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Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Monthly • October 1996

OLD GAYS

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by Ed Grover

Facing invisibility, ageism and HIV in the gay and lesbian aging community



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Out of the Closet

Photographs by Cabal, Styling M.A.K., Models: Frank Mateus
To be perfectly Frank...

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Preferentially Priebe

Interview and photo by Waswo

Those who knew the late Karl Priebe speak of the artistic circle that surrounded him with a sort of cult enthusiasm. Sensing that a new generation is ready to appreciate this Milwaukee legend, collector George Walker fondly remembers the artist he championed.



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The Bobs

Interview by William Attewell, Photos: Cabal

Bob Zwicky and Bob Thompson are known affectionately and around the world as simply "The Bobs. In a relationship that spans 25 years, they have actively participated in our community for nearly that long, and show not signs of slowing down.



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On our cover:
Ed, age 65 and Barb, age 65
Photo by: Cabal,
Styling: M.A.K.

NEXT DEADLINE: October 10, 1996 • For the October 17 Issue



Letters

Eat Me

To the Editor—

Thanks for your first ever Dining Out Guide. A very eclectic collection of Dining Out spots. Proof positive Milwaukee is not just for Beer and Brats.

I've eaten at Calderone Club on the East Side and Bartolotta's and Grubb's Pub and Walker's Point Cafe. However and I know that letters will come in adding their favorites to the list, permit this flatlander from Illinois, add one place to your list. Miss Katie's Diner at 19th and Clybourn. A fiftyish Diner with a constantly changing menu. A low, medium and high price of selections. President Bill Clinton and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany ate there on their recent visit to Milwaukee early this past summer.

Oh, by the way, the front cover, Pig Out is appetizing and way too hot.

Christopher Cholewa
Bellwood, IL.

Waswo Bashing?

To the Editor—

While reading Mr. Waswo's "Under the Ghost Gums, Beside the Billabong," I found much to admire in descriptions of his Australian adventure. Assuring me that this was, indeed, an adventure by a list of references to the classics in the "adventure" section of the local bookstore was unnecessary. The journal entries, without the apparent later additions make a fine story, with development, potentially a great story. Defining the word "billabong" would also have been nice.

This article is greatly weakened

by Mr. Waswo's attempts to politicize his experiences. We are told that those who don't share the writer's opinions are contemptible sheep, incapable of experiencing adventure. Few escape this harsh judgement. "The conservative masses...politically correct ...liberals ...politicians...teachers and priests and social workers...cocktail lounge pretty boys...and guidance counselors" are all implicated. I can forgive the homophobia, as I believe we are in various stages of recovering from it, but the stereotyping is annoying.

Early in the tale Mr. Waswo meets up with his gay Australian farmer pen-pal. "Graeme is...more handsome than I imagined...tall and bronzed ...tough musculature...in his wide brimmed hat and oil skin slicker." "He snarls orders to the dogs." "None of us jumped quick enough..." Astute readers will immediately recognize an international advertising icon, possessing even more control issues than their mothers. Perhaps, "My Date With the Marlboro Man Down Under, So to Speak," would have been a more apt title than "Under the Goopy Trees, Beside the Fetid Pond." I had to dust off my biggest dictionary to translate.

Although Mr. Waswo chuckles about using euphemisms for sex in his journal, the best euphemism isn't about sex at all. It occurs near the end of the article. "Graeme's great, great grandfather fought the Aborigines for this land." Historically this translates as "...killed off the native population." Genocide in the family closet. And who said fascists didn't know how to have an adventure?

Near the end of this article Mr. Waswo describes how he developed

sheep gutting skills on the range. He now seeks volunteers at local cocktail parties for sheep gutting demos, sans knife of course, where "...tittering queens are duly aghast and impressed." "Adventure has advantages." Does this mean our friend is using his newly acquired skills to get more dates with "cocktail lounge pretty boys?" Has he become the Auntie Mame of the sheep gutting set? "I'll open whole new worlds for you young man..." Or could the motivation behind this article be even more sinister, thinly veiled socialist propaganda for dating the front line staff at Patrick Cudahy?

William R. Krug
Chicago, IL

P.S. Would someone please tell Mr. Grover that the only reason for becoming ecstatic over a young zucchini is extreme loneliness.

No... Thank YOU Dan

To the Editor—

This is just a quick note to thank you for blasting the doors off the limits of what can be discussed and reported on in Wisconsin's Queer press. Your willingness to ask tough questions and to allow members of our community to openly and intelligently debate issues and one another has dramatically altered the landscape of political discussion here. Such debate is a sign of a vital, maturing community.

You have taken many risks during your first year as publishers, and I thank you for it.

Dan Fons
Soon of San Francisco

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Q•Voice is produced by A Slice of Life Productions, LTD.

Editor's Note

Welcome to our "Old Gays" issue of *Q•Voice Magazine*. In this special issue, we have placed an increased emphasis on older gays and lesbians in our community. With a culture (especially the gay culture) that is often focused on youth, we understood the need not to ignore those in our community who often seem invisible, and have much to offer all of us.

A special thanks goes to our assistant editor, Ed Grover who spearheaded this effort and wrote much of the material for this issue. Way to go Ed! We believe this to be an important topic that has not been examined at such length in our media before.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge the contributions made to Milwaukee's LesBiGay community by queer activist Dan Fons, who announced he will soon leave Milwaukee for San Francisco. It was a little over a year ago that I interviewed Dan for the very first issue of *Q•Voice* and while I can't say I always agreed with him, I always appreciated Dan's willingness to honestly challenge and debate what should be printed and covered in Milwaukee's gay press. I can say that I was a better editor because of that. His voice will be missed in our community and the entire staff of *Q•Voice* wishes him the best of luck on his new adventure.

And speaking of our first issue, next month's *Q•Voice* marks the first anniversary of our Premiere Issue... boy, much has changed in one year! Anyway, we're planning all kinds of wonderful stuff, so look for us again on October 17, 1996!

—William Attewell

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The Graying of Gay America

With every passing year people are living longer and healthier lives. The large number of "baby boomers" (those born in the years following the end of the Second World War in 1945), are turning 50 at a rapid clip. Even President Clinton, who is thought of as a young president, turned 50 on August 19 of this year. Currently the percentage of the population over 50 is growing at a rate of 74 percent each year while the percentage growth of those under fifty is only one percent. This phenomenon has been called the "Graying of America."

The Milwaukee County Department on Aging estimates that there are currently 17,200 gay and lesbian persons in the county who are over 60 years of age. This figure uses the usual ten percent figure for gays and lesbians in the population. Since gays and lesbians tend to migrate to the largest city in every state, the estimate may be low.

It is time, like it or not, that our largely youth-oriented lifestyle begins to value and yes, even celebrate, the dignity and worth of our senior citizens. We must learn, if we have not already done so, that life is "not" over at 30, nor does it "begin at 40." You cannot expect to retain the youthful beauty and body of an Olympic Athlete all of your life, but you will find (or have found) that there are other things that make life worthwhile.

Recently a 34 year-old confided in me that he is HIV positive. He passed the situation off lightly, saying that he didn't care since HIV positive people live for about ten years on an average and gay men have no real life after 40 anyway. Boy, does this boy (and I use the term "boy" deliberately) have his facts wrong! I told him that many gay men are just hitting their stride at 40 and are having as much fun and fulfillment as they did at twenty. What's more, new drug treatments and simply taking reasonable care of one's own health adds unknown but definite time to an HIV positive life span.

Any time you are on the cusp of making a major shift in life, such as turning thirty, forty, fifty, etc., you may think that your problems are unique. While this may be true on some levels, you can find solace in knowing that other people have faced similar challenges. Search out older colleagues. Present you challenges. Ask for their advice. You will find that most older persons are happy to help—to tell you how they dealt with similar challenges.

You should have some older persons in your "gay family." What is a family without older members? Many younger gays and les-

biens are starved for role models and psychological support. Having some older persons in your gay family or in your network of friends can provide these role models and supply the support and energy that comes with sharing ideas with others who can give you a fresh outlook on your situation.

You say that you are doing fine and don't need an older person to meddle and give you outdated advice? Sure, you're good but are you achieving your full potential? Are you happy as well as successful? An older mentor could show you alternatives which could enrich your life. In particular, gays and lesbians must adapt to the subtleties of life when swimming out of the mainstream. An older person with more experience can teach you the strokes.

Of course, in solid non-sexual intergenerational relationships all of the benefits to not accrue to the younger person. (I have nothing against May-September sexual or love relationships, but they usually don't work very well.) Good friendships, however, unlike sexual

...gays and lesbians must adapt to the subtleties of life when swimming out of the mainstream. An older person with more experience can teach you the strokes

relationships often work quite well between persons with an age difference of a "generation gap" or more. These relationships are built on a give-and-take basis with each person enjoying the other's company. The younger person might need the advice and support of the older person, who, in turn, might need the agility of the younger one in helping to hang the freshly washed curtains.

By and large gay men and lesbians understand and accept minorities within the minority with a special sensitivity that comes from being "different" themselves. Although I cannot say that they do not exist in the gay/lesbian community, racism and sexism seem to be less prevalent than in the straight community. Now is the time for gay men and lesbians to once again lead the way to rid themselves of ageism. One good reason for this is that you, too, will get older.

Eldon Murray is a member of SAGE

“Quips & Quotes”

On Kemp and Garbage

“Any garbage rumors about any aspect of his personal life are just that — garbage. This is someone who was interviewed once on the Today show [in 1988] in front of his 14-year-old son and asked by a sleazy reporter if it was true he was gay. It wasn't true then, it isn't true now, and even raising the issue is demeaning to him and to the political process.”

—GOP presidential nominee Bob Dole's communications director, John Buckley, on the rumors that vice-presidential nominee Jack Kemp is a closeted homosexual.

George Must Have a Big One...

“I about fainted.”

—Pepe Peña, co-owner of the Chicago's Sidetrack, after someone shouted “Take it off!” when Bill Clinton's senior advisor, George Stephanopoulos, hopped up on the bar to address 550 activists and delegates during the Democratic National Convention.

House of Style

“He went [to the Republican convention] as a Dole delegate and I went to see some of the tackiest women I'd ever seen, bejeweled in red-white-and-blue glitter, with high hair and elephant ear-bobs the size of tennis balls.”

—Rob Morris, speaking of his lover, U.S. Rep. Steve Gunderson, R-Wis.

Liza's Tired

“I'm tired of being passive [around AIDS]. I don't want to stand at the quilt. I don't want to do any of that stuff. I want to find the cure. Period.”

—Liza Minnelli to London's Gay Times.

Not a Gunderson Fan

“While typical of books by third-rate politicians who believe the world is mesmerized by how they came to be so important, [gay Republican U.S. Rep. Steve Gunderson's] ‘House and Home’ breaks new ground for the genre. It yanks the reader between embarrassment at Gunderson's tawdry tales and astonishment at how anyone could expect anyone else to pay \$24.95-plus-tax to read such shallow tedium. Of course, there are interesting moments, as when Gunderson recalls the furnishings of his first Washington apartment (orange velvet sofa

and doilies) and trips to the Badlands [gay] bar. Gunderson helpfully explains early on that he chose a political career because he was not an especially bright student. He wants to show how gays and lesbians are ordinary people who love, worship, build families and protect subsidies to dairy farmers in their districts. That's great. But those looking for a thoughtful probing of conventional wisdom about gay Republicanism — that it is an oxymoron or something worse; that [gay U.S. Jim Rep.] Kolbe's vote for DOMA is an act of treachery — will have to wait.”

—Columnist Carolyn Lochhead in The San Francisco Chronicle.

Smack!

“The Human Rights Campaign has groveled under the Democratic table for crumbs so long that it has become a dog. [Estranged gay ‘Friend of Bill’] David Mixner says he is going to vote for Clinton even though he compares his doing so to a battered wife returning to the husband she knows will batter and humiliate her again. Something is obviously wrong here.”

—Syndicated gay-press columnist and University of Illinois philosophy professor Richard Mohr.

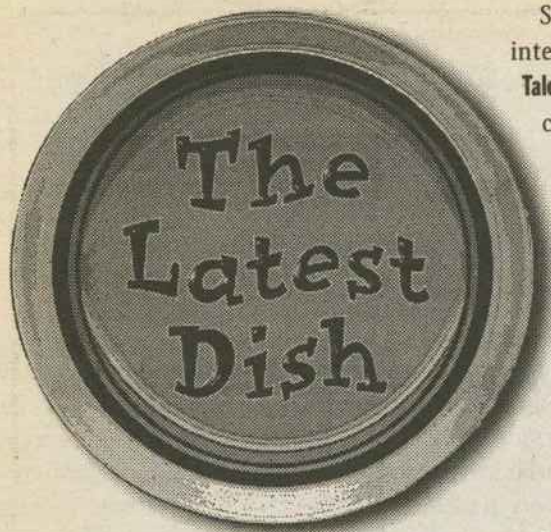


Queer Parking

“They think we want special rights. We deserve special rights. Let's start with parking. They can put pink triangles next to all the handicapped parking signs and we can have special parking.”

—Harvey Fierstein at the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses convention in Tampa as quoted in the Florida gay publication Gazette.

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Seen a good quip or quote? Send it to us at Quips and Quotes,
Q•Voice World Headquarters, P.O. Box 92385, Milwaukee, WI 53202,
or e-mail to editor@qvoice.com



Liquid Condoms Created, Condoms Burned & More!

Austrian body painter **Karl Machhammer** has invented a liquid condom that is painted onto the penis, reported Reuters.

It is ready for use after seven minutes drying time. One bottle of the liquid latex costs about \$8 and will coat an average-sized penis three times, Reuters said. Personal mileage may vary.

In Kenya, the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Kenya, **Maurice Otunga**, burned condoms and safe-sex literature on Aug. 31 according to Reuters. The ceremony attracted about 250 participants who prayed and sang. According to the World Health Organization, one in every 26 Kenyans is HIV-positive.

Meanwhile, **Andy Bagnall** of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) informs *Q•Voice* that thus far in 1996 MAP has distributed over 80,000 condoms to Milwaukee's queer clubs and other more notorious venues. Somebody in this town is having a lot of sex.

Queer Comics Magazine

The gay and lesbian community will get its own comics news magazine when Los Angeles-based Hubris Press launches the premiere issue of **The BaGal Comic Connection**, scheduled for January 1997. According to publisher **Kristen Enos**, the quarterly comic arts news magazine is intended as a guide and resource for those who sell or buy comic books friendly to gay and lesbian readers.

Scheduled for the first, 52-page issue are interviews with **Ivan Velez Jr.**, creator of the **Tales of the Closet** mini-series, and **Donna Barr**, creator of **The Desert Peach**.

The magazine will feature news, reviews, spotlights, and commentary by fans and professionals. The first issue will be priced at \$3.50. A four issue annual subscription can be obtained for \$12 from Hubris Press, P. O. Box 5383, Irvine, California 92616.

High School Student Dresses for Success

In Vermont, a gay Burlington High School student is challenging a school principal's decision to stop him from wearing a dress to school.

Matt Stickney is promising to take his case — and what he calls his right to free expression — to court if necessary.

"Females can dress any way they like to, so why can't males do the same," said Stickney, who was wearing a long, flowing black dress, a black wig, lipstick and eyeliner. "I'm 15 and I'm gay. This is how I dress to express my personality."

About 15 of Stickney's friends stood in front of the school Wednesday to protest Principal **Ridgley Schott's** decision.

"Our issue isn't this kid's inclinations one way or another," Schott said. "We can't conduct the business of school with him dressed like that. That's where we're coming from."

A bystander to the protest, Seth Walker, 17, said he felt it was all right for Stickney to wear a dress.

"He's asking for harassment — it's high school, you know," Walker said. "But it's also a free country."

Is "Chasing Amy" The Next Big Gay Flick?

Miramax Films has bought the worldwide rights to a boy-meets-lesbian romantic comedy from the director of **Clerks**. "Chasing Amy" stars **Ben Affleck** and **Jason Lee** of **Mallrats**, **Joey Lauren Adams** of **Dazed and Confused** among others.

It marks the third directorial effort of **Kevin**

Smith, who made his Hollywood breakthrough with **Clerks**, but then bombed with last year's **Mallrats**.

During a screening in New York earlier this month, Miramax co-chairman **Harvey Weinstein** was so pleased with the project that he kissed Smith and producer **Scott Mosier**.

"It was at that moment that we knew we had a powerful distributor who 'got' our film, and one who would know how to market it correctly," Smith said.

The film will most likely premiere at a major winter film festival like Sundance or Berlin.

Rudy Galindo Turns Pro

OUT Magazine cover boy, **Rudy Galindo**, who stunned the figure skating world by winning the U.S. championship in January, turned pro last Tuesday.

"The decision to turn professional was a difficult one," Galindo said in a statement. "I had to consider all the different aspects of skating as an amateur or as a professional." Galindo recently has been working on his autobiography, "Icebreaker, The Rudy Galindo Story." A TV movie is also planned on his life.

Is "Ellen" Coming Out?

The ABC sitcom **Ellen** will reveal its title character as a lesbian in this season, according to *TV Guide*. The producers of the



3-year-old sitcom, led by star **Ellen DeGeneres** herself, are lobbying for the character she plays to come out of the closet — and have paved the way for this revelation in the season's first nine episodes, the magazine reports in its Sept. 28 issue.

In one episode, the magazine says, character Ellen Morgan is standing behind a closet door in her new house. On stepping out of the closet, she says, "Yeah, there's plenty of room, but it's not very comfortable."

Later in that episode, entitled "Splitsville, Man," her parents announce plans to divorce and she says: "How do you think I feel? What if I said something shocking to you — like my whole life has been a lie and I'm really ... left-handed."

DeGeneres declined to comment on the article, though her manager, Arthur Imparato, said. "If you look hard at the whole series, there are a lot of elements over the years that could be laying the groundwork for that story line."

More Queers in Newt's Family

Candace Gingrich says she not the only gay in Newt's family. In her book, **The Accidental Activist**, the House speaker's lesbian sis IDs a cousin, **Darell Gingrich**, as coming out at 27. She quotes him as saying: "I spent two years asking the good Lord to do away with my homosexuality. I gave it my all, but it never left me. Not even for a second."

Drag Disneyland in the Village.

A year without **Wigstock** is the nightlife equivalent of a year without Santa Claus. But at the new **Lips** theme restaurant at 4 Bank Street, every night is Wigstock — it's the **Hard Rock Cafe** of drag. New York's most famous queens are all here, represented by intimate memorabilia and, soon, a Walk of Fame. One gender illusionist pegged the clubby decor as **Pee-wee's Playhouse** meets **Max Factor**.

How's the food? Absolutely fabulous, darling, but that's beside the point; Lips is all about makeup, feather boas, ersatz diamonds, good lightinmg, and, of course, wigs. One warning: The longest bathroom line in all of New York, possibly the world.

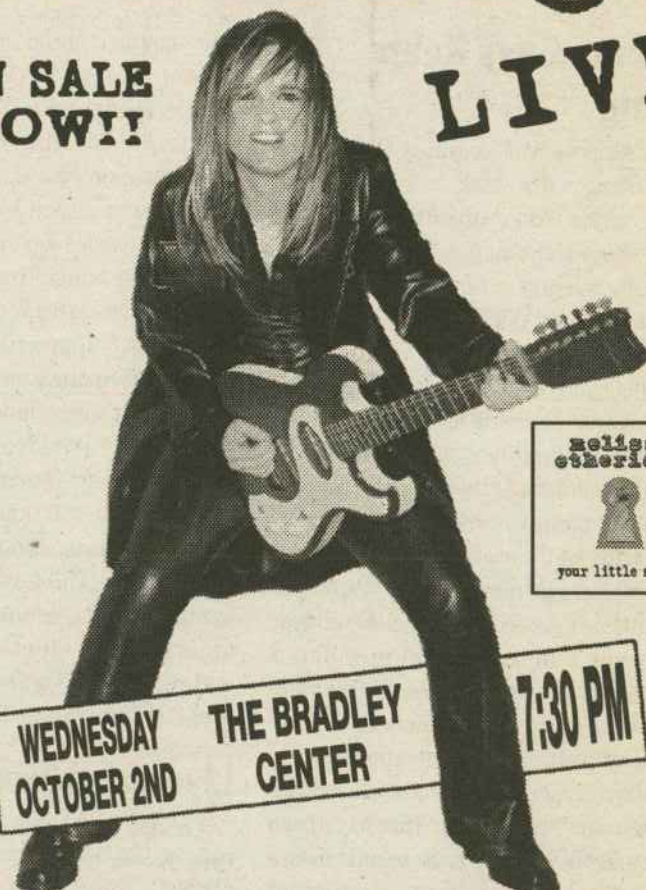
Camille Paglia Hits the Road

Camille Paglia has quit as columnist for the gay mag **The Advocate**. Doesn't like new editor-in-chief **Judith Wieder**. Says she's "clueless" and "unprofessional." Liked Wieder's dumped predecessor **Jeff Yarborough** better. Says Paglia: "When the control shifts from a man to a woman, I demand that she be just as good."

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The World in Brief

with Rex Wockner

Argentine Gays Keep Winning

Buenos Aires — The Statutory Convention that is drafting a new legal code for Buenos Aires, Argentina, voted unanimously in late August to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Buenos Aires will be the only Latin American city outside Brazil with such a law.

