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Anniversary Issue!**

*Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Monthly
November 1996*

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Story by Waswo

Crossing Lake Michigan from west to east is one thing. Crossing Lake Michigan from south to north is another. Waswo hooks up with some wild-eyed boat boys, and discovers there is no room for fair-weather sailors among the racing set.



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MG

Photo by: Cabal,
Styling: M.A.K.

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Letters

Pardon Our Eye Candy

To the editor,

Congratulations on tackling the issues of ageism and isolation that bedevil old gays and lesbians. Ed Grover deserves special praise for his major article as well as the eloquent reminiscences in his review and column.

Nevertheless, "lucidly opinionated" as I am, I have some bones to pick, one being the acceptance of popular assumptions by the author of the lead editorial about youth, age, and the "appropriate" relations between members of differing generations, which grow from the ways we as a society view power and masculinity and which relate to the rise and decay of groups or subcultures such as those devoted to leather, bearishness, and daddies.

All these are based on attributes of maturity which have first been stereotyped and then have been or are in the process of being swamped by the cult of youth and seduced by the lure of merchandising—but more about that at another time.

I was far more puzzled and then angered by your center fashion spread "Out of the Closet" which deliberately ignored the theme of the issue and lost an opportunity to underline the thrust of your issue. In fact the spread seemed to be not a fashion feature but a skin show and a show of young skin at that, plus artfully mussed hair and fearfully out of date (late 1950s) thoroughly wrinkled boxer shorts.

Are not those old queers' bodies and heads fit scaffolds for a designer's imagination? Are you by some

chance falling into the trap of saying old queers are only interesting because we have some hidden, buried, disguised inner value—wisdom, humor, experience, or perhaps rapaciousness, rather than manifest physical fleshly delight?

Can't old queers be humpy numbers and can't they be pictured as such? If you wanted to find some of us to picture as scaffolds we abound all over—including Milwaukee. A set of head/hat/hair shots a la Quentin Crisp with a fedora, or a Christopher Isherwood or a Noel Coward in a cravat would have worked, or old queers in old finery, or old butch queers in their work clothes.

I'm not at all against bodies as objects—sex objects—old, young, or in-between, but I feel that your feature, especially in the context of this issue implies that only certain body-types or ages are appropriate objects of desire deserving the ornament of fashion.

I would have hoped that Q-Voice would have shown the way to the new or rediscovered view that old age has its physical attraction and delight, rather than picturing again that only youth is beauty and beauty youth.

George A. Talbot III
Madison

(Editor's Note: We feel your pain. We advertised and recruited for older models for such a photospread. Nary a one came forward)

On Waswo

To the Editor—

The recent story about Karl Preibe was personally interesting to me, as Karl was a family friend. My parents, Edward and Dorinne Green (still reside on Milwaukee's south side), own one of his delightful bird paintings as well. Joanna Poehlmann and Margaret Fish of the Charles Allis Art Library, mentioned in the article were part of my childhood. I remember meeting them at art openings in Milwaukee, that is, when my brother and I were not sneaking sips of wine!

The article about Waswo's experiences on the Australian sheep farm in the last issue was also extremely fascinating. Travel experiences most of us dream about, but never dare to do. I don't live in Milwaukee anymore, so I read your magazine on the web. Articles like this make me think that Milwaukee is not running such a distant second to Chicago as a cosmopolitan MidWestern city. It has a life all its own, filled with colorful people, intrepid travelers and creative personalities.

Take it from me, Waswo, it's perfectly proper, nay, preferable to drink wine at tea time! Keep up the good work.

Erika Linden Green
via the internet

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

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..... FROM THE EDITOR

It's been twelve months since I first welcomed readers to the very first issue of *Q•Voice Magazine*. It is gratifying that *Q•Voice* has been embraced by so many, so quickly and it is remarkable how much has changed in one year.

In that time, the landscape of gay publishing in Wisconsin has dramatically shifted. Despite the doom and gloomers who cried that another gay publication would further split advertising pie and drive other publications out of business, just the opposite has happened. *Q•Voice* has reinvigorated our gay press, Wisconsin now boasts four thriving gay and lesbian publications. That is a claim usually reserved for large gay meccas like New York, Chicago or Los Angeles and is truly something to be proud of.

In my first editorial for *Q•Voice*, I pledged to cover Milwaukee and Wisconsin "in-depth and with style." I believe will have followed through on that mission and then some. Even Milwaukee's non-gay media has given kudos to our work, *Milwaukee Magazine* recently called *Q•Voice*, "A promising new voice ...sassy, readable and easily the best-designed free publication in town." Hey, we've gotta toot our own horn once in a while.

Q•Voice remains a unique publication in the country with our special blend of interviews, features, art, photography and humor. We have featured interviews with Gloria Estefan, Martina Navratilova, Congressman Steve Gunderson, artist Patrick Farrell to name a few. We've brought readers timely interviews with the movers and shakers in Wisconsin's LesBiGay community and asked the tough questions. We have gone beyond the press releases with special features on aging issues and gay youth.

In addition to our editorial efforts, *Q•Voice Magazine* became the only gay and lesbian publication in the state of Wisconsin to refuse 1-900 phone sex advertising. And with this issue, *Q•Voice* expands its print run to 12,000 issues (We started at 8,000) giving it the second largest print run of any gay and lesbian publication in

Wisconsin (behind our sister publication *In Step Newsmagazine*).

Q•Voice is a collaborative effort with a remarkable amount of energy going into each and every issue. *Q•Voice* is blessed with an incredibly dedicated and talented staff. Hey, they put up with me and that says a lot.

Please remember, *Q•Voice* would not be possible without the support of our advertisers. When I say, "Support our advertisers!" I really mean it, because without them, *Q•Voice* can't exist. We are grateful for their support.

As *Q•Voice* enters its second year, we promise to continue to examine the issues with wit, style and perspective. Finally, we hope you'll enjoy this issue, inside you'll find an entertaining interview with Wisconsin's own Tammy Baldwin along with a feature on renown photographer Herb Ritts and all your favorites.

See you next month!

WILLIAM ATTEWELL

William Attewell, editor

“QUIPS AND QUOTES”

Waters on Women

“If I were a heterosexual man, I would hang out in gay bars. That’s where all the smartest, prettiest women are.”

—Film director John Waters.

On Mikulski’s Tail

“I did not come here to listen to you read from your book. I came to ask why, as a lesbian, you voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act. I came to let you know that I thought your vote on DOMA was shameless and unconscionable.”

—ACT UP co-founder and lesbian journalist Ann Northrop shouting at U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., at a book signing in New York City’s gay Chelsea neighborhood Oct. 10. Mikulski and Mary Louise Oates co-authored a mystery entitled “Capitol Offense.”

Click Three Times

“It’s my dream to play a lesbian character. ... I’m jealous that Ellen could get to do it. I’d love to play one of her dates. Comedically, we could make something click there.”

—Lesbian actress Amanda Bearse (“Marcy” on Fox’s “Married ... With Children”) to the Philadelphia Inquirer Oct. 3 on the rumors that the character “Ellen” on ABC’s “Ellen” will come out of the closet. “Ellen” is played by closeted actress Ellen DeGeneres.



