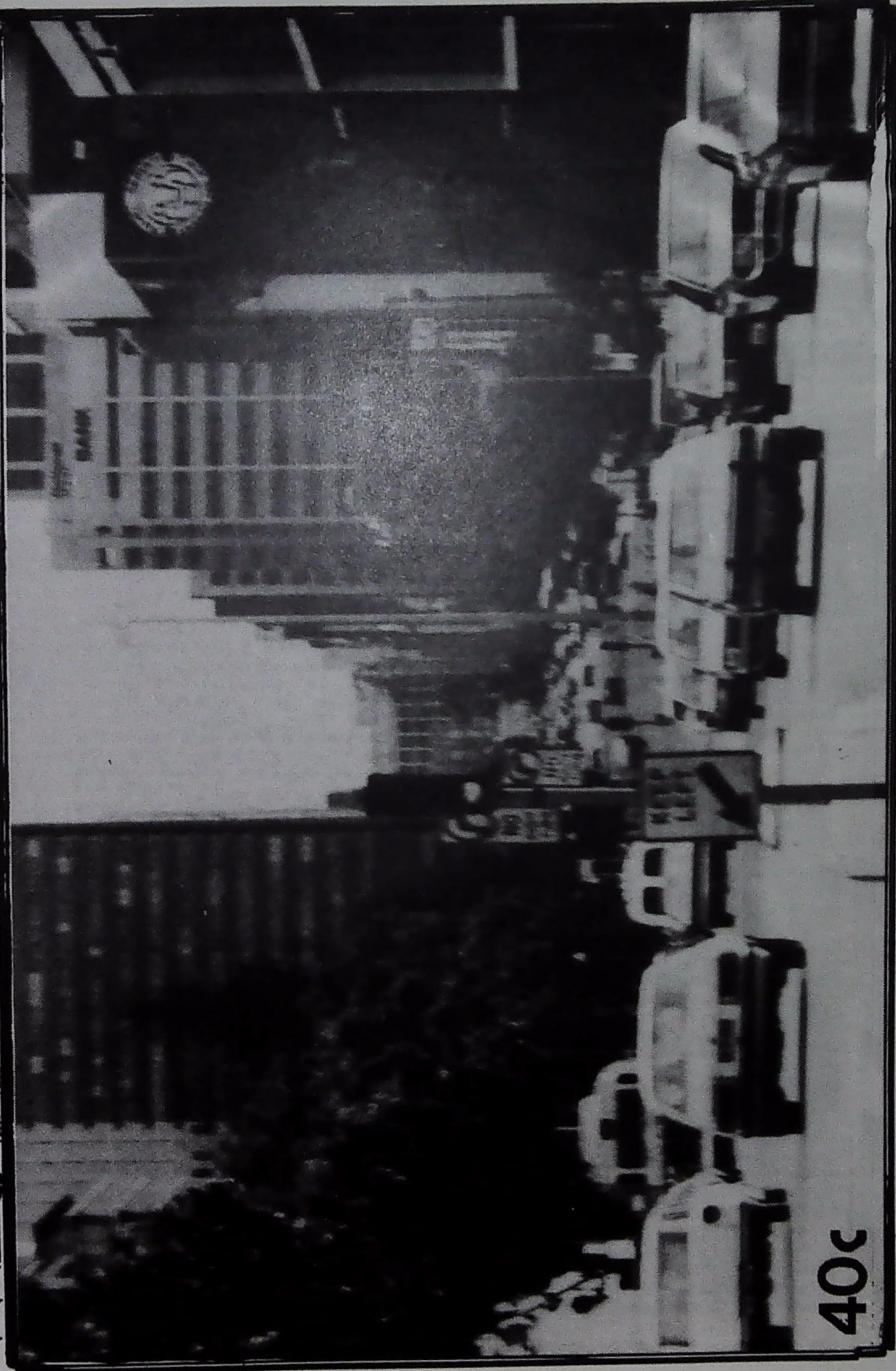


WESTEND GAY JUNE '83



40¢

vienna

I.G.A. CONFERENCE

Arrangements for the 5th Annual Conference of the International Gay Association (I.G.A.) have been finalised. The conference will be held in Vienna from July 11-16, 1983 and will be sponsored by the Austrian gay organisation, Homosexuelle Initiative Wien (H.I.W.).

Conference registration forms are available from H.I.W. Committee, I.G.A., 1983, Novargasse 40, 1-1020 Vienna, Austria.

— Gay News

san francisco

CUT OFF

The American Express Co., ever fearful of its respectable image, has cancelled the account of a San Francisco Gay Telephone Fantasy Service. The business, The Connector, is a computer-operated telephone conference line through which gay men can exchange hot conversations with others anywhere in the U.S. It is one of several services catering to the expanding market of telephone sex. Customers charge their calls to credit cards issued by most major companies. It gives a whole new meaning to the advertisements which exhort up to "let your fingers do the walking" and you certainly aren't likely to pick up any nasty viruses or microbes.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Western Gay
The H.I.O.
Guild of Undergraduates,
U.W.A. Crawley, 6009

I wish to subscribe to Western Gay. Please find enclosed my cheque/money order for the sum of \$5.00. Please post Western Gay to:—

Name

Address

..... Post Code

Signature

Wimmin — Pink Pig Tavern

cnr. Lord & Aberdeen
sts.
no cover charge

The first "Ladies Only" night was held on May 17th at the Pink Pig on the corner of Aberdeen and Lord Streets, Perth.

The first evening was a tremendous success; all of those women I approached assured me they were enjoying it immensely.

The "Ladies Only" night is held every alternate Tuesday. The evening commences at 8pm and continues until midnight. There is no cover charge; reasonably priced snacks are available from the kitchen, and half-price drinks are available from the bar between 8-9pm.

To entertain you, there is a live band (NO CONNECTION) which includes in their repertoire a variety of covers from the 1960's through to the '80's, as well as their own unique brand of music. Disco music is also played in between the band's brackets.

As mentioned previously, the "Ladies Night" is held only every alternate Tuesday, but with the encouragement and support of the female gay community, we can make it a weekly event. The long-awaited female venue has finally arrived, so come along, join in on the fun, and have a great time!

