

University of Southern Indiana

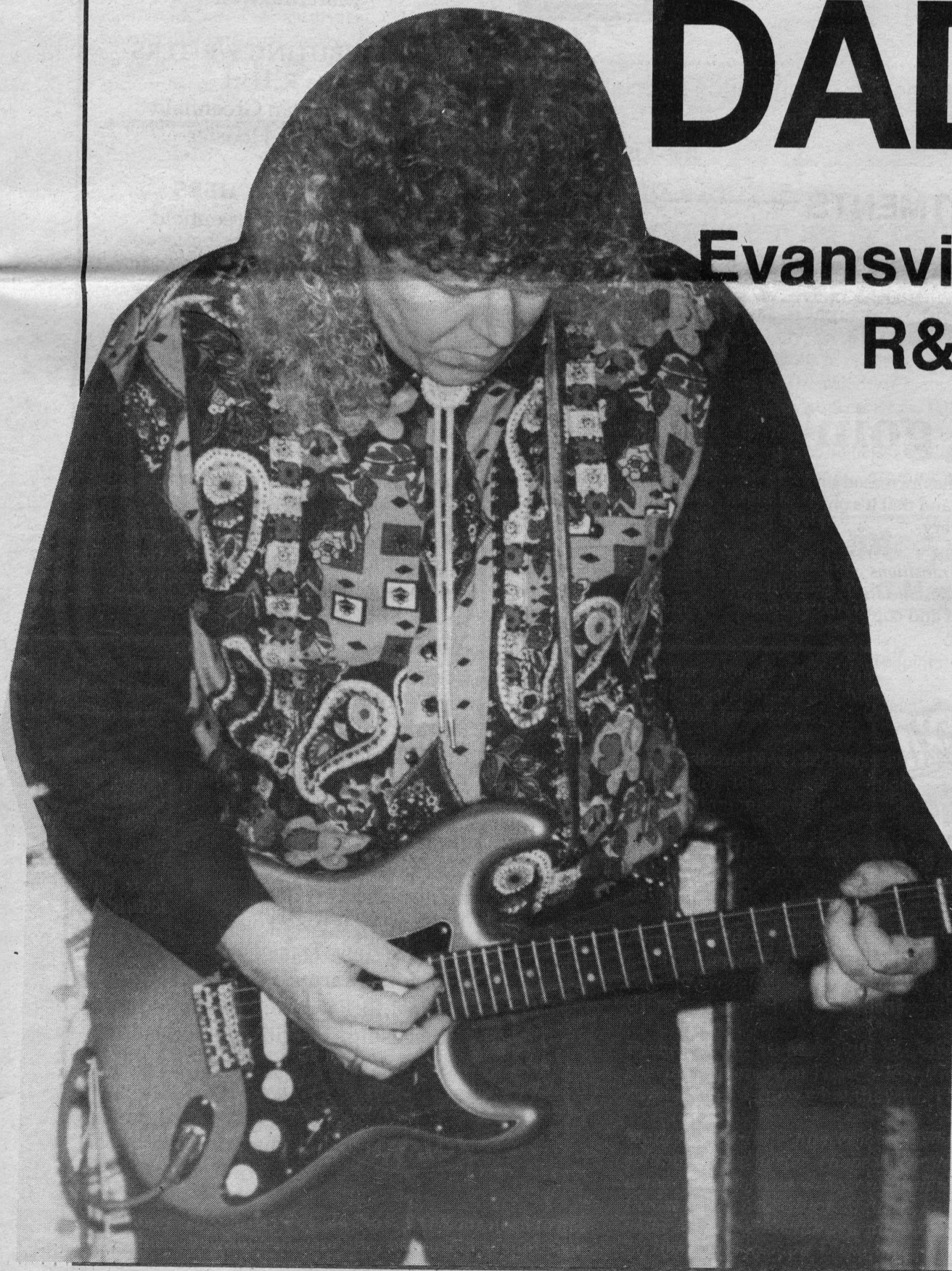
# Transitions

April 29, 1992  
Vol. 1, Issue 4

Student Magazine

# BEAT DADDYS

Evansville's premiere  
R&B band



# IN THIS ISSUE



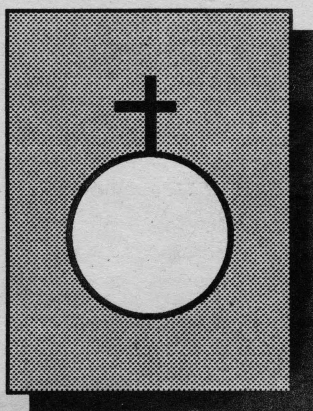
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## Last Minute Details . . .

### Finally, I'm goin' fishing

I hate long goodbyes. Well, it is my last issue. Hope you've enjoyed the issues I've published. I've had fun hearing from you.

The Student Publications committee has selected Melissa Laughlin to serve as editor of *Transitions* next year. I hope she will continue in the same style.

The reason I stepped down as editor is that I'm a second-year senior and thought it was about time to graduate. As my profs could tell you, I've slipped in a major way this semester.

At least I did learn a few of things this semester. One was not to procrastinate. Other lessons included learning to spell and that going to class is the best way to pass a course. Too bad I don't get graded in procrastination: I'd get straight As.