Cher Shares

“People in the minority get used to living in the minority, and I think that’s a negative thing ... the best possible lifestyle is to be integrated. Little ghettos of people are not what we are going for.”

—Cher, before attending an Oct. 11 PFLAG reception in Washington, D.C., with her lesbian daughter, Chastity Bono.

No Cojones?

“I wish President Clinton were more direct, more hands-on [about AIDS]. He’s been given a chance to turn the world around and be outspoken on an issue that’s controversial to still so many people, but it would take enormous daring. I had hoped that he would. I really thought he had the chutzpah and the cojones.”

—Elizabeth Taylor to The Advocate. (Cojones is Spanish for balls.)

Liz the Fruit Fly



“I was 18 or 19 when I helped [actor Montgomery Clift] realize that he was homosexual, and I barely knew what I was talking about. I was a virgin when I was married and not a world expert on sexuality. But I loved Monty with all my heart and just knew that he was unhappy. I knew that he was meant to be with a man and not a woman, and I discussed it with him. I introduced him to some really nice young guys.”

—More Liz to The Advocate.

Uhhh.. Where’s London?

“American gay men do not know where Europe is. They certainly have no idea where Greece is. So instead of the airlines taking them there, they should be put in an aeroplane in the States and then flown somewhere hot — like the Gobi desert — and just be told that it’s Greece. That way, the rest of us would not have to put up with questions like ‘Do the Greeks speak Greek?’ and ‘Is Apollo like the Pope of the Greek church?’ And statements like ‘When we adopt the child, one of us has to be the legal parent. So I’m going to do it because it’s more tax efficient.’ Didn’t realize that kids were tax-deductible in America.”

—Simon Fanshawe, a columnist for London’s The Pink Paper.

Rodman is Only Skin Deep

“[O]nce you get past the outer packaging, there’s not much of interest lurking inside.”

—Chicago Tribune TV critic Steve Johnson on Chicago Bulls transvestite Dennis Rodman.

Compiled by Rex Wockner and our crack news sources around the world.
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



Gina Gets Tough

Actress **GINA GERSHON** studied films of **MARLON BRANDO**, **JAMES DEAN** and **CLINT EASTWOOD** in an effort to shed her "girly" qualities.

That was necessary, she said, to play Corky in "Bound," now playing in theaters. In the movie, she and **JENNIFER TILLY** play lesbian lovers who conspire to double-cross Tilly's gangster boyfriend and steal \$2 million from the Mob.

"In the flirtation scenes with Jennifer, I found myself touching my hair and cocking my neck, real girly things, without realizing it," she said.



"I knew that was wrong. I had to find that male essence. I had to become one of those guys who drives me crazy."

Gershon says her agents were "appalled" that she chose to play another sexually risque character after playing a femme fatale in the panned "Showgirls." But Gershon saw two completely opposite characters.

"One, the ultimate femme fatale, and the other essentially a guy. What more could an actress want from two roles?"

What more indeed.

Gay Disney Invasion

The annual Disney Gay Day is slated to become Gay Weekend — Three major Florida tourist attractions have joined forces to attract gay and lesbian travelers during the June weekend when Walt Disney World holds its annual Gay Day.

Universal Studios Florida, Sea World of Florida and Church Street Station are packaging activities and special rates around the first Saturday in June, which since 1991 has been known as Gay Day at the Magic Kingdom.

Instead of competing with Disney, the three attractions will offer activities and rates in conjunction with Gay Day, said **LARA ANDERSON**, executive director of Gay and Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida.

The increased activities for gay and lesbian visitors at the tourist destination come in the face of criticism from religious and family groups about Disney's policies on gay people and R-rated movies.

Disney officials would not comment on the new package.

Queer Video Encyclopedia

Illinois-based Gay Vids has announced the release of its **GAY VIDS GAY VIDEO ENCYCLOPEDIA**, an electronic compendium reviewing more than 3,400 gay videos released over the past two decades.

For the avid gay videophile or the person just seeking good adult entertainment, the **GAY VIDS ENCYCLOPEDIA** has everything one can

ask for.

More than 3,400 gay videos from roughly 1980 onward are objectively, thoroughly and honestly reviewed. "Lemons" and "turkeys" are clearly identified, a great time and money saver. And, of course, the true classics are lovingly reviewed in detail.

A powerful search engine allows you to find videos by your favorite director, actor, activity, producer and year of production.

The Gay Vids Encyclopedia is available at \$14.95 via online delivery to your E-mail box or \$24.95 on CD-ROM. Monthly online updates are free for the first six months and cost \$14.95 per year thereafter.

For more information, contact Gay Vids at vids@mw.sisna.com or at 847-328-7491.

Queer baby names

.....

a completely irreverent guide to naming your lesbian/gay tot

Matthew Rottenmund & Jaye Zimet

Name that Baby!

Gay babies: If you don't have one, you'd better start working on it - they're the next big thing (and Lord knows you don't want to miss the style boat again). As we enter the "gaybaby boom," where gay and lesbian parents are becoming more and more common, it would seem that this spoof was inevitable.

Visionary authors **MATTHEW RETTENMUND** and **JAYE ZIMET** recognized the need for a definitive guide to naming a gay or lesbian tot (as well as a good, hard laugh).

QUEER BABY NAMES answers the heretofore unasked question — "What do I name my gay

baby?" with acerbic irreverence and uproarious results. With style and wit, Rettenmund and Zimet cover every aspect of naming a gay/lesbian baby, including section on:

How to tell if your baby is gay (baby complains that blue jammies make him look fat) or lesbian (baby prefers 100% organically grown, non-animal-tested flannel diapers and baby Birkenstocks).

Names that will guarantee that baby will be gay (Butch, Jock, Gaylord, Frisco) or lesbian (Leslie, Cloris, Fay, Amanda — a man, duh).

Names for queer twins: BERT & ERNIE, BOB & ROD, VITA & VIRGINIA, EDINA & PATSY (Just hope Lacroix comes out with a line of booties).

No name is safe from Rettenmund and Zimet's shrewd powers of observation. Maybe a man named "Rex" isn't gay, but as QUEER BABY NAMES suggests, maybe he should be. Destined to become an instant classic of hip humor and gay reference, QUEER BABY NAMES chronicles the best and worst names the gay community has to offer for that absolutely queer bundle of joy.

MATTHEW RETTENMUND is the author of ENCYCLOPEDIA MADONNICA, TOTALLY AWESOME 80'S and the novel BOY CULTURE and ZIMET is the Design Director for Penguin USA. They both live in New York City, and both are former queer babies. The book is priced to sell at \$7.95. Publication Date: October 25, 1996.

Holy Underpants Batman

Are you tired of your old worn CALVINS? Does your lover have skid marks in his BVDs? If so, THE BOXERS OF THE MONTH CLUB might just be for you.

Each month a different pair of very cool patterned designer boxers will arrive addressed to you. These are no ordinary boxers they are fashionable, comfortable, gentle to the skin, and made of the finest quality fabrics. Designers vary from JOE BOXER, BRIEFLY STATED, THE WELL BRED BOXER, JWE, MAGIC SILK, and many others. Just choose to become a silk or cotton member. You don't even have to worry about selecting designs... They'll do

that for you... simply tell them what size.

