

FREE

THE OPEN DOOR

pridefully presenting gay and lesbian issues, views and events to the entire Bloomington community

VOL. 1, No. 1

February 1987

Welcome to THE OPEN DOOR

Whereas bigots are defined by whom they hate, lesbians and gay men are defined by whom they love. For the editors of *THE OPEN DOOR*, this is the bottom line of the gay rights movement. And from that conclusion sprang a simple question: Why not fashion a newspaper out of the great and liberating love in the Bloomington gay/lesbian community?

As we embark upon a description of the philosophy and the content of *THE OPEN DOOR*, we call upon you, the reader, to be thinking about how you might take part in this: what you might add to it, how you might change it, what you especially want to contribute or to learn about it. You don't even have to be a gay man or a lesbian. All you need is an open mind, some love in your heart, and the desire that people learn to get along with each other despite their differences.

As things stand, the editors are committed to producing a high-quality monthly newspaper for the entire lesbian/gay community of Bloomington. As already intimated, we hope to offer a lot to the non-gay reader as well, but that will largely depend on involvement by that segment of the population.

We are firm in our desire to keep *THE OPEN DOOR* completely non-pornographic. We will strive also to avoid sarcastic and vituperative language and will instead stress a positive view of our fellow humans. Above all, we will attempt to channel the love and energy of the Bloomington gay/lesbian community toward bringing about positive social change.

We understand that being "out" and educating all people as to who and what gay people really are is an important part of the struggle for acceptance. This is the primary goal for *THE OPEN DOOR*: We will



be giving gay men and lesbians encouragement to be out, but at the same time we intend to provide support for those who—for whatever reason—find it impossible to do so.

There are many gay men and lesbians in Bloomington and many groups that we all ought to be aware of. There are groups whose membership is substantially gay/lesbian, and these groups are, of course, important to us. By the same token, there are many other organizations to which the gay community can and does offer a great deal of support. A number of people in town have expressed to the editors of *THE OPEN DOOR* that it stands to be valuable as an avenue of communication among these groups, and between these groups and all interested individuals. In the same way, we should be

able to offer a better opportunity for individuals to reach each other.

The preceding words are not meant to imply that love and optimism are the only emotions that run deep in the gay/lesbian community. It would be unfaithful to those who would write and read this newspaper to ignore the frustration, the sadness, and the anger that we must work to avoid feeling every day. Every day our sisters are denied their rights purely because of their gender. Every day more of our brothers die of AIDS, while an ignorant few perpetuate myths about this dread condition at our expense. Every day our people lose jobs, are denied housing, are insulted and ridiculed and threatened, or are assaulted, raped, beaten or murdered—all because of whom we love . . .

cont. on page 2



STRAIGHT TALK

by Cheryl E. Compton

When I was first asked to write this column, I thought it would be no problem. But now I realize it is going to be a lot harder than expected. My column's purpose is to relate how I, being a heterosexual female, deal with my mixture of lifestyles. You can get all those "fag hag" notions out of your head right now. I've been accused of that before. It doesn't make me extremely happy, but it usually comes from someone who doesn't know me well at all. It is possible to have a platonic relationship with a male. I don't know what causes this situation in Bloomington . . . the ultraconservative midwest attitudes? The southern Indiana backwoods ideas? Or all the Protestant and Catholic guilt? I just don't understand why this town, and the rest of the world, has to be split into "us" and "them" or "straight" and "gay." I don't pick my friends because of

their sexual preferences. It never even enters my mind.

I have straight friends who ask me, "Why do you hang around all those gay guys?" Believe me, I didn't plan it. In general, my gay friends are just more hip and open-minded. We share common interests. I just don't dig the "house in the suburbs with a white picket fence, 2.3 kids and a dog in the backyard" scene. I don't think of my own life in terms of gay or straight influences. This is just me, and what you see is what you get.

I'm not a psychiatrist or an expert in anything besides speaking my mind. All I hope to do is deal with some issues that have come up in my day to day life here in Bloomington. Some topics I hope to deal with in the next few months are religion, relationships between my straight and gay friends, AIDS, stereotypes and more . . . If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to me in care of *THE OPEN DOOR*.

THE OPEN DOOR Staff Meeting

January 28, 8:00 P.M., Charter Room, Indiana Memorial Union. Become an active part of *THE OPEN DOOR*! All volunteers welcome. No experience necessary—just enthusiasm!

THE OPEN DOOR

P.O. Box 1627
Bloomington, IN 47402
(812) 339-1835

Editor
Kevin Richey
Associate Editor
Marc Eisdorfer
Business Manager
B. A. Cain
Art Director
Sara Studer
Photographer/Writer
Cheryl E. Compton

THE OPEN DOOR is an independent, non-profit newspaper published monthly by Open Door Publications and distributed free in several retail outlets and on the IU campus. Subscription rate is \$2.00 per issue (to cover postage and handling). Send check or money order with name and address to address above.

The publisher assumes no responsibility for the claims of advertisers. The inclusion of the name or photograph of any person, business, or organization in advertising or copy in this publication implies nothing whatsoever about their sexual orientation, unless otherwise acknowledged.

THE OPEN DOOR
Issue No. 1, February 1987.
Copyright © 1987
by Open Door Publications.
All rights reserved.

Welcome to *THE OPEN DOOR*

cont. from page 1

And so we are back to love. That, above all, is what we believe has allowed gays and lesbians to survive and thrive throughout millenia of oppression. Love is what stands to be our best tool as we help to repair the malfunctions of a society which is preventing us from living up to our full potential.

We feel, as members of both the Bloomington community and the Bloomington gay community, that there is a definite need for this paper. We want *THE OPEN DOOR* to speak to and reach the Bloomington community as a whole. Perhaps this is the first time a publication of this nature has attempted such a mainstream appeal. Well, we think it's about time.

To achieve this goal, *THE OPEN DOOR* will be widely distributed throughout the Bloomington area. Free copies may be picked up on the first of each month at many retail outlets and several locations on the Indiana University campus. Each issue is also available by subscription by writing the paper.

THE OPEN DOOR is an independent, non-profit publication. It is totally unaffiliated with any other publication, organization or

business. All work by staff members and contributors is done strictly on a volunteer basis. We actively encourage anyone to submit written materials, photographs, artwork, etc. for consideration for publication. Suggestions and comments, both pro and con, are welcome. All submissions may be sent with your name and address to *THE OPEN DOOR*, P.O. Box 1627, Bloomington, IN 47402. Names will be withheld upon request.