Ruth

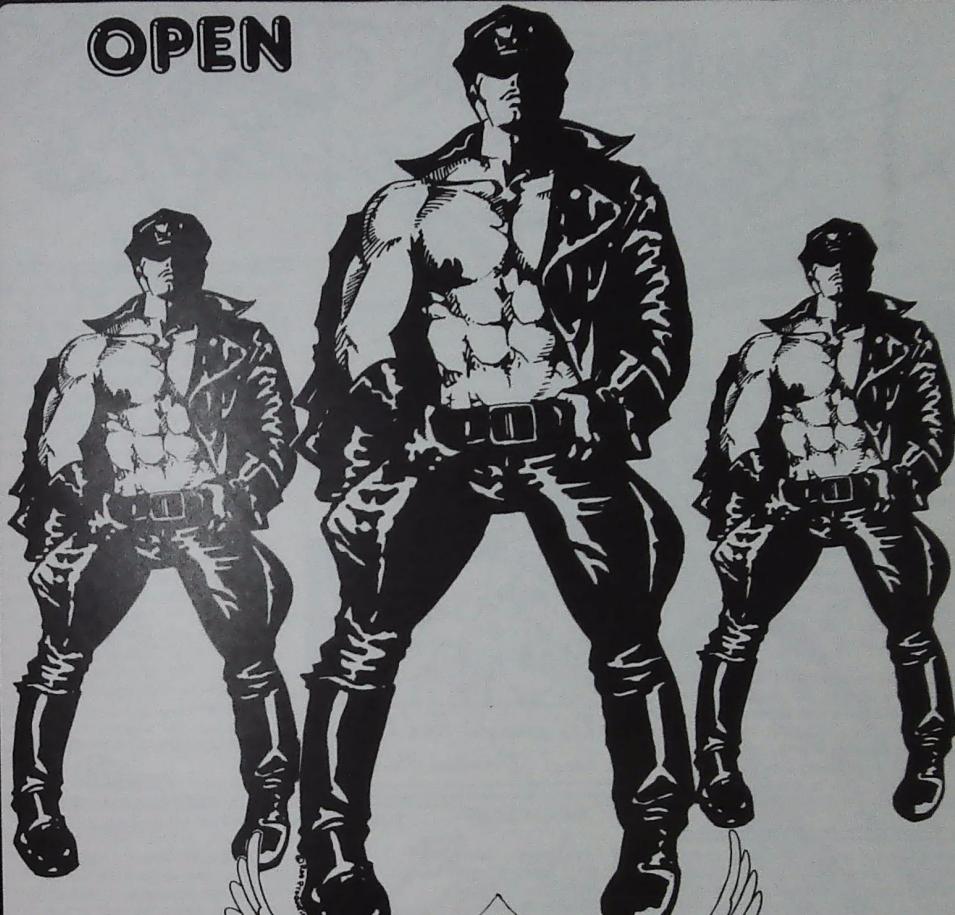
JOHN R. COATES
Licensed Real Estate Settlement Agent

For Residential Real Estate Settlements, bring this advertisement in and receive a 20% discount on your settlement of any property you buy or sell.

For professional, confidential and personal service, phone 443 2788 or 341 5564 A/H or call at 194 Scarb. Beach Rd., Mt. Hawthorn.



OPEN



BARBAROSSA Manager: Noel Carlile
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Shop 97a James St. Northbridge



GLITTER GLAMOUR GOSSIP and Heartache

by Perth: Norrie's most outrageous social rager (hic!)



Say what?

Another month, another med, a month of Sundays, Saturdays and intermittent weekdays, with the occasional downpour of Monday morning. Mondays never were easy to cope with, and now with the Clarendon session still afloat till 10pm on Sunday, they're positively demoralising!

Not that there are many complaints about the longer session, apart from those poor souls of weak constitution who can't last the five-hour stretch, and of course, from the proprietors of the previous post 7.30 monopoly. Ouch! I never said a word!

Still, whose complaints of licence-breaching left a couple of Sunday sessions without music? I walked into the crowd of conversation, noticed the lack of boom-thump thump, and thought, "Oh God, I've walked into a straight pub by mistake!" Not to worry, nothing was straight a couple of Kahlias later.

Talking about things not being straight, WHICH Cannington Social Security Office recently circulated to all staff the CAMP A.I.D.S. brochure? Just how many queens do they think work there? And cross my haemorrhoids, I had nothing to do with it! Still, it's best we all know about such things - I hope you've read the AIDS article in this issue.

Something else serious (in a camp way, naturally), is the 1983 Arts Ball. It's next month, my lovelies, July 26th, at the "versatile" Pagoda Ballroom, a whole five hours of full bar, fuller guests, glitter and glamour, prizes and prize-bitching, high society and debauchery from 9pm - 2pm. All this and supper, for only \$25 a head (or tail, depending on which way up you are when you arrive!). For table bookings you should phone Vic on 328 7703. Tickets will of course be at the usual unusual venues.

Will Oscars be in predictable burgundy? Will the Clarendon table be pink and grey again? Will Mrs. Wilma Black (nee Ratschitsch) blend in with Connies' black? And, horror of horrors, won't the Red Parrot, Red Lion and Red's CLASH!

ENDANGERED SPECIES # 23



The straight Red Lion
local (Drinkus Morepiss)

BOOMTHUMP: CONNECTIONS TOP 40

1. Let's Dance - David Bowie
2. Billie Jean - Michael Jackson
3. Masterpiece - Gazebo
4. Gotcha Where I Want You - Stereo Fun, Inc.
5. Love is a Stranger - Eurythmics
6. Blue Monday - New Order
7. Saddle Up - David Christie
8. Magic Wand - Whodini
9. Jeopardy - Greg Kihn Band
10. Maybe This Time - Norma Lewis
11. Stop - Valerie Ellington
12. Red Light Hour - Gwen Jonae
13. Starting All Over Again - Grace Kennedy
14. I'm Alive - American Fade
15. Hip Hop Be Bop - Mann Parish
16. Liza Liza - Bodyheat
17. Angel Man - Rhetta Hughes
18. Africa - Key or Dreams
19. Keep It Confidential - Nona Hendrix
20. Hi Tek - Overdrive
21. Show Me The Way - Race
22. Walk Away - Bonnie Foreman
23. Heatstroke - Mann Parish
24. Shot in the Night - Paul Parker
25. These Memories - Oh Romeo
26. Can We Try Again - Technique
27. Feelin' Hot - Futura
28. N.Y. Nights - Amant II
29. Lies - Thompson Twins
30. Beat It - Michael Jackson
31. I'm Free - Ce Li Bec
32. Feeling - Blanckmange
33. Shotgun - Paul Sabu
34. Memory - Menage
35. Electricity - Ashayne
36. Adios My Love - Damian
37. Party - Julius Browne
38. Stay With Me - India
39. Sex I'm a... - Berlin
40. Bad Boys - Wham

Special Note Megatone Records are contributing 100% world-wide profits from Patrick Cowley's 'Megamedley' produced by Tommy Williams, to G.M.H.C. in America for research into AIDS.