Gift memberships are also available and friends and lovers will appreciate your thoughtfulness and good taste when they receive their monthly selection shipped in a deluxe gift box, a membership certificate and a personalized gift card with the first month's shipment.

Prices for The Cotton Club start at 3

months at \$79; 6 months at \$149; 12 months at \$299. Silk Club: 3 months at \$84; 6 months at \$159; 12 months at \$319. Prices include shipping, handling, and elegant presentation.

To order your own underpants or for more information call THE BOXERS OF THE MONTH CLUB at: 1-800-SHORTS-5.

WISCONSIN AIDS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

HIV THERAPY TRIALS OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT

Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC) is currently enrolling individuals with HIV/AIDS for participation in three trials of research drug therapies. These trials may advance scientific knowledge and future treatment of other individuals with HIV/AIDS.

TRIAL NO. 1 - REMUNE™

REMUNE™ is an experimental treatment intended to boost the body's natural immune response against HIV. In Phase I and II studies, REMUNE has so far been found safe and well-tolerated. The study compares the responses of individuals having equal chances of receiving REMUNE or placebo by injection every 12 weeks for up to 3 years.

ELIGIBILITY - If you are over 18 years of age, HIV positive, have a CD4+ count of 300-549, have had no prior investigational vaccine or immune-based therapy treatment and no changes in antiretroviral drugs or doses within the past 30 days, and have no history of or current AIDS-defining conditions except for Kaposi's Sarcoma, you may be eligible for this study.

TRIAL NO. 2 - DELAVIRDINE

This is a double-blind, randomized study. The study compares the responses of individuals taking varied doses of Delavirdine (DLV) and AZT, AZT and 3TC or a combination of DLV, AZT & 3TC.

ELIGIBILITY - If you are 14 years of age or older, HIV positive, have a CD4 count greater than 200 but less than 500, and haven't been on AZT more than 6 months, you may qualify for this study.

TRIAL NO. 3 - STAVUDINE PLUS DIDANOSINE

This is an open-label study of the safety and biological effects of Stavudine (d4T) taken in combination with Didanosine (ddl) in HIV positive patients who have had prior therapy with AZT.

ELIGIBILITY - If you are over 18 years of age, HIV positive, have a CD4 count between 100 and 500 and have taken AZT as single drug therapy for more than 3 months, you may qualify for this study.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ENROLLING IN THESE TRIALS, PLEASE CALL ARCW AT 414-225-1578.

ARCW

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The World in Brief

with Rex Wockner

Homophobe Neighbors Fined \$38,500

Surry Hills, Australia — A couple in Surry Hills, Australia, who repeatedly yelled anti-gay slurs at their neighbor must pay him \$50,000 (US \$38,500) an Equal Opportunity Tribunal ruled last week.

The decision came in the first case filed under a 1994 New South Wales state law that outlaws public statements or acts that incite hatred or extreme ridicule of gays and lesbians.

The offending couple called their neighbor "faggot," "AIDS-ridden cunt," "bloody poofster" and "scum," according to the Sydney Morning Herald. They threw oranges and dirty diapers on his balcony, threatened to break his legs, and put a note on his door that said, "You are a disgrace to society, so stick this letter where the sun doesn't shine. ..."

Gay Offices, Cafe Raided in St. Petersburg

St Petersburg — The de facto gay center in St. Petersburg, Russia, was raided by either police or fake police this summer, according to Advocate columnist Lillian Faderman.

The center houses the lesbian group Safo, the Tchaikovsky Foundation for the Cultural Initiatives and Defense of Sexual Minorities, and a small cafe and bar.

"Three men in police uniforms burst in, ordered the cafe customers to lie down on the floor, and took their gold chains and money," Faderman wrote.

"The police had no search warrants but they broke down the locked door of the foundation's office. They were searching for drugs, they said. The foundation kept proceeds from a recent event in a box — about a million rubles (\$200). The police took the box.

"Hooliganism or an official action?"

Nobody knows," Faderman said.

In August, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that police closed the office and cafe following five raids. The ABC report did not say what crime allegedly had been committed at the location.

No Equality for Portuguese Gays

Lisbon — Portugal's Socialist government has no intention of adding homosexuals to the list of protected minorities in Article 13 of the federal constitution, spokesman MP Nuno Baltazar Mendez told a Sept. 18 forum sponsored by the gay group ILGA-Portugal.

The forum was billed as Portugal's "first national debate on homosexual rights." Baltazar claimed protecting gays from discrimination would lead to legal gay marriage which, he said, Portugal is not ready to accept.

Meanwhile, the government of Lisbon has given ILGA office space in the city center and Lisbon City Hall has become a sponsor of the city's first Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, scheduled for September 1997.

Pink Paper Arson May Not Have Been Anti-gay

London — The Sept. 7 arson fire that gutted the offices of Britain's leading gay newspaper, *The Pink Paper*, may not have been an anti-gay attack.

Clare Penny, a former editor of *Positive Times*, a monthly magazine for HIV-positives published in the same office, was arrested in Hackney, East London, Sept. 18 in connection with the blaze. As of press time, however, no formal charges had been filed. Penny worked at *Positive Times* until April.

"It is generally agreed here to have been an internal community job and not a homopho-

bic attack," a London gay leader told [this publication] prior to the announcement of Penny's arrest. "Whoever did it had a set of keys. There was no forced entry." Other sources had said they suspected one of several fired former staffers committed the crime.

Penny quit voluntarily, however, *Pink Paper* Editor Philip Reay-Smith said in a telephone interview Sept. 28. Thirty separate fires were set in the building, destroying the editorial and production departments. Damage was estimated at \$350,000. No deadlines were missed by any of the four titles published by the company because staffers back up their computer data every night and take it home with them, Reay-Smith said.

PWA Home Torched in Colombia

Paicol — Arsonists torched a Catholic AIDS hospice in Paicol, Columbia, Sept. 23. No one was hurt. Neighbors had been threatening the residents for months, claiming they were contaminating the town's water supply by bathing in the local river.

Romania Alters Anti-Gay Legislation

Romania — Following an outcry from European officials, Romania's Chamber of Deputies Sept. 25 deleted a section of an already-passed bill that would have punished private gay sex between adults with up to three years in prison. But they retained a section that will punish gay sex that causes "public scandal" with up to five years in prison and another section that bans gay "propaganda, associations or ... proselytizing" under threat of five years in jail.

The remaining proposals advance to the Senate then to President Iliescu for his signature. An old Communist-era law currently

bans all gay sex in Romania.

In Milan, Italy, Sept. 17, the main gay group, Arci Gay, demonstrated outside the Italian-Romanian Trade Mission.

Some protesters dressed as the Romanian vampire Dracula. The picket was joined by members of the Green and Communist parties and representatives of trade unions.

Afterward, the Milan City Council unanimously passed a resolution denouncing Romania's anti-gay moves.

Armenian Gays Reach Out

Armenia — Two lesbians and a gay man from the former Soviet republic of Armenia found their way into gay cyberspace last week and appealed for contact with the rest of the world.

Armen, 30, Lusy, 27, and Nara, 28, said it's horrible to be gay in Armenia.

"We are not ashamed of being such people but to open our personalities in our country is just inadmissible and impossible," they wrote. "We want to be free and not to hide. We want to speak, to work, to live freely such as in every normal civilized country. ... Here people just do not admit and understand this natural thing. It is a pity but this is a fact.