"Lesbians, gays, transvestites and pansexuals made ourselves visible at the convention site," said correspondent Alejandra Sarda. "The rainbow-colored triangle and the banners with the names of intellectuals, artists and politicians who supported our claim were placed very early in the morning at the convention entrance. As soon as the doors were opened to the public, we went in, filling a whole sector of the available seats. We were not allowed to bring our banners in, but we did it anyway, by hiding them in our bags."

A few days earlier, the convention eradicated the infamous Police Edicts that have been used extensively against gays and transvestites. The edicts allow police to circumvent the regular justice system and detain people more or less at whim.

New Troubles for ILGA

The International Lesbian and Gay Association's recent troubles at the United Nations have created problems for the group with the Council of Europe as well. ILGA lost consultative status at the U.N. in 1994 after right-wing forces in the U.S. revealed that a few of ILGA's hundreds of member organizations did not oppose sexual contact between adults and persons under the age-of-consent, which varies from 12 to 21 worldwide. ILGA responded by revoking the membership of three pedophile organizations, including NAMBLA, but the association is still struggling to prove to the U.N. that none of its

other member groups is lax on underage sex.

Now comes a letter from the Council of Europe announcing: "[W]e have learned that at a recent meeting of the UN's ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, the consultative status of ILGA was suspended, following some specific US charges against your Organisation. Before preparing a proposal ... on granting consultative status for your Organisation, I would much appreciate if you could send us further information on this matter."

ILGA is a federation of several hundred gay groups and individuals from more than 80 countries. It stages conferences, publishes a bulletin, issues action alerts, and networks Western nations with the growing gay movements of the Third World and former communist nations. Recent ILGA initiatives have increased gay clout within the European Union, World Health Organization and Amnesty International.

Lloyds Insures "Rent Boys"

London — Lloyds of London now insures British rent boys (male prostitutes) against accident and sickness, reported *The Pink Paper*. "Sex Workers' Occupational Policy" holders who claim loss of earnings due to a sexually transmitted disease will be classified as having an "industrial illness."

Spanish Town Destroys Cruising List

Stiges, Spain — A list of gay cruisers has been destroyed in Stiges, Spain, a popular gay resort. Local police had begun asking for identification from people hanging out at night in the cruisy Maritime Pass area and were keeping records of their findings.

The list was destroyed after the activist group Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana met with Mayor Pere Junyent on Aug. 20.

In other news, Stiges has cancelled fines

and called off the police after gay and straight nudists cried foul when officers started arresting them for being naked at a downtown beach that has long been listed in "naturist" guidebooks.

An earlier report that the crackdown occurred at one of Stiges' remote gay-only beaches was inaccurate.

London Tube Bans Gay Ad

London — The London Underground, which operates London's subway system, has rejected a condom-advertising poster that shows two men in bed but has accepted one that shows a man and a woman embracing in what looks like a pool of semen, reported London's *The Pink Paper*.

Bob Harrison, spokesman for Safeguard Forte, the gay condom promoter, called the straight poster, produced by the Durex company, "far more provocative and tactless than ours. We're talking about a non-confrontational picture of two guys who are quite clearly in love," he said.

But the Underground responded: "We may be in the mid-90s, but things haven't come far enough for there not to be outrage over an advertisement showing a gay couple. Basically, there is still a lot of prejudice out there."

US Fund Safer Sex in Nepal

Washington, DC — The United States announced on September 5, that it will give \$30 million to the nation of Nepal to improve health-care facilities and fund programs promoting safe sex, contraception and family planning. Around 10,000 Nepalis are HIV-positive, officials estimate. Without intervention, the number is expected to hit 100,000 in five years.

Gay Jews to Meet in Barcelona

Barcelona — The Sixth Europe/Israel Regional Conference of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations is set for Oct. 31-Nov. 3 in Barcelona, Spain.

The program includes workshops, speakers, religious services, socials and sight-seeing. The cost is \$150-\$250 depending on lodging selected. For more information, e-mail 100736.1223@compuserve.com or phone or fax 011-44-181-809-0877.

Belarus Legalizes Gay Sex

Belarus — Word has only now reached the West that the former Soviet republic of Belarus legalized gay sex in 1991 — before any other former Soviet republic did so.

Dr. A. Pimenov from the Belarus National Center for AIDS Prevention told Austrian activist Kurt Krickler that his center drafted the reform bill that Parliament passed. But the repeal was not publicized at all, he said.

Pimenov also reported that the age-of-consent was equalized at 16 for gays and straights alike. Other former Soviet republics that are known to have legalized gay sex include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine.

Swiss Legislation Stalled

Bern — The Swiss government has not taken any action on the June mandate from parliament to devise a plan to legalize gay/lesbian relationships, activists report.

Parliament passed the measure 68-61 with one abstention and 70 MPs skipping the voting. The bill was introduced after gay leaders presented a petition signed by 85,000 Swiss supporting legal gay unions.

Christians presented a petition with an equal number of signatures urging that marriage be limited to opposite-sex couples but parliament declined to consider their petition, gay activists said.

Aussie Store Goes Gay

Melbourne — Same-sex couples are now welcome to use the bridal-registry system at Australia's largest department-store chain, Myer-Grace Brothers, reported *Brother Sister* newspaper. The company has 70 stores

nationwide.

"We didn't want to offend part of our customer base," said corporate spokeswoman Suzanne Pigdon.

Gay Man Beheaded in Saudi Arabia

Saudi — At least one of the 200 people beheaded in Saudi Arabia last year was being punished for homosexuality, according to a Sept. 3 United Press International report that was based on an article in the Saudi newspaper *Okaz*. The brief mention of the anti-gay execution came at the end of a report about a man who was sentenced to 200 lashes and six months in prison for wearing a dress to a wedding party. UPI said the man dressed as a woman "to get a surreptitious look at women he might want to marry." Saudi women are kept veiled in the presence of males.

Gays March in Japan

Tokyo — More than 2,000 people staged a "Lesbian and Gay Parade" in the vicinity of Tokyo's Yoyogi Park Aug. 25. It was the city's third annual gay march.

The 90-minute parade was followed by a rally filled with activist speeches, observers reported.

When the first speaker took the stage, a rival activist group stormed the podium alleging they had been shut out of the events, attendees said. There was a struggle for the microphone that almost degenerated into a brawl.

The media ignored the march this year after giving it big play the previous two years.

Homo Defense Targeted

New South Wales — The Australian state of New South Wales will likely scrap the so-called homosexual-panic defense under which straight men

sometimes get away with murder — claiming they were merely defending themselves against a horrifying homosexual advance.

Following a nine-month review, a committee set up by state Attorney General Jeff Shaw has recommended that judges be instructed that a homosexual advance is no more or less provocative than a heterosexual advance, according to a report in Sydney's *Capital Q*.

The committee said: "You [a judge] may conclude that the deceased's behaviour and sexual orientation do not accord with those which you regard as morally acceptable. It is therefore important that you remember that this is a court of law not a court of morals. Prejudice and emotion have no place in a court of law."

Shaw is expected to release final instructions later this year.

Argentine Gay Leader Dies

Buenos Aires — Argentinean gay leader Carlos Jauregui, 38, died of AIDS complications Aug. 20. He was president of the group *Comunidad Homosexual Argentina* in the mid-80s and one of the nation's first gay spokespeople. In 1991 he cofounded the group *Gays for Civil Rights*.

Jauregui authored the book "Homosexuality in Argentina" in 1987 and contributed frequent articles to mainstream newspapers and magazines. Since 1992, he also organized the annual gay-pride parade.

He was recently selected by journalists as one of the nation's "10 Most Credible Political Personalities."

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OLD

Facing Invisibility, Ageism and HIV
in the Gay and Lesbian Aging Community

GAYS

STORY BY ED GROVER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CABAL

Gay and lesbian senior citizens are outing themselves all over the country and finding acceptance and peace of mind. It took me 64 years to do it and, when I finally did it in the January 1996 issue of *Q•Voice Magazine*, the feeling was one of liberation and freedom. I suddenly realized: "What could they do to me; take my Social Security away?" Hardly!

In researching the subject of Gay and Lesbian Aging for this special issue of *Q•Voice*, I have run smack into two of the scariest factors facing us all: "INVISIBILITY AND AGEISM!" My interest in the rights of Gay and Lesbian elders has increased ten-fold with the information I have found and used in this article. We must all be concerned with the important work that is being done on our behalf. My thanks

go out to the many people who have so generously helped me in this endeavor.

Milwaukee County Department on Aging Report on Increased Access

According to the Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDoA), it is believed that there are approximately 172,000 elderly, 60 and above in Milwaukee County. Of these, if we accept the often quoted 10 percent figure, there are approximately 17,200 elderly in the Gay and Lesbian community. If we add 10 percent of those who are baby boomers, and who will enter the aging population by 2011 when the first of them will be eligible for Medicare, the figures jump astronomically. This is certainly something to start thinking about.

The report states: "Gay and Lesbian elders are probably the most invisible group of people in the entire community. Many of them are closeted and live in isolation, even from each other. Many don't know what services exist and, even if they do, they are hesitant to reach out. They remember the years of prejudice and harassment and do not trust the heterosexual agencies serving senior citizens."

The report was formulated by members of the Work Group which was formed through word of mouth. Individuals were found who were willing to devote the time necessary to survey the social service needs of elder gays and lesbians in Milwaukee County. This group consisted of 10 dedicated people, headed by Mary Ann Neevel, as chairperson, and included other members of the gay and lesbian community. The Work Group met three times between August 21, 1995 and January 8, 1996. They modified the questionnaire that would be used to gain information from elderly gay and lesbian citizens. Articles were placed in the *Wisconsin Light* and *In Step Magazine*.

The questionnaires were distributed by SAGE/Milwaukee to its members, there was distribution at MAPFest and the Gay and Lesbian Block Party and copies were distributed through personal contacts in the community. All of this resulted in only 49 completed questionnaires. The Work Group members formulated their recommendations from the information gleaned from these questionnaires and identified many of the barriers to serving the gay and lesbian community.

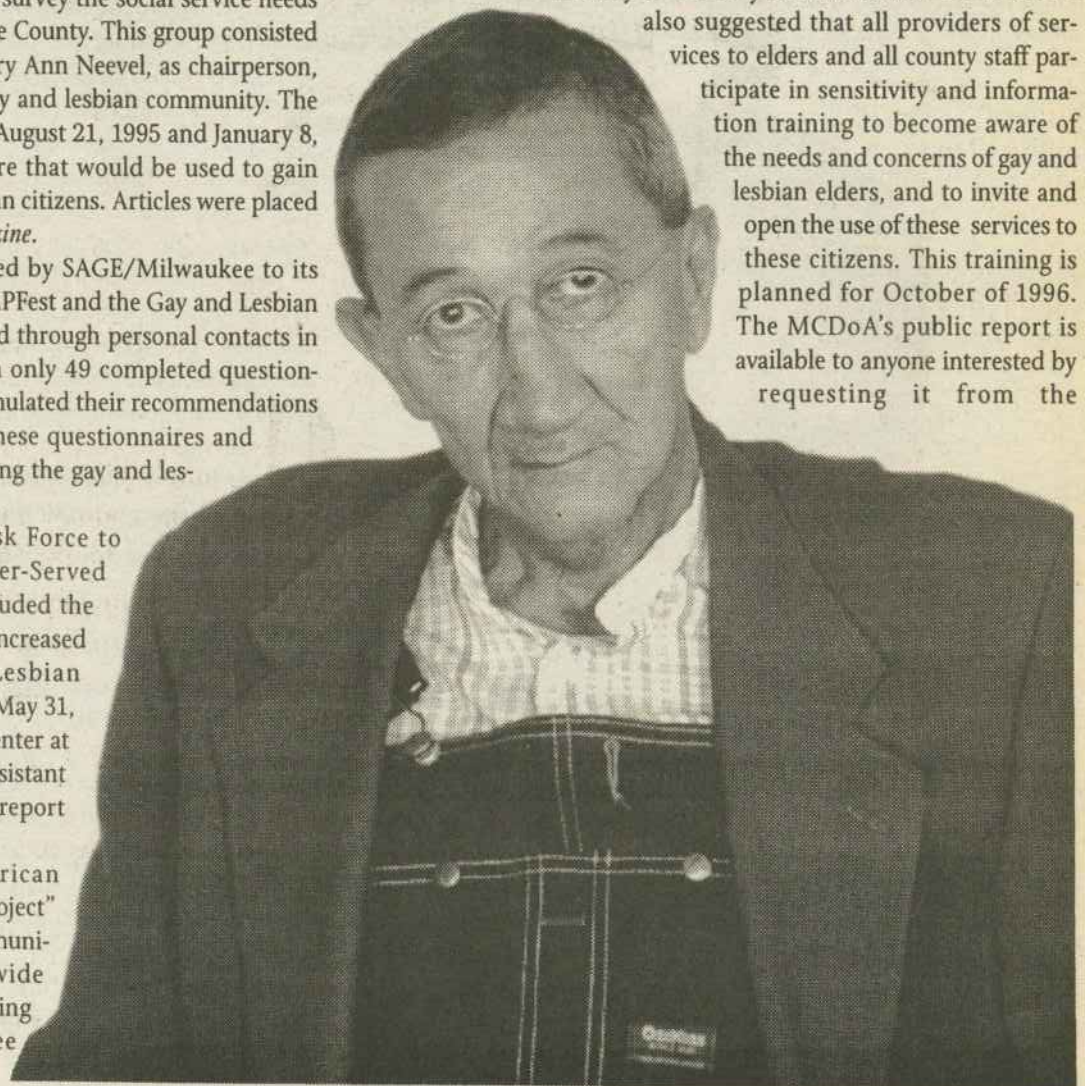
The MCDoA's report of the "Task Force to Increase Access to Services for Under-Served Older Adult Populations", which included the "Final Report of the Work Group for Increased Access to Services for Gay and Lesbian Elderly", was released to the public on May 31, 1996 at the Washington Park Senior Center at a 9 a.m. ceremony. Irene Brown, the Assistant Director of the MCDoA said that the report was well received.

Also implemented during "American Aging Month" was the "Gatekeeper Project" which will benefit all elders in all communities. This project is a community-wide effort to ensure the safety and well-being of all senior citizens in Milwaukee

County. Through the program, citizens who routinely have contact with elders are sensitized to those who may be especially vulnerable. With a combination of education and consciousness-raising, bankers, grocers, pharmacists, block-watch captains and other concerned individuals are taught simple warning signs indicating an older adult is in distress, as well as techniques for obtaining help for them. Press releases were placed in the June issues of *Q•Voice Magazine* and *In Step News-Magazine*.

The report goes on to discuss the background of the gay and lesbian population in Milwaukee County, existing gay and lesbian services available in Milwaukee, (such as SAGE/Milwaukee, Interfaith for the Elderly, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin) and community events and publications available to the gay and lesbian population. The report continues with its findings, recommendations and summary. The suggestion is made that gay and lesbian providers "come out" in their service settings so that gay and lesbian elders may feel safe in coming out as well.

The MCDoA made a priority request for a liaison to the Gay and Lesbian community. County Executive Ament designated Gerard Randall as liaison as a result of this urgent request. Mayor Norquist has appointed Sherry Street as the liaison to the gay and lesbian community of the City of Milwaukee. The MCDoA also suggested that all providers of services to elders and all county staff participate in sensitivity and information training to become aware of the needs and concerns of gay and lesbian elders, and to invite and open the use of these services to these citizens. This training is planned for October of 1996. The MCDoA's public report is available to anyone interested by requesting it from the



Milwaukee County Department on Aging by calling 414/289-5950. Or, it may be picked up at their Administrative Offices at 235 West Galena Street in Milwaukee.

The 1995 White House Conference on Aging

At the 1995 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA), delegates from the American Society on Aging's Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network (ASA/LGAIN) battled hatred and discrimination when they asked for inclusion of lesbian and gay elders in the language and substance of the conference recommendations. At the conference's opening session, the designated speaker, Del Martin, spoke of her concern for the future of Medicare, the Older Americans Act and Social Security. She then identified herself as a lesbian, 74 years old, a grandmother and the partner of another WHCoA delegate, Phyllis Lyon. "The conference was supposed to be inclusive of all seniors," she said, "but lesbians and gays were deliberately excluded."

These two courageous women were the founders, 40 years ago, of the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian social club in the United States. On Del Martin's 75th birthday, May 5, 1995, the WHCoA delegates passed the discrimination resolution which was successfully amended so as to include a policy that encourages "civic, social, ethnic, cultural and religious leaders to sensitize their communities and organizations to the subtlety of racial, age and sexual orientation discrimi-

Excerpt from the Preamble to the Final Report of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging:

"As America prepares for the 21st century and the dramatic increase in our aging population, we affirm our commitment to all older persons and their families, especially those at risk. Aging is a part of the continuum of life. Hence policies that provide security to the elders of our society also enhance the lives of their children and grandchildren and create a bond between generations. We recognize the importance, value and interdependence of people regardless of sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or sexual orientation and seek to safeguard all persons from discrimination."

nation." Over the course of six months Lyon, Martin and Lisa J. Hamburger of ASA organized a letter-writing campaign aimed at having "Sexual Orientation" referenced in the preamble of the Final Report of the Conference. On December 14, 1995, Hamburger received a letter of congratulations. The Final Report's Preamble would indeed include that reference.

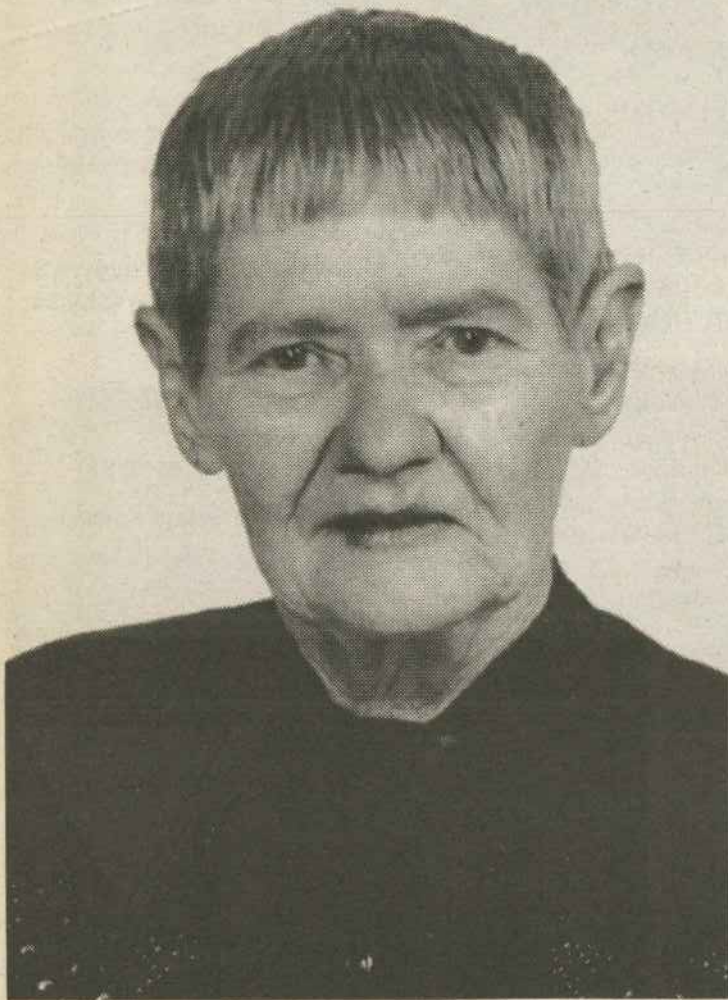
These are but two of the exciting things that are happening here in the City of Milwaukee, and nationally, to enhance the lives of gay and lesbian elders in our community. Much more needs to be done. Much knowledge is waiting to exchange hands. We need to awaken a sense of intergenerational dialogue so that there will be no ageism and discrimination within our community.

Robert Butler coined the word "ageism" in 1968 and defined it as "a process of systematic stereotyping of, and discrimination against, people because they are old, just as racism and sexism accomplished this with skin color and gender."

Mary Ellen Henry in her Op/Ed piece for the Winter 1996 issue of *OUTWord*, the newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network (LGAIN) says, "The tendency of a homophobic society to keep gay men and lesbians hidden is the root of our oppression. Many gay men and lesbians have lived their lives in isolation and fear, and the existence of ageism in the gay and lesbian community may mean they receive little support from their own reference group." She continues, "If the aging network is not ready or willing to deal with gay and lesbian elders and if ageism exists in our own community, where do we go from here?"

Shevy Healy, one of the founders of OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) writes about ageism: "From every side, we hear how terrible it is to be old, how ugly, how out of date, how over the hill and beyond the pale we are. We compliment each other for NOT looking our age, as though growing old is in poor taste. The very word 'old' has become such a term of insult and denigration that it is out of a sense of 'decency' and politeness that all sorts of euphemisms are substituted. We are the 'Golden Agers,' 'Elders,' 'Older' (than whom?), anything to avoid the word 'old.'"