The process of putting together the first issue has been an exciting (sometimes frustrating) learning experience for us. *THE OPEN DOOR* hopes to enlighten its readers. We, the editors, realize that we are being enlightened at the same time. If we, the staff and the readers, can be in step with one another—growing, learning, giving and taking along the way—we will all benefit in this endeavor.

A big THANK YOU must go out to everyone who has supported and contributed to *THE OPEN DOOR* in any way. This first issue would not be under your nose right now if not for them.

To all the people of the Bloomington area, we offer *THE OPEN DOOR*. Not only can it be an open door out of the closet of oppression, but it can be an open door to change, an open door to acceptance, an open door to love.

H-T "Wish List" sparks controversy

by Martin Dorn

The month of December was an interesting one for both the Bloomington Herald-Telephone and the gay/lesbian community. Early in the month, the *Herald-Telephone* ran a "Wish List," a listing of supplies needed by local non-profit service groups. One of the groups listed was the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, requesting several items related to their phone system. Little did anyone know that this would spark a major controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

The letter that started the whole issue came from one Bryan Jackson, a man who understands "gay/lesbian" as "a bunch of guys going around holding hands." He wrote to criticize the H-T's inclusion of the Switchboard on the Wish List. His letter was hostile, stating, "Have we now arrived to the point in time where we start wishing homosexuals a Merry Christmas and send them gifts. . . ?" He implied that homosexuals do not "celebrate the birth of Christ" in an appropriate manner, that gays and lesbians have a "perverted lifestyle," and that this "agape

love" shouldn't be given to homosexuals in their day-to-day lives.

This letter was followed directly by a letter from Ms. Sarah Mowell. She argued that the Bible does not deal with homosexuality as a lifestyle. She stated that "it is more logical that all persons, heterosexual and homosexual, are called by God to live sexually responsible and loving lives rather than to simply say that homosexuality is a sin." This argument was to evoke a further string of letters pitting the Bible against homosexuality.

The next four letters all referred back to Ms. Mowell's. Each of them claimed that she used references to the Bible out of context, but then proceeded to do the same themselves. Mr. Joe Gritton wrote in, stating that he did not "condemn Ms. Mowell for her personal beliefs"; however, he proceeded to infer that she, as well as any homosexual who does not believe homosexuality to be a sin, was possessed by Satan. Ms. Arleen O'Mullane briefly stated that Ms. Mowell took verses out of context "to accommodate her own theories." David C. Johnson quoted the Bible to point out his belief that homosexuality is a sin and called for a consideration of the Bible. A Mr. Arthur Hill wrote to once again requote the Bible passages.

The passages these people refer to

most are the "old standbys" that many in the gay/lesbian community are probably familiar with: Leviticus 18:22, 1 Corinthians 6:9, and Romans 1:26,27.

The second to last letter in the string (so far) was mine. Being an atheist, I had a problem with the fact that all homosexuals were being judged according to the Bible. The basic direction of my letter was to point out that people should not judge others by non-universal standards.

My letter was followed by one from a Spencer woman, Mrs. Gene (Betty) Platt, who said that militant Christians do not use the Bible as a standard for judgment, but rather use the Bible as a standard for living that God gave us to follow. Rereading the letters of Mr. Jackson and Mr. Hill could fuel a debate with Mrs. Platt.

The articles do have some benefit for members of both the gay/lesbian and heterosexual communities: they force us to realize what levels and intensities of bigotry exist within our area. They show to us that there is a definite need for involvement from all members of our community to promote unity. With the media blitz on AIDS, any advancement made by gays and lesbians in overcoming bigotry is likely to be threatened. It's an old, old cliche, but it applies here: "United we stand, divided we fall."



(Right there on the Square)

CONGRATULATES

THE OPEN DOOR
ON ITS FIRST ISSUE

104 W. 6th St. — HOME OF THE CLASSIC BREAKFAST

Helaine Victoria Press

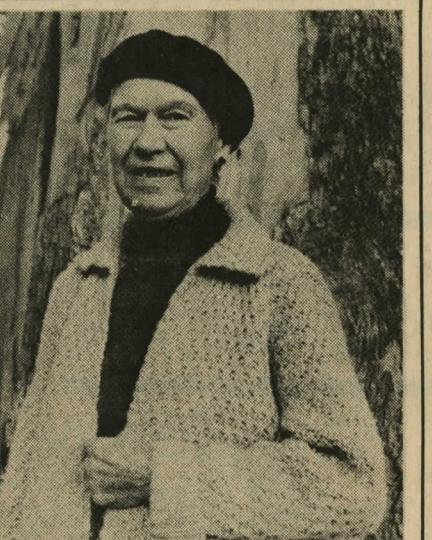
by Marc Eisdorfer

When a friend of mine showed me a stack of "postcards on women in history" from Helaine Victoria Press, I was thrilled. Each one was a work of art, and each had something to say that made me think . . . or made me want to laugh or cry or scream with anger. I also remember thinking repeatedly, "Why haven't I heard of this woman?"

It is no news to most of our readers that women's history has been distorted and hidden. This is one of the main reason's behind HV's emphasis on publishing postcards. According to the press's 1986-87 catalog, "postcards are ideal



You say I am mysterious.
Let me explain myself:
In a land of oranges
I am faithful to apples.



Elsa Gidlow

Elsa Gidlow (1898-1986), "The Poet Warrior," was a poet-philosopher and lesbian-feminist pioneer known through her love poetry, essays and autobiography, the film *Word Is Out* and *Druid Heights*, her Zen-inspired retreat among the California redwoods. Elsa's writings challenge class privilege, religious and political dogmas, and sexism while celebrating all varieties of love and beauty as diverse flowers in a garden of unity. She insisted that daily life was the canvas of true art: "We consider the artist a special sort of person. It is more likely that each of us is a special sort of artist." Elsa led the precarious life of a freelance journalist, often supporting relatives and friends. Born in Yorkshire, England, Elsa emigrated with her family to French Canada. Raised in privation, she was mainly self-educated. She published *On a Grey Thread*, the first North American book to celebrate lesbian love (1923), and later expanded it into the poetry classic *Sapphic Songs* (1982).* Elsa became a leading figure in San Francisco's bohemian, then psychedelic, New Age and feminist circles. The '50s saw her unsuccessful prosecution by McCarthyites. *ELSA: I Come with My Songs** is the first full-life, explicitly lesbian autobiography yet published, "the chronicle of an irrepressible free thinker."

because they're inexpensive and are seen by lots of people: the sender, the mail carrier, receiver and all the friends who spot them posted on the refrigerator!" This fits in with HV's goal "to celebrate and honor the achievements of women by making information about them readily available to the broadest audience possible."