We would like to participate in gay and lesbian conferences, congresses, forums, demonstrations and other kind of works. It would be a great revelation for us. We are sure that we are the, first people from Armenia who do such brave step and cannot imagine what will follow."

They said their fax number is 011-7-374-2-151-795, attn: AGN Centre. Discretion might be advisable.

Church Persists Against "Virgin Mary" Bar

Melbourn — Having lost at the state level, Melbourne, Australia, Catholic officials moved to the national arena with their effort to force the gay bar Virgin Mary's to change its "blasphemous" name, reported the newspaper Brother Sister.

The case was heard last week by the Administrative and Appeals Tribunal of the Australian Security Commission before a record-for-the-year 60 spectators. Lawyers for the church inexplicably showed photos of the drag-nun organization Sisters of Perpetual

Indulgence as evidence that the bar insults Catholics. A decision is expected shortly.

Show Stuns Closet Cases

London — A storyline on the popular British TV series *EastEnders* about a bisexual who falls for his girlfriend's brother has prompted a flood of calls to gay switchboards from closeted men trapped in straight relationships, reported London's *The Pink Paper*.

Hundreds of men have called local helplines after each recent episode of the three-night-a-week BBC drama.

"We've taken hundreds of calls from people who've been forced to confront their sexuality because of the *EastEnders* storyline," said London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard spokesman Gary Scott.

"Most are men in their twenties and thirties. Many of them have told us that the bisexual character is saying what they've been wanting to say for years."

Pro-Gay Moves in Taiwan

Taipei — The mayor of Taipei, Taiwan, Chen Shui-bian, will officiate at a November wedding of two gay men, reported the news page of the *Planet Out World Wide Web* site. No further details were reported.

Chen also has instructed the city's Culture and Information Division to help gays and lesbians organize a dance in a city-owned building on Christmas Eve.

Earlier this year the city granted gays a slot on the city-owned radio station for a daily gay program.

Swedish MP to Push Gay Marriage in Brazil

Stockholm — Swedish Member of Parliament Barbro Westerholm will travel to Brazil Nov. 5 to lobby for a gay-partnership bill introduced in the Brazilian parliament by Deputy Marta Suplicy.

Polling shows that about 40 percent of Brazilians support a form of gay marriage, with vocal opposition coming mostly from fundamentalist Protestants.

Westerholm has a long history of gay activism. In the late 1970s, as director of the National Social Welfare Board, she removed homosexuality from Sweden's official list of

medical illnesses. In later years, she headed the parliamentary registered-partnership committee, attended conferences of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, and has continued to rail against violations of gay and lesbian human rights around the world.

Sweden is one of four nations where gays can marry under registered-partnership laws that grant all rights of marriage except access to church weddings, adoption and artificial-insemination technology.

No Gay Rights for Western Austria

The state Parliament in Western Austria rejected a measure to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation Sept. 19.

State Attorney General Peter Foss explained that outlawing discrimination against homosexuals would encourage gay sex and infringe on the rights of people who object to homosexuality.