Another thing I learned is that you liked this idea. You kept reading *Transitions* every time it was published (especially after the one with all the errors). And I want you to continue reading it. I believe the popularity of

the magazine has increased since the last issue, and that it's on the road to recovery.

Who knows? Maybe in a year or so *Transitions* will be bigger than the *Shield*. It's got better content and copy editors already.



I would like to thank everyone involved in the publication of *Transitions* this semester. You've helped me tremendously. I wouldn't have been able to do it alone, as evident from the issue before last.

Now that I don't have to do this anymore, I'm goin' fishin'. Far, far away from Evansville.

The summer is finally mine. And when I return in the fall, I will be ready to start studying once again.

But before I go, here's one last issue to keep you thinking over the summer.

In the tradition of *Transitions*, this issue contains well-written, provocative articles, some dealing with controversial topics.

I must remind you that these articles are in NO WAY a reflection of the opinions of the University, its staff, faculty, etc. Or myself, for that matter. (But I do believe in freedom of the press.)

Well, goodbye. I've had the time of my life. (P.S. Is there anyone out there who could write two term papers for me by Friday? My staff refuses to write any more for me.)

*Robert Wendt*

Bob Wendt, Editor

University of Southern Indiana

# Transitions

Student Magazine

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*Transitions* is published monthly and distributed throughout the USI campus and as a supplement to *The Shield*. The opinions expressed in *Transitions* are not necessarily those of the University of Southern Indiana, its administration, faculty or student body. *Transitions* welcomes submissions on any topic. Submissions must be typewritten and include author's name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. All submissions will become property of *Transitions*. *Transitions* also welcomes letters to the Editor. Letters should be typewritten, signed and include a phone number. Publishing is based on space and Editorial review. *Transitions* is printed by the Mount Carmel Register Co., Mount Carmel, Ill. For more information about advertising, distribution or submissions call (812) 464-1856, or write *Transitions*, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Ind. 47712. All rights reserved. Any reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

**Cover Photo:** Larry Grisham sweat, lives and loves the blues as lead vocalist and rhythm guitar player for the Beat Daddys', Evansville's hottest rhythm and blues band.

Photo by Kathy Dougan Greenfield.

Merry Christmas from Marlboro country!" To many this not an unbelievable sight to be seen at Christmas time in a magazine or on a billboard.

But imagine driving down the road or reading the latest edition of *Time* and seeing an ad like this: "Hemp — It's not just rope any more." Or: "Come into the realm of enjoyment and relaxation, come to Marlboro Marijuana country." Some may jump with joy, but others would most likely be appalled.

Should marijuana (pot) be legalized? No. Unfortunately the answer cannot be that simple. There are those on both sides who have convincing arguments. But the answer is still no.

Why is the use of marijuana or hemp illegal? One major line of thought is the belief that the use of marijuana will lead to the use of harder and more dangerous drugs in a simple step-by-step process which is destined to lead to the user's demise.

If a person begins by smoking a few hits off a joint to get high, this is nothing too harmful, right? Not at all true. Soon it will take more and more marijuana to obtain a "high". Eventually no amount of marijuana will get the person high. So then on to the next drug and the next, and so on until the person is found lying dead on the street with a hypodermic needle sticking out of his arm.

Another reason is that marijuana causes the user to be less motivated and less productive in life. With a large minority of the American public unem-

**Point**  
By Jason Davis

ployed or on welfare living on the tax dollars I pay out of my meager wages, the last thing I want to see is the government legalizing something to promote that leeching. All this country needs is to have more unproductive, lazy, sit-on-their-asses moochers.

But why worry right? No one in their right mind would want this plant of the devil legalized. Or would they?

Sad to say it is true. There are groups around the country that promote the use and legalization of marijuana. Who belongs to these groups? Believe it or not they are not all "pot-heads" or rejects from the 60's. Many reasonable,

intelligent, common-sense kind of folk believe in the legalization of marijuana.

Some hide behind the facade that they want it for medical reasons. They say it can help patients of various illnesses such as cancer, glaucoma, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and even alcoholism.

But studies done by Dr. Gabriel Nahas of the National Institute of Health showed that marijuana use had far more greater detrimental effects than any possible health benefits.

One organization is very active in the legalization of marijuana and hemp. This organization, which goes by the name CAN (Cannabis Action Network), produces handouts, pamphlets and mailers for their growing membership.

Cannabis, another name for hemp or marijuana, is used to disguise the group's true purpose. They promote the use of cannabis (pot) for various uses. They claim that the plant is perfect for textiles, food production, a replacement for trees as a source of paper and is an

excellent way to relieve stress.

**Bullcrap!**

These are all unlikely uses of the plant. It is most likely to be used as something to do when one wants to skip class or not go to work. CAN is very tricky in their strategy. They cite a quote by Abraham Lincoln in December 1840 which reads: "Prohibition goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes."

Very impressive quote for the legalization of marijuana. Or is it? Are we to assume that Lincoln was an active user of pot? Some might believe those types of accusations can be seen as un-American. One of the greatest presidents of all time was a "druggie"? I think not.