As Christopher Alexander says in his October 1995 article for *The Lesbian and Gay Quarterly*, "One of the most pervasive stereotypes of lesbians and gays is that we can look forward to an old age of loneliness, depression and social isolation. Rarely pictured in the context of supportive, loving ties of family and multi-generational contact, homo-



Resources for Older Gays and Lesbians

BOOK STORES

Afterwords Bookstore
2710 N. Murray Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211, 414/963-8089
Internet: <http://www.afterwords.com>

Barnes & Nobel
Bayshore Mall, 414/967-0007

Schwartz's Bookstore
209 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53201, 414/274-6400

FOOD & MEAL PROGRAMS

Meals on Wheels
(Hot Meal Program & Homemaker/Companion Program through MAP)
Milwaukee, WI
Contact Chris 414/365-8300, Ext. 271

Meal Sites & Other Assistance
414/271-3123

Milwaukee County Emergency Food for Seniors
414/276-0760

INTERNET

Internet AARP Special Member Rates
(order software & take advantage of rates)

America on Line: 1-800/827-9948
CompuServe: 1-800/621-1258
Prodigy: 1-800/776-3449 Ext. 174

American Association of Retired Persons
(AARP On-Line) <http://www.aarp.org>

Gerber/Hart Gay and Lesbian Library Archives
(Reference and resources)
<http://dial.illinois.net/~ghla/>

National Fraud Information Center
(Report cases of fraud and scams)
<http://www.fraud.org>

MEDICAL

American Academy of Ophthalmology
(Eye Care information for low-income elderly people)
PO Box 7424, San Francisco, CA 94102
(Send SASE to: Attention Inquiry Clerk, Dept. AARP), 1-800-222-3937
Internet: <http://www.eyenet.org>

Brady East STD Clinic
(HIV testing, Hepatitis screening)
Male and Female Clinics
1240 East Brady St., Milwaukee, WI 53202
414/272-2144

Milwaukee AIDS Project
(HIV/AIDS Service Organization)
820 N. Plankinton, Milwaukee, WI 53203
Office/Staff 414/273-1991
AIDS Information 414/273-2437

STD Specialties Clinic
(Infectious Disease Clinic)
3251 N. Holton St., Milwaukee, WI 53212
414/264-8800

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry
(Nursing Care)
10101 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53226
414/259-4664

United HIV Services
(Continuum of HIV/AIDS services/care)
10101 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53226
414/259-4610

SOCIAL SERVICES

City of Milwaukee G/L Liaison
Sherry Street
(Information and Referral)
City of Milwaukee, City Hall
200 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202
414/286-2200

Community Advocates
(Housing, Social Security and Basic Needs)
4906 W. Fond du Lac Ave.

Milwaukee, 53216
414/449-4777

Interfaith for the Elderly
(Senior Advocacy - Housing, Transportation)
600 West Virginia Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414/291-7500

Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee
(Information and Assistance)
229 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414/765-0600

Milwaukee County Dept on Aging
(Information and Assistance)
ElderLink and Gatekeeper Project
235 W. Galena St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414/289-6874
TTD: 414/289-8591

Milwaukee County Dept on Aging
(Transportation Assistance Program)
Chris Hess, I&A Coordinator
414/289-6874
Elder Care Line
414/672-0600

Milwaukee County G/L Liaison
Gerard Randal
(Information and Referral)
Milwaukee County Courthouse
County Executive's Office
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
414/278-4216

Project Involve
(Senior Citizen Services)
Day Care, Home Management/Counseling
3435 West Clybourn
Milwaukee, WI 53204, 414/302-8711

SUPPORT GROUPS

Galano Club
Chemical-free recovery club
(AA, NA, OA, Alanon)
2408 N. Farwell Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211, 414/276-6936
Web Site: <http://www.execpc.com/~reva>

OLOC - Old Lesbians Organizing for Change
(National Organization - Age 60 and over)

For more information and your Local Contact write: PO Box 980422
Houston, TX 77098

SAGE/Milwaukee
(Older Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Group)
PO Box 92482, Milwaukee 53202

Silver Space
(Older Lesbian Group)
The Counseling Center of Milwaukee
Cheryl Orgas, Women's Support Group Counselor
414/271-2565

PUBLICATIONS

Aging in the News
(Free quarterly publication - ask to be placed on mailing list)
Bureau on Aging
PO Box 7851, Madison, WI 53707

American Association of Retired Persons
(Modern Maturity Magazine)
Write to: AARP Membership Center
PO Box 199, Long Beach, CA 90848-9983

LGAIN - OUTWord Newsletter
Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network
(Multidisciplinary Professional Aging Network)
Phone: 415/974-9600
FAX: 415/974-0300

sexuality has been viewed as a path to misery in later adulthood." He continues, "It is important to remember that those who are now in their 60s and older came out during a time when society was much more close-minded toward homosexuality. As a result of the radical changes that swept open closet doors all over the country in the past two decades, lesbians and gays who are now in mid-life and younger may find their experience of old age to be not much different from

their heterosexual counterparts, including strong family and community ties, whether we have children or not."

A study done by L. Vacha in 1985 looked at 17 gay men over the age of 60. Vacha's discouraging findings were that these men, who had denied their homosexuality early in life, were frequent users of drugs and alcohol and had a difficult time achieving long-term relationships. They were also critical of "Militant" gay rights activism. In a more recent study,

R.M. Berger surveyed 112 older gay men and found that they were neither lonely nor isolated, and many continued to be sexually active. A significant number did say, however, that they felt younger gay men were uncomfortable with older gay men, and therefore little cross-generational socializing was occurring in their lives. Berger's findings were echoed in several small studies of older gay men, which suggested that most are relatively well adjusted in their later years, continue to enjoy sexual intimacy, and have adapted well to physical changes.

Mary Ellen Henry recounts an incident when she was interviewing chronically ill patients in a rehabilitation facility. "After reading one man's medical record, I recognized a sign of 'gayness.' Mr. X was 73 years old and dying of a brain tumor. The hospital had noted that he had no known kin, only a "roommate" of 40 years named Bob. I attempted to give Mr. X the opportunity to come out to me by acknowledging the existence of Bob, and the supportive nature of their relationship. He didn't bite. Finally, I told Mr. X that my partner and I had a home in Provincetown and wondered if he had ever been there. A big smile crept across his face and he poured out his story."

Nancy Flaxman, in her article "The Price of Invisibility", which was published in the winter, 1996 issue of *OUTWord*, says, "For many gays and lesbians, survival has always meant to remain hidden. Yet as we grow more dependent on people and services, to remain hidden can jeopardize our survival. When we do not get needed medical care because we don't want to reveal our sexual orientation, when we won't get Meals on Wheels to deliver food to our home, or won't ask for a neighbor's assistance for fear they will find out, when we do not talk to anyone about the loss of a loved one because then they would know—then hiding has interfered with our mental, physical and emotional well-being."

Nancy quotes Paul Monet, in "Last Watch of the Night": "For me it began in a small town in Massachusetts forty years ago—a sickness of the soul about being different. And nothing was more important, not breath itself, than the need to keep it secret."

The stillborn journey of my life took off at last, the moment I opened the closet door. To know how dark a place you come from into

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Blue Lite	45	In Between	18
Just Us	41	Kathy's Nut Hut	17
M&M	24	Club 219	6
Fannies	22	La Cage	5

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AIDS Walk Wisconsin benefits the AIDS prevention, care and research programs of AIDS service organizations throughout Wisconsin and is produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW)

the light of self-acceptance—is to enact some sort of survivorship that leaves a trail for those who come after. But you carry that kid with you the rest of your life—wounded as he is by hate and lies—a shadow companion who needs you forever. And whatever is left of the hurt is washed away the longer you march arm in arm with a comrade, rallying to the muster of the tribe. Until there is no dislocation anymore between the broken shadow of your past and the fully human presence you've become."

Ms. Flaxman describes older gays and lesbians at Spectrum, a center for gay, lesbian and bisexual senior citizens in San Anselmo, California. "Now a 67 year-old lesbian who had never told anyone marches in the local Gay Pride Parade. A 70 year-old man sits at the Spectrum table at the countywide Senior Fair and "Outs" himself to his neighbors who pass by. A 65 year-old gay man comes out to his adult children. A 74 year-old lesbian, who prided herself on being able to appear "normal" in a straight world, now sits in a support group with heterosexuals and says, "I am a lesbian."

A study on older lesbians, published in the "Journal of Homosexuality", in 1990 showed that they were often socially and sexually active and their most cited concerns were about finances . . . not unlike their heterosexual counterparts. Older lesbians who kept their sexual orientation a secret were more frightened about the process of aging and death.

Again, Shevy Healy voices her feelings in "Confronting Ageism: A MUST for Mental Health" which was published in "Faces of Women and Aging" in 1993. She writes: "Since we hear only the down side of growing old, I was unprepared for my life as it is now. It is different from what I expected. Not until I stopped working could I even imagine the exhilarating sense of freedom which unstructured open-ended

time makes possible, a delicious experience I am having for the first time in my life. How could I expect that my old age would be so full of life and love and excitement? I am not unaware that my body is moving closer to dying and that at the time of my actual dying, if the process is natural and not precipitated by trauma, I may indeed have a different agenda."

HIV/AIDS in the Aging Gay and Lesbian Community

The amount of information accumulated on HIV/AIDS turned out to be of such a high volume that it deserves a special mention of its own. Some of the information that was collected is staggering. I hope that a majority of you, young and old, are out there on September 22 for AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

When I spoke to Ross Walker, President of the Brady East STD Clinic (BESTD), he told me that there was nothing in Milwaukee aimed at this specific age group. However, Ross told me that people can choose from a full range of services and testing that is made available for all age groups at United HIV (which consists of BESTD, STD Specialties Clinic, Inc. and St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry) and offers a wide range of services from HIV testing to Drug and Alcohol counseling. I was told that BESTD has a wide age-range in its counselors and volunteers (the oldest is 80) so that there is no age or gender gap. If a person over the age of 60 comes in for testing, there is a counselor or volunteer available who is of the same age group who is able to relate to them.

We also discussed the fact that among the statewide reported figures for HIV in 1995. Of the 706 people tested in the over 50 age group, one percent of the total were found to be HIV positive. This fig-

HIV/AIDS and the Elderly

- ▼ Older adults do not believe they are at risk for sexually transmitted diseases.
- ▼ Many individuals in the 50 plus age group die before an accurate diagnosis is made, or are misdiagnosed.
- ▼ 75% of the elderly die within 3 months of the AIDS diagnosis because practitioners don't look for AIDS in the elderly.
- ▼ Almost no information exists on older gay men.
- ▼ The older population and medical community need to be educated about HIV/AIDS and the need for testing.
- ▼ An educational program needs to be developed to inform the older population about the safety of blood banks. Twenty-nine percent of those surveyed were afraid of blood transfusions. Since 1985 the FDA has mandated that all blood collection centers must test for HIV contamination. The risk of contracting HIV/AIDS from blood transfusions is extremely minimal.
- ▼ Physicians SHOULD get a complete sexual and blood transfusion history from each elderly patient, but due to the feeling that old people are asexual, they seldom do.
- ▼ An educational program about condom use needs to be developed for elders.
- ▼ Age is definitely related to NOT wearing condoms (older women do not feel empowered to talk about it).
- ▼ Individuals in the 50 plus age group are the least informed. They hold unwarranted fears and misinformed opinions.
- ▼ Those in the 50 plus age group are the least likely to know a blood test exists or how to get tested.
- ▼ Since older individuals are more likely to have drug reactions, they are left out of drug trials.

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ure does not include the anonymous testing done at BESTD and other anonymous testing sites. That figure is very high and those of us who are still active sexually should be very much aware that we are not immune to AIDS.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin said that from the very beginning of the HIV epidemic that the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has worked hard to meet the needs of older individuals with HIV and AIDS.

Since 1983, 83 individuals with an HIV or AIDS diagnosis have enrolled as clients of the Milwaukee AIDS Project. Thirty-five of them have passed away and they are currently delivering services to 48 individuals. These individuals range in age from 50 to 67 years and while all of them are accessing MAP's case management services which works to meet their care and support needs, three other service areas of MAP are accessed by a majority of these older clients.

These areas include the Food Pantry, the Transportation Program, which provides rides to medical appointments and for shopping, and their Benefits Planning Program. The majority of these individuals utilize the Benefits Planning Program for estate planning, preparation of wills and preparation of powers of attorney and powers of health care.

The Spring 1996 issue of the *OUTWord*, the newsletter of LGAIN/ASA, published an article with a quote from a master's degree project referencing older adults' knowledge and attitudes about HIV/AIDS by Marjean Drost: "Nevertheless, since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic in the United States, approximately 10 percent of adult cases have occurred in people over 50 years old; 25 percent are adults over 60, and 4 percent are over 70. Thus, it is imperative that all age groups be included in HIV/AIDS education prevention and intervention programs."

Marie D'Amico, an Administrator of the St. Camillus Campus, sent me some helpful information which you will find in the side-bar titled "HIV/AIDS and the Elderly". I have added recommendations from the *OUTWord* Winter 1996 newsletter article "HIV/AIDS in Older Adults".

In an article from the *New York Times* of September 1992 Arlene Kaufmann of SAGE/New York is quoted as saying, "Among gay men, a cultural divide often separates those who came of age in the furtive 40s and 50s, and those who came later. Partly because of that divide SAGE/NY formed three support groups for older men with HIV. SAGE/NY, started its HIV support services in 1989 with 12 clients and now serves more that 200 men who are 50 or older.

The organization's support services for older gay and lesbian people are the only ones of their kind." The article continues with comments like: "Just as young people in general will reject the elderly for being slow or out of touch, young people with HIV often have little sympathy for old people with HIV." And, "In addition to feeling shame and isolation, some older people with HIV said they were tortured by a special kind of guilt; remorse at using resources they felt should go to the young, those who did not have much of a chance at life before HIV came crashing down.

Young people are often angry at the old, revealing the kind of attitude of "You're almost 60, you've lived a full life, and here I am, 20

years old, and I'm being robbed. You people have left me a legacy of filth.' The article goes on to discuss the differences between young and old persons with HIV, the feeling that the young don't understand what it's like to be a criminal—older men in their time, "were" criminals in society. One man, a writer with HIV, declared that in a terrible way AIDS is closing the generation gap. "I grew up afraid that the vice squad was going to arrest me," he said. "I grew up thinking that part of me was insane. The guys who grew up with the specter of the epidemic over them—my God! I got a call from a 26 year-old saying, 'I don't know how to make a date.'" These are some powerful thoughts that both young and old persons need to consider.

In a July 25th article in the *Chicago Tribune*, Diane C. Lade of the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* wrote about a 69 year-old man from Fort Lauderdale who was diagnosed with AIDS eight years ago.

When asked how he got AIDS, he replied, "Through wild, unprotected sex." Divorced after 28 years of marriage, he was drinking excessively and having unprotected sex with men and women, many of which he would not have been able to recognize the next day due to his black-outs.

Now he says, "My life is wrapped around AIDS. My friends are all people who have AIDS." He has quit drinking, come to terms with his neighbors and children about his disease and goes to senior centers as a volunteer—one of 14 people between the ages of 50 and 78, who were trained through a joint effort between SAGE/Miami and AARP. Vincent Delgado, The SAGE/Miami chapter's executive director had been taking his condoms and his AIDS talks to senior citizens for almost four years when he decided that older adults might relate better to a peer.

He recruited Hispanics, African Americans, gay men, and heterosexual women. Some of these people had AIDS, some did not. AARP now has an HIV awareness unit and several AIDS brochures as well as a new video that premiered in December '95 on World AIDS Day.

Aging can bring about many problems other than sexual ones. Alcoholism and prescription drug abuse is not uncommon, senior citizens are the victims of scams, there

may be legal problems and many people prefer not to make their sexual orientation known to the very agencies that can help them the most. Included in this issue is a Milwaukee Area Resource List for Gay and Lesbian Elders. Please save and use it. It appears on page 15.

In my own experience of dealing with invisibility and aging, there was an older gay man who lived in my apartment building who had recently lost his partner of 40 years. They had kept mostly to themselves while his partner was alive. After his partner's death he tried to be more outgoing and we became friends.

He had been struggling to get along on Social Security and some savings. One day we were sitting in the lobby as he waited for "Meals on Wheels" to deliver his noon meal and we talked about what we "hadn't" done to prepare for our old age. We seemed like the grasshoppers who had played all summer and never prepared for the coming winter. He told me, "If only I knew then what I know now, I would have done so many things differently."

Some time later he had to go into the hospital for a few days, and as a result had to give his cat, his only companion, to the Humane Society because he couldn't take care of her any more.

I felt so badly when he brought the empty carrying case to my door one morning to give to me and stood there in the hallway crying. I asked why he hadn't contacted me. He said, "Oh, you have your own problems. You have so much of your own to worry about."

Maybe, but I could have fed his cat while he was gone and saved him from the sadness and feelings of loss he was going through. He has since left the building and gone into a group home—but he never told anyone where!

We all need to have better communication with our gay and lesbian friends and neighbors, whether or not they are old or young. We have to stick together as a community and a family. We have to reach out and to each other. ▼



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SAGE and Silver Space: Two Support Groups for Gay and Lesbian Elders

by Ed Grover and Eldon Murray

Milwaukee is lucky enough to have two support groups for older gay and lesbian people in our community. This short synopsis of Sage/Milwaukee and Silver Space will help to familiarize you with them. If you are thinking of becoming involved in, whether it be for social, educational or for self-help reasons, these are fine choices.

SAGE/MILWAUKEE (SENIOR ACTION IN A GAY ENVIRONMENT)

Arlene Kaufmann, Executive Director of SAGE/New York, informed me that SAGE was established in 1978 to make sure that high quality professional help was available for gay and lesbian seniors. "Our society began to realize the great cultural wealth offered by its older adults and needed to address their needs so that they could continue to lead full lives." SAGE/New York is the nation's oldest and largest organization for older gays and has 7,000 members and 10 paid staff people. The organization operates over 50 programs on a regular basis including a "friendly visitor" program for seniors who are frail and homebound.

Eldon Murray of SAGE/Milwaukee told me that the Milwaukee Chapter was organized in December of 1993. SAGE/Milwaukee serves both gay men and lesbians (as well as bisexuals) and there are no age requirements for being a member other than being at least 18 years of

age. While SAGE/Milwaukee was established for "mature" (read older) citizens of Southeast Wisconsin, the definition of mature was deliberately left open since everyone has his or her own idea of what constitutes "older." Currently the youngest member is 26 and the oldest member is 85.

The group's mission statement reads: "SAGE/Milwaukee is dedicated to enhancing the lives of older gay men and lesbians by offering organized social and educational events, companionship assistance, and other helping networks and/or technical services needed to enable its members to have the opportunity to live, learn and participate in the community to the fullest extent possible."

Eldon told me that among the services offered by SAGE/Milwaukee is a program of daily telephone reassurance called the "SAGE Connection." The group hired a part-time Director of Social services with a MSW Degree who designed and set up this particular program. The service is designed for persons who are restricted in getting out and about, persons who feel lonely or isolated, and those interested in receiving a scheduled phone call on a regular basis (daily if wanted) from a trained volunteer who is sensitive to the gay, lesbian lifestyle. While the service is not a counseling service, one does not have to be homebound or ill to feel the need of a regular friendly telephone call to make sure that everything is all right. Further direct service programs will be phased in as soon as possible, perhaps even a "friendly visitor" program for the frail and homebound.

Through press releases, television, radio appearances and feature articles in the media, SAGE does further educational work. SAGE speakers appear before other groups both gay and straight to educate the general public on the special needs of gay

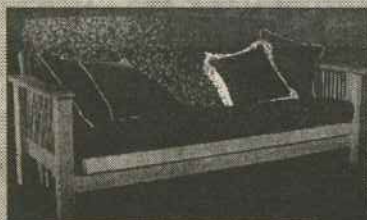
and lesbian elders. SAGE works closely with the University of Wisconsin Department of Social Welfare and the Milwaukee County Department on Aging. In October SAGE, together with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, will present a half-day seminar for those in the helping professions, particularly those working with the elderly, on the special needs of gay and lesbian elders.

These older gay and lesbian citizens bring strength, experience and wisdom with them. I feel they should be asked to be involved in all aspects of any community center that may be formed and although their lifestyles may have changed from the ones they led as youthful people, they have every right to be involved. Their experiences in business and daily life, and just the fact that they are among us is a testament to their survival.

I attended a Pot-Luck and dance at Just Us in June and went with a group to see the John Singleton Copely exhibit at the Milwaukee Art Museum in August of this year. I was pleased to see the camaraderie and togetherness these gay and lesbian senior citizens exhibited. They planned a picnic in Estabrook Park in July and other activities, both social and educational, throughout the year. For further information about SAGE/Milwaukee or SAGE Connection or to be placed on the mailing list to receive their monthly newsletter, simply drop a line to SAGE/Milwaukee, PO Box 92482, Milwaukee, WI 53202

SILVER SPACE

When I spoke to Cheryl Orgas, the Women's Support Group Coordinator of The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, I was told that



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Silver space is a discussion group that was founded by older lesbians in 1988. Since some women need emotional support and not a discussion group, it was suggested that women interested in Silver Space speak to Ms. Orgas who can then suggest a variety of support groups in different areas and issues tailored to meet individual needs.

The group receives financial assistance from the Cream City Foundation and is a safe place for older lesbians and older women who are exploring their affectional or sexual preferences. The group continues to be guided by older lesbians through a steering committee. There is no established age limit as Silver Space feels that "old" is something that is self-defining to each person.

For several years Silver Space has been the Southeast Wisconsin representative of OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change). This year nine Silver Space regulars attended the OLOC Summer '96 Old Lesbian Gathering which was held in

Minneapolis from Thursday, August 15 to Sunday, August 18. During the gathering they celebrated their struggles and their diversity. They shared their varied talents, herstories and present lives. There was an all-ages Women's Banquet and Dance with "down home" entertainment on Saturday.