FRINGES

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A Full
Service
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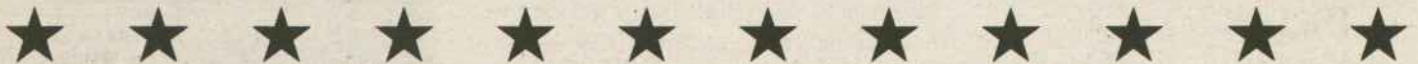
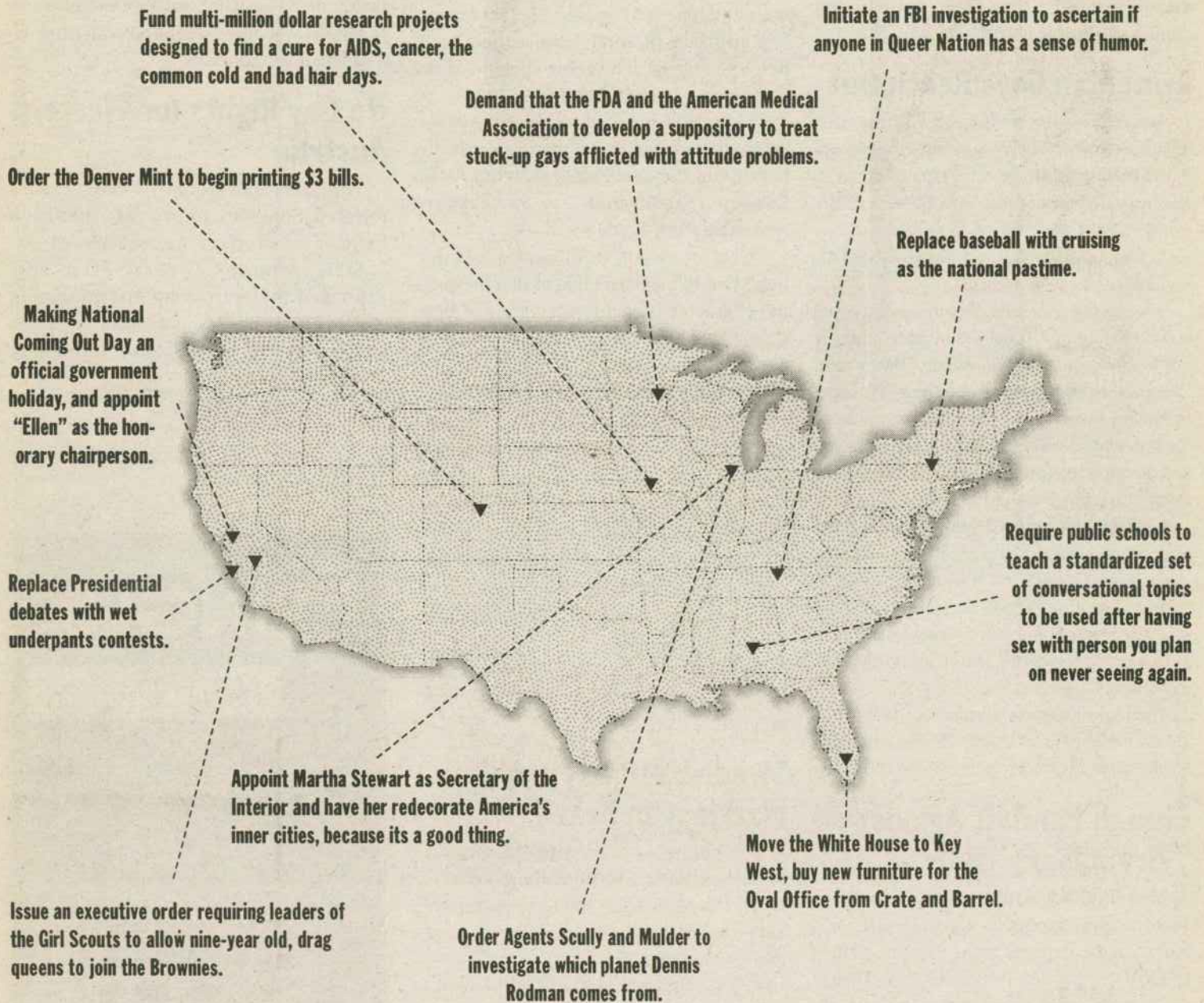
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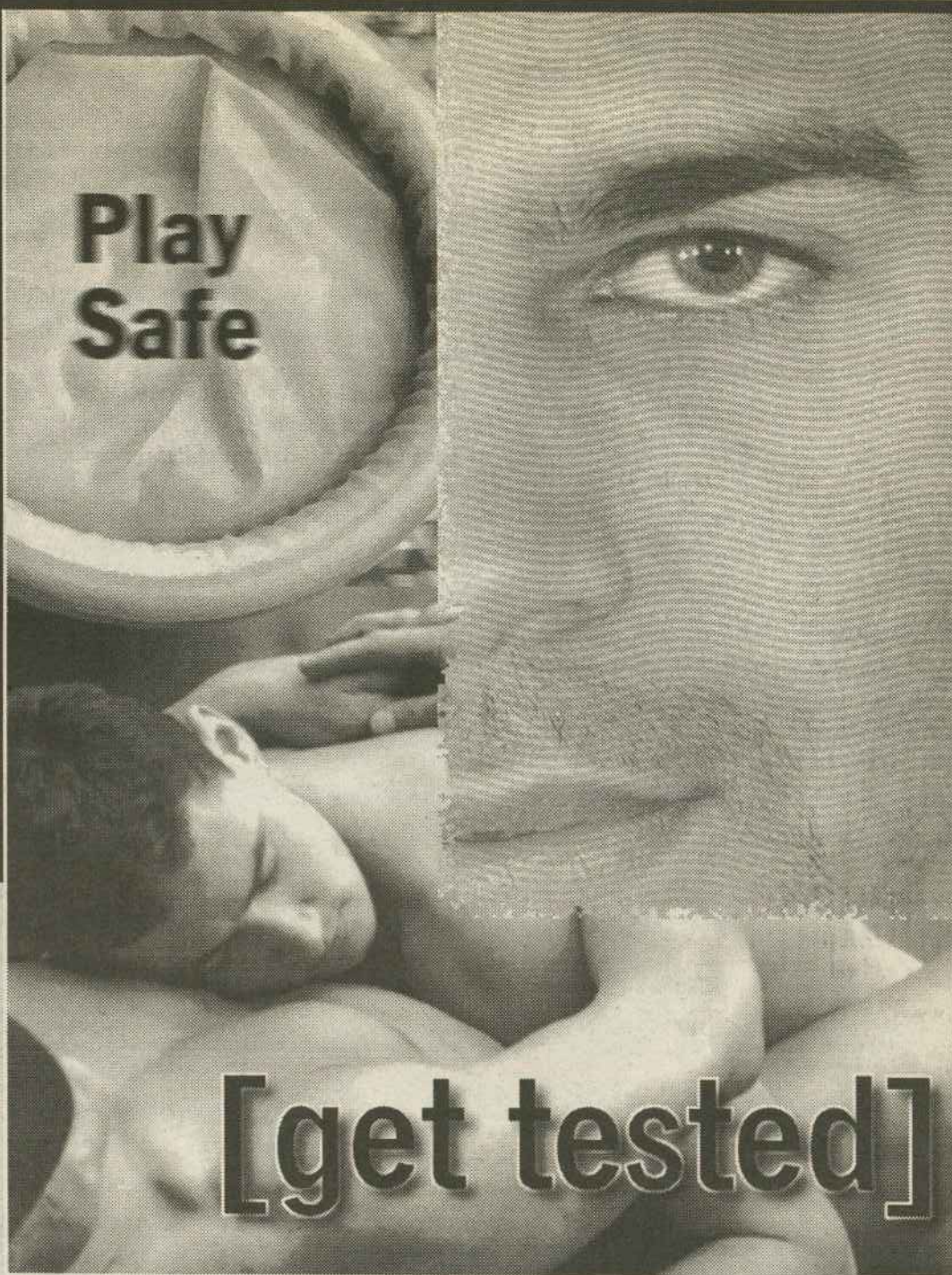
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At age 34, openly gay Wisconsin State Representative Tammy Baldwin is currently serving her second term in Wisconsin's State Assembly and is strongly favored to win a third term in the upcoming fall elections. Baldwin's easy demeanor, quick smile and extraordinary focus have won her recognition not only statewide but across the nation. Recently, I had a chance to sit down with Baldwin to discuss politics, outing and her role as a lesbian sex symbol.

Interview by William Attewell
Photo: Cabal

WA: What is your first memory of politics?

TB: I was raised in-part by my maternal grandparents. My grandfather was a University professor and was asked to speak overseas. We were traveling in Europe and I was five years old.

My grandmother was getting her hair done in a salon in Italy and they all spoke Italian, not English. They heard over the radio that Robert Kennedy had been killed. The salon owner thought that this American woman should know what had happened. He came up to her and said, "Roberto Kennedy. Bang, bang!" She knew immediately what had happened. I remember I knew something of great importance and great tragedy had happened in the United States. I remember that sort of chilling moment in my very early childhood.

In terms of memories of real campaigns, I had some awareness of the early 70's sweep of progressive young elected officials like Mayor Soglin being elected to be Mayor of Madison in 1973.

What motivated you to get into politics? What was the first office you ran for?

TB: The motivation and the first office are two different things. The first office I ran for was the Dane County Board of Supervisors in 1986. I was a first-year law student and I was living on campus. My County Board Supervisor announced her intent not to seek reelection. I had worked on a bunch of County Board Campaigns and felt as though I could do it. It was one of the most exciting periods of my life and I won that first race. It was quite a thrill.

Motivations to run for political office are I can think of several different factors in my life. I had a mother who was a political activist an "in-the-streets" activist. She was in college when I was a toddler and I remember learning how to make the peace sign. She was very involved in the black civil rights movement; she went down South to march.

My grandparents were political in a very different way. They always wrote to

Totally Tammy

their elected officials and asked them to take stands on things. I saw them work the more institutional side of politics.

I feel like I have both of their interests — sort of behind the scenes as well as in front of the scenes. Then, I started seeking leadership positions on my own at school — seeing things happen and seeing that one or two or three people could make a tremendous difference if they made the commitment to better their community.

WA: Do you think your youth is an advantage in the Capitol?

TB: Absolutely. I actually am the youngest woman in the legislature; although, there are

Wisconsin Christians United is out there stirring up trouble and trying to get somebody to introduce a Bill to repeal our civil rights protections that we've had in this State for 14 years.

WA: Do you think that's a realistic possibility?

TB: I think that is slimmer than the almost certainty that we'll have an Anti Same-Sex Marriage Bill introduced. From my perspective as a person within the legislature, it will be much easier to slow down, or kill, anti-gay legislation if there are chairpeople of committees who don't like the legislation. Also, it will be better if the Democrats control which Bills come up and which Bills don't.

next one is Rick Skindrude, he represents Verona and Mount Horeb and several other communities. His opponent is a woman by the name of Judy Patenaude. The final one is Eugene Hahn, who represents rural western Dane County (Cross Plains, Black Earth and Mazomanie). His opponent is Jim Festge.

WA: First Lady Hillary Clinton was in town (Madison) today. Did you get a chance to see her?