The postcards themselves have many uses. Of course, they can be used as actual postcards, or they can be used as gifts, as educational tools, or as art for art's sake. I have put one of my favorites to use in all of these roles.

HV was founded in 1973 by Jocelyn Helaine Cohen and Nancy Victoria Poore. From its original home in the Los Angeles area, it moved in 1976 to an old house near Martinsville, Indiana. The printing

press remains there, in Cohen's garage, but on August 30 of last year, the press moved its administrative, editorial and order departments to Bloomington. The HV Women's History and Culture Shop and offices are on the first floor of a house located at 411 E. 4th Street (telephone 331-0444). It includes HV's postcard archive, which now holds some 2,500 cards, and a "homey . . . Victorian-style living room filled with postcards, posters, women's crafts and an amazing array of herstorical items."

Monthly educational exhibits will be featured at the store in celebration of Black History Month (February), Women's History Month (March), and other themes from women's history and culture. The monthly HV "open-houses" held in conjunction with these exhibits offer the public an opportunity to meet the HV staff, enjoy refreshments and check out new and unique store merchandise purchased especially around the exhibit theme.

If you haven't visited the shop, you've missed out on something special. The women who make up the work group of this non-profit educational organization have carried it off: their shop really is a "living room"; it feels like home. Just see if you can drop in there without falling easily into a stimulating conversation or running into a good friend. See if you can resist buying some of their marvelous merchandise (I never can resist).

Celebrating and honoring women in history and providing a haven for those of us who cherish feminist ideals, Helaine Victoria Press brings its own herstory to Bloomington and—given due support from the community—will continue to do its vital work.

March is Women's History Month

The Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women invites local groups to participate in celebrating National Women's History Month in March, 1987. The Commission is producing a Women's History Month Calendar to be distributed in Bloomington during March. If your organization is planning a program that would be suitable for inclusion in the calendar, or if your group would like to participate in the day-long community celebration on Saturday, March 28, please submit information to: Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women, c/o Sid Reger, 1600 N. Willis Drive, #200, Bloomington, IN 47401. Deadline for calendar entries is January 30, 1987.

CHALLENGE BIGOTRY

"Challenge Bigotry" is a national advertising and education campaign which seeks to use the mass media and other forces to change the attitudes that underlie bigotry and oppressive legislation.

The messages "Challenge Bigotry" will deliver to the general public are that lesbians and gay men are part of the community everyday, that we refuse to have our civil rights taken away, and that stereotypes are invalid.

Created by Rosemary Kuropat, former co-director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the "Challenge Bigotry" campaign will be well represented in Indiana. In our state we will see a number of outreach activities take place, including a big presence in Gay Pride Week activities in June and a media blitz later in the year. Five major Indiana newspapers are targeted to run "Challenge Bigotry" campaign ads.

A local committee is planning activities for the Bloomington area. A dance/variety show, a picnic, speaker's bureau activities, guest speakers, local Gay Pride Week and media support, and as many other facets as money and human energy allow will make up the local strategy.

This campaign will run through 1987. Lots of help of all kinds is needed from interested members of the community. For more information, call the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard at 336-4299. Volunteers should call 334-1081 or 336-7712, or write to P.O. Box 883, Bloomington, Indiana 47402.

ON THE FRINGE

by Marc Eisdorfer

A letter to my sister

Welcome to my column, y'all. Each month in this space you will be privy to some ranting and/or raving by this misplaced Tar Heel. (OK, henceforth I promise to write only in Yankee English.) Anyway, after a month of thought, I still haven't come up with a permanent title for the column. That's mainly because I am not yet certain what form the column will take. It will surely be radical, and yet it will surely be conservative. It will surely deal with gay issues and will surely leave that distinction behind at times. It will surely be aimed at making you'uns smile, and it will just as surely be calculated to pull a tear out of you. Until further notice, you will find these random thoughts under the title "On the Fringe," which was unwittingly suggested by a woman in town for whom I have a lot of respect, and so I offer this as a sort of tribute to her.

As a way of introducing myself and this newspaper, I offer to you a minimally edited version of a letter I wrote to my sister, who lives back in North Carolina. The letter was dated December 10, 1986.

Dear Erica,

Last night, it became official: I was elected President of the Bloomington Gay/Lesbian Alliance. We have a talented and enthusiastic board of four men and three women, and everyone I talked to was full of energy, optimism, hope. People I've never before talked to came up to me—both at the meeting and at the celebration later at the bar—to congratulate me and tell me about their favorite idea. It's hard for me to articulate how excited I

am about this next year, but thinking about what some of these ideas are, and who the people are who have proposed them, I would say that the possibilities are endless.

Then today I became the Associate Editor—and thus one half of the official editorial staff—of THE OPEN DOOR, a splendidly well thought out newspaper that will premiere in January. It is the brainchild of one guy—a very gentle and circumspect recent IU graduate who felt a need for a Bloomington gay/lesbian community rag that would be equally good for women and men, and for the most "out" and the most "closeted" among us. He insists that it be non-pornographic, and that it offer enough for non-gays to enjoy as well.

There will be columns sharing information from groups serving lesbians and gays both directly and indirectly. There will be book, film and music reviews; a column by a non-gay woman, called "Straight Talk"; cartoons and other art; the inevitable AIDS update; articles on religious topics; an advice column, etc.

Kevin and I are right on the same wavelength, and I think that we are both so open to others' ideas that it stands to be a great success. I do have concerns about the financial end of things—particularly since he has his heart set on a high-quality monthly (and I am reluctant to reject those ideas myself)—but I will try to remain optimistic.

I really don't know how to view all this. On the one hand, it seems so unlikely: it's such an idealistic, wouldn't-it-be-great-if-this-kind-of-thing-could-take-off venture, but at the same time, this is a tight and supportive community, there are some tremendously talented individuals waiting in the wings to help out, and I even think that it could end up leaping over the boundaries of our town, even the state. . . .

