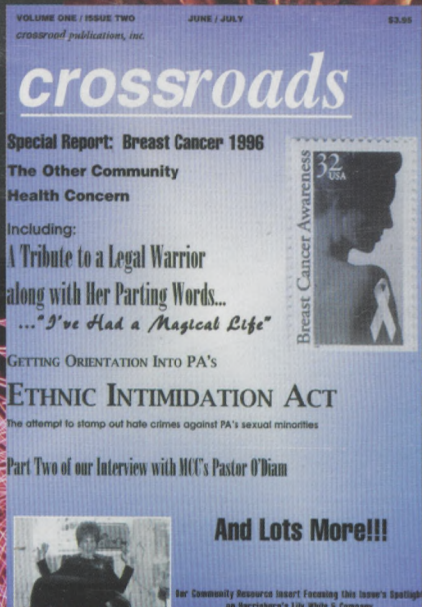
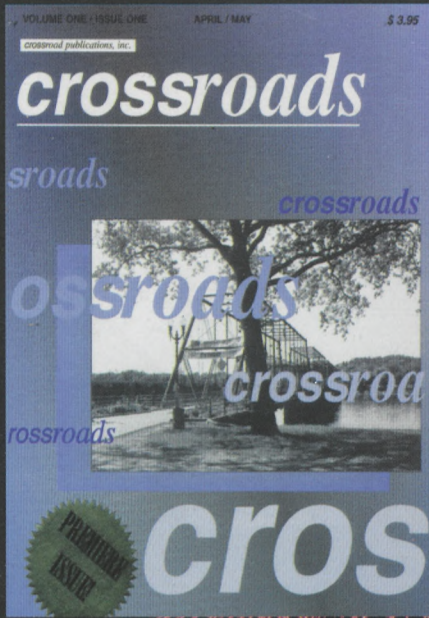
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