So should the use of this plant be legalized or not? It is up to our government to decide. We elected our government to do what is best for us. So if you want more lazy, unproductive welfare hydra in our society, then vote in support of those who want the drug. But if you want to make sure that you don't have more and more dependents taking more and more out of your paycheck each week, then fight the pot movement and preserve America.

**UNCENSORED**

**Crossfire**

**Legalizing Marijuana:  
America's savior or demise?**

Would you believe that I know how to solve some of the serious problems in America? Me — just a college boy, I do.

Legalize pot.

Hold on a sec. Don't bounce your lower jaw off the ground. I'm dead serious. The benefits, if implemented responsibly, outweigh the detriments. Besides, how much more damage can be done? Allow me to explain, please.

Marijuana can grow almost anywhere. Instead of covering valuable land with drab concrete, grow pot. Huge fields of it. It's much prettier to the eye than a monochrome sea dotted with ozone-murdering vehicles. And it's also better for the soil.

Marijuana, being a seasonal crop, can be used every year. It doesn't damage the dirt. Therefore, no crop rotation is required.

And with acres of marijuana fields instead of asphalt, the atmosphere is bound to benefit. We could replenish valuable chemicals that rapidly deteriorate as acres of forests burn and factories belch thick black smoke and cars fart steamy trails of carbon monoxide.

Hell, over time—and with some cutbacks in pollutants—we might even help the ozone layer. It's conceivable.

Environmentally-conscious people could build marijuana beds in their yards. Imagine a concerned elderly couple, their spastic Scottish terrier at their sides, lovingly tending to their bed. Grandpa on his hands and knees examining the soil and Grandma beaming in future-conscious pride. Even if their neighbors are too goody-goody to grow marijuana for the benefit of coming generations, that one little bed is a help.

For the gung-ho environmentalist, who thinks the plants are too small, good ole American-know-how should solve

the problem. Scientists have created mutant-large vegetables, so put them to work on 12-foot cannabis. Modern technology can surely beef up the size of a marijuana plant. Simple anabolic steroids might even be the answer.

Yet, technology might not prove fruitful. Then it's time to activate Plan B: singing. It seems to succeed with flowers, so why not pot also?

As for the economy, legalizing marijuana basically takes a gigantic step toward curing it.

To start with, someone will have to work the fields. Considering the potentially vast size of some of these new pot farms, it's possible to need a hundred people, especially when harvesting. The men and women left jobless when their plants closed down (because the Japs stole their market) should receive first dibs for hiring.

I bet we could cut the unemployment rate in half. If not, at least we'd have some happy workers.

The farm owners must watch for embezzling, though. It's not like it won't happen at some point. As long as regulation of on-the-job smoking isn't too strict, problems would be minimal.

From the taxpaying point of view, money won't be spent on cops and DEAs searching for marijuana dealers and smugglers. Now there's more revenue and time to hunt the harder stuff, go after the destructive drugs: cocaine, PCP, crank, LSD, heroin, the kind of drug that often destroys more than just the user's life.

Let the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Control tax the marijuana business the same way it does

cigarettes, beer and whiskey. If (very big "if" here) the tax money were used wisely, the government could amend handfuls of mistakes and problems.

The majority of the tax money could be used to decrease our astounding deficit. There's the Savings and Loan fiasco. The homeless. Pollution. The diseases. The pitiful excuse called an edu-

**Counterpoint**  
By Matt Maxwell

cational system. The pitiful excuse called democracy.

However, "money used wisely" and the American government just simply do not fit together. It's one of those basic oxymorons that should never appear in the same paragraph under penalty of bashed knuckles.

Still, there's always that chance something or someone (besides an elected politician) might benefit somewhere.

And think of the restaurant business!!! Drinks filling glass after glass after glass; food basically shoveled out drive-thru windows and delivered on traffic-darting street bikes; profits rising over the projection table.

Just this sector alone could easily stimulate our still-life economy. Who knows, people might even start choosing McDonald's over Chevy for high-paying jobs.

A smart restaurant owner could build a room—or even an entire diner—for people who want to get stoned off their

asses and gorge themselves on an exclusive buffet. I guarantee the place would be packed... as long as the patrons can plow through Brenda Steproe's picket blockade.

If these aren't convincing enough, marijuana can easily serve other purposes, especially in medicine. Instead of drowning patients in Thorazine and Demerol, give them a few tokes from a joint. It numbs the nerves much to the same effect as painkillers. Many glaucoma patients say marijuana is the only thing that alleviates the throbbing, and yet they aren't allowed to smoke it. Why should they suffer?

Also, paper can be made from the leaves, which would decrease the dependency on clear-cutting forests.

And because it tends to slow people down and temporarily take away their ambitions, maybe we should force some of our leaders to smoke a joint or two. I'm specifically thinking of Congress shutting the doors to the public and deciding they deserve a raise for all the harassment they get from the public. Shit like that wouldn't happen if they weren't so ambitious.

If you have a good friend who's a workaholic and doesn't like to do anything fun, pot will slow his or her motors. And for unreasonable, demanding bosses and college professors...

Oh, by the way, please don't ask me for any pot. I don't mess with it. I just firmly believe that by itself it is not a harmful drug. Have you ever heard of anyone overdosing on marijuana or killing someone while driving stoned?