Now a few words about my dream relationship. John treated me like a king (uhh . . . oh, never mind) on my birthday. He disappeared for a while in the A.M., only to reappear with a real live birthday cake, the first I've had in years! It was a poppy-seed cake, a long-time Bloomington tradition, and the symbolism was intentional. He gave me a book and a bottle of Portuguese wine, and a quiet evening alone with him. What a guy. . . .

Well, looking forward to seeing you at Christmas, I remain

your brother, Marc

Sorry, but I couldn't resist slipping that last paragraph in. Next month's column will be inspired by Women's History Month, which is March. So do be sure to come on back, y'hear?



Newly Remodeled

COMPLETE BREAKFAST MENU
SERVED MON-FRI
7 AM-11 AM
SAT & SUN 8 AM-1 PM
OPEN DAILY
UNTIL 8 PM

• HOMEMADE SOUPS & DESSERTS •

Dine In or Call Ahead
for Carry-out

336-2303
409 E. KIRKWOOD

All in the Family

—presenting the first two in a series of articles offering perspectives on family relationships dealing with homosexuality.

"My mixed bag"

by Karen Lane

When I sat down to write about being a parent of a gay child, I found it difficult to find a starting place. I asked myself where this initial frustration came from. Then as I began to write, it occurred to me: it is difficult for me to separate the "identities" of my three children into gay and straight.

You see, I had noticed something "different" about my son when he was still in pre-school. Whenever the children were together and wanted to play house, he would always want to be the female figure. His choice of activities and toys were always geared more toward female roles.

I approached our pediatrician about my observation, but he seemed uncomfortable with the subject and quickly dismissed it as normal. "He'll grow out of this stage," I was told.

The next ten or so years went by rather smoothly with no stressful concern about his development. He made friends easily enough and appeared to be well-adjusted and happy. But when he entered high school, I noticed a gradual change in his circle of friends and in his whole routine. He became more of a loner and more attached to me for security. Suspicions and uneasy feelings that I had buried long ago pushed to my consciousness once more. Then, as I watched my child begin the struggle to determine who and what he was, I knew the time had come for my active participation in helping him along, just as I would have helped my "straight" children.

My son was sixteen or seventeen when I approached him with the subject of sexuality. Some time passed, a few months perhaps, and though he did not confront me directly, he did start leaving books on homosexuality lying around the house. One afternoon after school, I ended a period of uncertainty by asking him if he was gay. His first response was a shocked "No! Why do you ask?"

A few weeks later, he came and opened himself up to me. It certainly was emotionally wringing for both of us, but on the other hand, his "secret" was out in the open, and we could deal with it effectively and realistically.

Karen and her son, Terry, and daughter, Kelly, enjoy a warm day out in January.



express a lot of anger over people's insensitivity and blatant rudeness.

We as a family have experienced a lot of growth in understanding and acceptance of differences in people. Perhaps this would not have come about if not for our gay brother and child.

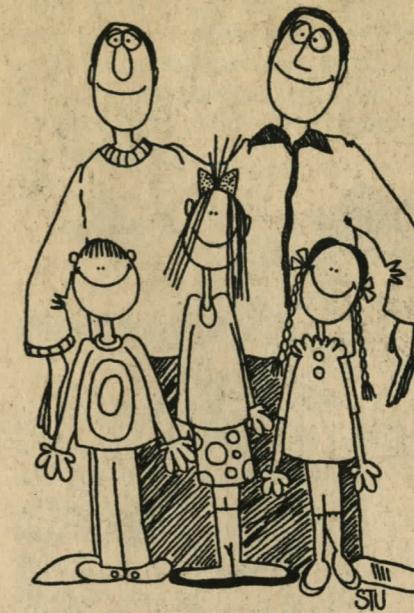
I am very proud of my three children, but especially so of my gay child. When I watch and overhear the cruelty that he endures on a daily basis, I am filled with admiration for his strength and his determination to take his place in a hostile society. He is a beautiful child and has brought me so much love and joy. We as a family accept him as he is, and may I conclude by saying, "Thank you, son, for accepting us as we are. Love, Mom."

Gay father on parenting

by J. C.

One of the most perplexing and sensitive issues a gay person could face is parenthood. Beyond the standard pressures and responsibilities confronting a straight parent, there are clearly problems that are exclusive to the gay parent situation.

Perhaps the greatest personal struggle so many of us must deal with is that of developing, maintaining and most importantly projecting a positive self-image. A positive self-image is a great asset to any one of us, but I believe it holds a special value for the gay parent. It seems essential that children be able to see their parents as strong, self-respecting individuals. Children will look first to their parents to learn what values to embrace, what attitudes to hold and what qualities to admire. When parents are constantly positive, warm and respectful, both to themselves and others, there will always be a light at the end of each tunnel the child will pass through. Clearly children of gay parents will have their own special tunnels but pass through they must, and those children perhaps more than the rest will need



of the proverbial closet allow his or her children to see, let alone share, the guilt and self doubt we all experience when we finally begin to acknowledge our sexuality? It would seem that two points are important to keep in sight. First, we must remember that self doubt and self respect are not mutually exclusive. There is a world of difference between self-doubt and self-hate. A person with a genuinely positive self-image can still be racked with self-doubt at times and in time the child will learn the difference.

Perhaps time is the second point. It takes time for a child's mind to develop to the point of accepting things sexual and even more time to accept things homosexual. A child must be given the time to explore the depth and breadth of his own sexuality and be given the time to ask the questions he feels are pressing. The parent must have the patience to wait for questions to be asked and the courage to answer with candor and confidence.

Of course all of the problems of gay parents cannot begin to be addressed in a single letter; it is an individual road each must follow to the end. But as long as there is warmth, respect, and communication between all concerned, there are solutions.

*Signature
hair design*

services include:
hairstyling, manicures, pedicures

featuring these fine hair products:
SEBASTIAN • NEXXUS • FOCUS 21
PAUL MITCHELL • REDKEN

In Seminary Square
333-7003

Jo

Arts & Entertainment



The Arts & Entertainment section will regularly feature book, movie, and music reviews that are of particular interest to the readers. Future issues will announce any upcoming concerts, plays, lectures, and cultural events that might be scheduled and review them accordingly.

Dance music in review

by Wayne Shepherd, Bullwinkle's DJ

In 1986 dance music saturated the nation's airwaves. A few people dominated Top 40 charts and deserve special commendations for their back-to-back hits:

Aretha Franklin for "Another Night," "Who's Zoomin' Who," "Jumpin' Jack Flash," and "Jimmy Lee."