The vagaries of publishing being what they are, I don't know whether the Connie Awards have been or gone yet. But anyway kids, don't you think the categories could do with a little revising? I mean, if you're going to have the best Fag Hag, how about balancing it with the biggest Tit Queen, Best Beat Boy, Most Off Their Face Faggot or something? (Maybe they just wanted Dorrie to win an award this year!)

Well, that's almost it for another month, and I haven't told you what the Arts Ball prizes will be (it's an unrevealable secret, but believe me, they'll be really stunning this year!), and I haven't said "Hi" to curly Brian like I promised ("Hi, piggy!") and since the end of the paragraph is only a few lines away, now we'll NEVER know whether Miss (Worthless) Moores is going to use her toilet wall drill to get the diamond tiara out of the bank vault for the ball!

Keep on coming on! Love and lust,

NORRIE

by D.J. BARRY

On Apology

Michael Jackson

Due to a ridiculous oversight on our part (we are but human!), we failed to print the last part of this article. We apologize to the author, whose contribution appeared in the April edition (p. 16).

*The third rule for battle is:
Plan Your Attack*

If you accept that you are gay; if you feel that you want to improve your life, ensure your personal liberty and claim a "right to exist", then perhaps you can recognise a place for you in the gay "army". Choose your place carefully; you must be comfortable and secure in the way you approach your enemy or he may destroy you instead!

And know what you intend to do, what you are trying to achieve.

If you dash up to an old friend and say "I'm gay and what do you think of the gay rights issue?" you'll probably draw a blank stare. You should allow others the time to adjust and re-recognise your worth as a person before you can expect them to support you.

Remember, that is an example – but you must seek your own plan.

*The fourth and final rule is:
Remember Your Objective*

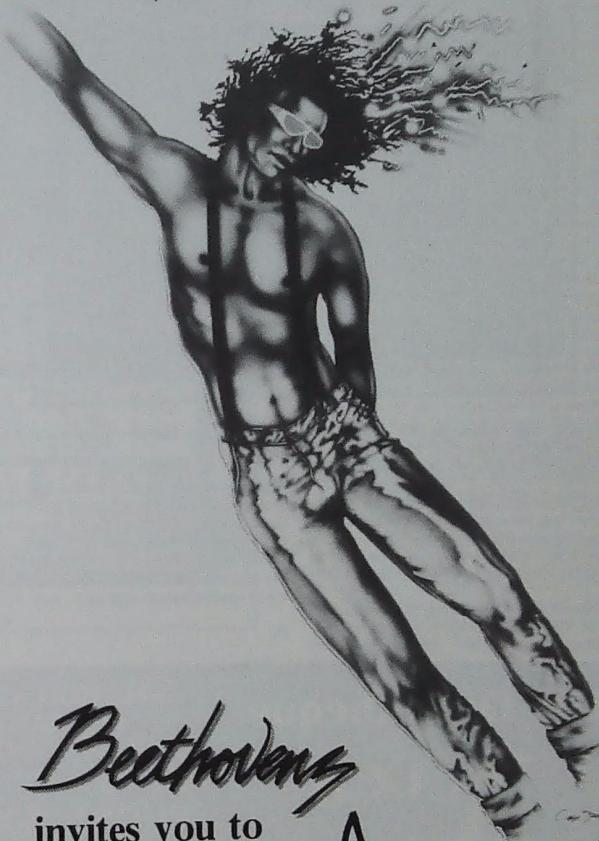
Your objective, if you choose to accept it, is to achieve gay rights (of course, if you do not choose to join in the battle for gay rights, you've just wasted your time reading a lengthy article!).

We will achieve gay rights by gaining the support of others, and this is done by asking! How may friends do you have who will give financial, moral or personal support if the question of gay rights is ever raised in Parliament?

Perhaps you will find the time to ask – soon!

Michael

YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T LIKE IT



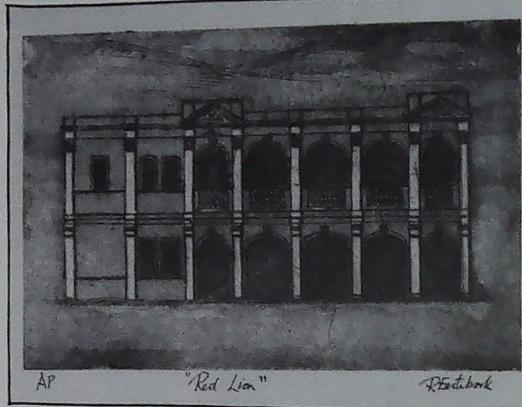
Beethoven's
invites you to
Gay Monday Madness!

Presentation of this advertisement will gain you free entry (\$3.00 value) to Beethoven's Gay Monday Madness from 8pm - 3.30am. Presentation of this ad at the Bar also gives you one free glass of wine and/or one free glass of beer.

Come and join in the fun with the straights!

- Body painter
- Floorshow
- A crazy night of multi D.J.'s

The Red Lion



AP

"Red Lion"

Reback

Western Gay welcomes the Red Lion Tavern (84 Aberdeen St., Northbridge) as Perth's first openly gay-owned pub.

Congratulations are in order for Peter, John, Ian, Mike, Minge and Malcolm, who have, along with an army of voluntary deviants, transformed the Red Lion Tavern into what dreams are made of.

Renovating and restoring the 'old tavern' has not been easy. But with a new generation of fun, will continue to

culminate into becoming Australia's Best Gay Pub.

If you have not made it to the Red Lion Tavern yet, then be sure you don't miss out on the Grand Opening on June 10th. With festivities beginning at 7.30pm, it's bound to be an evening to remember. So, get into your best party mood, and come along to a hedonistic RAGE.

Bi.

Hello, boys and girls. Today I'm going to tell you a story.