But most of all, it's a large money operation possible of solving most of our biggest dilemmas.

Sad thing is, no one wants to "toke" about it.

# BEAT DADDY

## Red hot and true to the

By Kathy Dougan Greenfield

**M**usic comes from your heart, but ends up in your groin," says Larry Grisham, and he should know, because he's sweated, lived and loved the blues for as long as he can remember.

Lead vocalist Grisham, his high school classmate Tommy Stillwell (lead guitar), drummer

Kenny Vogelsang and bassist Alan Rigg, sing the blues as members of The Beat Daddys, an Evansville-based blues band with a second album due out in May.

But the Beat Daddys paid their dues in the music business before signing with Waldoxy, a major blues and gospel producer based in Jackson, Mississippi.

"We were begging to play somewhere, and we got a job

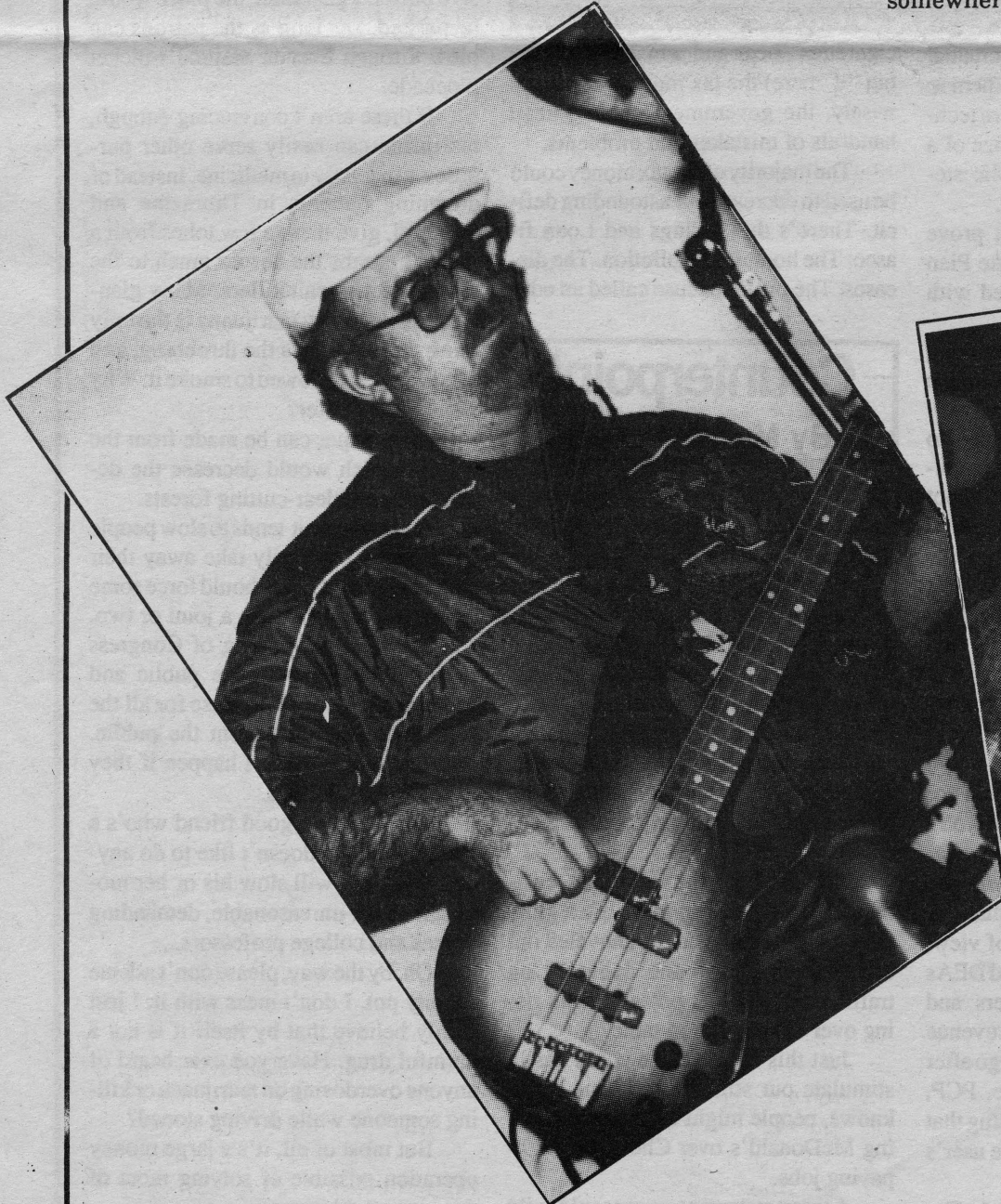
playing at the Ragin' Cajun," said Grisham, adding that the band played to an empty house night after night. Grisham confessed to sleeping in his van a few nights because he didn't have the money for gas to get him home in Cadiz, Ky.

"Then an amazing thing happened. The word got out. Lines were forming around the Ragin' Cajun to hear us play. Suddenly Evansville discovered the blues," said Grisham.