TB: From my vantage point in the nose-bleed section, it was marvelous. I had an absolute thrill. One of the thrills of the day was when Mayor Paul Soglin who is running for Congress against Scott Klug, introduced Hillary.

I am now beginning to much more seriously look at an eventual run for Congress, here in the Second Congressional District ... I would say it is my hope to succeed Paul Soglin as Congressperson of the Second Congressional District.

many men who are younger than me. I always find that interesting in that so many women defer a decision to get into leadership positions because they have family responsibilities, it's a problem. If you look at the gender dynamics, the young men sort of don't feel held back by the same considerations. I think that speaks to where we are in our society.

We need more younger women role-models for getting women involved in politics at an early age and for them to see that as an option that reaps both personal and community rewards. I also think that there's a sense of freshness with the perspective that the youthful members bring to the legislature. We are concerned about the future because we're going to live in the future. We have a huge stake in what that future looks like.

WA: As you look at the elections just days away, what are the important races in Wisconsin?

TB: Frankly, the bottom line in the State of Wisconsin is who controls the legislature. For those who don't follow politics very closely, let me just say that the party in control decides which bills advance and which bills do not. They also select the chairpeople of every committee. We know that a member has pledged to reintroduce again the Anti Same-Sex Marriage Bill. We also know that

The Senate, right now, is controlled by Democrats by one vote ... It's a 17 to 16 margin. If everybody who's running wins re-election, we will have the Senate controlled by Democrats.

The Assembly has several open seats. When we adjourned last session there was a two-vote Republican majority; the Democrats really have to make a two-vote gain there. There are State Assembly races across the State that are promising from the perspective that these people really have the chance to defeat an incumbent Republican. I think, frankly, regardless of a lot of other factors that we need to target our resources ... we need to be pragmatic. The goal is to elect a majority that's willing to slow down or kill this legislation.

I encourage people to look at what the pivotal races that are expected to do that. Here in Dane County, there are three Republican incumbents outside the city limits of Madison who are viewed as very vulnerable. I am working *extremely* hard on the campaigns of their Democratic opponents.

WA: And those are?

TB: The incumbents are Rudy Silbaugh, he's a Republican in Sun Prairie and Stoughton. I'm working for his opponent, Tom Hebl. The

He started by making note that we were all gathered at West High School, which is my alma mater. He said that West High School had produced many people who had gone on to make a difference in our community. He mentioned my name and a couple of others, but I felt thrilled to be in this school that I graduated from, and to get that recognition. I feel really proud of the school system here.

WA: I've heard many people say your speech at the Wisconsin AIDS Walk this year was inspiring and people you're a great speaker. Is that a natural talent that you've always had?

TB: Goodness! I don't know. I write all my own speeches and I try to predict what the feeling of the moment is going to be when I am going to deliver the words. I try to imagine that in my head. I've written speeches that have bombed before, but I just didn't predict the energy in the room or the audience. I feel like I do have the sense of what you know, in preparing for the speech I gave for the AIDS Walk a sense of what somebody thought when they woke up that morning and decided they were going to walk ten kilometers to raise money. I thought of all the work that had gone into this, and all the different motivations and whether they lost someone, or if they were fighting so that their classmates would be able

to get preventative information.

I also thought about what it is I wanted to say, which was really a message about I think the organizing that has been done about AIDS has proven that so many things that need to be in place for a high quality of life are not in place in the United States.

When we look at AIDS services, we look at finding housing for people who have become low-income by virtue of their health. We're looking at securing health care for people who might have lost their insurance because they lost their jobs. We're looking at dealing with homophobia . . . for sure! But we're also dealing with racial issues and stereotypes of who has AIDS, so we have to combat racism.

We look at how people, who committed themselves to the battle against AIDS, have also done a tremendous amount of work. They have pointed out that so many of our institutions are not responsive to everybody. I think that's a powerful movement. Most people think of these activists as only thinking about finding a cure, treatment and the rest of it. This is a much larger movement; it has so many commonalities with the House the Homeless Movement and the Health Care Reform Movement and all sorts of activist movements that need to keep on working in this day and age. I just think that any movement that exposes all of that is such a gift.

WA: I've heard women say that you're a sex symbol for other lesbians.

TB: Oh, my God. I've never heard that before.

WA: How do you react to something like that?

TB: I always find it incredibly difficult to believe that anyone would look up to me. I'm talking very personally right now. The only way I can conceive of it is that I have always had a passion for politics. I remember being in downtown Madison as a teenager and seeing the

...there's a sense of freshness with the perspective that the youthful members bring to the legislature. We are concerned about the future because we're going to live in the future. We have a huge stake in what that future looks like.

Governor walk across the street, or seeing the Attorney General in a restaurant and thinking, "Oh, my God, that's somebody I really admire and look up to."

I was really aware in 1992, when I was running for the State Legislature, that if I won this would be a tremendous historic first. I think that once I got in the legislature, and to a certain degree during the course of the campaign, I realized that my being in office was going to be, in some respects, bigger than my just being a legislator; that we haven't had a person who was openly gay or lesbian in a position of authority who had statewide media visibility before. There's a huge vacuum to fill . . . a vacuum of invisibility and silence.

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WA: Five or ten years ahead ... can you envision what your political role will be?

TB: Six or eight months ago I would have danced around that question. I don't think I'm going to do that anymore. I am beginning to look at what my next step should be. You always have the choice of whether staying somewhere long-term will allow you to make more of a difference; or, taking the next step in a different direction. Now, I could stay in the legislature and hope someday to be in leadership; or, I could look at a different level of government.

I am now beginning to much more seriously look at an eventual run for Congress, here in the Second Congressional District. I guess, given that we're doing this interview before the general election, I

I frankly don't want people out there, who are going to speak on behalf of our movement, who are embarrassed or ashamed or not comfortable with their sexual orientation.

would say it is my hope to succeed Paul Soglin as Congressperson of the Second Congressional District.

I much have a lot of faith that Paul Soglin can win and will win and will be a great Congressperson for both the Second Congressional District and the gay and lesbian community. I would look at trying to succeed him when he chooses to move on. If there's another outcome of that election on November 5th, I will then look at when that step would be an appropriate one for me to take, but this is what I'm looking at now.

WA: You've obviously been thinking about this for a while. When you make that kind of decision, how does it feel?

TB: Clearly, to me, the most terrifying part of this would be to give up a job that I love and take such a huge risk. Because that is what you have to do in order to run for Congress. You can't be on the same ballot for two different offices. I would have to give up my legislative seat to do that; essentially serve out my term, but not run for re-election. That's terrifying to me because I just love the privilege to serve.

On the other hand, you have to take risks. I think that there's a tremendous amount of important work that needs to be done in Washington. Given the publication that this is for presentation in, clearly we need more visible and open gay and lesbian people in Washington. There are so many, many other issues that I feel very passionately about in terms of the future health and welfare of this nation.

WA: What do you think people would be surprised to know about you?

TB: Hmmm. I don't think I've ever gotten that question before. I'm a pretty darned good volleyball player. I don't know if my team would say that. I played in the Gay Games.

WA: How did your team do?

TB: We got fourth, which means we didn't get a medal. We gave the third-place team its medal by losing the bout ... it was a thrill. It was exciting to be in New York during the Gay Games and Stonewall.

WA: What has changed about yourself in the four years since you were elected to the Assembly?