Once upon a time, there lived a very lonely line called 'Mr. Straight'. You see, Mr. Straight was a relatively linear thinker and so, one day, while out shopping, he met a Mrs. Straight. In view of this potential relationship, they joined forces with mutual friends and formed a square.

Unfortunately, Mr. Straight soon became disillusioned with this because he felt boxed in. Consequently, he began to drift away from the other three. He soon met another disillusioned Mr. Straight, and the two of them formed a very happy circle. Unfortunately for them, the squares suddenly appeared, confused and frightened for they could not figure out how two lines could make a circle. As you can imagine, the squares got together to ridicule the strange new shape.

The circles became altered by this ostracism and soon they only associated with other circles. In the process of discovering other circles, they stumbled across a triangle who, although not quite the same, were very happy. What this proved to the circle (comprised of two linear straights) was that they were a line first of all, and that they could sometimes be a circle, sometimes a square and sometimes a triangle, but the point is that deep down inside, they were all the same.

Shiefa

The Discotheque



191 HIGH STREET,
FREMANTLE
WEST AUSTRALIA

Open 8 p.m. Till 3.30 p.m.
PHONE: 335 8011

FULLY LICENCED
Meals, Entertainment,
Sophisticated Lighting.

TUESDAY GAY
FLOORSHOW
1/2 Price to Gay People
(\$2.00)
IN DRAG FREE!

Why not try the CLUB SIROCCO this
Tuesday night?

FTI 6 pm
8 pm

TAXI ZUM KLO R

Stud. \$3.50, Unwaged A breezy, funny,
\$2.50 exc. Fri/Sat 8 pm aggressively-candid
Adelaide St, Ftile 335 1055 autobiography—NY Times

Director-writer-star Frank Ripploh (left) with his film lover Bernd Broaderup.

FILM

WESTERN GAY GOES TO THE MOVIES

TAXI ZUM KLO

The landmark German gay film *TAXI ZUM KLO* is to be screened for a 2-week season at the F.T.I. cinema (formerly P.I.F.T.) starting Monday, June 6, and screening nightly Monday to Saturday, 6pm and 8pm.

TAXI ZUM KLO opened in Germany in 1980 and won the Max Ophuls prize in 1981. The film was also a hit at the New York Film Festival in 1981, and opened its Australian run in Sydney and Melbourne in October, 1982.

Australia is the only country to have banned the film, until 2 minutes of explicit sex was cut. The film runs for 90 minutes, is rated R, and is subtitled.

The Story:

Frank is a teacher by day and an adventurer by night, who meets Bernd at a movie and they begin an affair. But, while Bernd dreams of happiness and security in the country, Frank needs the excitement of men, leather and sex.

The humour of the situation is revealed in lines such as . . . "so when we're an old gay couple living in the country with our lesbian cook, we'll adopt a mongoloid child and write on the door, beware of the dog."

The Director:

Frank Ripploh was born in 1949 and worked as a teacher between 1972 and 1980, when disciplinary proceedings began against him due to his open admission of his homosexuality. With money gained from the settlement of the trial, he financed this autobiographical film about himself and his boyfriend playing themselves in the lead roles.

To quote Herr Ripploh . . . "to label the film a 'homosexual' film is an injustice. I consider it to be a sad film

which gives expression to both the longing for a relationship and its impossibility . . . despite all the humour. The film is a film about the possibility of love. It just happens to be situated within the homosexual milieu . . ." and "After all, I don't want to show only the sugar and spice side of homosexuality, the sunny side of life. My film not only has wit but sadness as well, just like myself. Otherwise, it wouldn't be honest. We've surely seen enough cheap emotional or didactic homosexual and non-homosexual films!"

The Critics:

NEWSWEEK, David Ansen, 10/81 — "You can't help but like the guy, and to like him is to like his movie. They share the same energy, the same bouncing rhythm. It's Ripploh's sunny un-self pitying disposition that keeps *TAXI* from being merely sordid. It's as explicit as any porn movie, but in this context, the sex is a form of honest reportage. It's given the emphasis it has in his life, sometimes funny, sometimes hot, sometimes gross. This may be the first post gay liberation movie: there's no didacticism, no special pleading, no 'problem'. Ripploh isn't trying to show that homosexuals are just average 'Joes' any more than he's saying this is the truth of homosexual life. It's his truth, no more, no less, and the audience is free to flee from his vision in horror or take him on his own funky, droll, horny terms. One thing is sure — the man's a film-maker."

NEW YORK, 19/81 — "In *TAXI ZUM KLO*, which was one of the more enjoyable movies at the New York Film Festival, cruising is neither sordid and brutal (as in *CRUISING*) nor tedious and anguished (as in *NIGHTHAWKS*); it's essentially comic."

THE BULLETIN, Sandra Hall, 11/82 — "Frank Ripploh's lustily explicit celebration of his own promiscuity is still the most remarkable film about homosexuality ever seen here; its release made all the more interesting by the fact it coincides with Hollywood's latest word on the subject — the vapid and cloying *PARTNERS* . . ."

FINANCIAL REVIEW, Meaghan Morris, 10/82 — "... *TAXI ZUM KLO* is a very nice film, fitting more easily with the style of affectionate self-deprecating developed by comedians like Danny Kaye rather than the expose style of 'gay' films like *CRUISING* or *NIGHTHAWKS*."

THE NATIONAL TIMES, John Hindle, 10/82 — "But Frank is interesting, and so is his lifestyle, and so, therefore, is the film."