Grisham and Stillwell have played music for 22 years, since

their high school days in Cadiz, Ky. "Back then we were the only two kids who played music. We'd go to these dances and play for these dances. One time the building down here collapsed... we were a mess — Tommy would sing while I played and then we'd switch. It was a lot of fun," Grisham is laughing.

They went to college in different ways musically and — Grisham was



# BOYS blues

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Grisham,

and club management for a while, until he got tired of wearing a tie — and Stillwell did the "Holiday Inn thing," playing lounge music.

"We were both at one time involved in the country music thing," said Stillwell.

In the early 80's Grisham and Stillwell played together in a band called The Phonz, playing hard-rocking, high-energy

60's pop, but they always wanted to play the blues.

"We both wanted to play the blues a long time ago, then we decided to just do it — we stuck to our guns — we weren't gonna play that 60's pop any more," said Stillwell.

"We were sick of the music these hairspray bands are putting out. All the commercialism in music is terrible," said Stillwell.

"Take for example, Michael Jackson. I thought he was going to be a great R & B artist, then it got into money," said Stillwell.

"That's the same way it was with MTV. Originally MTV was breaking new ground — now it's just a way you 'see' the music — you 'see' the songs you 'hear' on the radio," said Stillwell.

Being true to music and to the blues is important to The

Beat Daddys. "Any true art form...any artist... you want to be accepted... you want someone else to be able to truly relate to what you're doing... know that it's true and real," said Grisham.

An major impetus in The Beat Daddys career, in addition to their sudden local popularity at the Rajin' Cajun, was the death of Stevie Ray Vaughn. "We had just finished playing the Kinley Blues Festival down south the weekend that Stevie Ray Vaughn got killed. We do a lot of Stevie Ray tunes — suddenly we were hot," said Stillwell.

The Beat Daddys headed south, and felt right at home from the start, according to Stillwell. "We really felt at home in Mississippi and Texas both. That whole area to us is like the holy lands," said Stillwell.

were really into our music, but the Koreans didn't know what to think. We'd be playing in a restaurant or club, and these Korean families would sit at the table with their hands over their ears," said Grisham.

"You have to keep in mind the Koreans were just starting to hear disco music at that time, so they didn't know what to think of the blues," said Stillwell.

"Only one disc jockey in Korea had ever heard of the blues, a D.J. at a strip bar," said Stillwell. "He was into Stevie Ray Vaughn. When we walked into the door, he would yell out, 'Stevie-Vay-Vaughn! Stevie-Vay-Vaughn!' and he'd play the only Stevie Ray Vaughn album he had," said Grisham.

Before the Korean tour, The Beat Daddys added Rigg on keyboards to the group. Stillwell and Grisham had known Rigg for years, since Grisham and Rigg played together at the Swingin' Door in 1973 as Witch Hammer, and Rigg and Stillwell played together in 1985 as part of a group called Nightfall.

Rigg's musical experience included playing in backup groups for Little Anthony, Sam and Dave, the Shirelles, Chuck Berry, the Memphis Horns and Jerry Lee Lewis. After The Beat Daddys bass player quit, Rigg stepped in on bass and has been there since. The drummer, Vogelsang, has been with Grisham and Stillwell for 12 years.

The Beat Daddys second album will be about a 10-song album, possibly with remixed versions of a few songs from their first album, according to Grisham.

"Our first album contained a variety of songs, just to show the different types of songs we can do. This album will be our first album nationally released on a major label," added Grisham.

In addition to a recording contract, both Grisham and Stillwell have signed contracts with Waldoxy to write songs for other artists.

The Beat Daddys are appearing this week in Nashville, Tenn., with the Kentucky Headhunters, Sonny Boy Williams and Web Wilder.

They will perform at the Biloxi Blues Festival in Biloxi, Miss., the week of May 10; and will open for B.B. King June 6-7 in Jackson, Miss.

They will be in Louisville on July 3 with Lonnie Brooks, Marshall Ball and Pinetop Perkins before returning to Evansville July 4 for "Downtown After Sundown."

*... We were brought up to know the difference between right and wrong, that's why we play the blues.*

"We got a lot of support and encouragement from other blues musicians. Omar (of Omar and the Howlers) and Johnny Winter were instrumental in getting us with the Waldoxy record label," said Stillwell.

"Omar said to go with a small, sincere label — a label that knows you by your music, not a company that just knows you as a number," said Stillwell.

Another blues musician, King Edward, told The Beat Daddys that they played the blues "as good as any old black man."

"He told us we were brought up to know the difference between right and wrong, that's why we play the blues," said Grisham.

The Beat Daddys have opened down south for big names such as B.B. King, Johnny Winter, Lonnie Mack and Elvin Bishop. They've played from Indianapolis to Osan, South Korea.

"We did a 5-day tour in Korea, before the Gulf War broke out," said Grisham, adding that The Beat Daddys were the house band for the tour, playing every night at various bases for American soldiers and Korean Nationals.