Janet Jackson for "What Have You Done For Me Lately," "Nasty," "When I Think of You," and "Control."

Madonna for "Live to Tell," "Pappa Don't Preach," "True Blue," and "Open Your Heart."

Prince for "Kiss," "Mountains," and "Another Loverholeno Head."

Since there is no well deserved Grammy for dance music I would like to

give you my opinion of the best and worst of 1986. These are just my opinions. If you disagree, too bad!

BEST NEW MALE VOCALIST—Gavin Christopher ("One Step Closer to You")
BEST NEW FEMALE VOCALIST—Nicole ("Don't You Want My Love")

BEST NEW GROUP—Level 42 ("Something About You")
BEST PRODUCER—Narada Michael Walden (Aretha)

BEST DRESSED MALE—George Michael
BEST DRESSED FEMALE—Whitney Houston
BEST FEMALE VOCALIST—Jennifer Holiday ("No Frills Love")

BEST MALE VOCALIST—El DeBarge ("Love Always")
BEST GROUP—Uptown ("I Know," and "I'm Losing You")

BEST SONG BY AN INDIVIDUAL—"I Love My Radio" (Taffy)
BEST SONG BY A GROUP—"Something About You" (Level 42)

BEST ALBUM BY AN INDIVIDUAL—Control (Janet Jackson)
BEST ALBUM BY A GROUP—True Confession (Bananarama)
BEST VIDEO—"Sledgehammer" (Peter Gabriel)
WORST RIP-OFF—Bruce Springsteen Live
WORST DRESSED MALE—Prince
WORST DRESSED FEMALE—Madonna
WORST SONG—"Hip To Be Square" (Huey Lewis)
WORST ALBUM—Colonel Abrams
WORST VIDEO—"Live to Tell" (Madonna)

There are many albums available now that should keep dance floors busy through most of 1987: Aretha Franklin's *Aretha*, Cyndi Lauper's *True Colors*, and Dead or Alive's *Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know*.

The mood of the music will be more HiNRG and techno-pop oriented this year. You can expect new stuff from George Michael, Ready for the World, Whitney Houston, and Culture Club—not to mention the long awaited Beatles album from Michael Jackson.

Be ready for come-back attempts from Gladys Knight and Dionne Warwick. Hey, if Tina can do it, why not them?

Since mainstream America has finally figured out that dancing is fun, 1987 should be hotter than hell!!!

Have a nice year.



Heartbeat on women's music

by Anne Haines

It's come to my attention that some of you out there haven't been listening to women's music. Maybe because you don't think it has anything to say to you, or what you've heard of it hasn't been in a style that appeals to you, or you've been too broke for records or concerts. Maybe you just haven't gotten around to it. If you have been listening, you know that women's music comes in all shapes and colors; it can be affirming and healing, besides just plain fun. Certainly music is a kind of spiritual gathering-place for the lesbian and feminist community . . . there's something for everyone.

1986 saw some fine women's music performances in the Bloomington area—Casselberry-Dupree with Tracy Chapman (watch out for her!), Ova, Hunter Davis, Judi Friedman, Jasmine, Heather Bishop & Tracy Riley, plus of course the National

Women's Music Festival and various coffeehouses featuring Bloomington's exceptional local talent. The opening of Dreams & Swords, Athena, and Helaine Victoria in 1986 (welcome!) should continue to provide us with coffeehouses and performance opportunities and I hope to see many of you there.

For my money, the two finest album releases of '86 were Casselberry-Dupree's *City Down* (Iceberg) and *Harmony* by Hunter Davis (Redwood). *City Down* is J. Casselberry and Jacque Dupree's second release, but the first to be professionally produced (by Linda Tillery, a longtime women's music mainstay) and available on vinyl. It encompasses rock, reggae, Afro-Brazilian and even country influences ("Take It To The Limit" sounds a little weird at first but really grows on you). It's danceable (check out "Positive Vibration") and politically charged (there's a chilling version of Toshi Reagan's "South Africa"). If you think women's music is nothing but "white folkies with guitars," this is a must-hear.

As for the white folkies with guitars, Hunter Davis soars way above the everyday. Her songs are about lovers, friends, and home, with blues and jazz and one of the prettiest love songs I've heard in a long time ("Woman"). *Harmony* was produced by Terry Garthwaite, women's music veteran, who also produced Ferron's *Shadows on a Dime*. Though the album includes harmonies by Holly Near, Ferron, Teresa Trull, and Linda Tillery, Hunter's voice stands out—strong and warm, there's no other quite like it. She covers a lot of ground here, from the James Taylor-ish "Carolina Blue" to a gutsy "Heartbreak Hotel." *Harmony* is one of those albums, like Deidre McCalla's *Don't Doubt It* and Cris Williamson's *Changer and the Changed*, that I keep coming home to.

As for this column's future, I hope to do record and concert reviews, interviews with local and visiting women musicians, and some exploration into what women's

music is all about. I'm open to suggestions for album reviews (especially lesser-known artists I might have overlooked), and if you're a local performer, producer, composer, or what-have-you, we'd love to give you some publicity. Contact me c/o *THE OPEN DOOR*. Until next time, keep the heartbeat strong!



Between the lines

by Duncan Mitchell

Coming Out to Parents:
a two-way survival guide for Lesbians and Gay men and their parents
by Mary V. Borhek
New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1983
208 pp.
\$9.95 paper

Isn't it ironic, the way that the people who are loudest in bewailing the disintegration of the Family are the firmest in wanting to exclude gay people from it? But a lot of gay men and lesbians have been just as insistent that there is room in our families for us—that instead of disappearing forever to San Francisco or living lives of docile celibacy, we can remain close to parents, siblings, and other relatives while living full lives of our own. Nobody said it would be easy, though, and the problem of dealing with parents and their reactions to us has spawned a large literature. Mary V. Borhek's *Coming Out to Parents*, which addresses not only lesbians and gay men but their parents, is a helpful example.

Borhek, a screenwriter based in Minnesota, is also the author of *My Son Eric* (New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1979), a book about her own struggle to come to terms with the homosexuality of her son. Not only did she learn to accept him, she became active in gay rights organizations, including groups for the parents of lesbians and gay men. Because she is heterosexual, a mother, and a conservative

Christian, she is in a good position to explain to gay men and lesbians what it feels like to learn that one's child is gay, and to reassure our parents that they can survive the experience and are not alone. She does the job well.