Silver Space meets at 5:45 p.m. (the outside doors are locked at 6:15 pm). Newcomers are welcome and no preregistration is needed. Participants come together, share news and announcements and then identify two or three of the most popular topics for discussion. Some of the topics included are health concerns for older women, racism and ageism. They break up into small groups of five to nine people and each person picks her first choice of the topic group to join. Silver Space feels that older women come from an environment in which they don't get a chance to speak or aren't listened to. All discussion groups are small enough so that the individual feels comfortable and gets the time and attention she needs to talk about her interests and gets to know the others in her discussion group better. For this reason, there is rarely a featured speaker. The Counseling Center and meeting space is located at 2038 North Bartlett Avenue in Milwaukee and is smoke-free.

Since older women are seldom listened to, or asked for their opinions and are often regarded as a consumer group to be targeted by promotional messages, I was informed that Silver Space does not like the idea of someone coming to make an announcement and then leaving the group. They appreciate anyone who comes for the evening and participates in the discussions as being respectful to old lesbians.

There is a suggested donation of \$3, which helps to defray the cost of the building and mailings. Silver Space also has other events, picnics and has placed Silver Space balloons at women's dances so that others can identify where the Silver Space table is. After the group discussion ends at 8 pm, everyone is invited to join in for supper, a snack or coffee at a nearby restaurant. For more information, call 414/271-2565 and ask to speak to the Women's Support Group Counselor.



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Art's Page

Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater, Wisconsin's First IMAX Adventure

Milwaukee — The Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater, is Wisconsin's first IMAX adventure. The theater will open its doors to the public on Saturday, October 5. The theater offers a unique experience that totally immerses the audience in the film's on-screen action.

The first film shown in the new Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater will be "Destiny In Space," which was filmed during nine space shuttle missions over five years. The film allows viewers to experience a shuttle lift-off, explore life aboard a space shuttle and gain a once-in-a-lifetime look at our galaxy.

Information on advance ticket sales and Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater admission will be available in mid-September by calling (414) 319-IMAX. Admission prices are

\$6.50 for adults, \$5.50 for senior citizens and \$4.50 for children.

The Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater, named in recognition of a \$1.5 million grant from the Glenn & Gertrude Humphrey Foundation, Inc. is a joint venture of Discovery World Museum and the Milwaukee Public Museum. It is part of the Museum Center complex, located at the corner of 7th and Wells St. downtown Milwaukee.

"In The Life's" Fifth Season Premiere: Left and Right-the Politics of Pride



Suzanne Westenhoffer

New York — *In The Life*, the critically acclaimed lesbian and gay news-magazine presented by Thirteen/WNET in New York, returns in October with its fifth season premiere. This episode looks at the highly-charged political season, with background coverage beginning from the Republican National Convention in San Diego.

Also, there are reports from conventions of a different sort as *In The Life* travels to Tampa for the largest-ever gathering of gay and lesbian choral groups, and to Canada where stand-up comedians

convened in July at "Queer Comics," a night of "out" laughter in Montreal.

Correspondent Tanya Barfield joins special guest Suzanne Westenhoffer and host Katherine Linton for these stories and more on the October edition of *In The Life*: "The War Rooms," *In The Life* investigates the impact of lesbians and gays working within political organizations and coalition groups-labor, immigration, pro-choice groups, etc.-that are trying to affect the Republican agenda during this election year.

"Politics and Borders," two hot election year topics are the fight for legalization of same-sex marriage in the U.S. and the issue of immigration rights.

"The Club Rooms," lesbians and gay comics converged on Montreal in July to add their witty insights of all things peculiar and political at "Just For Laughs," the world's largest international comedy festival.

"Music and Politics," *In The Life* travels to Tampa for GALA Festival V, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses' fifth international gathering, and the largest event of its kind ever.

"Music and Love," performed by The New York City Gay Men's Chorus at GALA Festival V in Tampa, "Sixty Years with Bruhs and Gean" is a mini-musical that follows six decades of commitment and love between two men, Bruhs Mero and Gean Harwood, who for years called themselves "The Two Oldest Gay Men in America."

These are just some of the programs produced by *In The Life* Media, Inc. for the upcoming season.



Sydney Lewis

"A Totally Alien Life Form-Teenagers"

Shorewood — Sydney Lewis attempts to clarify the question, "What is it really like to be a teenager today?" Oral historian and author Sydney Lewis asked them directly. She will read from her surprising and hopeful new book "A Totally Alien Life Form-Teenagers," at the Schwartz Book

Shop in Shorewood on Tuesday, September 24th at 7 p.m. There's more to today's teens than sex, drugs and violence. Learn just how much more from Sydney Lewis. This event is free and open to all. Call (414) 963-3111 for more information.

Sydney Lewis reports she "mostly had a blast" interviewing over 50 teenagers whose ages ranged from 13 to 19 for her new book "A Totally Alien Life Form-Teenagers."

Her main focus on her second book on America's future leaders are very serious.

"The majority of teen-related stories and interviews...are about teens in trouble. And the trouble usually involves sex, drugs, or violence, or some combination...Sometimes they're asked to talk about consumer-related matters in an attempt to better target them as con-

sumers. But it is rare that young people are asked to talk about such things as the environment, education, religion, or the economy."

Readers will probably be as surprised as Ms. Lewis herself was at many of the things teens care about and must cope with today. "They're realistic," Lewis concludes, "And that makes them anxious."

Sydney Lewis currently resides in Chicago, and was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. Her teen years began in the late 1960's when "there were no malls," Ms. Lewis recalls. She attended Lake Forest College and the University of Oregon.

Sydney Lewis first book was "Hospital: An Oral History of Cook County Hospital," which was published in 1995.



Diane Mott Davidson

"The Main Corpse" an Edible Mystery?

Brookfield — A delectable, delicious mystery is afoot when Diane Mott Davidson, "a cross between Mary Higgins Clark and Betty Crocker," reads from her new novel culinary caper at Schwartz Book Shop in Brookfield on Wednesday, September 25th at 7 p.m. Her new book, "The Main Corpse" again features caterer Goldy Bear and her amazingly death-prone Colorado friends. As a special treat, Goldy's chocoholic cookies will be served.

Diane Mott Davidson, dubbed "the Queen of Culinary Mystery," combines her love of cooking with her talent for concocting intriguing mysteries set in a small Rocky

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October 7
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6pm to 9pm**

Watch "BESTD CLINIC LIVE!" each Thursday at 7pm on Milwaukee Cable Channel 47
Rebroadcast Saturday Noon & Tuesday at 6:30pm (Gay B.C.)

Mountain community. "The Main Corpse," like her other books, contains not only a sinister scheme involving a shady investment deal in a gold mine, but several mouth-watering recipes. As Goldy, her friend Marla, and Jake, a rehabilitated bloodhound, follow the killer's trail, readers can prepare ten dishes from the book like Rainy Season Chicken Soup, Provençal Pizza, and, of course, Chocoholic Cookies.

Diane Mott Davidson was nominated for the Anthony, Agatha, and Macavity Awards for "Catering to Nobody." She won the Anthony Award for Best Short Story in 1992.

After attending Stanford University. Her previous books include "Killer Pancake," "The Cereal Murders," "The Last Suppers," and "Dying for Chocolate."

"Singing In A Strange Land" Opens Theatre X Season

Milwaukee — A new play written by Sheri

Williams Pannell, "Singing In A Strange Land," will open the 1996-97 Theatre X season. "Singing In A Strange Land," opens September 19th and runs through October 6th.

The play will be directed by Adolphus Ward and features Ms. Pannell as Valena McCall, Robin Lewis Abston, Evelyn "Bahtyah" E. Jones, Willie Abney and Rochelle Streeter-Jackson. "Singing In A Strange Land" is the story of an African-American singer's progression from vaudeville through gospel to opera. This play is set in 1928 and follows the career of a talented and ambitious singer, Valena McCall, and her husband-manager, with Jim Crow in full force, this play is about the desire to succeed, overcoming obstacles; and the price of success.

"Singing In A Strange Land," is underwritten by Miller Brewing Company and The City of Milwaukee Arts Board. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Ticket price \$16.00. Friday/Saturday, 8:00 p.m. Ticket price \$18.00. Sunday, 3:00 p.m. Ticket

price \$16.00. Wednesday evenings are "pay what you can" (\$5.00 suggested donation/tickets available at the door only.) Senior citizen, student and group discounts are available. For ticket information, call the Broadway Theatre Center box office (414) 291-7800.

Marin-Price Galleries to Host Patrick Farrell One-Man Show

Washington D.C — The Marin-Price Galleries of Washington D.C. and Maryland will mount a one-man show of Milwaukee artist Patrick Farrell's recent work at the gallery's Chevy Chase location. The gallery will display Farrell's popular still-life and landscape oil paintings for this mid autumn exhibition. The gallery plans an opening reception for the artist on Saturday evening, October the 5th. This will be Farrell's fourth one-man show in the Washington D.C. area since 1991.

This Milwaukee painter with a national reputation, has been exhibiting his work for over twenty years, resulting in his having had over twenty-five solo exhibitions and being included in countless group exhibitions. Patrick Farrell's work illustrates a natural talent that has developed without formal art training of any kind. His exploration of the demanding style of painting known as "magic-realism" has earned him a noteworthy place among leading painters. Recent recognition from his peers includes the John Young-Hunter Memorial Award honoring his work at the 81st Allied Artists of America Exhibition, held at the National Arts Club in New York City. This past summer a major retrospective exhibition of Farrell's paintings was exhibited at the Anderson Arts Center in Kenosha.

The Marin-Price Galleries, in the Washington, D.C. suburban Maryland upscale community of Chevy Chase, is located north of the Capitol at 7022 Wisconsin Avenue. The Patrick Farrell exhibition runs through October 25th. For additional information the gallery can be reached at (301) 718-0622, Francisco J. Marin-Price, Director.

Milwaukee Les/Gay/Bi/Trans Community Center Project



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For the Ears

by Jorge Cabal

Billie Ray Martin "Deadline For My Memories" Elektra Records



German born, London groomed Billie Ray Martin is described as a tech no torch-singer, who's making a splash with her anticipated debut album "Deadline For My Memories".

Billie Ray Martin can be described as a chameleon.

"I was always watching the Hit Parade type shows on TV when I was little," she says. "I was always soaking that up. The way I approach my music and my look is not a put-on. It's natural. There has never been any marketing involved, I design my own clothes, I write my own music. No one from my management or record company knows what I'm going to look like until I show up that day."

"Deadline For My Memories" is packed with energizing sound that makes you want to bounce around a dance floor wearing a nice, black, shiny, vinyl outfit like the cat-woman. I wouldn't quite crown Billie Ray Martin "diva" yet. That title respectfully belongs only to just a handful of female singers who have been and are still making a strong grove in music. But do crank up the the volume to "Deadline For My Memories" and bounce!

Ferron "Still Riot" Warner Bros. Records



I believe in the old cliché, "music has a way of soothing the savage beast." Music has such power of influence and ways of directing one's soul once those precious sounds penetrate one's

ears. I find that music can be a remedy to an ailing soul; "Still Riot," is a cure.

When I first received Ferron's "Still Riot" from Warner Bros., I was hesitant to listen to

it. Judging from appearance, I thought, oh great, another story-telling-woman CD just like the dozens or so out lately. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Ferron's "Still Riot" tugs on one's emotional strings without letting go. Her life is set to music, a wonderful marriage of lyrics and melodies that lures and invites. Ferron has found a brilliant working relationship between the lyrics of her songs and the melodies where the outcome is intelligent, witty and emotionally charged.

Ferron's voice does not have the power or range of a Linda Ronstadt, but it has a unique sound reminiscence of Julie London. "Still Riot" on the Warner Bros. label is a definite explosion of pure art form and pleasure for your ears.

Dana Bryant "Wishing From The Top" Warner Bros. Records



Picture this, a hot, very hot, humid day. The kind where the haze is so thick you can cut it with a knife. Your in a heat-struck daze and to your surprise you see a pool in your neighbors' yard and you think about the cool water bringing you some relief to your discomfort. You sneak in and dive into the pool without thinking how deep it might be. As the cool waters works it magic on your body, you begin to discover a strange new world all around you. Dana Bryant's "Wishing From The Top," is a journey into a pool of unknown.

"Wishing From The Top" is a meal of entertainment and education, a plate full of meat and potato. Nice portions of social commentary, jazz, rap and poetry. I found it to be intelligent and pulsating. An open invitation to the other side of the street that has more to offer if you look deeper. Dana Bryant takes you on a spiritual journey through southern landscapes, urban jungles, struggles of the

oppressed, torn emotions and cultural reformations.

A powerhouse, pulsating performance wanting to jump out of your CD player. Dana Bryant shines like a beam of light with this artistic endeavor. "Wishing From The Top" is to be played loud, to let your ears ring. Warning, "Wishing From The Top," may not be suitable for small closed minds.

Tory Beatty "I Just Came To Dance" District Records



Tory Beatty had his first independent release at twelve. Throughout his career came others, but none of his recordings have been introduced at a national level. The new

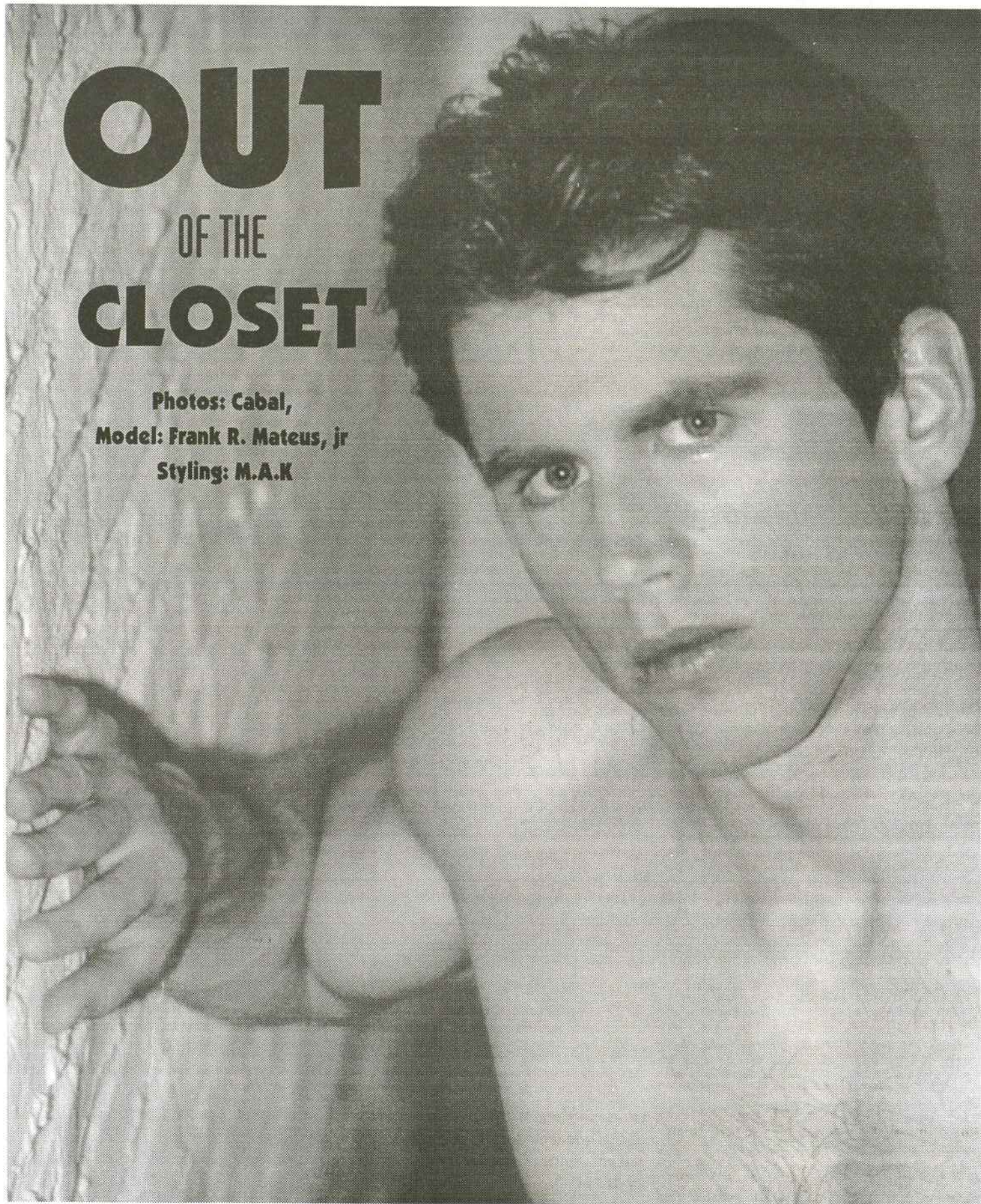
album, "I Just Came To Dance," mostly of original material except for a couple of remakes, is a compilation of songs and remixes from the last five years.

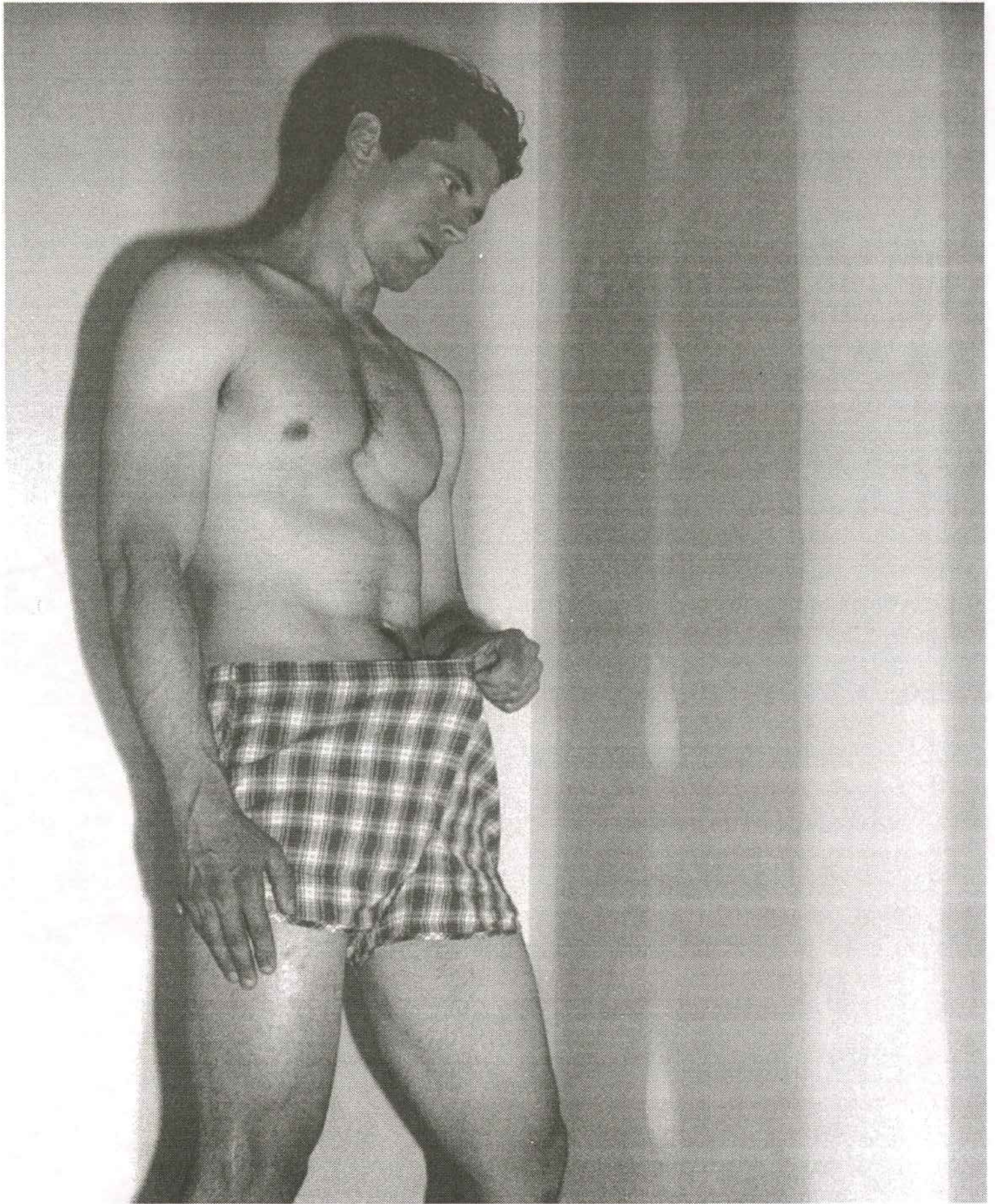
Most of the songs in "I Just Came To Dance" were produced and co-written by Michael Bakst, when Tory fronted the group "Proposition." Lewis Martinee, who has produced numerous artists such as: Expose, Debbie Gibson, and the Pet Shop Boys, produced two tracks. Famed DJ David Knapp added production and remixes to the title track.