"The American soldiers, especially those from down south,



# What are you doing in college?

## USI's Student Publications

Needs your help for the 1992-93 school year

### **THE SHIELD**

The following positions are  
available for the fall semester:

Assistant Campus Editor  
Opinion Editor  
Entertainment  
Sports Editor  
Copy Editor  
Classifieds Editor  
Assistant Advertising Manager  
Account Executives  
Staff Writers

**Naomi Deal**  
editor  
464-1870

**Melissa Laughlin**  
editor  
464-1856

### **Transitions**

Student Magazine

The following positions are  
open for the new school year

Assistant Editor  
Copy Editor  
Advertising Manager  
Account Manager  
Staff Writers  
Photographers  
Columnists  
Cartoonists

**Chad Williams**  
advertising manager 464-1870

I'm more worried about getting my ass kicked by some homophobe than I am about AIDS," 25-year-old USI student Bill said.

Homosexuality in this country has been seen by most as "unnatural" or sick and disgusting. There are even some people who claim that being gay is choice of the individual.

"Hetero people say 'You chose to be that way'; they don't know because they're not gay, so they don't know if I chose to be this way or not," Bill said.

When asked about his lifestyle, Bill said that being gay is never a choice. "Nobody chooses their sexuality. Did you sit down and someday and say 'Do I want to be gay, bisexual or straight? Hm... I'll choose this one!'" Bill said that if it was a choice, why would anybody choose a lifestyle filled with hatred, judgement and the fear of AIDS?

He first knew he was gay when he was 13. "You just know. When you go through puberty, and you start to think about sex, and men are basically your forte, you just know. It just happens," Bill said.

The first person that knew about his sexuality was the first person that he had sex with when he was 14. His sex partner was 16.

"Afterwards, I thought I was going to die. I thought I was going to Hell for sure!" Bill said, laughing.

While in high school, Bill kept his sexuality to himself. "I kept it to myself and suffered like a fool. I felt a certain way, and everybody said it's wrong," he said.

Bill said that keeping his homosexuality to himself was a constant battle. "I started to ask myself, 'So what's wrong with me?' I tried to pray it away because I knew that something had to be wrong with me. It had to be a fluke."

When Bill was younger, he tried going out on dates with girls, but it didn't work out.

"I tried to like the opposite sex, but it just didn't work. None of the dates ever go to the sex part. I had sex at 14, but not with a woman," Bill said.

Bill was raised in a traditional blue-collar family. He has two sisters and a younger brother. "I waited until I was 24 to tell my mother. I was fed up with trying to live a double life. I said, 'Mom, I don't want to freak you out or anything, but I'm gay.' But, she had already figured it out," Bill said.

Bill's mother told him that at first it bothered her, but after a while, it was a big deal. "My mother told me 'You're still my son, and I love you, and that will never change,'" Bill said.

Bill has never come right out and told his father, but, "He knows. We're totally different. My father likes hunting and things like that, but we talk about politics all the time. I have a good relationship with

my father," Bill went on to say.

When it comes to Bill's brother and sisters, he hasn't told them.

"I'm not sure my sisters know, I'm sure my brother has figured it out," Bill said. "If there is anyone in my family who would probably have a hard time dealing with it, it would be my brother. He is your typical 'macho' type person. But I know that if he was ever put in the position to defend me, he would," Bill said. "We seem to be pretty tight."

Bill said that he went to Sunday school as a child, but later stopped as a result of doubt.

"Sometimes I feel there is a God, and sometimes I feel there isn't. I can't say that in a time of crisis that I wouldn't say I believe in God, because I probably would. People use religion as a comfort because they know they are going to die. My mother was more freaked out when I told her I was an agnostic than

girlfriend a cocksucker too! It's the same damned thing," he continued.

"People say it's unnatural. It's not to me, because I've always been this way; if it's so unnatural, why do women do the same thing?"

Bill said that some of his friends always ask him about sex. "I have one girl friend that thinks that I'm her sex therapist. She told me she was bored with having 'vanilla sex' (slang for straight intercourse) and wanted me to tell her how she could spice it up. First, I said, I don't know what you want. Then she told me 'Well, I know you do kinky things... tell me about it.'"

"I do?" Bill said.

Bill told of a party where one of his girl friends asked him about a guy named Peter who was visiting him from IUPUI.

"I had never seen or met the guy before. She was telling me 'Peter is so cute and wonderful' and all that.

has negative stereotypes," Bill said. "If you are going to have a person in a movie as a gay or lesbian, why not portray them as they really are, which is a normal person?"

Bill said that characters like Dwayne and Anton from Fox's *In Living Color* don't bother him, "because," Bill said, "that's to an extreme. I would like to meet someone who is actually that way. I can laugh at some things, but some things are done in poor taste."

Bill said it was rumored that he was starting a gay and lesbian organization on campus. "I would, but I graduate in May. I would if I didn't have to walk away. Plus, I don't know how many people would show up. I wouldn't want to be sitting in an auditorium by myself." Bill added that "President Rice would have a stroke."

Bill follows the progression of the gay and lesbian movement.

# I am Glad I'm Gay

## An interview with a homosexual

by Allen Van Hoosier

when I told her I was gay! I swear, she cried for at least two days. She was convinced it was because of some whacked-out professor," Bill said.

Bill said that all of his close friends know about his sexuality. He said it's very awkward to come right out and tell someone that he's gay, so he usually tries to bring it up in other ways.