CNR NEWCASTLE AND LAKE STS, PERTH 328 6770

Men O'Nly's IN THE UNDERGROUND

TUESDAYS 8pm—3.30am

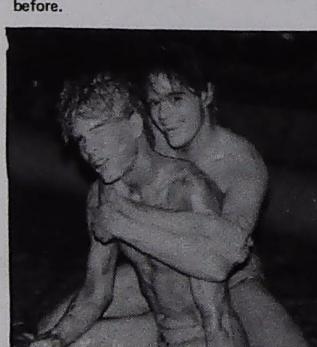
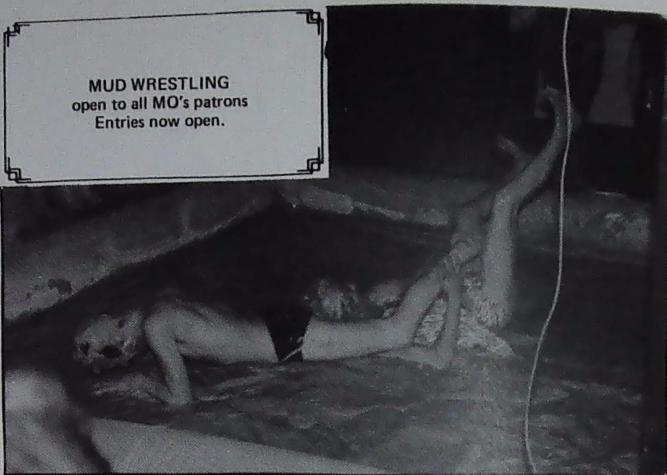
Here's mud in your eye, wasn't what we were trying to say, although many of the spectators at M.O.'s mud wrestling may have thought so regardless, by popular demand and repeated request, mud wrestling will return to M.O.'s next month. Watch out for advertising at M.O.'s and in Western Gay, for details.

I'd personally like to thank those who contributed to the success of the night, mainly the contestants. Danny certainly provided more than just wrestling techniques, but also a method to get Michael's pants off, that no one else would have thought of. Not really to Michael's liking, but it didn't take long for him to return the favour during the match and win. Thanks guys, for a very entertaining act, from all of us.

The heavy weight guys took the whole thing more serious. The finale bout proved to be a match of stamina and wit, as Doug and Eric struggled to pin each other's shoulders to the mat. It looked as though they would battle it out all night, when Doug's stamina ran out and Eric took out the prize money.

Anyone who wishes to compete in the next mud wrestling, rush yourself to Michael at the main bar, and give him your details. The number of contestants is limited, so don't wait till the week before.

MUD WRESTLING
open to all MO's patrons
Entries now open.



MEN ONLY'S

WESTERN NIGHT



TUESDAY 21st JUNE
Cowboys and Indians
ADMISSION FREE
and prizes

GAY HEALTH

Hep B — What's the fuss?

Hep B is a sinister, insidious disease. Consider the following facts:-

- a) U.S. figures indicate that between 55% and 80% of gay men contact Hep B.
- b) Between 50% and 60% of infections are sub-clinical, ie. show no symptoms.
- c) There is no cure (at this time) for Hepatitis B.
- d) About 10% of infected persons become chronic carriers, spreading the virus forever and possibly not being aware of having it themselves.
- e) Chronic carriers have a 273 times greater relative risk of liver cancer.
- f) Cirrhosis of the liver is often associated with Hep B.
- g) Hep B is sexually transmitted (via semen, saliva, urine or tears).
- h) The Hep B virus has an incubation period of 2-6 months.

A severe Hepatitis B infection may require hospitalisation and more than six months of convalescence. Between 1% and 5% of cases are fatal.

Symptoms of Hep B include fever, fatigue, jaundice and nausea.

In Summary

The above suggests gay men have about a 50:50 chance of getting Hep B. They may not know they've got it. One in ten will infect others for the rest of his life. Hep B can be devastating, even lethal, or it can be mild but very adverse in the long run. There is no cure. Hep B can be prevented with the vaccine or you can take your chances. Good luck!



H.B. VAX

The long-awaited vaccine to prevent Hepatitis B is now available in Perth. If you don't know about the dangers of Hep B, then read the accompanying article.

The vaccine is being distributed by Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and is only available on prescription through a pharmacist or direct from your doctor.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first.

As the vaccine can only prevent the disease and is not effective as a treatment, it is essential to have blood tests prior to deciding on a vaccination program.

The Homosexual Counselling & Information Service can provide details of doctors who can assist you if you do not feel comfortable with or do not have a regular general practitioner. Ring the HCIS on 328 9044 (8-11pm any night). Persons taking the AIDS screening tests at Royal Perth will be advised as to whether a Hep B vaccination program is desirable or useful.

The cost of the vaccine for each injection will be around \$50.00 if you purchase directly from your doctor or from Dallimore's Pharmacy in Newcastle St.

CAMP-W.A. has made representation to the Federal Health Minister and Dr. Ric Charlesworth (Federal M.P. for Perth) to have the H.B. Vax put on the National Health Scheme List. Given the cost and the current state of the government's budget, CAMP is not overly hopeful.

The H.B. Vax has been extensively tested in the U.S.A. and since being officially approved by U.S. authorities, it has been administered to over 200,000 persons. The vaccine is effective in over 95% of individuals after the three doses.

The vaccine has proved remarkably free of adverse consequences. Less than a quarter of people vaccinated report any

reaction at all and in the majority of cases this is only soreness at the vaccination site. Only occasionally a mild fever, fatigue and headache will result and rarely a high fever occurs. In only 6 cases out of 200,000 has a serious illness resulted from vaccination.

Some concern has been raised about the possibility of the vaccine being contaminated by the agent which causes AIDS as the vaccine is a blood product manufactured in the U.S.A. This view is not supported by currently available evidence. A joint review of the production process for the vaccine and of empirical data has been conducted in the U.S.A. by the Centres for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes for Health (NIH) and the Food & Drug Administration. They concluded that the purification and inactivation process in manufacture is known to inactivate representatives of all known groups of animal viruses. They noted that each batch is safely tested in primates and that no known occurrence of AIDS has been associated with the vaccine.

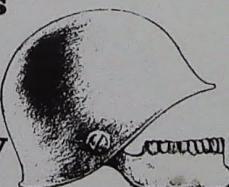
The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories concludes: "Thus, both current microbiologic and empirical data provide no support for the suggestion that HBV vaccine might carry an etiologic risk for AIDS."

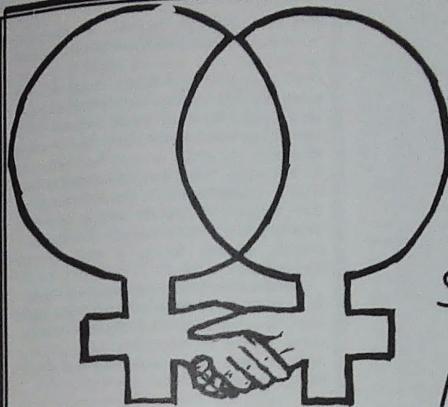
It is not possible at this stage to be certain, but it is worthwhile to remember that Hep V can kill you too if rather more slowly than AIDS. Also, one report has indicated that 95% of AIDS victims have had Hepatitis B. And the risk of catching Hep B appears at this stage very much higher than the risk of catching AIDS.