TB: I came into the legislature as a real outsider. I hadn't worked in a legislative office, so my learning curve on how to get things to happen in the legislature was very high. I feel like I've learned the right things because I feel like even when my second term was in the minority party I was still getting measures through and finding ways to work with my very conservative colleagues to advance issues of common interest or even things that are in my agenda that I persuaded them ought to be on their agenda. I feel like that's been an incredible learning curve. I would say that the struggle side of it would be dealing with a little less privacy, a little less personal time. A lot less of both is the honest answer.

WA: How do you deal with that? You must not have any free time.

TB: At certain times of the year I do. The two-year cycle ebbs and flows; I don't have time now. It's 7 days a week, 14 hours a day ... something like that. But between November 5th and when we get sworn in again in January, there will be a lull ... there better be. I'm going to take a long nap, then.

WA: When Wisconsin Christian United outed State Representative Tim Carpenter many people in the legislature were fairly silent or safe in their reaction. I was wondering what your reaction to that incident was. How you perceived it?

TB: I think that a gay/lesbian picture snapshot is what Wisconsin Christians United is about and their increasing power to organize. I have come home to my own house in the isthmus of Madison several times to find their flyers in my door. Knowing that they're leafleting my whole neighborhood, apparently to increase neighbor hostility to my presence in the legislature, and to weaken my electoral base. We should open our eyes to what their strategy is going to be. We need to be organized in response.

WA: Outing seems to be happening more now than ever, what is your stand on outing?

TB: My position on outing is that I do not believe that somebody's sexual orientation

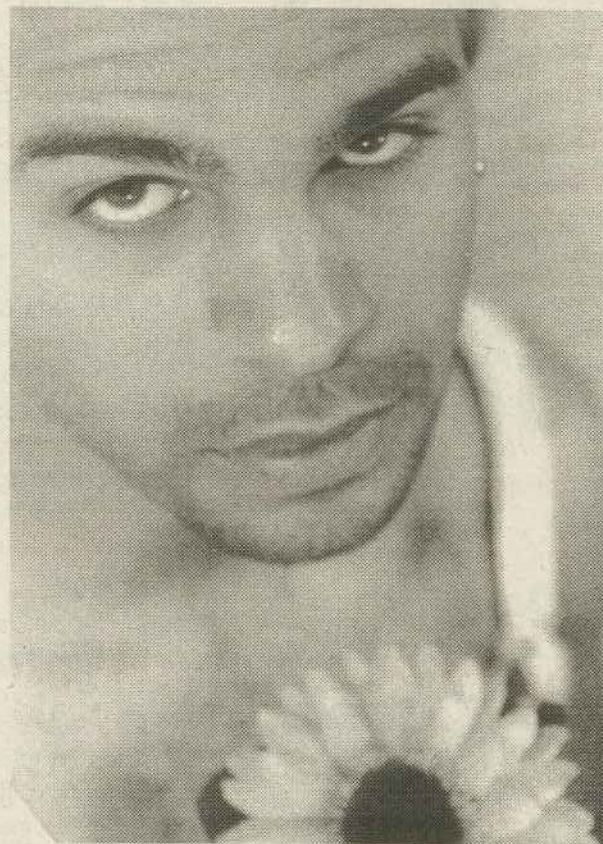
should ever be used as a weapon. I think it suggests, or buys into, the fact there's something wrong with a given sexual orientation and that people should be ashamed. Outing is used as a shaming tool. I think that each individual's response to this type of activity ... is their own business.

What I want in terms of moving the movement forward (i.e., the Gay and Lesbian Civil

Rights Movement), is people who are comfortable with their sexual orientation. I think that they will be good, visible role models and articulate spokespersons of the cause that we are trying to move forward.

If we have people's sexual orientation being used as a weapon and as a shaming tool, I frankly don't want people out there who are going to speak on behalf of our movement

J o r g e Cabal [Photography]



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who are embarrassed or ashamed or not comfortable with their sexual orientation.

I remember my first debate I ever did on outing. The round I took when outing was acceptable, was posthumously! It was acceptable to reclaim our figures of history our authors, our great warriors, our great artists as part of our community if we could provide evidence to that effect after there wasn't the aspect to doing all of that. I still feel pretty

strongly that under no other circumstances is it really helpful or acceptable.

WA: As you look at what's going on with Gay Rights and just the general social climate for gays and lesbians, do you see improvement over what it was maybe five years ago?

TB: Absolutely! Leaps and bounds. I must say that the day I heard of the vote on DOMA and the vote on ENDA, when ENDA lost by one vote in the U.S. Senate, I thought I was going

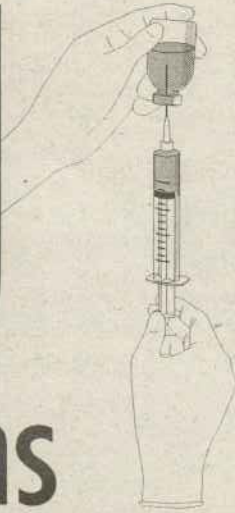
to be outraged and devastated and sad and angry. Instead I just stood there and thought about it and said, "We're going to win both of these in our lifetimes." We're going to win the right to marry in the courts and ENDA was only one vote short. That could pass as early as next session.

The things that we have been struggling for 27 years to achieve are around the corner. The gay and lesbian community talk about living in exciting times those of us who are of age now and involved are going to be the one's who do it, so we can each take credit for those monumental achievements. The visibility of gay and lesbian people over the past five years in the entertainment media and pop culture and in other forms has just dramatically increased. Probably, people out of their anger over all the abuses we're putting up with right now are coming out in greater numbers.

WA: Do you think that part of that is generational?

TB: Absolutely. I know conservative Republicans who are bad on a whole bunch of issues, but who had a gay roommate in their college dorms. They are looking at this issue very differently than their older colleagues or other people who are in office. There's a lot of generational aspect to it. The other thing is that in some ways our enemies are even helping us. We wouldn't have chosen, probably, to the extent that we're an organized civil rights movement, to move on anything other than ENDA over the past four years. That would have been the crowning achievement had we had that opportunity. We were fighting anti-gay ballot initiatives in multiple states and localities. We were fighting the "Gays in the Military" battle... no pun intended. We were fighting against these anti-gay marriage initiatives and they were sort of setting the agenda of out political activism. Those attacks brought out so many more people into the movement who are saying, "My rights are on the line, here." I would never have imagined that gay and lesbian issues would have gotten the amount of ink and prime-time air time and radio time that our issues have because of out enemies. In many ways they're helping us move public opinion in our favor.