His favorite magazine is *The Advocate*, a national magazine for gay men.

"I don't try to hide it. I take my magazine to the computer lab all the time, and people tend to figure it out when I tell them that I went to a certain bar which they know is a gay bar," he said. "I tell all my friends."

Bill has been seeing someone off and on for two months. "But," Bill said, "It's not serious at this point. I've been in love once, but it didn't work out. I've never taken a boyfriend home to meet my family. I would be scared to death to. But, if I met someone that I felt was 'the one', I might. But I would be standing there the whole time thinking 'please God, don't let this blow up in my face!'"

The majority of people think about homosexuality in terms of sex only. "Most people think you're an over-eager, horny little slut," Bill said. "People have said to me before 'Oh my God, you have anal sex.'"

"Well, let's just see how many straight people have had sex with their wives! So, if you want to call me a cocksucker, go ahead. But, at the same time, you can call your wife or

I took one look at the guy. Then, I told her that boy is a queer! She didn't believe me.

"Later that night, all of us played truth or dare. He told everyone he was bi-sexual," Bill said. "Now he's completely out of the closet, and one of the biggest screaming queens around."

"I can 'clock' (spot) a queen in a minute," Bill said. "I know of two USI students that hang out at the Sho Bar (popular Evansville nightclub for gays and lesbians) that are sorority members," Bill said.

When asked about calling Peter a queen, Bill said, "I call myself everything... fag, queen, queer; it use to bother me, but know it's empowerment. If you can call yourself that, it takes away the sting when others are trying to use it against you."

Bill went on to say that comments will bother someone who is closeted more than someone who is open. "Now, I just disregard them as stupid."

Bill expressed his interest in *Queer Nation*, a politically active organization that gets out there and says to the public, "I'm gay, and I'm in your face and I'm not going away." *Queer Nation* is one of the groups for gays and lesbians that is protesting the movie *Basic Instinct*.

The main character of the movie is a bisexual woman who, after having sex with men, murders them. They feel that it is a negative portrayal of gays and lesbians, and gives off a negative stereotype.

"If it comes out of Hollywood, it

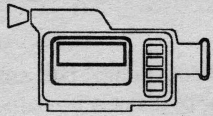
When asked if there was anything in the movement that he didn't agree with, he said he didn't support campus policies of restricting offensive speech.

"But," Bill said, "There is a line. If they call you a name, I don't have a problem with that. They're just stupid. But, if they threaten you, that's where the line of freedom of speech of speech stops. Since I believe in the First Amendment, I couldn't support any speech-restriction policy. If I did, that means that I couldn't call them a country-ass backwards redneck."

Another item Bill didn't agree with is 'Outing.' That is when some gays and lesbians publicly name homosexuals who wish to be closeted. "Sometimes I understand it," Bill said. *The Advocate* came out with a story revealing that Assistant Secretary of Defense Pete Wilson was gay. I agree with that because Wilson is the second most powerful person in the defense department, and every day he goes to work supporting the most anti-gay and lesbian policy in the United States.

"If you're a gay or lesbian on Capitol Hill and you're closeted, and you vote for policies that hurt gays and lesbians, you deserve it," Bill said "If you're going to make my life a living Hell, I'm going to make yours one, too."

Bill said he would like to see an anti-sexual orientation policy amended to USI's anti-discrimination policy. "You can get fired from your job if you are a gay or lesbian!"



## Video Review

# Please Drop Dead Fred

by Lisa Smith

It would be really hard to find anything nice to say about the movie "Drop Dead Fred", but I'll try really hard anyway.

Well, the title's really neat.

That's the nicest thing I could possibly say about this absolutely dismal flop about an emotionally wrecked woman and her imaginary playmate.

The story begins with Elizabeth (Phoebe Cates) being unceremoniously dumped by her philandering husband Charles (Tim Matheson). Hysterically, Elizabeth runs crying home to Mommy Dearest, who spends much of her time making Elizabeth feel like doggie doo.

While recuperating in her childhood room, Elizabeth finds a box containing her imaginary friend from long ago, Drop Dead Fred (Rik Mayall). Fred manages to escape after many years of incarceration imposed by Mommy Dearest (believe me, the name is fitting), and immediately causes loads of headaches for Elizabeth.

Well, if the beginning sounds stupid, wait until you hear about the rest of the plot.

Elizabeth spends most of her time in this worthless movie chasing after her equally worthless husband. In the midst of this, she sinks her best friend's (Carrie Fisher) house/yacht (yeah, real funny), meets a childhood friend who adores her "talk-to-the-air-and-throw-food" antics (helped along by the troublemaking Fred), and completely alienates anyone who comes in contact with her in the midst of her seemingly schizophrenic ranting.

What's wrong with this movie? Let me count the ways.

Acting? Forget about it. Phoebe Cates spits out her whiny lines in

true spoiled-brat fashion, and although a better story might have helped, I've never seen a hint of talent in her anyway. Rik Mayall, who some may remember from the British comedy "The Young Ones," has the talent and the comedic ability to pull off a few laughs here and there, but the mean-spirited script doesn't allow for much actual funny stuff anyway. Mayall does the best with what he is given, but in this

story he isn't given much.