The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at \$17 billion a year. It is a huge sum of money

Jeff Hayler

... about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks.





LESBIAN COUPLES; SPECIAL ISSUES

Nancy Toder, Ph.D.

Lesbian couples: who are we? Descriptions range from the traditional view that sees us only in terms of our sexual activities, to the liberal heterosexual view that we are "just like any other couple" (and therefore no special effort is required to get to know us or to recognise and correct the injustices we deal with every day), to one version of the radical feminist lesbian perspective which states that our relationships don't or shouldn't have anything in common with heterosexual relationships. In fact, I find that many of our daily experiences as couples, many of our joys and difficulties, are similar to those of heterosexuals. However, we also have unique experiences, both as Gay people and as lesbians, and must cope with the unique issues in our relationships.

THE LESBIAN COUPLE IN THE HETEROSEXUAL WORLD: THE COMING OUT DILEMMA

Perhaps one of the most difficult decisions we lesbians face is to determine in which areas of our lives we can be ourselves, and in which areas we must wear a mask. If we stay in the closet, we risk never being known as we truly are, never having intimacy with family and friends, and losing self-respect and any sense of power and control of our lives. On the other hand, if we come out, we risk losing the love and support of our family and friends, forfeiting our jobs or curtailing our promotions, feeling the isolation of stigma, and in some places even getting arrested. Nevertheless, the advantages of coming out are great: a wonderful feeling of freedom, an increase in self-respect and integrity, the knowledge that we are doing something that may improve the lot of lesbians and male homosexuals everywhere, and the opportunity to create friendships in which we are truly accepted as ourselves.

The stress on the individual who must make these decisions is obvious: what is not so obvious is the stress these decisions place on the couple. Not only do the individual pressures on the individual bring more anxiety, confusion, fear and anger into the relationship, but the decision that each woman makes for herself will directly affect the relationship.

Couples run into the most conflict when the two women are at two different stages in the 'coming-out' process. Thus, a lesbian who has come out with her family, who perhaps is beginning to feel more comfortable about her lesbianism and to whom openness and honesty are very important, will have great difficulty pretending to be the 'roommate' when her partner's parents come for dinner. For many lesbians, home is a sanctuary in an unsafe world, and even those who resent the invasion of their home by people who are ignorant or disrespectful of their love relationship.

What is the impact of such situations on the couple? As in a juggling act, things have a tendency to fall and get broken. What may suffer here is the trust that each woman feels for the other as well as herself. A few years ago, a friend with an important professional job threw a party at her house for some of her co-workers. Very few people knew she was a lesbian, so her lover's clothes closet was carefully shut, books hidden behind other books, a few pictures put away in drawers and precautions to make sure nobody knew the household was lesbian. In addition, her lover, who works in the same profession, was invited to the party but had to pretend she didn't live in the same house.

This is a particularly dramatic example of how fears can negate each other and divide our relationship. This happens all the time, usually in more subtle ways than we know. Chipping away at the

trust, loyalty and respect we feel for each other, these 'little' betrayals can undermine the very foundations of our love relationships.

Problems with families, especially around holiday time, when each member of the couple, seen as a single person, is expected to go home to her own family — do not automatically disappear when we 'come out' to our relatives. Most family members react between two extremes of humour and approval and the lover usually is not treated as one of the family, at least not initially.

The couple may take out on each other the frustration and anger they feel in response to what they feel of their families' treatment of them. "Why did you let her get away with that?" "Why didn't you confront her on the shit she was saying?" "Why didn't you?" "Well, she's YOUR mother!" Many such fights revolve around disagreements on how to handle family. Each woman may feel torn between loyalty to the lover and fear of confronting parents and other relatives. Usually the partner who is more open with her family cannot understand why her partner is 'cowardly'. The two lovers can become pitted against each other, making it more difficult for them to fight the real enemy, the homophobia in the world and in themselves.

Additional stresses in the relationship can arise from differences between the lover's attitudes of being seen together publicly — as a function of different vulnerabilities in their work situation or different degrees of self-acceptance. These stress range from inconvenience (can we go to the movies together on only a Friday and Saturday night or during the week?) to various differences between the social and political activities each partner wants to engage in. Does one lover want to go to the bars, while the other is afraid to be seen there? Does one lover want to become involved in Gay/lesbian organisations, and is it a threat to the other lover? Again, these issues are a problem mostly for lovers who differ considerably in their attitudes and interests. However, even for a couple who share similar interests and values in such interests as coming out, political activity and visibility in public, many conflicts can arise from smaller differences and from the difficulty of coping with such emotion-laden issues. How can we deal with these conflicts? The lover who has come to put demands and pressures on the more fearful partner, yet at the same time encouraging her to take risks. Try to recognise that you and your partner are different individuals with different capacities, needs and circumstances.

The lover who is further in the closet must try not to feel threatened by her partners' decisions and not to invalidate or belittle what is important to the

partner, try to keep some separation between your identity and your lover's identity, and try not to sabotage your lover's growth because of your own fears. If you are frightened that your lover's political activities will give her less time for you, that the two of you may eventually find your differences irreconcilable and have to separate, or that your lesbianism will be exposed as a result of your lover's activities, then express your fears to your lover, rather than attacking her with statements like "Gay liberation is stupid!" or "NOW meetings are a waste of time."

In situations where it seems impossible to come out, each lover can still show basic respect for the other and for the relationship. This means for instance, not telling your mother about the fantastic (and invented) date you had last weekend when your lover is sitting with you at Christmas dinner; it means making sure that people know your lover is important to you (even if you don't want them to know she is your lover) and that they treat her with respect and courtesy; it means avoiding situations where people who don't know about your relationship come to your house.

Our love relationship can be a tremendous support in dividing paranoia from reality. By discussing the pros and cons of coming out in each situation, by role-playing (one lover plays the parents, boss, friends, etc. in a dialogue intended to test the possible consequences of coming out) and by brainstorming for new ideas and strategies, the two lovers can be of great help to each other in making 'coming out' decisions. At best, each lover can give the other some of the courage that 'coming out' requires and some of the support that dealing with the outside world necessitates. If desired, both lovers can be present in a potentially difficult 'coming out' situation, so that the one who is under fire will have support. In addition, each lover can help the other put things in perspective when something goes wrong, for example in a family situation. We tend to be so vulnerable with our families that we have trouble sorting out craziness from reality, and our lovers can provide a voice of sanity and reason.

