



**ACROSS THE DIAL:  
FREEDOM AND FIRE FROM  
FOUR ASTONISHING SINGERS  
AND ONE 'RED HOT' GROUP**

**'B**ut I'm not the typical gay man," Will protested. He needn't have. I know that Will's not exactly the typical anything. I laughed.

"I'm not looking for him, Will. I just want to know what music you like."

Will is 21, with startled blue eyes and hair that has finally made it from a caramel orange back to blond. He has Donald Duck lips and wears a gold earring. He works as a bank teller. Though he grew up in some bleak little city in Michigan, he has lived in San Francisco for the last three years. People think Will is dizzy. They may have seen him dance "the Laverne and Shirley." These people don't really know Will. They haven't seen his record collection. Neither have I.

When preparing this section, I asked him what music he likes. "I like Tina Turner, the Ramones, Billy Idol, King Sunny Ade, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and . . ." he paused.

"C'mon Will, what is it?"

"Well," he confessed, "when I saw Sam Harris on *Star Search*, I cried," he chor-tled. His voice rising an octave, as if he couldn't fathom his own taste, he laughed. "I don't know why — it just got to me."

I first heard about each of the artists interviewed in this supplement from another gay person. I know they all have gay fans, which may suggest only how different we are, rather than how much we share in common. Try to imagine an ad for a show featuring Sam Harris, Tom Robinson, David Lasley, Kate Weaver and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Now who the hell would go to see that bizarre roster? Some folks (Will, I suspect, for one) would probably enjoy them all, but he's not, as he said, "the typical gay man."

Well, over here at the Pop Music Desk, we don't care. That's the bill we've got and we think it is pretty splendid — even intriguing. Fact is, we're kind of partial to the anomalous, the unlikely, the astonishing and the bemused — in short, to those readers with the stamina and curiosity to see this supplement through to the end. And if you have any suggestions for future rosters, however unlikely or astonishing, pass them on. We cover the waterfront.

— Adam Block, Pop Music Editor