And isn't it amazing how Carrie Fisher can write such funny books, then be seen in yucky movies like "Drop Dead Fred" and the equally abominable "The 'Burbs"? Desperation, I guess.

The true problem with "Drop Dead Fred" is it's not funny at all; it's just plain mean. Fred's main objective throughout the movie seems to be to get Elizabeth (whom he affectionately refers to as "Snotface") into the most embarrassingly troublesome situations as he possibly can.

Because of Fred, Elizabeth is punished severely by her mother as a child, persecuted by her friends and peers as an adult, and eventually arrested by the police. This is supposed to be funny? This is insult-

ing the intelligence of anybody lulled into paying three dollars to rent it.

The really sad thing is that the writers, who obviously thought that kicking people in the shins and physically assaulting violinists in a mall is funny, turn around and stick in some doodoo about Elizabeth's separation and how she can get rid of Fred and cure her loneliness by realizing her strength and blah blah blah. I guess they thought preaching some silly moral at the end would make up for the dismal crap throughout the movie. Wrong. It just makes this nauseous, stupid movie even more sickening.

So if you happen to see "Drop Dead Fred" at your local video store, pass it by and rent something funnier ("The Day After" maybe).

## 'You get your money's worth' at Harpole's

by Lisa R. Hart

Go to Harpole's Main Street Exit on a Friday or Saturday night and you'll find a hoppin' party place.

Friday night I and two friends visited the Exit and found a refreshing change from the usual nightclub action.

Arriving at about 10 p.m., we easily found a place to park in an adjacent parking lot. We immediately went to the bar and ordered a drink. Though the drink prices were comparable to other Evansville establishments, the Exit bartenders mix their drinks with heavy hands.

"We don't have drink specials," said Danny Harpole, owner of the Main Street Exit. "But you get your money's worth."

Two large rooms make up the whole of The Main Street Exit.

One room features a pool table, a CD-playing jukebox and four casino machines. Two televisions placed strategically on the walls allows viewing from nearly any seat in the room. It has all the appearances of a sports bar.

The other room, dimly lit with a few small tables scattered in front of

a small stage, contains the bands which play every Friday and Saturday night.

"The bands play a combination of classic rock and alternative music," said Harpole, the fourth generation operator of the bar. "It's a good combination because most of these kids grew up listening to their parents' music, plus the alternative music is their music."

Harpole's Main Street Exit features a different band every week. Friday night the band was Government Cheese, a rowdy, energetic band from Kentucky which plays a lot of original music.

The band, which was scheduled to begin playing "sometime between ten and 10:30", according to Harpole, did not begin playing until nearly 11 p.m. when the crowd began pouring in.

Each room has its own bar, plus another bar is located in the area which divides the rooms.

Though college students comprise most of the crowd, the ages "range anywhere from 21 to 50," said Harpole. "The music appeals to a wider age range."

Tomorrow night Freedom of

Expression, a reggae band, will take the stage for a one-night performance.

Friday and Saturday night The Head of Phineas Gage, a high energy band from Nashville will entertain the crowds with their own brand of classic rock and alternative music.

Harpole plans a bierstube on June 25-27, the weekend leading into Thunder on the Ohio.

"We're calling it 'Suds on the Ohio'," said Harpole. "We're going to hire a bus to bus people from the Civic Center parking lot to here."

The bierstube will feature three bands. Duke Tomato will play on June 25.

On Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27, beginning at 7 p.m., Chosen Few will play inside on the stage. At the same time Johnny Saco will perform outside in the biergarten.

Harpole's Main Street Exit also serves sandwiches, soups and salads to a lunchtime crowd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The bar is open for drinking and socializing from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

**Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)** You have been quite confused lately, someone will help you through this. Yes, it will be better. Sex (good or bad) will help.

**Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)** Your month will hit an all time low around the 20th. Party until then, because you won't feel like it later.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** You have hit semester burn-out and are suffering from brain drain. Getting off your knees will not help. Try other means.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** You suffer from hypochondria. The best cure for this is to forget about your body and get interested in somebody else's.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** You will be in dark places this month. But don't worry, you will not be alone. Enjoy the time you are tied in somebody's closet. It will be new (or maybe not) and interesting.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** One last month to go out with a bang and rid yourself of this

ridiculous sign. Consult a Libra.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** I hope your literary diet was improved, if not try *Dr. Ruth's Guide to Good Sex*. Pay close attention to the pictures, and use latex gloves.

## Madame Fortune's



**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)** Your need to get a new love in your life, because a sexual repro-

duction is lonely. There may be new employment opportunities in your future. This may help your loneliness.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Your cravings have gone to cucumbers and bananas. No other comments needed.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** You will be hot and wild this summer. You won't care. Sex, drugs, alcohol, anything. I may join you.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** You will have a good but not very exciting month. If you start now, improvements can be made. Right now there is a special on waterbeds.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)** You are a very special person. You have a few things you specialize in. I know what they are. I love you.

Madame Fortune has enjoyed writing her column this semester. I hope you have enjoyed it too. Some of you enjoy anything-anytime. Please let the new editor, Melissa, know if you want Madame Fortune's column continued. To Bob: Thanks and I love you, kid.