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WHAT IS AIDS?

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is the name given to a breakdown of the body's own system of fighting disease which is not related to genetic factors or a known specific disease of the immune system.

The initial symptoms are similar to those of many other diseases and include: persistent fatigue, fever, diarrhoea, night sweats, swollen lymph glands. It is often accompanied by repeated virus infections such as colds, flu, cold sores (herpes simplex). These infections recur as the body's immune system steadily breaks down.

It can be clinically diagnosed by blood tests. These tests examine a particular class of white blood cells (T-cells). A person with AIDS has too few T-cells and many of the T-cells may be abnormal. T-cells can be further analysed into two sub-groups: one sub-group activates the immune system against infections; the other sub-group stops the first sub-group from over-reacting. AIDS sufferers have an imbalance in these sub-groups with the result that the immune system is not activated.

AIDS itself does not kill. It does however, allow many otherwise minor or rare infections to get out of hand. The major killers have been a particular pneumonia (PCP) and a cancer (Kaposi's Sarcoma). Others include a form of herpes which attacks the central nervous system and a parasitic infection of the brain.

The cause of AIDS is unknown and the subject of some speculation. Current theories include: a new virus; a mutated known virus; an existing virus which is activated in the presence of another substance(s); a complex group of factors which are individually not very significant but when combined are explosive. A genetic susceptibility is suggested as one factor in determining how severely an individual will be affected.

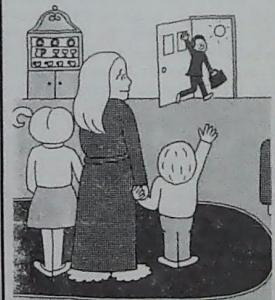
Whatever the specific cause, it would appear that AIDS is in some way trans-

missible through sexual encounters. However, sexual contact with an AIDS victim may only lead to AIDS in a very small proportion of cases, if at all. By extensive case tracing, AIDS victims have been linked to other AIDS victims in a significant number of cases. But is this why they got AIDS or is it coincidence? At this stage, there is no definite answer. If it is transmissible, it would appear to take between 3 months and 2 years to develop. If it is contagious during this period, we are facing a monumental horror story.

No cure for AIDS is apparent. Interferon and a wide range of drugs have been tried. Some of these have effectively overcome particular infections generally or only in some cases. In no case has AIDS itself been reversed.

Jeff Hayler

USED TO BE IT WAS A MAN'S WORLD AND A WOMAN'S PLACE WAS IN THE HOME...



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To the tune of QUE SERA SERA —

When I was just a little child,
I asked my mother, what will I be,
Will I be famous, will I be rich,
Here's what she said to me . . .

You'll be gay, my dear,
And proud without any fear,
The way you try on my gear,
Leaves no doubt that you're queer.

My parents packed me off to school,
I asked my teacher, what lies ahead,
What will I do when kids laugh at me,
Here's what my teacher said . . .

Meet me after three,
I've something you'd like to see,
Your innocence don't fool me,
It was ecstasy . . .

Then I grew up and fell in love,
Caught gonorrhea, heavens above!
Turned to religion, that wasn't much,
Found me a better crutch . . .

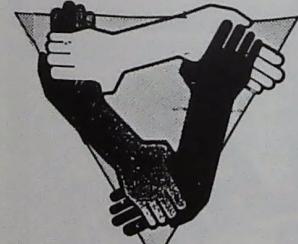
Solidarity, now gay pride's a part of me,
And Stonewall's my history,
What a fantasy . . .

Now I am old and battle-scarred,
Hundreds of demos, twelve mardi-gras,
Twelve years since Stonewall, look where
we are,
Stuck here in Canberra . . .

Gay Sera, Sera,
Whatever the chemistry,
I'm glad it's my destiny,
It's my cup of tea.

(repeat last chorus)

By the Melbourne (we-know-how-to-have-a-good-time-too) Gay Quyre.



gay diversity,
gay unity,
gay strength



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The Arts Ball gets bigger and brighter every year '83 will be no exception. Get your gear on and your act together for July 26th. See ya there!

WESTERN GAY

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Comments, criticisms and information are not only welcome, but are an essential part of the continued, healthy growth of the magazine. WESTERN GAY also seeks continued support in the way of subscriptions.

WESTERN GAY



Editor-in-chief,
DOUGLAS HILL

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Kent St, Bentley

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C/O The H.I.O.,
Guild of Undergraduates,
University of Western Australia

POETRY

CLEAR EYES

As the mill of life slowly turns,
So, more and more of the husks of life
are cast off.
With this, a purification of the soul
transpires.
With the vision acquired through this
metamorphosis,
We can see more clearly,
The quality of those around us.

UNDERCURRENT

Living may be compared to the oceans,
Deep blue oceans wide and expansive.
At their edge, waves crash violently and
relentlessly,
Eroding, back and forth.
I wish to move from the beaches of life
To the calm and serenity of the deep.

IN LOVE'S MIND

In my mind, a huge cavern of blackness,
Knowing no boundaries, there is a black
strong box.
I know how to get there but I don't go.
For in the strong box is my heart,
Locked away, secure and safe.
One day I will go there again,
With someone to whom I have given the
key,
Trusting them with the only thing that
can destroy me.

g peters

NUMB!

No, that's an understatement,
if I do say so myself.
Cold,
I've gone beyond that stage,
a long time ago.
Hate,
doesn't exist,
God only knows why!
Jesus, this crazy mixed-up man
loves you so hard,
tears don't come anymore.
My heart has swollen,
double its capacity,
I ache in need for you.
Please don't cry, sad man.
This room is so cold
... without you.
And without you, my love,
my life is empty.
Empty, lonely and cold.

karl david

SONNET FOR STEVE

Oh! May there be a special place in Hell
for them who taught us fear and self-
disgust
whose blasphemies, disguised as Love
osmosed
into our youthful souls, displacing trust.

Among the virtues that these shabby
traitors
tout (that one, in gentle Saints fulfilled),
no talk of trust of self and Loving Fate:
expected roles intrusive were instilled.

For Herod's crime was not that he sought
Christ

but that he sought an Innocent to kill.
Just as today, the gay capacity to
love is hounded, quarry of a stranger's will.