The best part of the book is Borhek's tutorial on preparing yourself for telling your parents about your homosexuality: it is compassionate and thorough, the thoroughness being particularly important because it is so easy to imagine only one possible reaction from your parents. Borhek helps you to see the possibilities and to prepare yourself to try to cope with them. She offers both possible suggestions and advice on what approaches to avoid: "Not quite so well known [as the horror stories of parents' negative reactions to their gay children] are the parental horror stories about hurtful ways in which children have come out to their parents."

If you care about your parents and genuinely want to be considerate of their feelings, Borhek's suggestions will be immensely helpful. Still: "They may never be really ready . . . And if you guess wrong, do not berate yourself . . . You are not a fortune-teller or a mind reader. You are trying to help your parents in a situation you might think might be difficult for them, and if it does not turn out as you hope, you are not to blame and neither are they."

The book does have its problems. Though Borhek tries to be balanced, the treatment of lesbians seems a bit sketchy. Symptomatic is a section where Borhek gives one of those lists of stages in the coming-out process—emergence/acknowledgment/crashing out/first relationships/reintegration—which she got from a family counselor. She admits that it doesn't fit lesbians very well, so she nips and tucks and rearranges it, but the result is still a hand-me-down, tailored for gay men and hastily altered for our lesbian sisters. They deserve better.

Borhek, who is a conservative Christian, devotes a long (46 pages) chapter to Jewish and Christian responses to homosexuality. Her discussion is flawed by misinformation about the Bible and the ancient world and by strained interpretations which are motivated by a desire to explain away inconvenient passages rather than to understand the text. This is not the occasion for a detailed discussion of this important problem, and in any case what Borhek has to say will do for start.

cont. on page 10

Total Body Care For the Total Being



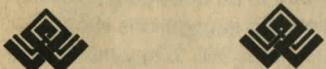
Vit. • Min. • Herbs • Athletic Soaps • Perfumes • Cosmetics

106 W. 6th Street
Northside Courthouse Square 332-5459

Arts & Entertainment

cont. from page 9

In general, then, *Coming Out to Parents* will be most useful to lesbians and gay men who have accepted themselves and begun to integrate their sexuality into their lives, and wish to cross that further difficult threshold on whose other side their parents stand. Borhek's suggestions are concrete and helpful, she includes recommendations for further reading, and her book is one you can lend to your parents when the time comes, after having read it yourself. Just as we often needed books in which we could recognize ourselves and our problems, so will they. *Coming Out to Parents* may well be just the book they need.



Video Vault

by Jeff Dean

The purpose of this column is to provide one with a well-exercised, yet arguably uneducated layman's view of an occasional film, past or present. The target is, of course, in keeping with the theme of this publication—the films are either gay, gay-related, or of some interest to all readers. Bearing in mind Vito Russo's statement in his introduction to *The Celluloid Closet*, "the big lie about lesbians and gay men (in film) is that we do not exist," I believe this has changed in recent years. We do now exist, but occasionally the way we are too often depicted is the big lie. The gay aspect of each film here will be emphasized only to the degree to which it pertains to the story.

The Fourth Man

Director: Paul Verhoeven
Screenplay: Gerard Soeteman
Distributed by Spectrafilm

Occasionally, this provocative 1979 Dutch film might nab an art-house revival gig (at Bear's Place, for example), but it is most definitely available on videocassette. Our hero, Gerard Reve is a controversial author who travels from his home in Amsterdam to guest speak at a literary club in Flushing. Gerard (Jerome Krabbe) is a

THE 4th MAN

Catholic, and also gay, and his scandalous writings reflect his fears and preoccupations about death. He suffers from terrifying nightmares and neurotic daydreams, one of which depicts his own castration.

The film opens with one of Gerard's nightmares, in which a spider preys upon another creature it has ensnared in its web. This is a forewarning of his meeting with the club's treasurer, Christine, part-time hairdresser and full-time vamp, and it's this meeting that propels the film.

Christine (Renee Soutendijk) invites Gerard to stay at her home, where she seduces him. He wants to go until he sees a picture of Christine's boyfriend, Herman, the hottest of young studs. At Christine's urging, Gerard agrees to stay and meet Herman under the pretense of counseling him on how to be a better lover, all the while hoping to try his own luck with Herman. While Christine is away picking up Herman, Gerard discovers three reels of film. Apparently, Christine has been married three times previously, and subsequently widowed. The films document each brief union and grisly deaths which put an end to them. Gerard begins to worry, because Christine has been filming him. Is he to become the fourth man?

The Fourth Man can be criticized for its gore, but it's all so inspired that the shock value is a welcome treat. It took this film

four years to make it to America. Had it been a product of American mainstream cinema, and thus benefitted from a full-blown ad campaign and a legitimate theatrical run to accompany it, it would surely have sent injured Catholics scrambling for a spot in the nearest picket line. Director Paul Verhoeven keeps these images coming at you left, right, and below the belt. It's this dream vs. reality concept that makes the film memorable.

Also memorable is the film's ample, yet unpretentious eroticism. Gerard's mausoleum scene with Herman is an anticipated highlight, though Gerard's homosexuality is secondary to the film's overall narrative. With a few slight modifications, the story would still standably were Gerard not gay, and Herman would probably be eliminated altogether, but being gay adds an exciting and unpredictable dimension to Gerard's character, and to the film.

Moreover, the sexuality combined with the mystery, the guilt, and the deception make this a thrilling entry into the *noir* style of filmmaking, a style known for its dark images and themes. Popular in the forties, it has been on the decline in subsequent decades. This is perhaps the finest latter-day *film noir* example since Polanski's *Chinatown* in 1974, with Christine as the ultimate in *femmes fatales*.

A SECOND OPINION

THE OPEN DOOR offers its readers a chance to write in and ask advice and questions about problems that you might have in your everyday life. "A Second Opinion" will be a regular column much in the same format as a "Dear Abby" advice column.

The writer of this column has experience in counseling and has access to a number of experts in different fields. You may be gay and need advice about "coming out," or you may be straight and can't deal with a friend that "came out" to you. Relationships, the AIDS scare, and school or job pressures could be some of the other things you need help with. If you can't go first to your friends or parents, write and get "A Second Opinion." You must sign your letter, but names will be withheld upon request and kept strictly confidential. Write to "A Second Opinion," c/o THE OPEN DOOR, P.O. Box 1627, Bloomington, IN 47402.