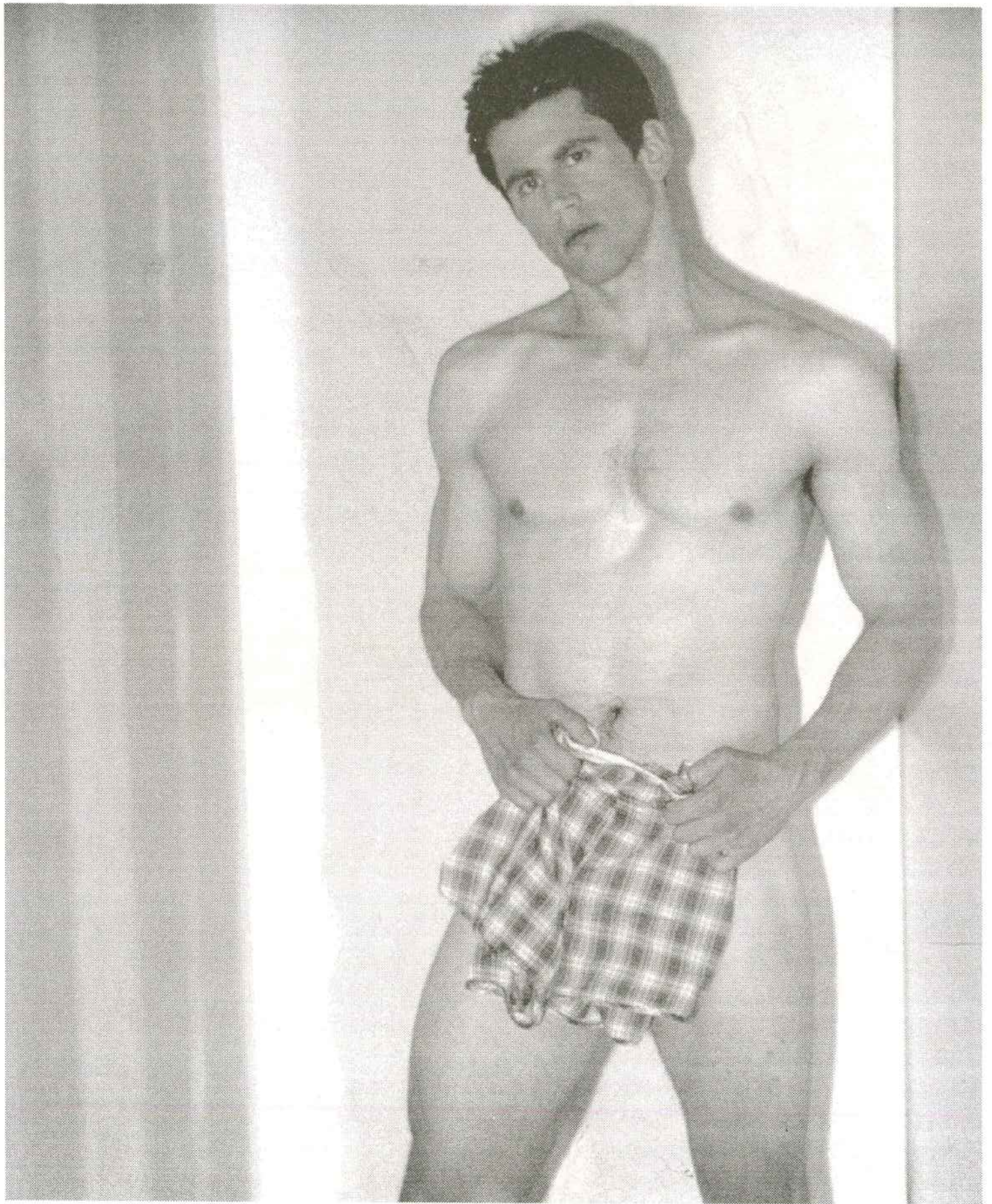
I found "I Just Came To Dance," full of energy and very generous with the "dance beat." I was sweating just listening to the CD. I was also surprised to hear such a velvety rich voice interpreting these songs coming out of a well define Tory Beatty on the CD cover. He looks like he should be singing in a lower key. "I Just Came To Dance," on the District Records label is full of energy and fun for the ears.

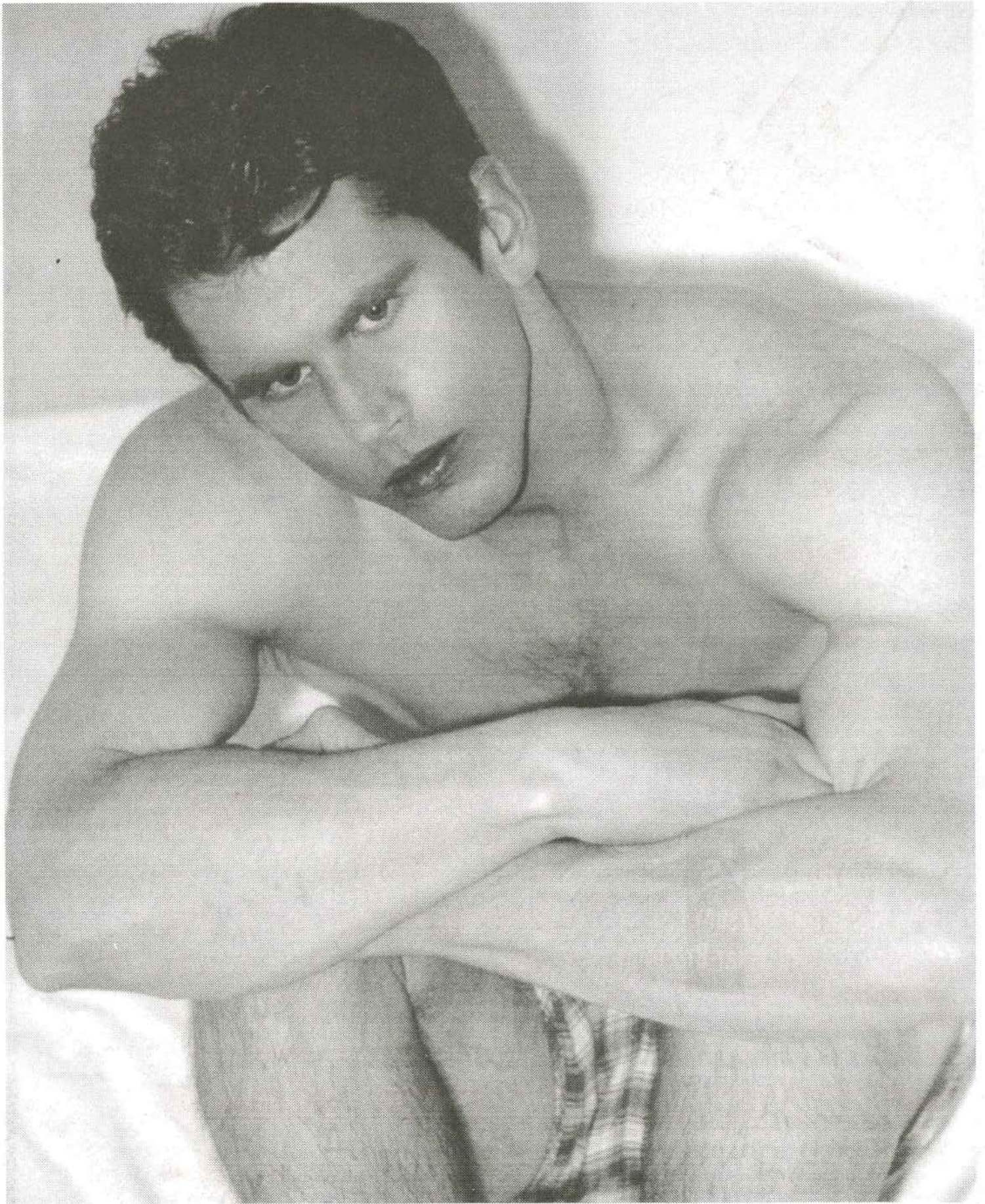
OUT OF THE CLOSET

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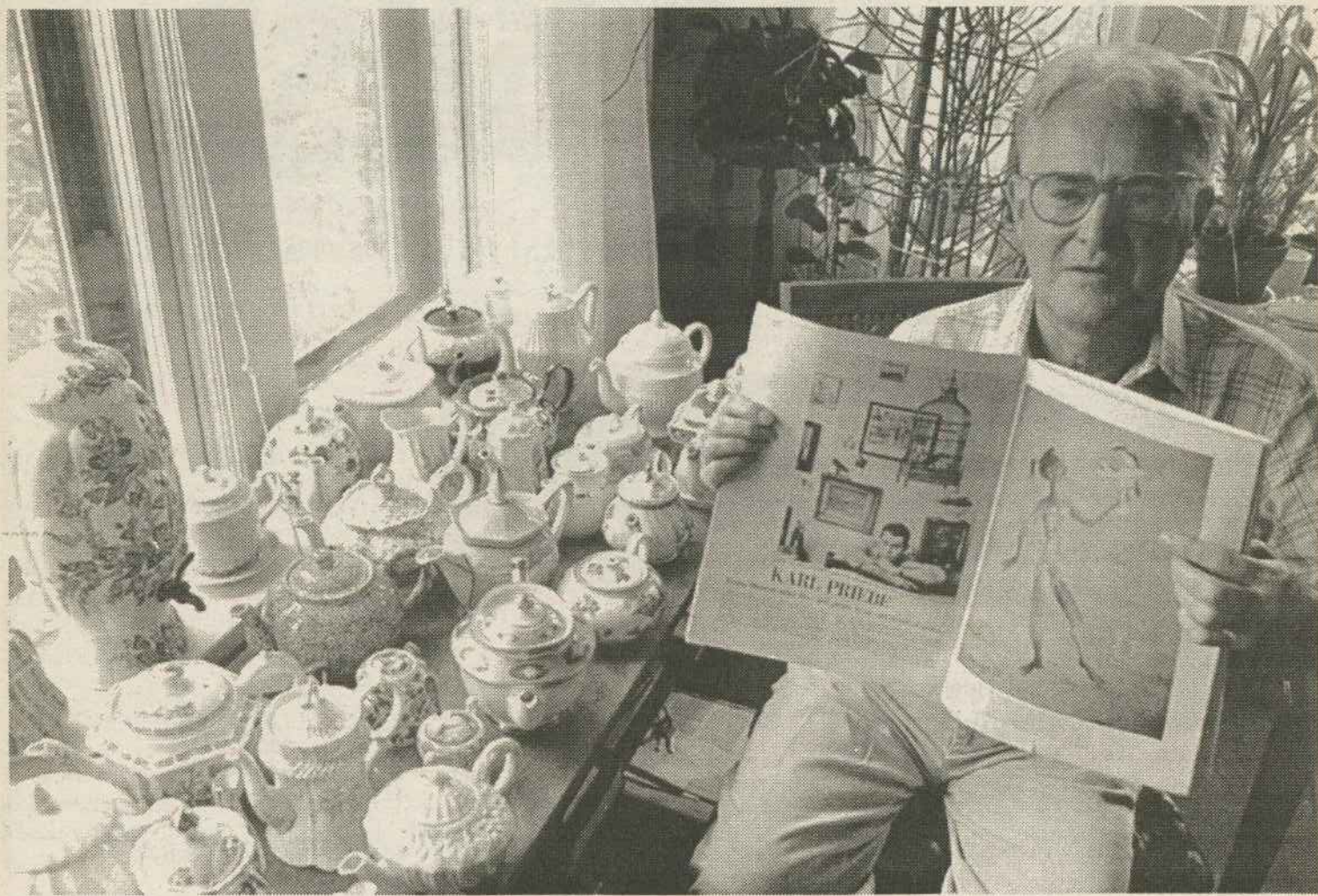


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Preferentially

Those who knew the late Karl Priebe speak of the artistic circle that surrounded him with a sort of cult enthusiasm. Sensing that a new generation is ready to appreciate this Milwaukee legend, collector George Walker fondly remembers the artist he championed.



Priebe

Part one: TEACUP SOCIETY

I've been invited for tea at the east side home of one of Milwaukee's most intrepid art collectors. But I'm uncomfortably ignorant of the proper etiquette. I gather that it is an appalling social blunder to ask for both lemon *and* sugar. I have no idea if a person is really expected to hold his little pinky high in the air. Is this good etiquette or just blatant effeminacy? Perhaps I should just stick to wine. Joining us is artist Jerome Karidis and Q-Voice Assistant Editor Ed Grover. As we arrive I forget insecurity and find myself immediately delighted by George Walker's soft spoken charm, the encircling good taste of the decor, and a tea table that is casually inviting. It is hard to see the walls. Every conceivable bit of space has been utilized in the loving display of an art collection that has taken a lifetime to accumulate.

Chatter begins even before we are seated. Unlike the others, I never personally knew Priebe. I am bombarded with anecdotes and information of all kinds. It is the kind of reverential oral history Priebe enthusiasts excel at.

Ed Grover: After my father died in 1951 there was an antique dealer in Hartland named Albert Galloway. Albert sort of took me under his wing. He helped me get through the funeral with a flask in his pocket. I was going over to Albert's and doing a lot of drinking, that's where I really learned how. He introduced me to Ed Heth and that whole crowd. I started to come in for tea at Ellen Barrows' in the Cudahy Tower. She was sort of everyone's entry into the Milwaukee art scene.

Jerome Karidis: Oh Goodness! That brings back memories!

Ed Grover: I'm going to drop names like crazy dear! Albert suggested that I meet Karl Priebe. He was teaching at the old Layton Gallery on Jefferson at the time. Pretty soon I was going to his place near the Shorecrest. There were parties galore! I learned how to make Karl's chili with green olives and whatever else was at hand.

George Walker: The parties included everyone in Milwaukee who was a musician or an artist, plus a lot of people who were just plain everyday Karl Priebe fans. The parties lasted all day, and then Karl would say 'don't leave me, don't leave me' and people would end up staying until four in the morning. It was a lot of fun.

Ed Grover: Remember when they had those big costume balls? I think they were called *The Bal du Lac*, and were quite the event."

Jerome Karidis: You never knew who would be there. Gertrude Abercrombie was a regular and so was Margaret Fish who ended up at

the Charles Allis Art Museum. Dizzy Gillespie would come when he was in town. Billie Holiday was at the parties whenever she was around. There was a jazz club on North Avenue where she would perform. She'd bring her little dog.

George Walker: Priebe was very *au courant* in that he loved the rock groups when they first came out. We were all very good friends with the Rainy Day, which was a popular rock group in Milwaukee at that time.

Jerome Karidis: Priebe was photographed by Arnold Newman who came in from New York for the big article in *Life* magazine. Karl and I were good friends. I was always interested in art. When I was a little child I was already designing costumes for Mae West!

Waswo: Did she wear them?

Jerome Karidis: (laughter) Certainly not! But I did!

Ed Grover: And remember Freddy Muhs? Musseta Muhs!

Jerome Karidis: Freddy was an art historian who taught at the old Layton School of Art. What ever happened to him?

George Walker: (somerly) They found him on the floor of his apartment.

part two: PORTRAIT OF A COLLECTOR

Two weeks later I am once again enjoying the company of George Walker. This time we are alone, and George rambles uninterrupted.

He was born in Fort Wayne Indiana in 1930. His father was a baker, and his mother an avid gardener. At an early age George developed a taste for pop music. He listened to old radio, the hit parade, and the Lucky Strike programs with Dinah Shore and Jo Stafford. He never considered himself an artist, though he drew well in school. "I remember in Lutheran Grade School I drew a picture of Louie Armstrong that I copied out of a magazine. My teacher thought that was a terrible sin! In those days good kids weren't suppose to idolize black men, especially jazz artists!

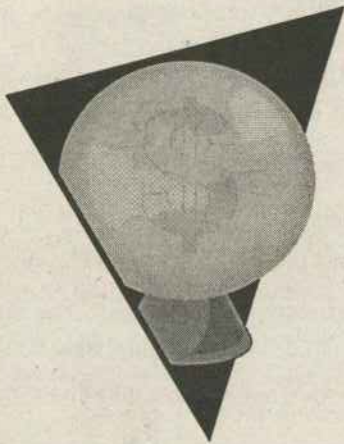
Missouri Synod Lutherans had funny ideas back then and probably still do."

After graduating from the University of Indiana with a degree in Chemistry, George joined the Army and found himself stationed in England, spending most of his time in London. "I think that's when I first started becoming really familiar with the jazz world and the art

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world. I remember being thrilled at seeing Herb Jeffries from the Duke Ellington band. He was a great big gorgeous singer and he was sitting on the floor right in front of me in one of those very Bohemian London clubs.'

"I got out of the Army in 1955 and was hired by the Pennsylvania Railroad in Chicago. The first artist that I met in Chicago was Dale Bernard. He was doing sort of impressionistic still lifes at that time. Dale had big connections with the art field. He knew Gertrude Abercrombie. He knew everyone. I collected a lot of his pictures at the time. I guess he was the first artist that I ever started seriously collecting."

In 1960 George was transferred, leaving behind old friends in Chicago but discovering new acquaintances in Milwaukee. "When I moved to Milwaukee my old friend Dale came up from Chicago and took me to the farmhouse that Karl Priebe was then living in. I was so impressed that a week later I bought two pictures from Karl. My first Priebe! I fell in love with his art immediately.

I was shown the Priebe article in the November 1947 issue of *Life Magazine*. I was just really knocked out. I was very attracted to him as an artist and as a friend. Karl was one of those very very good friends, he's one of the few people that I've met that I've really treasured. He was loyal, fascinating, and there was always something going on. Famous jazz musicians would hang around his house when they were in town. Things like that were exciting to me."

There is a sort of symbiotic relationship that develops between artists and collectors. The collector, through purchases, provides the artist with financial support. Wise collectors know how to promote their chosen artists and protect their investments. The artist in turn provides a steady output of hopefully ever more sophisticated work. The artist also provides the collector with a fantasy life, an oftentimes Bohemian existence that his patron may be unable to enjoy himself.

By the time George Walker arrived on the scene, Karl Priebe had already established a stellar reputation. An artist who had at one time painted on discarded shirt boards because he couldn't afford better, Priebe had risen to prominence locally, shown widely in New York at Perles Galleries, and had even seen his work displayed as far off as Japan. He was known for magical depictions of black women and men, tiny birds, fragile eggs, and enchanted dreamscapes. He masterly handled casein, building up glaze after glaze until his paintings held a beguiling depth and luminescence.

"I think that it was Ed Heth who helped Priebe meet all the right New York people. Heth wrote novels. *Any Number Can Play* was made into a Clark Gable/Audrey Totter film. Heth was a big star in the Milwaukee firmament at the time. I'm quite sure it was Ed Heth who introduced Priebe to Karl van Vechten, who was a prominent New York photographer and writer. Heth and van Vechten helped Priebe get into the very top galleries.'

"Then of course Priebe met Billie Holiday. She'd come to his shows in New York. Just the fact that she was such a very big star helped him a lot. Dizzy Gillespie started to show up at his shows. Karl had many black friends back when it wasn't fashionable, when segregation was still in effect. I remember one time Karl took Dizzy Gillespie to the old Frenchies restaurant. He felt that they were not treated too warmly. Not that they were asked to leave or anything, just that they treated

A gorgeous young black man, a boxer, came in and sat down with them. Billie [Holiday] announced that she had 'had a piece of him,' and Karl said 'And I know what piece!'

him more shabby than if he had come alone without a black friend. One time Karl and I and one of Karl's black friends went to some supper club on the far west side. As soon as we walked in the pianist broke into *The Darktown Strutters Ball*. I never saw Karl so angry. He told the management. He often walked out of situations like these. But in those days they were probably happy to see him and his black friends go. Hopefully society has changed some since those days."

George Walker's undying passion for collecting became more and more preferentially Priebe. Not that other artists escaped notice.

"I became friends with William Christian. This was in the mid-sixties, in the heyday of the Groppi movement. Christian was a black man who had painted a black Jesus that had achieved some notoriety. He also painted portraits of many of Groppi's commandos. But William sort of faded off the scene because he was in prison so often. He was trafficking in heroin. He was, you might say, an habitual criminal. But he was also a fantastic artist. Once I gave him a lot of magazines I had collected pertaining to Marilyn Monroe. I was really angry when these ended up in prison with him. But he gave them back to me in the form of a collage that I treasure to this day. He died a few years ago, and James Auer wrote a very nice tribute to him in the *Milwaukee Journal*."

"I also collected Joanna Poehlmann and Jerry Karidis. I'm still enchanted with Karidis's work. His sense of fantasy and that wild sense of humor. For a while I helped run a small art gallery back in Indiana, and I made sure that they strongly promoted Karidis. Of course all of these people somehow revolved around Karl. Priebe was always at the center of it all. Even the small Andy Warhol shoe painting that I have found its way to me through Priebe. I started to collect Victorian tumblers because Karl collected them. He use to have tumblers all over, and when you went to his place he'd let you chose one to use for the night. I thought that was pretty nifty so here I am collecting tumblers too. And tea

pots! I have close to one hundred of them."

On this second visit George and I have been liberally sipping wine, forgetting the formalities of afternoon tea. I can't help but let my eyes wander around the room. Every inch covered with the works of Karidis, Christian, and Priebe.

"There are so many stories. There was the time Karidis and Priebe met Billie Holiday at a small south side Chicago club. She was wearing a white dress and drinking gin and seven up. A gorgeous young black man, a boxer, came in and sat down with them. Billy announced that she had 'had a piece of him', and Karl said 'And I know what piece!' They all giggled and ended up in a park drinking the day away. Finally it was a struggle to get Billie and themselves sobered up for her late night show."