Dear God! Protect your frightened young
and gay.

There's only Love. It matters not the way.

Clarendon Hotel, 15th May, 1983

SONNET FOR RAY

So! There we were for dinner, brittle,
tense,

Table Two, a window and around us
counterpoint of orthodox, so immense
that in the fugue, we seemed a dissonance.

Perceptibly, as time has let us see
that raucous crowd, continue assigned.
The score that night was set for you and
me

as soloists, two voices intertwined.

For in that hubbub loud, the music real
was soundless merely bounded and
defined

by words and gesture, question and appeal:
as an abstract is but space caught thin-
lined.

In the stillness of our Souls, the song did
start.

The Divine Composer stirred: heart spoke
to heart.

Honeymoon Cove, 1st May, 1983

SONNET FOR HOLLY – MUCH LOVED AND ADMIRE

A poet scribbles and his scansion checks:
His epithets are queried and his lines
murmured in solitude. Complex notions
are distilled. To his readers, he resigns.

Perhaps for nought: perhaps his paradigms
and subtleties speak merely to his kind.
But Holly, with a wistful healing glance
a witty step, a raunchy song slips past the
mind.

This gentle man transports us to that
place

we all can find; that secret place where
joy

is unrestrained. For Holly has the glow
of love of self to share and to employ.

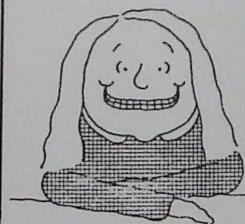
Small wonder, friend, your body is so
slight.

You give yourself and all for our delight.

Clarendon Hotel, 20th May, 1983

L hunter

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KISS THAT
SHIT GOODBYE



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ASTROLOGY

Aries:— Although jealousy is one of your more prominent features, once you feel you love someone (in the true sense of the word), then you'll love them forever. Try to cope with your extreme possessiveness; not everyone is as strong as you. The Ram will find good fortune this month, financially on the 10th, romantically in the 3rd week of the month. Good luck!

Taurus:— Because you are a methodical person, you like your friendships to build steadily. You don't believe in all or nothing. In view of this, you should carefully re-examine the selection of those individuals you hold close to you (literally, thank you). Your holy bodies, particularly Neptune, indicate that there is a 'Brutus' amongst your lot. You would be well-advised to seek out this person. On the bright side, despite the sub-zero temperatures sometimes experienced in winter, the warmth of love will see you through.

Virgo:— Emotionally, it could be a little 'topsy-turvy' for you this month. First the bad news . . . you might find that friends will be slightly unreliable this month, which should annoy any self-respecting Virgo to no end. Virgo's crave for perfection, and not everyone can live up to your high standards. Now for the good news . . . your astrological charts indicate an abundance of admirers this month. Thanks to the sexual revolution, virgins have become a bit of a rare commodity. Keep your eyes open, especially for Capricorns who are cute. This month your chances are good and possibilities endless.

Libra:— Exercise a little more discretion in your selection of mates this month; your promiscuity could very well get you into trouble. Lots of cozy chats in front of the fireplace for you. That Aries you find so attractive wants to reciprocate, but is afraid to. Keep at it. Unfortunately, this month is going to rack your financial brains. You would be well-advised to clear up any monetary troubles you have now, as next month, another avenue of destiny will require copious amounts of attention.

Scorpio:— This month can be summed up in one word — turbulent. Some days, such as the 17th and 28th, should be very good. Others, particularly the 19th, you might consider staying in bed all day, for if you don't, you might regret getting out of it. Lovers come and go, the same as all of the previous months. However (and this is

what's interesting), a Leo is going to find its way into your affections — be prepared for a few low's and lots of high's. Also, money will be good, and just as well, because you'll need it.

Gemini:— Personal creativity is tremendously abundant this month; make a gift for a friend. Lovers have a few surprises in store for you this month, so if they act a bit suspicious, don't get too nosy. Because of your above-average intelligence, you have a tendency to overpower others; remember, not everyone has the intellectual superiority to operate on your level. Despite what you think now, June is not really going to be that bad; all things considered, you should survive, experiencing little pain.

Cancer:— Cancerians are among the friendliest people in the zodiac. Their logical minds demand it. Unfortunately you appear to lack the element of realism. Once you learn to face your life for what it is, you shall be able to make much more constructive plans about where you're going and what you want. As usual of course, money is gravitating towards you. Remember to satisfy those needs which are most important to you, for this is the easiest path to happiness.

Leo:— A good month for Leo's. Some worrying news finds you on the 12th, but this month will be a lot less demanding than the last one. Friends are very supportive of your endeavours; be prepared to appreciate them. One thing most Leo's lack is consideration for others, so try to do something about it this month, especially on the 27th when your excessive charm will have to be put to the test. The 15th finds you in an intimate situation with a Taurian. I'm sure you know how to enjoy yourself!

Sagittarius:— A highly productive month for you. There is much ahead of you, but with a little determination, you should be able to clear it up. Romantic involvements are looking good. However, take charge of its direction before it takes charge of you. You should receive some good news concerning a member of your family. Money also appears to be healthy this month, but remember to spend it intelligently; although practical, you do have a tendency to be extravagant.

Capricorn:— Sorry, but June has never been a good month for Capricorns. You might find money is slightly scarce; however, it won't impair your life too much as you appear to be

surrounded by friends and lovers. Capricorn's have a tendency to jump to conclusions far too quickly, and this month could land you in some very hot water if you're not careful. A dispute with a friend could leave you feeling a little cold, but forgiving and forgetting is part of your nature. Don't worry too much — you'll make it.

Aquarius:— A big surprise in store for Aquarians, especially those born on the 17th. Your charts indicate that there is about to be a dramatic change in your life. Make sure you review your opinions about your environment to accommodate them. Although you are not overtly sexually active by nature, this month should be an exception. Friendship is a very important aspect of an Aquarian's life; their joys are yours, yours are theirs. In view of this generous attitude, the rewards should more than compensate for even your worst days.

Pisces:— Piscean's have a unique logic of their own, which is sometimes difficult for others to understand. Be prepared to be a little more tolerant of others; you're not that easy to read. Due to your superior understanding of the environment, you should be able to make the most of the 17th and in particular, the 26th, which could prove trying for even the most tolerant Piscean. Say hello to a Leo this month.

"Reds"

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