

# SPORTS CARD SHOW

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

10am - 5pm

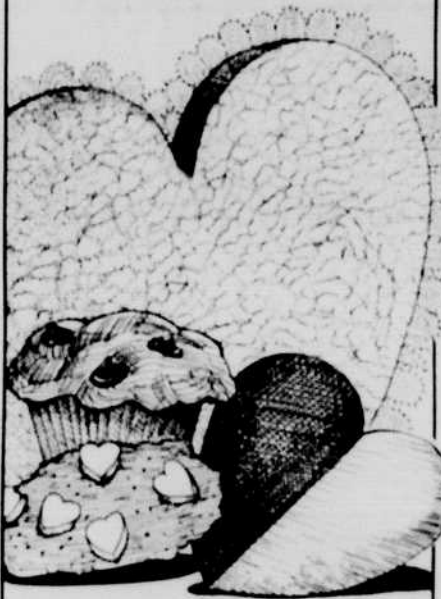
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40 TABLES

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# Plays fuse love, AIDS awareness

It's Valentine's Day, but amid the heady romance, flowers, candy and sweet nothings, let's not forget that love has its trappings.

Have that romantic candlelight dinner, send your valentine a singing telegram, and while you're getting into the spirit of things, why not make time for some safe sex as well.

Zeroing in on this serious side of the occasion, Pocket Playhouse will present two one-act plays dealing with AIDS, *Safe Sex* and *Andre's Mother*, this Valentine's season.

Okay, you say, this is Valentine's Day. Give me a break and let me swoon and not sweat in fear of love.

Director Craig Willis, however, promises the plays are more than just another thrashing out of the AIDS issue.

"There's a whole lot more here that deals with love and its consequences," said Willis, a graduate student in theater arts. "It's a serious theme with a positive message where we see the characters coming together and uniting at the end."

When the person he was working for died of AIDS recently, the artist in Willis felt the need to dig a little deeper — to go beyond the mechanics of the AIDS issue. What he found expression in are plays that focus not so much on the victimized person, but people whose lives are touched in one way or another by the dominant presence of the virus.

"AIDS affects more than just those people who are infected with the HIV virus," Willis said. "I want

to look at how the disease affects people who are at risk, and how it affects the friends, lovers and family members who are left when an AIDS victim dies."

A comedy about love and intimacy, *Safe Sex* nevertheless tells a serious story about how people can use AIDS as an excuse to avoid intimacy. It does this through the characters of two lovers learning to cope with the fear of AIDS.

*"I hope that the audience will not only be entertained by the plays, but by watching them broaden their understanding on what it means to be gay."*

— Craig Willis  
Director

Willis hopes the play will help put AIDS in a less retarding perspective in our lives and personal relationships.

"Yes, things have changed and we do need to be more careful, but that shouldn't stop us from loving one another," he said.

*Safe Sex* is written by Harvey Fierstein, one of

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## CHILDREN

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Jean Marie DeSpain, the art education director, came up with the idea for the heart show last year. Money raised from the sale of the valentines will benefit the Maude Kern's Children Scholarship Fund. Maude Kerns offers a few scholarships to students taking summer art classes at the art center. The number of scholarships offered depends upon the amount of money raised. Last year, more than 180 children took art classes during the summer session and about a dozen scholarships were offered.

The art center also offers classes year-round including

workshops on Saturdays and special sessions during spring break.

"I know that there's a lot of need out there," said DeSpain. "The arts are not offered or represented in our society as they used to be. In the last 20 years, arts programs have diminished drastically."

"Whatever they gain from this experience, they understand art has a life of its own," said Susan Applegate, a teacher at the after-school art programs.

She added that the children have a new understanding of the value of artwork because they see that people are interested in seeing and buying what other people do on paper.

"In this one show, we see such a wide range of ideas expressed with the image of the heart," said Applegate. "Students see how art transforms once on the white wall — to see how it changes placed in the context of other pieces. Suddenly it becomes real art, and it becomes finished art."

Another valentine on the white wall shows a person with wings standing in front of a red heart. Behind the heart is a bright sun. Above the person, the words inscribed are: "Peace, Love, Happiness — It's Wonderful."

The show and sale will continue through Feb. 14. Suggested donations for the individual works range from \$3 to \$30.

—Helen Phan

## Fitness Swimwear

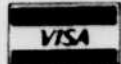
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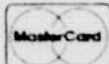


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