"I think the artists became friends of mine and their works became friends of mine. It is

hard to know which happened first. Karl died in 1976. All of these pictures have become friends to me. I've loaned some of my Priebe collection for shows at the Charles Allis and Haggerty museums. A few years ago at the Chicago Jazz Festival Dizzy Gillespie dedicated a song to 'a great Milwaukee artist, Karl Priebe'. Hopefully the younger generation will discover Karl as the great artist he was. I don't think the average Milwaukeean knows who Priebe is these days. That is very sad. Midwesterners don't seem to remember their artists like New Yorkers do. But collecting has always been a joy to me. I would gladly do it all again.

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Bob Zwicky, age 50 and Bob Thompson, age 71 are known affectionately (and literally around the world), as simply "The Bobs." In a relationship that spans 25 years, they have actively participated in our community for nearly that long, and show no signs of slowing down. In a time when long term relationships of any kind are often measured by months instead of years, their relationship seems fresh and honest. On a recent Sunday afternoon, I had the chance to talk with The Bobs about their relationship, GAMMA and travel.

QV: How do people tell you apart? Are you Bob number one, or is there...

BZ: No, we go by our last initials. I'm "Z" and he's "T". Since we were both called Bob by our families, we inherited those names and the people around the city know us as "The Bobs." We even have that on our mailbox.

QV: I guess we could start with an easy one... "How did you meet?"

BT: (Chuckling) Oh, that's very strange, because I was still married at the time and a friend of mine wanted to go down to the Kenosha steam baths and he had no transportation so he asked me if I would drive him. I was reluctant to go down there; I was paranoid as it was, and so I took him down there and we went into the steam bath which was black—there were no lights at all—and we were talking away and then we heard someone coming. As the door opened this figure was in shadow against the light and looked just like a policeman with a crew cut and all of that. I thought I was going to be arrested and my name was going to be plastered all over the newspapers. We sat there very quietly. I didn't say a word for almost an hour and then Bob was getting ready to leave because — he had no experience, and neither did I. If this was the way it was going to be, it didn't seem like there was a lot of future in it.

BZ: I had just been discharged from the Navy and I found a gay guide in San Francisco—I was discharged from Alameda—and I'd not had any gay experience before this and decided that I would... It seemed really interesting that there was this many places listed in this guide. I thought, well, when I get back to Wisconsin—my home town is

Oshkosh, and nothing was happening in Oshkosh and nothing was listed. Milwaukee was listed and that seemed kind of big for me, but Kenosha seemed like a place I could handle. That's how I happened to wind up at the Kenosha baths. On a Saturday morning I was driving through after getting my discharge and that's where we met.

BT: I'm not a public performer. Nothing happened in the steam baths (laughter). We sat out in the car and talked for a long time and steamed up the windows—it was September 16th; that's our 25th anniversary. We exchanged names and addresses and when Bob got back to Oshkosh he took a job that he really didn't like. We stayed in touch and I said, "Why don't you come down to Milwaukee?" He said

he didn't know anybody here. I told him that I did and offered to send him some applications for jobs. Bob had a degree in accounting, so we had a basis there for a job search. I sent him an application from Arthur Anderson and from Robert Baird. He sent them in and was contacted for an interview and he came to Milwaukee and interviewed at Robert Baird, and they hired him. And then, they wanted him to start right away, so he moved in with my wife and me in our house (more laughter).

QV: And, that was interesting?

BZ: She did not know of his leanings and, yes, he came over to share the spare bedroom. About a year later they went through a divorce. It was at that point we moved in together and have been living together ever since.

QV: When you first met did you think you would be together for this long?

BZ: I have no idea. Because this was my first gay experience ever, I had



The Bobs

no expectations whatsoever as to what might happen in the future. I do know that it took me about a year to tell Bob that I loved him. He knew it right away and said that he had had some other gay experiences before me.

BT: In fact, I was involved with someone at the time we met. He was a black man who was a model here in Milwaukee. We broke up and Bob and I continued our relationship.

QV: Since you became involved and until now, how has the gay experience changed for you, being a couple?

BZ: We got involved politically, right away, when we first met. We were part of the founding group of the Gay People's Union. This was about 25 years ago. We actually marched in the first Gay Pride Parade that Milwaukee ever had. We've been involved in the community ever since that time. We worked behind the scenes at the time Wisconsin's Gay

Rights Bill came up. We worked with a lot of pastors and ministry in churches around the state, giving lectures or talks.

BT: Leon Rouse was collecting signatures of various religious organizations and we were helping Leon get those signatures to present to the legislature.

QV: How are things different, do you think?

BT: The police were clamping down on the gay community ... people like Allan Hess and Eldon Murray and others in Gay Peoples Union were talking with the police chief at that time ... they were trying to arrive at some sort of negotiated agreement where they wouldn't raid the gay bars and the places where gay people went just because they were gay. There were no illegal activities going on; it was just that they were "down" on gay people. We felt that attitude was all wrong.

BZ: We see more gay people out these days. I think there's more organizations that people can refer to and "come out" with.

BT: Then there was the beginnings of what is now GAMMA. We used to go roller skating with that organization at the Pius XII high school gym. We were also involved with Integrity/Dignity because that was another organization that was a place you could meet people and find common interests and friendships.

QV: Now your big involvement is with GAMMA?

BZ: That is one of the involvements. We are with other organizations too, but GAMMA, because it's a big umbrella organization that takes in not only athletics—I'm a Physical Education teacher—so it was natural to go along that route. We originally wondered, when we first started, "Well, isn't there some other place where we could meet other people like ourselves that like camping, like sports," and GAMMA was it. Actually, GAMMA started in 1978 as a touch football group. Now it's evolved into a cultural/social group. We have what we call "SOAR" activities: Social, Outdoor, Athletic, Recreational activities.

QV: What types of activities does GAMMA get involved with?

BZ: You name it and we probably have done it. There's everything from sky diving, mountain climbing, camping—we've done the Pecos Wilderness, we've rafted down the river gorge in the Grand Canyon.

BT: There are other activities coming up: Hiking in the Kettle Moraine, there's a bicycle ride that took place this weekend out to Dousman, there was a picnic in Lake Park during the second weekend...

BZ: That was open to the entire community, not just GAMMA members. A lot of our activities are open to everybody. Usually there's the Iroquois boat trip, there's a lot of social events—we have a monthly "Circle", which is just a social get-together and during ten minutes of that meeting we announce what's going on for the next month.

BT: There are also groups that like to go to Chicago to the museum down there. And the Botanical Gardens and there are a number of people who go to the Frank Lloyd Wright tours.

BZ: People can pick and choose the events. Our members are the event managers. If we don't have an event and they want something they simply make it up and we publicize it in our newsletter and they run it. Some events have four people, some events have 40 and 50 and 60 people. It just depends.

QV: How many members do you have?

BZ: Just under 200 at this point. We've had as many as 250. It varies and goes up and down. Then, of course, they all bring their guests, so



Bob Thompson (left) and Bob Zwicky (right)

we have potential.

BT: It's an organization at which one can find people with common interests. When Bob and I were camping and canoeing in the Canadian Boundary waters, we would go alone because we didn't know of any others who were interested in doing things like that. Now GAMMA has such a broad interest group that if somebody wants to do something, all they have to do is call up and say, "Hey, would you like to go camping? Or, would you like to hiking? Or, I'm going to go to Chicago this weekend, or Spring Green. Or, I'm going out to Prairie Garden Inn in Lodi—which is a gay Bed and Breakfast—there are terrific guys who run it—Todd Olson and his partner ... and we'll go to Mazomanie nude beach.

BZ: GAMMA has also offered an opportunity for people to meet their future spouses. A lot of the people that have gotten together, and have been together for a while, have met at GAMMA.

QV: It sounds like you guys like to travel.

BZ: We have traveled extensively over the 25 years we've been together. We've been to pretty much every country in the world. This summer we were in Greece and Turkey together.

QV: How was that?

BZ: Wonderful.

BT: What an exciting experience.

BZ: Talk about history, we're talking six thousand years of history here.

BT: To have read about Greece and Turkey and especially the Biblical journeys of Paul in Corinth and Ephesus, which are two of the important cities in the Bible, and to be able to go and visit there and see firsthand what it looked like, how big it was, what its proximity to Athens and the Aegean sea was and how everything worked together. It really solidifies the picture that one has in one's mind's eye. You can put it together. That was truly an experience that we found valuable in our own lives.

QV: If you had to pick one place that you could go back to, what would that be?

BT: Oh, good God.

BZ: I think that both of us would kind of agree on Australia.

BT: Well, I like Australia. I used to live in Australia just outside of Brisbane a little town called Ipswich.

BZ: of course, there are so many places that we'd like to go back to again, only because you're always limited in time.

BT: It's so fascinating and you spend so little time there when you're traveling—you know, you have a vacation of two weeks, so how much.

BT: We have been to Hawaii 57 times.

QV: Is that a record?

BZ: I think it is. One time we went six times in the same year. That was supposedly a bad year for me—I had an operation and a broken leg, but I recovered in Hawaii very nicely, thank you.

BT: The beaches and sun were great for recovery.

QV: You have been together quite a while and have seen many couples come together. Is there any advice you could give a gay couple starting a relationship?

BZ: Keep working at the relationship. It's so easy to give up on relationships and, yes, there are a lot of bumps that you have to overcome. If you keep working at it and don't give up right away it's worth it.

BT: One has to have a lot of patience. Each of us has his own little quirks the other person has to deal with. You know, we came from such diverse backgrounds. I came from a small farming community in Illinois and Bob came from Oshkosh, which is not a large city, but he was more 'citified' than I was.

BZ: I was much more liberal in my thinking. Bob is very conservative. Plus, there's a 21 year age difference.

BT: There were a lot of adjustments I had to make in my own thinking and my own life. Bob, on the other hand, had a different set of values and looked at situations differently from myself. I had to learn to ...

BZ: We had to learn to communicate with each other. Actually, some-

times we fought and it was those fights that brought out the communication because sometimes you hold back. You don't want to offend and little things build up, and then all of a sudden some fight develops and that's when everything comes out. So, actually it's all necessary.

QV: I would like to know what you really admire about each other?

BZ: Oh, there's many things. His knowledge and his background really helped me. It kept us together.

BT: I admire the values that Bob has in his life. He was a member of the Boy Scouts and is an Eagle Scout and he had so many admirable qualities that it's really hard to pick out one. But I think the scouting embodies most of the things that I admire about Bob. He's dependable, he's trustworthy, he's kind and generous. It just makes the person.

BZ: Bob was the one who taught me to be more generous with others. He's give our house away to other people and it's kind of the church background, being the minister and everything he is. It's that kind of attitude, so I was very tight. I'm one of 13 kids. I have eight sisters and four brothers and being the oldest boy I always had to earn my way through—I worked my way through college—I was very tight with the penny. He taught me to be more generous.

BT: We have a good relationship.

BZ: It's been a happy 25 years. And, luckily we've had the health to go with it, because that's number one. Money is far from number one.

BT: In my prayers every night I tell God how much I appreciate all the blessings we have had together. And, there have been so many of them.

BZ: When Bob was married his blood pressure was out of this world, he had stress levels that were just ... Now, I believe he's much calmer.

BZ: We also have totally different interests. I do all of the outside work around the house and he's great indoors with the cooking and things like that. We don't cross each other's path.

QV: Who does the dishes?

BZ: I do the dishes. I do the clean up after parties. We have a lot of get-togethers at our place because he throws a lot of dinner parties. So, yes, he dirties every pan in the place (laughter) and I get to clean them. We each have our responsibilities and somehow everything works out fine.

BT: Yeah, that's true.

BZ: I guess we've seen that in other relationships where they kind of work out who's got what duties.

BT: I think that's important, too. Each of us has his own duties and it seems to have fallen in place.

BZ: I do let him clean his own bathroom (laughter).

QV: Is there anything that I've missed?

BT: One thing that I think would be important for young couples who are meeting is that you have to have two concerned people. You have to have people who are willing to work at the relationship and you can't give up at the first sign of trouble. You have to be patient with one another and you have to have a big measure of humility and forgiveness.

BZ: sometimes you have to say you're sorry, when you know in fact that it's the other guy who was wrong (laughter).

BT: And another thing, we don't beat on one another either.

BZ: You need a good sense of humor, too.

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My Heavy Cloak

by Sue Silvermarie

The middle-aged social worker
looks to me like a fresh kid.
Once I only worked in places like this.
Now I'm one of them.

All my days I kept my life
safe and private under a heavy cloak.
Now she wants to know
everything about me.

Perhaps I shall insist,
finally, upon being seen.
Here's where one
of us is seen.

I have a well-loved life,
invisible all these years.
I have a well-loved voice
but no echo came back to make it real.

My long and necessary habit
muffled everything about me.
Perhaps it's time to answer this young woman,
to cast off the safety that erased me.

If I speak the truth of who I am
and the fears
which have cloaked me all these years,
there may be few to understand.

Those of my kind I suppose.
How sweet to find my allies,
and hang the rest.
Unless the rest hang me.

This young woman has no idea
what she's asking.
But how tired I am of hiding.
How weary of the weight
of silence.



Sue Silvermarie is a poet, social worker and certified poetry therapist who now lives in Ontario, Wisconsin and is concentrating on her writing. Sue also volunteers her time at an Alzheimer's day center in Sparta, Wisconsin. This poem is from her new book "Tales From my Teachers on the Alzheimer's Unit" pub-

lished by Family Service America. Sue's audiotape of original poems: "Menopausal Lust" is available for \$12 postpaid. Write to: Sue Silvermarie, Rt. 1, Box 220, Ontario, WI 54651.

—Ed Grover, Photo by Waswo

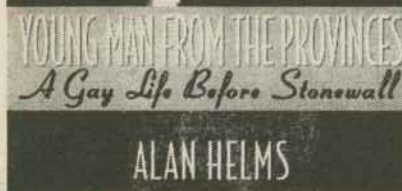


Book Shelf

Review by Ed Grover



Life in New York Before Stonewall by Alan Helms



Last May when I was in New York, I had the pleasure of meeting a gay man who was also staying with my host, Stan Hura, as his Sutton Place condo. I had known that Stan "knew everybody", but one morning when Clive, my fellow guest, brought out "Young Man from the Provinces" by Alan Helms and proceeded to "tell all" about the author and Stan joined in with more stories,

I knew I had to find time to read this book.

Clive, who was in the original cast of "A Chorus Line" and now lives in Fort Lauderdale and the Bahamas, was in the city for lots of theater with Alan and a series of readings and book parties to celebrate the

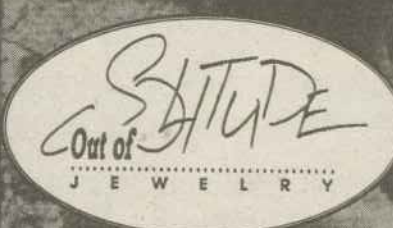
success of "Young Man". When Clive told Alan that I was reading his book and was also from the Midwest, that I found many similarities with both our early lives and that I wanted to mention the book in the Q.Voice Special Gay and Lesbian Senior issue, he graciously signed and gave me my own copy inscribed "The devil made me do it!"

Shortly after I returned to Milwaukee, Stan and I had a long phone conversation filled with laughter as Stan recounted how he used to bring Alan food from the deli during one of his low points (while he was living in the same building as Noel Coward), and stay for drugs and sex, but then Stan had lost track of him. While I never got the chance to meet Alan, after reading the book I came home feeling I had, and that there was something shared, as we had both lived through some exciting times and been to some of the same places—New York, the Village, Fire Island Pines, for starters. I would certainly recommend this book to anyone as a refreshing way to find out what it was like to live in the golden age of New York before Stonewall and AIDS.

Edmund White writes on the back cover: "Alan Helms was the most famous piece of ass of my generation. We called him 'Scandal Boy' and constructed endless gossip around him. What Denham Fouts was to Truman Capote and Christopher Isherwood, Alan Helms was to us. When Cassanova was too old to pursue his amorous career, he became a librarian and wrote his memoir; Alan became a professor and has

Designs by Charles P. Bahringer

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written his autobiography, every bit as riveting as Casanova's."

Terrance McNally, whose current hit 'Master Class' won this year's Tony, writes: "Alan Helms was the young man I wanted to be. This book was like reading the autobiography of the life I didn't have. I read it with recognition of the long, painful journey so many of us have towards some kind of maturity. I salute his courage and celebrate the self-knowledge he has earned. He has captured perfectly the world of the golden Boyman."

Gay life in New York City in the 1950s and '60s was an entirely different world from today. Intensely secretive and desperately determined to stay that way, its action took place behind the unmarked doors of bars and in apartments where the shades were always drawn. Underlying the frenetic living and high hilarity was a sense of shame that was inevitable during a time when shock treatment and lobotomies were considered acceptable as "cures" for homosexuality.

In "Young Man From The Provinces," Alan Helms tells his story of those times. Escaping from a painful Midwestern adolescence to the scholarly refuge of Columbia University, Alan threw himself headlong into New York's gay world. Denied a Rhodes scholarship because of his sexual orientation, he turned his back on academia and became a successful model and stage actor, moving on glamorous circles whose members included Anthony Perkins, Stephen Sondheim, Marlene Dietrich, Noel Coward, Leonard Bernstein, and Edward Albee. Alan attended glittering parties, traveled around the world with his lover, and spent summers on Fire Island immersed in the company of young, beautiful men.

After starting a new life in Boston in the early 1970s, Alan realized that the gay social world was changing drastically and that he was facing middle age by himself. He subsequently battled drug abuse and severe depression, but his biggest battle was the struggle for self-acceptance and his attempt to build a better life. His success helped him remain strong as he faced his mother's death from cancer in the 1980s and the deaths of many of his friends and former lovers from AIDS—more than 80 and still climbing.

Writing with humor, insight, and brutal candor, but above all from the perspective of a survivor, Alan Helms reveals in "Young Man From The Provinces" a fascinating, vanished world.

Alan Helms lives in Boston, where he is a professor of literature at the University of Massachusetts.

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Nun of the Above

by Lesleá Newman



Here's a quiz for all you gay history buffs: what occurred on August 5th, 1962?

- A) Marilyn Monroe died.
- B) Flash entered the convent.
- C) All of the above.

The correct answer is C. For 200 bonus points, choose one:

- A) Marilyn Monroe, upon hearing that Flash was no longer available, did herself in
- B) Flash, after crossing M.M.'s name off her list of potential girlfriends, took a vow of chastity
- C) Sister Flash ain't telling.

Around August 1st, my beloved grows nostalgic for the nunnery. She shows me photos of Mother Masochist kneeling on a cheese grater and Sister Sadist flicking her whip. She tries to deny yet again that she and Sister Lola Brigid had a Particular Friendship going, but I am not convinced.

Each year we observe the day Flash entered the convent. We've seen Nonsense, Sister Act, The Singing Nun, and The Flying Nun. Last year we got drunk on a bottle of Blue Nun, which is a tough act to follow. Luckily Flash has the answer.

"Look what came in the mail today," she says. "An invitation to Sister Mike's Golden Anniversary. She's been a nun for fifty years."

"How come this says Sister Mary Maria Marie?"

"That's her official name," Flash says, "but to us nuns she was always Sister Mike."

"Are we going?"

"I wouldn't miss it," Flash says. "The Sisters of Perpetual Latency are known for their parties. And besides, it's on August 5th, and you know what that means." Flash folds her hands and an angelic look appears on her face. "God works in mysterious ways," she says, proving you can take the nun out of the convent, but you can't take the convent out of the ex-nun.

August 5th dawns bright and sunny. We climb into Flash's car, and before I can sing "Like a Prayer" for the twentieth time, we arrive at Flash's alma mater. "Let's go in the main entrance," Flash says. We enter a great, deserted hall and a voice booms out of nowhere, "You're

late, Sister Flash." My beloved starts shaking like the cowardly lion in that scene where Dorothy and company meet the Wizard of Oz.

"Relax, Flash." I say. "Who do you think that was, God?"

"No, w-w-worse," she stammers. "M-M-Mother G-G-General."

Mother General? Should I salute? Before I can ask, the Grand Poobah of Mothers comes out from behind a curtain. Since her presence has reduced my brave butch into a mass of quivering Jell-O, I step forward. "Hello, Mother General. I'm..."

"Silence!" Mother General thunders. I run shrieking back to Flash. "The Great and Powerful Mother General knows who you are and why you have come. And I have every intention of granting your wish to see Sister Mary Maria Marie."

"Oh, th-th-thank you, M-M-Mother G-G-General." Flash trembles on her knees.

"Silence!" Mother General barks again. "Off with you to the social hall, before I change my mind."

"C'mon." Flash and I race to the social hall where Sister Mike's party is in full swing. In fact, a choir of alter boys whose members bear a striking resemblance to Lesbianville's Gay Men's Chorus are singing "I Will Follow Him."

"Sister Flash! I knew you'd come." Sister Mike has a deep, grovelly, Harvey Fierstein voice that makes this femme weak in the knees. She looks me up and down. "Who's this, your roommate?"

"No, Sister Mike. She's my companion."

"Your companion? Sister Flash, shame on you." Flash hangs her head. Sister Mike lets a moment pass before she growls, "I believe the respectful term is beloved companion."

Flash lifts her head. "You mean you approve?"

"Of course I approve." She slaps Flash on the back and my beloved companion goes flying. "Congratulations. She's a hell of a lot cuter than Sister Lola Brigid."

"Is she here?" I ask.

"No, my child," Sister Mike answers.

"Too bad," Flash says. Sister Mike throws her a dirty look. "Sister Flash, go get us some

refreshments."