(812) 332-6838

COMPUTYPE

110½ N. Walnut St., Suite 3, Bloomington, Indiana 47401

"Making a splash . . ."

If you've never attended a lesbian/gay conference, set aside March 21 for what will surely be a great experience.

"Making a splash from the Closet to the Mainstream" is the name of the conference, which will be held at the Teacher's College of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. It is sponsored by Justice Inc.'s Policy Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Ball State Gay/Lesbian Alliance.

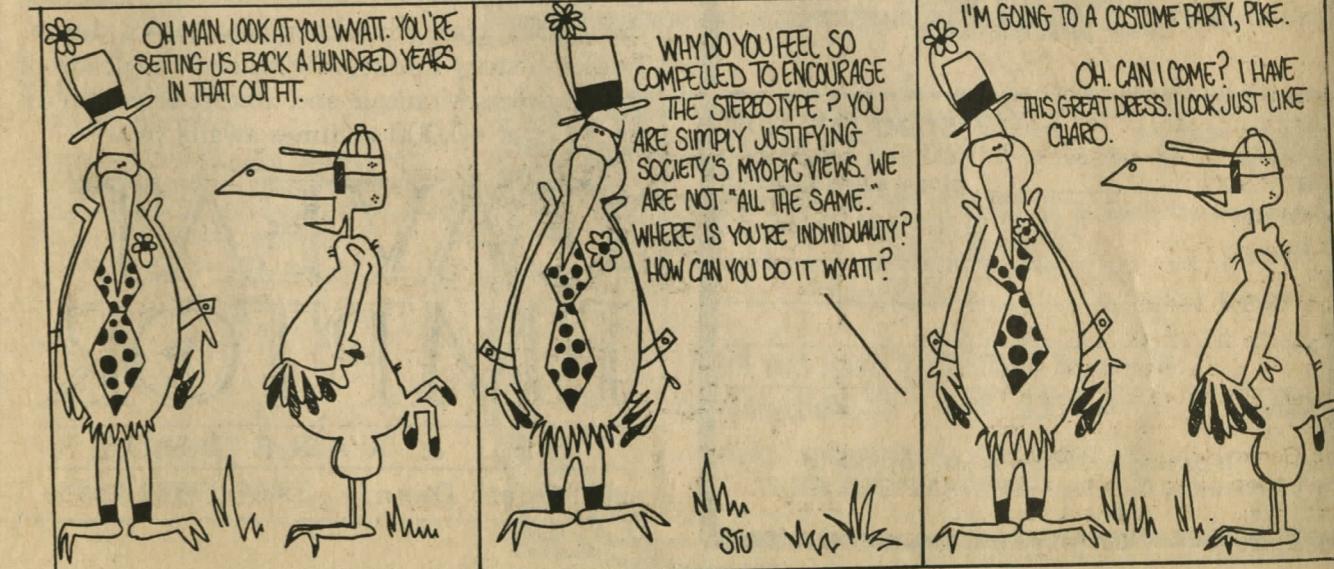
The guest speaker will be Rosemary Kuropat, creator of the "Challenge Bigotry" campaign (see article this issue). There will be workshops on a wide variety of topics, such as gay and lesbian parenting, relationships, substance abuse, AIDS, help for organizations, and others.

Advance registration is by March 10. For more information write to: Justice, Inc., 1537 N. Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

(We proudly introduce the continuing saga of *Birds of a Feather* drawn by Sara Studer. This community of gay birds have migrated north to Bloomington for they found the climate more suitable to their lifestyle. Get a bird's eye view as they confront life's joys, sorrows, foibles, and "fowl" weather nestled in the trees of Bloomington.)

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

SARA STUDER



PYGMALION'S
ART SUPPLIES

332-0025 VISA MasterCard

108 N. GRANT, BLOOMINGTON, IN.
MON-FRI 9-6, SAT 9-5, SUN 1-5

STAMP OUT AIDS

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN
TO HELP
PEOPLE WITH AIDS

For just one dollar you can make a significant difference to someone with AIDS. Stamps, similar to Easter and Christmas seals, with the message **STAMP OUT AIDS**, are being sold nation wide—\$1.00 buys 6 stamps—the money raised to be targeted specifically to AIDS service organizations through the NATIONAL AIDS NETWORK.

Multiply your dollar by thousands of concerned citizens, and you can imagine how much you can help improve the quality of life for someone with AIDS.

For further information, call:
(212) 354-8899

John Glines, Project Director

STAMP OUT AIDS
240 West 44th Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

Please send me _____ set(s) of "STAMP OUT AIDS" stamps @ \$1 per set of 6. Enclosed please find \$_____, plus a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If paying by check, make payable to:
"National Aids Network/STAMP OUT AIDS."

A Perfusion of Books

Great books, weird books, out-of-print books, art books, trashy books, music books, dumb books, history books, star-studded-cavalcade of film books. A unique and literate selection of over 40,000 volumes awaits you.

CAVEAT EMPTOR

USED & RARE BOOKS

208 South Dunn • 332-9995



BGLA January Program

The Bloomington Gay/Lesbian Alliance announces its long-awaited lesbian folklore program meeting, to take place in the Bryan Room of the Indiana Memorial Union at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27.

A well-admired local actress and storyteller will lead a program in which she will tell stories and give examples of lesbian folklore and also call for audience participation. Symbols and songs, jokes and proverbs will be presented, and you are invited to share your own with the group.

Come and learn more about folklore and how it helps sustain us. Perhaps you will even be able to take part in the ongoing creation of a Lesbian Utopian Myth, an exploration into what will happen when the world is safe for lesbians . . .



CLASSIFIEDS

All classifieds are sold on a monthly basis. Categories include: Personals (no sexually explicit language), For Sale, For Rent, Roommates, Wanting To Buy/Trade, Public Announcements, and Misc. Cost is 30¢ per word (\$4.00 minimum). Send ad copy, name, and address (kept confidential) with your check or money order made payable to *THE OPEN DOOR*, PO Box 1627, Bloomington, IN 47402. Deadline is 10 days before the 1st of each month.

Say what you think! Write a *Letter to the Editor*.

FOR RENT—Two 30ish women students looking for third woman to share apartment. Own room (unfurnished). Grocery close. Ballantine 15 min. stroll. Quiet neighborhood. Want responsible, mature woman who can cope w/ paying bills on time and w/ cleaning up. No party types. Rent \$120, heat pd. Call Jeanne or Susan, 332-2430. Keep trying.