Flash hurries off. Sister Mike whispers to me, "Can I ask you a personal question?"

"Sure."

"What do you think of these shoes?" Sister Mike lifts the hem of her habit discreetly.

"They're very nice, Sister. Chunky heels are in this year."

"You don't think they're too..." She lowers her husky voice even further, "...femmy?"

"No. On someone else maybe, but you can get away with it."

Satisfied, Sister Mike drops her skirt as Flash returns. "Isn't the food heavenly?" Sister Mike asks.

"The rolls are out of this world," I answer.

"Nun buns," Sister Mike says. "Take some for the road." She opens my pocketbook and dumps in a dozen.

"We'd better be going," Flash says.

"You can't leave now," Sister Mike rasps. "Mary and the Magdalenes are just about to start." And sure enough, the singing nuns break into "Song of the Soul."

"Flash," I whisper. "That's the Lesbian National Anthem."

"I believe Cris Williamson sings it," Sister Mike says in her scratchy voice. Then, as if on cue, all the nuns stand, form a circle, link arms and start swaying. As I stand there between Flash and Sister Mike, I ask myself:

A) Am I still at the convent, or have I been beamed up to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival?

B) Did Sister Mike just goose me on the behind, or was that a love pinch from Sister Flash?

C) Is that a nun bun in Mother General's pocket or is she just happy to see me?

Of course the correct answer to all three questions is, "I don't know." Because a sister is a sister, and Sisterhood is Powerful wherever you're lucky enough to find it.

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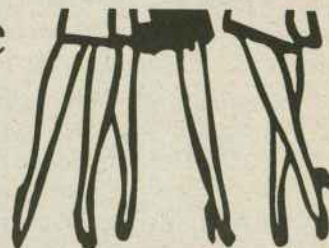
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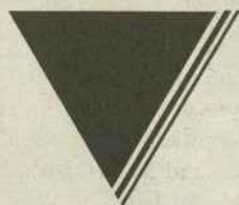
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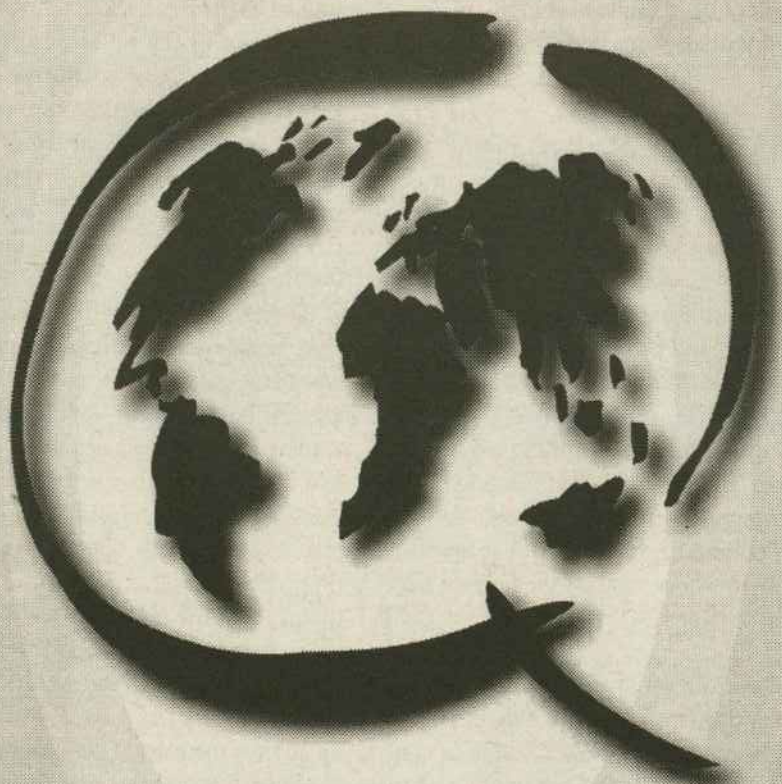
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By Eric Orner

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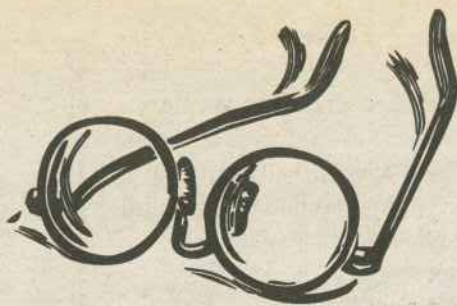


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THE CASUAL OBSERVER

by Ed Grover



New York: CHANGES

I was in my mid-twenties when I moved to New York in 1956. Now, in the Spring of 1996, forty years later, I received a phone call from my old assistant of interior display on the Main floor of Lord and Taylor asking me to attend an 80th birthday party for a dear, dear friend. How could I refuse—it promised to be one of the best parties I've attended in ages.

I left Milwaukee on a cool and blustery Friday in mid-May and arrived in New York three hours later to 75 degrees and bright sun. The city was as I remembered it from the air and it was only when I got into the city that I could start to see the changes. As I had never seen Stan's building and had only a vague recollection of Sutton Place, I kept hoping that he had found a nice rent-controlled building; and, it once was. It had gone condo about 25 years ago and he bought when prices were very reasonable. I was let into the "Mushroom Cave" as some of his friends call the place—it's all black and mirrors—by Martha Washington. No kidding, that's the name of his cleaning lady. Two of the most beautiful cats I have ever had the pleasure of meeting bounded up—a male and a female Abyssinian—they were the color of good cognac. The party was two days off and my host was still at his office, so I made myself comfortable. There was a note on the kitchen table. The cats followed me in meowing constantly. "Feed the little people," it said—and I did.

I called Stan and we made plans to meet at the Circus Restaurant, where he was having the party and then to attend a movie: *Twister!* "Now, you remember how to get around don't you?" "Oh sure, it's only been 40 years dear heart," I answered. I was at 56th Street and the cross-town bus was only a block away on 57th. That would be my major transport while I was there: riding the bus on my senior citizen ID with all the rich blue-haired ladies who were going over to spend a bundle on Madison or 5th Avenues. What a change from zipping uptown from the Village on the 7th Avenue subway as I used to when I went to work late after a night on the town with friends.

Now it was a different world. That was brought home to me quite quickly as Stan and I talked over dinner. Every time I asked about old friends he would look sad and just point to Heaven. They were ALL gone—every one of them had died of AIDS. I stopped asking and paid attention to my Chicken with Baby Okra in Saffron sauce. This was Brazilian food and the restaurant was run by one his Brazilian friends. Stan likes Brazil and Brazilians; he's been going to Rio for Carnival for years. We finished and started to walk over to Lexington

Avenue to the theater. It sure was a LOUD movie and the special effects were stunning. The plot was garbage, but you all know that already. We walked all the way back to his place and talked half the night away.

I finally heard all about his brother Dennis (I knew him in Washington, DC), who had died of AIDS some years before. Stan had taken him in and cared for him until it was all just too much to handle at the end. One wall in the living room was full of Dennis's things that he was still going through and giving away. I finally crept onto one of the big down banquets and was joined by the cats—they knew a good thing when they found it; I ended up feeding them for the ten days I was there.

Saturday dawned with three more out-of-town guests arriving and there was a constant ringing of phones while everyone got acquainted. One of the guys was HIV positive and had a bag full of medications that seemed never to end—Saquinavir and everything we have all been reading about. He is a beautiful, charming man from Philadelphia. He and his lover were in for the weekend just for the party. The next day was Sunday—the day of Phryne's 80th. Stan was up early working on picture boards with big blowups of Phryne and her friends of a lifetime. Other people arrived and left and arrived again. Stan went to set things up at the restaurant. Ed, Jimmy and I left together and walked the eight long blocks over to the restaurant to be there by noon.

As there were several water main breaks that day, plus a Puerto Rican Mother's Day parade, it was slow going. The traffic was backed up all over the place. I got a running tour as we walked along, "This is the Mayfair Restaurant, it's gay and had been here for years. This is the

I saw the AIDS beggars literally being stepped over by the yuppies who were on their way to get "another cute outfit." It made me ashamed.

place I used to live," and on and on. The Townhouse Restaurant and bar was pointed out. "It's for the *older* set honey."

I found a few places I remembered without any help, such as my first New York lover's apartment building on 59th Street and Robbie Campbell's old studio on the corner of 60th and Park Avenue. I remembered Robbie as a beautiful black boy who had a boutique in the Village. He had a cologne called "Green Grass" that was quite the rage for a while. Now they're gone too. I had always felt that I never knew anyone very well who had died of AIDS. That was changing quickly—I seemed to be visiting a place that I would rather have remembered in another way and another time.

The party was in full swing when we got there and people kept arriving all afternoon—complaining about the traffic. The birthday girl flipped when I walked in and we laughed and shed a few tears. I was just one of Stan's surprises, he had rounded up all sorts of people. It was so great to see this wonderful Greek lady who had loved of all of us when we were young and full of life. It was a wonderful time filled with memories. I ran into lots of people from L&T who were more than a little pleased and surprised to see me. Mary, her lover Betty Lee and I spent most of the party having a giant "remember when" session while the gifts were opened and over 100 people settled down to eat all the wonderful food.

The cake(s) were wheeled out blazing with candles and the cameras flashed. Later Stan and I took cake and another guest, Steven, back to Bailey House in the Village. Bailey House is an old warehouse at the bottom of Christopher Street that has been converted into living spaces for people with advanced AIDS who have no income or other place to live. It was a sad ending to an otherwise wonderful day—a reality check to remind me that indeed, things had changed.

The next day the birthday girl and I went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see the Treasures of China. Truly wonderful things that are on loan from the government of Taiwan. After that she was off to see "Rent" on Broadway. She is still as vibrant and charming as when I knew her forty years ago. I continued over to Madison Avenue and walked all the way back to Sutton Place while I checked out Ralph Lauren's, Armani's, Calvin Klien's and Barney's new uptown stores.

In the following days I did my bus route across 57th and down 5th to the Village (I found my old apartment, a little sadder looking than I remembered), made side trips to MOMA and Broadway and went to Sak's Fifth Avenue, where I saw the AIDS beggars literally being stepped over by the yuppies who were on their way to get "another cute outfit". It made me ashamed. Another day I went to Rockefeller Center, Lord and Taylor (sad how that's changed) and then wandered east to the United Nations and the East river, where I spent many hours in the sculpture gardens. The UN building is getting a bit tatty and old as we all are.

From there it was a short walk through Beekman Place (more memories) and around a few corners and I was back at Stan's. That's the way it went day after day; my evenings were filled with dinners and sometimes I just stayed home reading and watching cable with the cats playing around me. I talked to new friends on the phone and planned another day of reacquaintance with a city that had been so altered from my memories.

Finally, I was leaving and on my flight back home to my own beautiful city by my own beautiful lakeshore. I arrived to the same kind of weather I left. It was cold but it was good to get back to the warmth of my friends and my uncomplicated life. It had been fun being in the "Big Apple" again, but it was sad seeing the changes that had come to a city I so loved when I lived there. She had treated me well and showed me a good time. My memories are fonder than the reality I saw there—so be it.

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Street Beat Fashion Show, Saturday, September 28, 8pm

In a recent television interview, Anna Wintour, Editor of "Vogue" Magazine was asked why designer fashion is so important in America when it is so expensive, exclusive and often times impractical. Without hesitation, she replied that for some people those things aren't a problem. For everyone else, fashion is an Aspiration and Inspiration. Flipping through the pages of magazines, the fashion-conscious get a feel for current trends and ideas when they head out to their local retailer. It may sound easier said than done. But, this fall, "Street Beat" is showing you, first hand, how it can work for you!

The third semi-annual "Street Beat" Fashion Show features over a dozen models, three different takes on fall fashion, live music and much more. This fall, fashion follows "Shades of Gray," "Dysfunctional Fashion" and "Goth-O-Ween." A Gothic twist on dressing for the holiday.

Organized and orchestrated under the watchful eye of fashion Maven Kathy Fortier of Survival Revival Resale, "Street Beat" brings the fun and fantasy of a New York runway home.

"Fashion isn't for the elite, It's for everyone," says Fortier.

With a hand from coordinator and commentator Sister Cashbox and emcee B.J. Daniels, past shows have featured attention-getting trends in clothing and outrageous showmanship.

But, the most important part of the night comes when guests get a chance to shop the racks (or buy right off the models!) at a nice discount with all proceeds going to benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

"Street Beat" gets underway Saturday, September 28th at 8pm. Tickets are \$8 at the door, \$6 for students.

—David Todd

Hustler White Saturday, September 28 at 9 pm Party with Bruce La Bruce Friday, Sept. 27 at Mama Roux

"Hustler White" goes *The Women* three better. If the latter gay classic boasted no men, *Hustler White*, destined to become a gay classic, manages to tell a story of hustlers on Santa Monica Blvd. with no women, no drugs, no AIDS and no drag queens (apparently Ron Athey's Wynonna Judd scene is kink not drag). But only the most PC of your friends would notice this without being told. More like the best pop music than the best filmmaking, *Hustler White* is so good that it can trick you into forgetting all reservations as it hooks you into its universe.

And what heavenly bodies sparkle in said universe! *Hustler White* observes a series of gorgeous call-boys as they go about their daily routine. Real life porn stars Kevin Kramer and (Wisconsin native) Alex Austin, speed-metalhead Glenn Meadmore and a boot party of knockout skinhead boys fill out the hustler/client roster. Their stories orbit around Jurgen Anger's, a bitchy foreigner in Los Angeles to document the hustler scene, pursuit of hunky hustler Montgomery Ward, played by Tony Ward. The episodic nature lends credence to the rumor that this is merely the first installment of a Hustler trilogy.

Bruce La Bruce co-wrote, produced and directed the film with photographer Rick Castro as well as playing the role of Jurgen Anger. Some may recall La Bruce's status as one of the pioneers of homocore with his zine JD's and his two previous films, *No Skin Off My Ass* and *Super 8-1/2*. With *Hustler White*, he's created his own private Idaho out of bits and pieces of gay culture, pop music, film studies and a fascination with hustling. Graduates of Gay Subcultural Appropriations of Mass Consumed Texts 101 may notice that the beginning is lifted directly from *Sunset Boulevard* (the movie!) while the end parodies *Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?* But will they pick up references to Joni Mitchell and The Earrings of Madame De...?

The main attraction for most, however, will not be a pomo guessing game but rather the appearance of Tony Ward in the starring role. Ward is best known as the Madonna boyfriend who appeared in her "Justify My Love" video. He's also a successful model seen recently with Linda Evangelista in a Dolce & Gabbana ad. La Bruce told me his involvement in the film was accidental. The original actor had some trouble with the law so Castro, who helped jump-start Ward's career, gave Ward the script expecting nothing. Surprisingly, he liked it and liked making the film too.

So can Ward expect his career to be finished appearing in a film that oozes gay from every sprocket? Not if you judge from all the publicity he's received. He currently adorns the cover of *Genre* and has already been offered several movie roles. And, besides, he's proud to


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have been part of Hustler White. As he should be. Hustler White is one of the best films of the year - a delirious gay fantasia that will resonate with many like some crazy homo dream long after the film is over.

—Kevin Bozelka

Grapevine Plans a Lesbian "Family Reunion" October 13

Grapevine, the first and most longstanding lesbian organization in Milwaukee, is hosting a Grapevine Family Reunion Sunday, October 13 at 4pm in the Humboldt Park Pavilion, 3000 South Howell Avenue in Milwaukee.

The free event is open to all lesbians: to those who have been part of Grapevine at any point during its 22 year existence and to newcomers who want to share in the fun and meet new friends.

The Grapevine Reunion will be centered around a Grapevine tradition, a big community potluck, which is set to begin at 5pm that day. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite dish to share.

The event will also be a celebration of Grapevine's herstory. Women who were involved in the early years in the 1970's and on through the 1980's and '90's are asked to bring photos or other memorabilia of Grapevine events. A "Remember When..." exhibit will be created at the Family Reunion as women bring in their pictures and other souvenirs. (Items will be returned at the end of the evening.)

The Grapevine Family Reunion is the brainchild of Susan Cook. Cook is the co-chair of PrideFest and was an active member of Grapevine throughout the 1980's. She joked that she was "bored" now that PrideFest organizing has wound down and needed something to do.

"Actually," she told *Q•Voice*, "this is in response to a woman who wrote a letter to the gay papers saying there wasn't much in the community to support women socially. That's exactly what Grapevine did best. It provided weekly gatherings that were non-structured and non-threatening. There was open discussion and lots of sharing. Everyone was welcome and became a member by virtue of walking in the door. There were regular potlucks and camping trips and, later, the softball team."

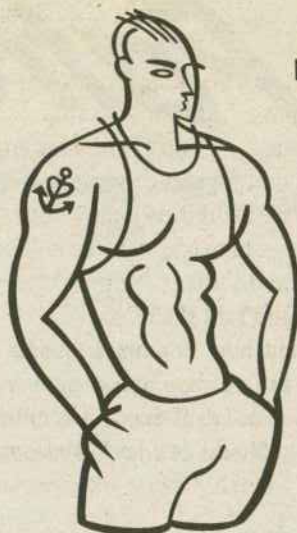
Grapevine met for years at the Women's Coalition office near UW-Milwaukee and, when that office closed, at the Quaker Meeting House. In the 1990's, partly due to lack of a regular meeting space, the group ceased having weekly gatherings. However, Grapevine's group camping trips to Point Beach and its softball team continue to draw enthusiastic participants.

"I see two purposes to this Family Reunion," said Cook. "One is to bring everyone together to reminisce — to meet old friends and new friends. The other is to gauge the possibility of re-organizing Grapevine and resuming regular meetings and potlucks."

Funds for the event are being raised through a Grapevine Family Reunion commemorative t-shirt, available in sizes M to XXXL. They are just \$8 (make checks payable to Grapevine) and can be ordered by writing to: Grapevine Family Reunion, P.O. Box 07774, Milwaukee, WI 53207. For further information on the October 13th event, call Loraine at 414/258-2991

—Jamakaya

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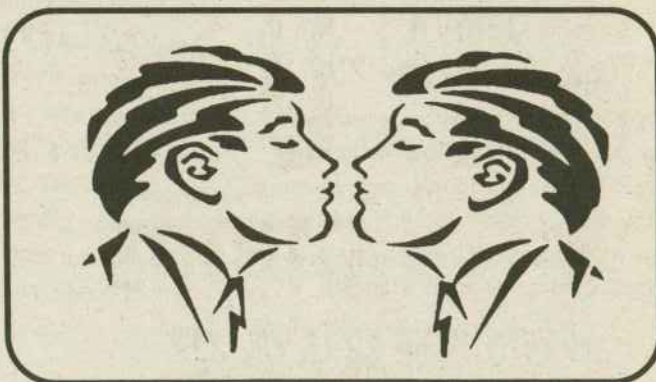


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pisces • (feb 20 to march 20)

Let go of an old grudge. Nobody else remembers what happened, so why should you? And taking revenge at such a late date will only make you look mean-spirited. Some say that you have a real fashion sense, and others say that look better out of clothes. Either way you win.

aries • (march 21 to april 19)

Did you ever notice that a lot of popular people don't say much? Think about it, the less you say, the less likely you are to say something stupid. The big challenge here is, when you do say something, say something intelligent.

taurus • (april 20 to May 21)

That absolutely gorgeous, suntanned muscle hunk standing next to you in the bar tonight was looking you up and down and you didn't even notice. When are you going to realize that you are a "babe" too?

gemini (may 22 to june 21)

Why is it that no matter how hard you work out, you still feel inferior to other people? Bigger, bigger, bigger seems to be the only purpose you have in life. But keep working out anyway: what else are you going to do with your time?

cancer • (june 22 to july 22)

Your mood has been down lately, but hey, you're not exactly know for your lack of emotions. Still, something has been bothering you as of late, and it's probably not going to go away on its own.

leo • (july 23 to august 22)

Summer's just about over now, and what are you going to do about fall? Pick out a project and see it through. Make some new friends for the long winter. And try to be optimistic about everything you possibly can be. Pessimism is a waste of life.

virgo • (august 23 to september 22)

You thought we had gone all soft-hearted and musky, eh Well we haven't. Let's be brutally honest- you've been a real ho this summer. Is there anyone you haven't slept with? Time to settle down for the fall.

scorpio • (oct. 24 to nov 21)

Despite the shortening of the days, the sunshine will stay in your life, though we can't say why. Something wonderful is about to happen to you that will change your outlook from pessimism to joy, Love, maybe, but perhaps an inner happiness instead.

sagittarius (nov 21 to dec 19)

Suddenly, he's there, looking at you across the crowded floor, his eyes focusing on your eyes, your chest, and the further down. He's very cute, far better than you'd have imagined possible. But the catch is, of course, he's already taken. Can you, who always prides on being number one, adjust, just this once, to being second in line?

capricorn

(dec. 21 to jan. 19)

The hunger you have been experiencing is not sated by food alone. It's a deeper hunger-for men of all kinds. You're not sure where this sudden appetite has come from, but you are certain how to feed it - in parks, on beaches, at the bars. And it won't end until you have tasted every last bit.

aquarius • (jan. 20 to feb. 18)

You can dish it out but you can't take it. The proof the way you acted the other day. You were really criticizing than other guy, and then when it gets back to you that he was tearing you apart too, you got mad. Talk about not being able to stand the heat. Suggestion: Learn to ignore insults. Another suggestion: treat others the way you like to be treated.

libra (September 23 to Oct. 22)

Your sex life could fill a book - the white pages. But isn't it time that you concentrated on something else? Such as your job. Come up with some fresh ideas and present them to your boss, and don't be insulted if the boss doesn't implement every one. Also, pay a little more attention more attention to those that you are not sexually interested in. Gay men need friends, too.

First Wives is First Rate

The First Wives Club
reviewed by Timothy Nasson

The *First Wives Club* is destined to become the fall movie season's first bona fide box office success. What though, one may ask, would cause this film which is not gay per se, and starring mostly women, to attract the attention of gay men, young and older alike?

For starters, how about Bette Midler, a revised and uncredited screenplay by Paul Rudnick (*Jeffrey*), Bronson Pinchot, in his wickedly hilarious yet standard stereotypical queeny role, this time playing an interior designer, Elisabeth Berkley (*Showgirls*), enough plastic surgery jokes to make Cher feel left out, and Heather Locklear. And, that's just for starters.

The laughs arise right after a sad opening scene in which a despondent and drunken Stockard Channing dives head first onto Fifth Avenue from her penthouse apartment's terrace. Her significance to her husband was about as important as yesterday's news. Having met someone half her age (Heather Locklear), he paid her no heed.

Meeting at their college friend's funeral, Midler, Hawn and Keaton, (the three remaining college gal pals), catch up on each other's lives over a long lunch. There, they learn that they are next in line as candidates for sidewalk decorations if they don't get one step ahead of their lecherous and philandering dirty old men.

The three women, Brenda (Bette Midler) a happy Jewish housewife and mother, Elise (Goldie Hawn) an actress, and Annie (Diane Keaton) an former ad executive, band together in an act of solidarity creating a club for women on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

The film is nothing more than escapist entertainment and doesn't seem anything more glamorous than an extended sitcom episode. However, these three talented actresses, each who have either won the Academy Award or at least been nominated twice (do you know which star has not won?), give the film the added pizzazz it needs.

There are some hilarious lines in the film, one in particular in which Keaton asks Midler if she thinks Hawn has had any plastic surgery work done on her. "Are you kidding?" replies Midler, "She's a quilt." That, in addition to a scene in a New York City lesbian bar that the women go to, that also happens to be a favorite hangout of Keaton's lesbian daughter, are some of the funniest. While in the bar Hawn is seduced by a butch dyke, and ends up on the dance floor seeming to have a grand ole' time.

In addition to the three accomplished actresses in starring roles there are an even greater number of gifted stars in supporting roles. Two time Academy Award winning actress Maggie Smith (*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *California Suite*) plays a grand dame of renowned stature, and Academy Award winner Eileen Heckart (*Butterflies are Free*), plays Keaton's mother. Also starring, Tony Award winner Philip



Bosco, Marcia Gay Harden (Tony Award nominee for *Angels in America*), and Victor Garber (four time Tony nominee).

The most amazing thing about the casting is that Elisabeth Berkley, one of history's most dreadful actresses, landed this part. It was rumored months ago that she was fired from the set. One could have only wished this was the case. It is hard to believe that this atrocious actress is majoring in English literature at UCLA at the moment.

The film is not without totally ludicrous plot lines. The most apparent being where one of the women's husbands (not saying which one) has left her for the therapist that they are both seeing. This type of unethical behavior at the very least would be grounds for revocation of license today. (Alright, I'm being too picky.)

Among some of the most noticeable cameos including Gloria Steinem, Ed Koch, Ivana Trump and references to Jackie O, Kathie Lee Gifford plays herself in a most noticeably ironic way. "Haven't all of you women been dumped by your husbands for younger women?", she asks. Was she not the cause for seventy-something husband Frank's divorce a few years ago? Maybe there just wasn't enough room in the film for another second wives role or the producers thought Berkley was the lesser of two evils.

The ending takes its stab at political correctness and allows the women to both pay their husbands back for what was done to them and make a name for themselves as philanthropists as well as successful business women.

None of the acting in this film will garner the talent Academy Award nominations or awards (sorry Bette, you'll have to try again some other time and be content at the moment with your Grammys, Tony, Emmys and Golden Globes) but it will put smiles on faces and may cause more than a few to walk out of the theater dancing to an old Midler tune as the credits roll.

HANG-OUTS

Milwaukee

1100 Club

1100 S. 1st Street
414/647-9950

A friendly, mixed G/L Leather-Levi crowd more Levi than leather. Open early.

B's

1579 S. 2nd Street
414/672-5580

Live DJ on Friday and Saturday Night playing a smorgesboard of dance tunes.

AfterWords

2710 N. Murray
414/963-9089

Prime destination to find a good banned book and a cappuccino. Also, a hang-out for queer Milwaukee's "Literazzi" including Glenn Bishop.

Ballgame

196 S. 2nd Street
414/273-7474

This tried and true neighborhood hang-out may well be the oldest operating gay bar in the state.

Boot Camp

209 E. National Ave.
414/643-6900

Infamous Levi-Leather cruise palace. Pretty, hairsprayed boys need not apply.

Cafe Melange

720 Old World 3rd St.
414/291-9889

Life is a cabaret and so is Cafe Melange. Featuring a large bar, relaxed dining room, and eclectic mix of live entertainment.

C'est La Vie

231 S. 2nd Street
414/291-9600

No-frills queer landmark bar. Drag queens and go-go boys can be spotted on weekends.

Club 219

219 S. 2nd Street
414/271-3732

Drag Queen Central on Sunday nights. Plus male go-go bunnies on Wednesdays.

Fannies

200 E. Washington
414/643-9633

Popular Third Ward women's bar.

Gargoyles

354 East National Ave.
414/225-9776

This new nite spot is truly on the other side of the tracks; featuring 2 bars, CD jukebox, and lots of gargoyles.

Grubb's Pub

807 S. Second St.
414/384-8330

If grub is what you want, grub is what you'll get. Serving sandwiches, appetizers and a Friday fish fry. Top after-hours-stop on Wednesday and Saturday.

In Between

625 S. 2nd Street
414/273-2693

The decor alone in this friendly men's bar will make you want to break out in the "Cheers" theme song; with a long bar and pool table.

Just Us

807 S. 5th Street
414/383-2233

Proud to be your mixed bar. Boogie oogie oogie on the weekends and a Friday Fish Fry.

Kathy's Nut Hut

1500 W. Scott Street
414/647-2673

Regulars love this friendly women's saloon. Can't find it? Just call for directions.

M&M Club

124 N. Water Street
414/347-1962

Bona-fide cocktail bar with regular live entertainment. It's also a lovely restaurant for you and your significant same-sex partner.

La Cage

801 S. 2nd Street
414/383-8330

The Death Star of Milwaukee's queer clubs. Four bars, fancy sliding doors & serious butt shaking at Dance, Dance, Dance on Friday and Saturday Nights.

Mama Roux

1857 N. Humboldt
414/347-0344

This bar & grill sports a wildly diverse crowd. Popular pit stop before & after hitting the club circuit.

Renez CoZ Corner II

3500 W. Park Hill Ave.
414/933-7363

At I-94 & 35th Street featuring music pumpin', booty-shakin', foot-stompin', party-makin'. Four DJs to choose from.

Station 2

1534 W. Grant St.
414/383-5755

Easy going neighborhood bar welcomes women of all ages with a pool table, darts and video games.

This Is It

418 E. Wells St.
414/278-9192

The famous Eastside "Wrinkle Room" features a diverse crowd of various ages plus one of the city's best jukeboxes.

Triangle

135 E. National Ave.
414/383-9412

Offering world-class cruising, videos, and an absolutely fabulous menu of tasty bartenders.

Walker's Point Cafe

1106 S. First St.
414/384-7999

Open daily, this diner gets really, really busy after bar closing.

Zippers

819 S. 2nd Street
414/645-8330

If the name don't get you the drink specials probably will. A drinking man's bar with pizza, sandwiches and pool tables.

Madison

Geraldine's

3052 E. Washington
608/241-9335

It's two, two, two bars in one. Geraldine's catering to women & Ray's for the boys... with country line dancing, DJ's and occasional strippers.

Manoeuvres

150 S. Blair Street
608/258-9918

Fresh from a make-over, you can dance, cruise or watch videos on starship sized video monitors.

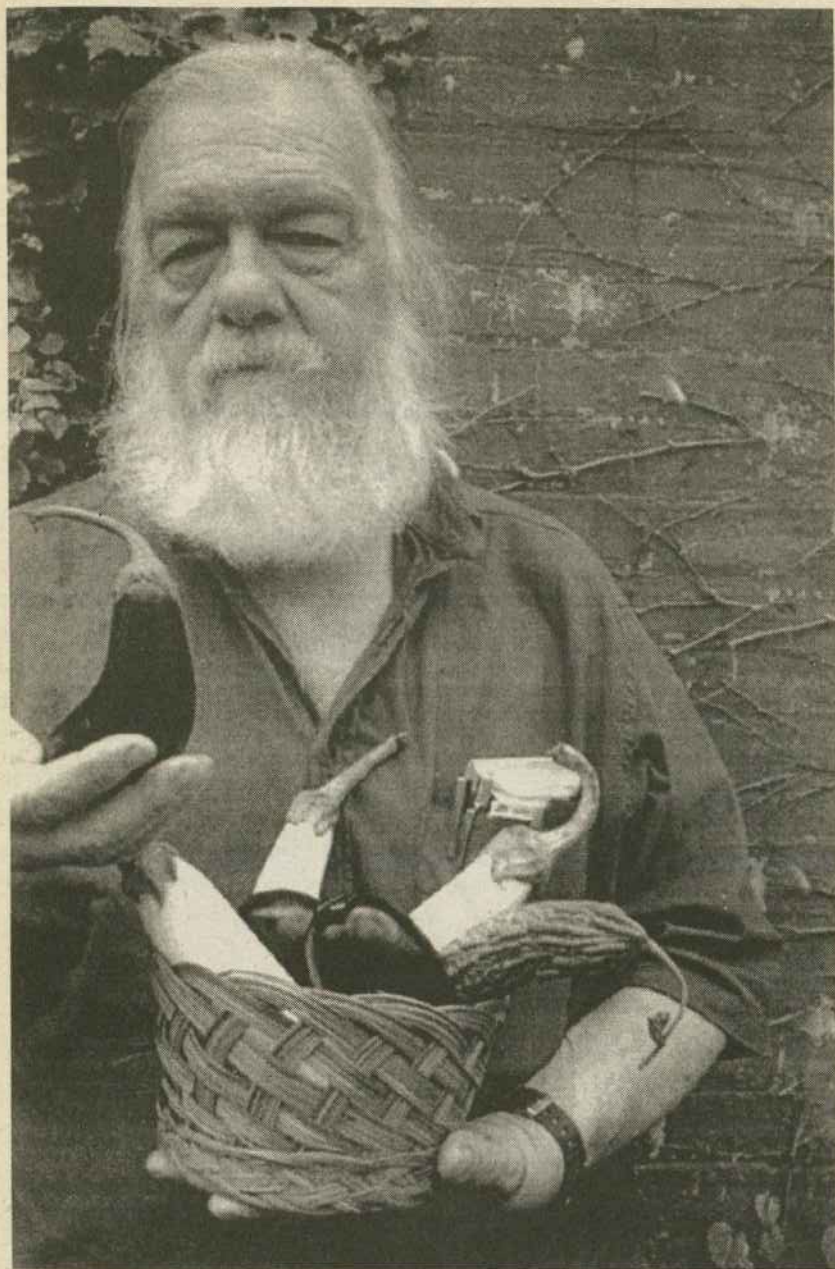
R Place

121 W. Main Street
608/257-5455

Madison's newest bar is bright and clean, featuring a dance floor, CD jukebox and a fireplace.

The New Bar\Rod's

To be rebuilt.



WILDMAN OF THE WOODS

George Talbot is both lovably eccentric and lucidly opinionated. Having held the loftily verbose title Curator of the Visual and Sound Archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for nearly twenty years, George has established a reputation as being one of Madison's most knowledgeable madmen.

Born in Chicago just before the stock market crash of 1929, Talbot studied at the University of Chicago and ended up teaching Sociology and Anthropology. A man of wide interests, he started doing set designs for operas and plays. With a move to St. Louis he found himself bringing social science ideas to educational television, and eventually helped to edit and art direct *Transactions*, a magazine devoted to social science and modern society. When the magazine moved its headquarters to New York, George followed, becoming immersed in east coast society.

"Through working on the magazine I came to know photographers from all over the United States. Social Documentary photographers from the old Farm Security Administration and others as well. Aurthur Tress and Duane Michals who have some renown in the gay community. Larry Clark who is most recently known for his film 'Kids'. This was the high point of the sixties. New York was great, Philadelphia was great, Boston was great. Sex was great. But my job was driving me nuts. I had established a reputation for knowing a good photograph from a post hole. I was offered the job running the photo collection in Madison and I took it!"

From 1972 to 1990 Talbot kept watch over a collection that was used by twelve thousand people annually and consisted of vintage daguerreotypes, glass plate negatives, albumen prints, and every kind of iconography. "I've seen photographers go from thinking of themselves primarily as social documentarists to thinking of themselves as artists. The old photographers were delighted by the attention of the fine arts, but they saw themselves as having another mission altogether, which was to capture and present reality in an almost journalistic way. The pressures of economics and status finally drove these people into the galleries. It was to the detriment of documentary photography when photographers started to think of themselves as artists. But the good thing is that people finally stopped looking at photographs as representations of reality, and started looking at them as representations of the artist's reality. An awareness has grown that all constructed images carry the editorial viewpoint of the man behind the camera."

In retirement George cooks and gardens and does some wonderful pastel drawings. "We have a woods in Madison which is a very friendly place. I've started a series of drawings that I call the Cock of the Woods series." We'll leave it to the gentle readers of *Q-Voice* to decipher just what that means...

photo/story WASWO

Juicy Bits

by W.W.Wells III

Predictions for Year 2001

“**D**rag Queens prove their smarts... Ice Age returns to North America... Madonna donates her glands to science... And microscopic porno stars shunned by Falcon Studios...” These are just a few of the sensational, mystical predictions made by dubious gay psychic W. W. Wells III. Here's what the unbelievable Mr. Wells forecasts through the year 2000!

In 1999, really smart drag queens, desperate for cheap, affordable runway outfits will develop genetically engineered silkworms that can weave glamor garments to order! It will be another two years before the drag queens train the worms shit rhinestones, sequins and tiaras.

In 1998, a strange and untreatable form of leprosy will sweep the community, affecting only gay men who are unfaithful to their romantic partners. The disease, nicknamed “Bobbit-itis” will manifest immediately after an incident of cheating, causing the offending private parts to rot and fall off. As a result, infidelity in gay relationships will plummet below 1%!

In 1998, geologists will report that we will deplete the entire world's supply of oil in 10 years, however there still will be a 700 year supply of styling mousse!

In 1997, scientists will perfect a new synthetic bullshit distilled from the personals section of most gay magazines and the pick up lines used in gay bars. Farmers using the new fertilizer will report their cucumbers all grew to a length of ten inches!

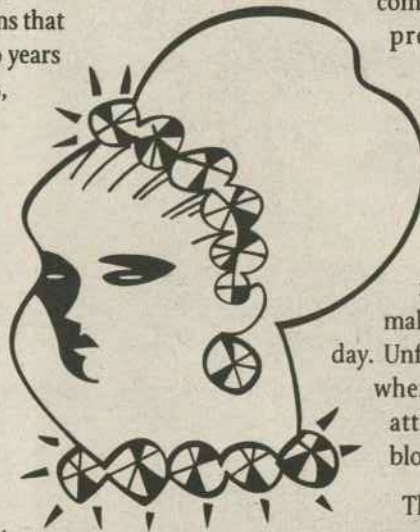
An astonishing new One Night Stand Pill will make millions of lonely people happy by artificially stimulating portions of the brain that respond to human sexual companionship. In the end, the pill will be a big failure after several people overdose on the drug and masturbate themselves to death!

In 1998, a Texas man will invent a machine which he claims grants his every wish. Scientists sent to verify this claim will be greeted at his door by 100 naked go-go boys and the entire cast of several porno movies.

Global temperatures will plummet an average of 44 degrees in 1999, kicking off a new Ice Age which will force thousands of circumcised gay men to start wearing fur lined condoms while engaging in outdoor sex!

In the fall of 1997, the Federal Government will ban smoking everywhere in the United States except in the bedroom after sex and then only with a permit!

In 1997, a breakthrough in plastic surgery will make it possible to reshape a patient's features simply by injecting large doses of Silly Putty into the face. The procedure makes skin and bone soft and pliable with the only side effect being the ability to reproduce a mirror image of comic strips directly to a patient's face by firmly pressing the Sunday funnies against their cheeks!



In 1998, researchers will discover the world's first true aphrodisiac, a hormonal compound derived from extracts of Dennis Rodman's thyroid and Madonna's pituitary gland. The pill instantly invigorates the sex drive of both men and women making it possible to have sex up to 25 times a day. Unfortunately, the pill will be a dismal failure when it's discovered the only people you'll be attracted to are tasteless, egocentric bleached blondes who really, really can't act!

The discovery in 1999 of microscopic solar systems in our galaxy will totally revolutionize astronomy and the way we think about our Universe. However, the detection of the teensy planets will have little effect on the gay porn industry because any gay humanoids located on these planets will have incredibly tiny penises.

An angry delegation of beings from another galaxy will arrive on Earth in 1997 with the chilling warning that every one in the world should read W.W. Wells' column or the entire planet will be blown to smithereens! The United States will quickly react making it mandatory reading material, causing thousands to riot and many others to become violently ill!

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Mondays are a Bitch.

Photo courtesy of Spelling Entertainment ©1996



135 East National Ave. Milwaukee • 383-9412 • IDs Required



Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
**Center for AIDS Intervention Research
(CAIR)**

AIDS is the most serious infectious disease epidemic of modern times. About one million Americans have contracted HIV infection, and at least 40 million men, women, and children worldwide already have the disease. However, new HIV infections are preventable and some of the adverse consequences of HIV disease can also now be prevented.

The mission of the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) is to conceptualize, develop, conduct, and scientifically evaluate the effectiveness of new intervention strategies to prevent HIV infection in populations vulnerable to the disease. CAIR's research also seeks to identify improved strategies to promote health and alleviate adverse mental health consequences of HIV among persons with the disease and among their loved ones.

CAIR's Research Team

CAIR is a multidisciplinary HIV prevention research center. Supported by an AIDS research center grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and based in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine of the Medical College of Wisconsin, CAIR's HIV prevention research is carried forward by a team of 11 faculty investigators who devote their full effort to AIDS prevention, another seven investigators affiliated with CAIR, and a fulltime research and administrative support team of approximately 30 persons.

CAIR investigators reflect the disciplines of community, clinical, health, social, quantitative, and educational psychology; public health and epidemiology; psychiatry, infectious diseases, and community medicine; anthropology; biostatistics; and other fields. Investigators from a range of scientific backgrounds work together at CAIR to advance the science of AIDS prevention.

HIV Prevention Projects Undertaken at CAIR

CAIR investigators and research staff are presently undertaking HIV prevention research activities in a number of areas.

HIV Prevention for Homeless and Severely Mentally Ill Men and Women

A number of studies have shown alarming rates of HIV infection among homeless and severely mentally ill adults in our inner cities. In partnership with homeless shelters and mental health centers in Milwaukee, CAIR investigators are evaluating the effectiveness of small-group HIV prevention programs in settings that serve the homeless and the severely mentally ill.

Community Level HIV Prevention Interventions

As a community epidemic, efforts to prevent AIDS must be undertaken at a community-wide level. Since 1988, CAIR scientists have been developing and evaluating the effectiveness of HIV prevention approaches that mobilize AIDS-vulnerable community—including young gay men and inner-city women—to bring about reductions in rates of high-risk behavior in their communities.

Promoting the Long-Term Maintenance of Risk Reduction Behavior Change

The threat of AIDS has become a permanent part of the American and world health landscape. Because risk for HIV disease is a sustained threat, approaches are needed to help persons at risk for HIV that not only make but also sustain their behavior change efforts. CAIR scientists are determining the effectiveness of interventions to help gay men and other persons at risk for HIV to maintain behavior changes over long periods of time.

Translating New HIV Prevention Approaches from the Research Arena to Frontline Community-Based Organizations

Research advances in HIV prevention methods must be quickly and effectively transferred to community-based and public health organizations so the new approaches can be used in the field. A group of CAIR investigators and staff are working with the staffs of over 75 AIDS prevention organizations throughout the country to share information about effective new prevention approaches developed at CAIR and to gain input from these organizations about community needs.

Evaluating the Cost Effectiveness of AIDS Prevention

CAIR has established a scientific core within the center to study the cost effectiveness of different HIV prevention approaches. At a time of great accountability and tighter public health budgets, CAIR's cost effectiveness studies core evaluates the cost of HIV prevention programs in relation to the number of infections averted and quality of life years saved by preventing AIDS cases.

Helping To Meet the Mental Health Needs of Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Loved Ones

CAIR has initiated projects evaluating the effectiveness of mental health interventions to assist men and women with HIV/AIDS cope with the stresses of their disease, to help persons who have lost loved ones to AIDS cope with their bereavement, to meet the special needs of persons with HIV/AIDS living in rural areas with few available support resources, and to understand the spiritual and coping issues faced by persons with AIDS and their caregivers.