Support the advertisers of *THE OPEN DOOR*! You wouldn't be reading this WITHOUT THEM!

THE OPEN DOOR Staff Meeting

January 28, 8:00 P.M., Charter Room, Indiana Memorial Union. Become an active part of *THE OPEN DOOR*! All volunteers welcome. No experience necessary—just enthusiasm!

SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS

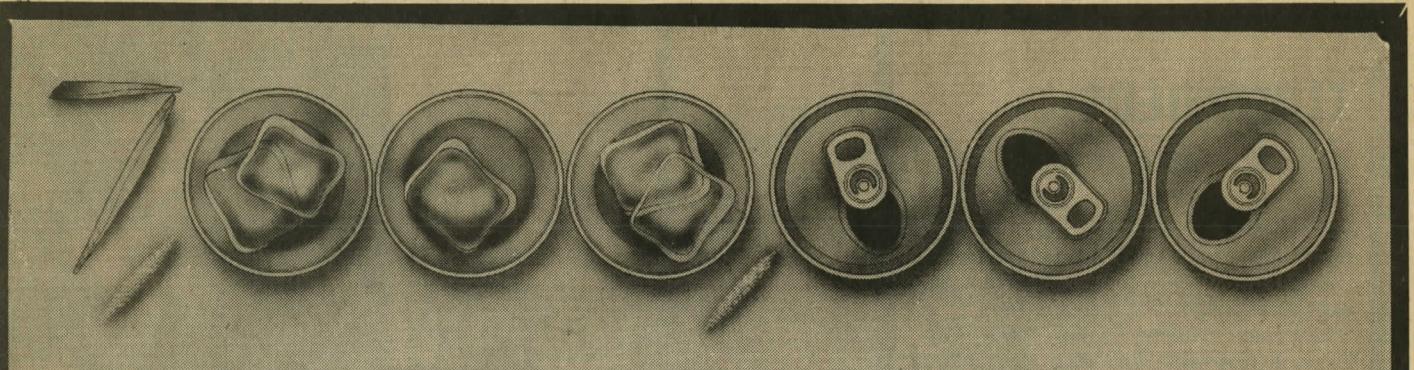


THE HAIRCUTTER

Derrill

Third and Dunn in Colstone Square
Bloomington, IN 339-8444

- available for professional, confidential services
Wednesday thru Monday
late evening/early morning hours available



ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ARE REALLY DOING A NUMBER ON US.

If you think drugs or alcohol are keeping you down, you are in good company. One out of every three gays and lesbians are in the same boat. That's 7 million of us, struggling with the disease of chemical dependence. And sinking fast.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Introducing Pride Institute, America's first in-patient drug and alcohol treatment facility run by gay men and lesbians for gay men and lesbians. We offer you a chance to clear the drugs and alcohol out of your life and a chance to find yourself, without the everyday distractions of your normal routine. All in the safety and comfort of a place that respects your sexual orientation while protecting your confidentiality.

Our program is based on a proven combination of 12-step experience and clinical expertise. But unlike other treatment facilities, we also offer you a chance to explore the history and heritage of being gay in a straight world.

Our goal is to send you back into that world full of the enthusiasm, talent and energy that make you who you are, proud of what you are, clean and sober and ready to go.

If drugs or alcohol are doing a number on you or someone you know, call our toll free number today: 1-800-54-PRIDE (or, in MN, 1-612-934-7554).

Recover with pride.

**PRIDE
INSTITUTE**

14400 Martin Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
1-800-54-PRIDE (or, in MN, 1-612-934-7554)

Elaine Noble, President. Ellen Ratner, Vice President. Christopher Eskeli, Ph.D.
Member National Association of Lesbian and Gay Alcoholism Professionals

On the line with Switchboard

by Sean Hammond

The Gay/Lesbian Switchboard is a volunteer service that is about ten years old. It can be reached at 336-4299, also known as 336-GAY9. We answer the phone from 8pm to midnight, and the rest of the time there is usually a taped message. (The taped message will be back when we have enough money to buy a new answering machine.)

The liners have some training in peer counseling so they can assist callers with their problems. We also maintain a file from which we can provide useful information to callers. The rest of the time we field calls from people who still need to learn tolerance.

During a four-hour shift we get an average of ten to fifteen calls. The most common calls are harassing, including hang-ups and fake calls. The next most common type of call concerns requests for community information.

We are in need of community support since we need a new answering machine and must pay the monthly phone bill. If you can assist us, send your contribution to: Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, c/o BGLA, IMU Room 48G, Bloomington, IN 47405.

Move over, Mickey Mouse . . .



Copyright © Walt Disney Productions

Walt Disney Productions has announced a new educational documentary film that soon may be playing in schools across the country—but it is far from the Mickey Mouse we are used to from the studios of Disney.

The film is titled *AIDS* and is targeted for teenage high school students. The film, which is hosted by Ally Sheedy (*Short Circuit*, *The Breakfast Club*), includes such topics as safe sex practices, and the risks of anal and oral sex. Many public health authorities feel that learning about AIDS should begin as early as the third grade. According to Surgeon General C. Everett Koop children should start to learn early "so that they can grow up knowing the behavior to avoid to protect themselves." The film will also include music by Stevie Wonder.

FEB

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Coming in March's issue . . .

* Religion and homosexuality—acceptance or rejection? Both sides debated.

* Educating people about AIDS. What's being done in the schools, the workplace, and the community?

* Report on IU courses that explore homosexuality

* Local coverage of Women's History Month

* . . . and much, much, more! ! !

march

THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR
THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR
THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR THE OPEN DOOR

pridetully presenting gay and lesbian issues, views and events to the entire Bloomington community.

*pridetully presenting gay and lesbian issues, views and events to the entire Bloomington community.
and events to the entire Gay and Lesbian community.
and events to the entire Gay and Lesbian community.
and events to the entire Gay and Lesbian community.
and events to the entire Gay and Lesbian community.
and events to the entire Gay and Lesbian community.*

February 1987

*Dance Music in Review
by Wayne Shepherd
(Bullwinkle's DJ)*

WWS

On the line with Switchboard

February 1987

VOL. 1, No. 1

Copies of the letters to the editor are available from THE OPEN DOOR or from the library of the Herald-Telephone.

February 1987

On the line with Switchboard

1/6

*pridetully presenting gay and lesbian issues, views
and events to the entire Bloomington community.*