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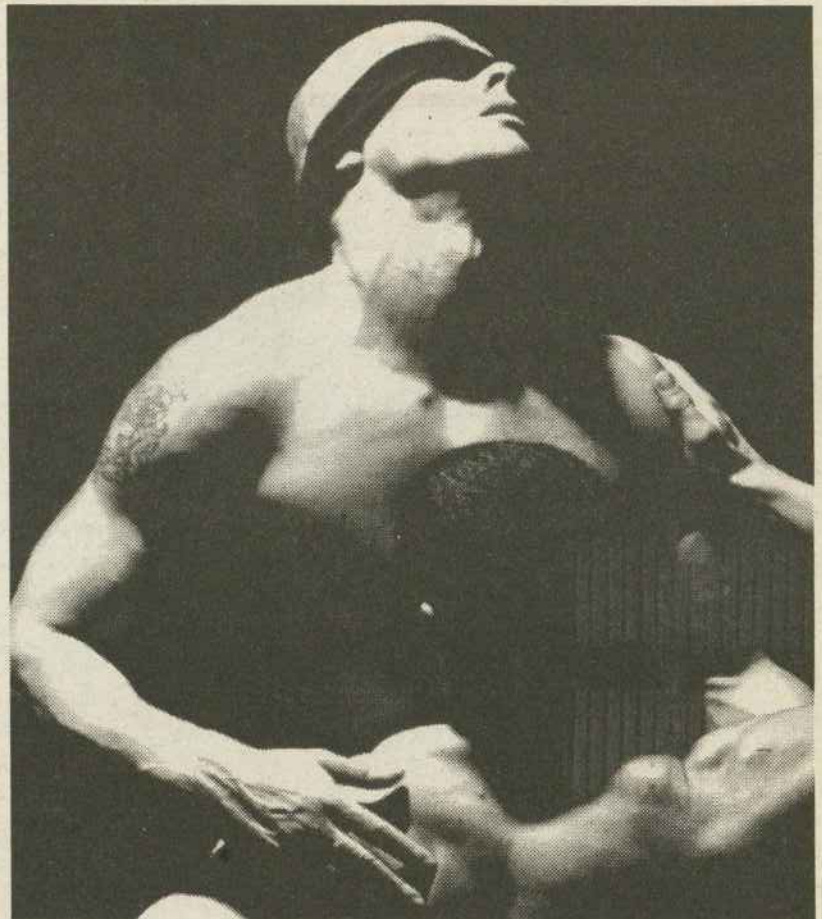
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Milwaukee Chamber Theatre Presents "The Trip to Bountiful"

Milwaukee — Milwaukee Chamber Theatre will raise the curtain on its 1996/1997 season with Horton Foote's "The Trip to Bountiful," directed by Artistic Director

Montgomery Davis. The play runs October 19 through November 3, 1996 in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. The production is generously sponsored by Miller Brewing Company. Tickets range from \$10-\$27 and are available at the Broadway Theatre Center Box Office or by calling 414-291-7800.

The perfect slice of Americana, "The Trip to Bountiful" is perhaps Horton Foote's best known play. Mrs. Carrie Watts is desperately trying to survive the abrupt changes of a modern world with her meek son and neurotic daughter-in-law.

Her final wish-to return to her girlhood hometown of Bountiful in East Texas. Her "escape" from their cramped apartment leads her on a humorous and wistful adventure to a community that no longer exists. In the remains of her home and beauty of the countryside, the family discovers an inner strength of character and the quest for forgiveness.

Artistic Director Montgomery Davis chose this production to start the season not only because of its humorous and gentle message, but because he regards it as a true classic of American theatre. "Classic American theatre deals in a yearning for a bygone era in the myth of American innocence," Davis said. "This play, written by Texan Horton Foote, is clear-eyed assessment of the frailties of Americans in our modern age." Ruth Schudson, co-founder of Milwaukee Chamber Theatre,

plays Mrs. Carrie Watts, an emotionally strained elderly woman who seeks peace and comfort from the painful memories of her past. Ms. Schudson was most recently seen on the MCT stage in "Arms and The Man," "Androcles and the Lion," and "Love Letters." She has also worked with Skylight Opera Theatre, Next Act Theatre, and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Ruth Schudson attended the Goodman Theatre School with Geraldine Page in the 1940's.

"Falling" - Comic Book Confronts the Grief of Losing Someone to AIDS.

Milwaukee — "Falling," written and illustrated by Milwaukee's own Jen Benka and Kris Dresen, portrays an individual's response to a close friend dying of AIDS and facing her own mortality, and features popular female character, Manya.

Benka and Dresen have produced two well-received books with the character Manya, the first of which was awarded a Xeric Foundation grant. They specifically chose the comic art medium to tackle the internal struggle and grief experienced when someone close to you dies, particularly from AIDS.

"There really isn't a better medium for expressing the emotional range you run and the probing question you ask yourself about your own life after someone you know dies from AIDS," Benka explained.

"Dealing with this subject in a comic book allowed us to explore feelings and the fear of AIDS in a way that's accessible to people of different ages, experiences and backgrounds," Dresen added.

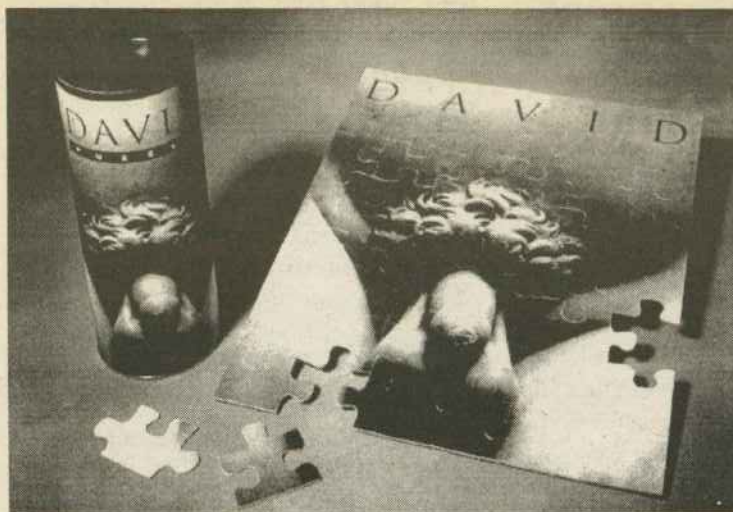
Poetically written and illustrated with engaging black and white art, "Falling" is the first comic that portrays AIDS realistically and from a female perspective. Benka and Dresen, both of whom have lost friends to AIDS, hope the book provides comfort and inspiration to other survivors.

"Falling" is available at better comic shops, from Last Gasp Distributors, or can be ordered directly for \$3.50 ppd, from Vagabond Press, 2300 N. Clybourn Ave., Suite #2 Chicago, IL 60614.



The Sisyphus Enterprise Introduces "The David Puzzle"

Evanston, Illinois — The Sisyphus Enterprise introduces the unique "David Puzzle." A museum quality, elegantly packaged jigsaw puzzle featuring the master's most beguiling detail. This special detail of



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Created by Michelangelo in 1504, "David" is a timeless work of beauty and authority. "The David Puzzle" is a sophisticated product, and a guaranteed conversation piece. This puzzle is available at conventional and unconventional retailers throughout the country. The 160 piece puzzle retails at \$19.95. Call the Sisyphus Enterprise at 847-869-EPIC for locations and more information.

Inspired by Homer, The Sisyphus Enterprise describes itself as an entrepreneurial odyssey. "Our company creates thought provoking products for thoughtful people," states Managing Partner, Darren DeMatoff. "We have an eye for details, and this is only the first in our line of 'David' products." For information on future products contact Mr. DeMatoff.

"The Coming Race War in America: A Wake-Up Call"

Shorewood — Is America still the great melting pot or is it more like a tinderbox waiting for one spark to blow it up? According to prizewinning journalist Carl Rowan writing in his new book "The Coming Race War in America: A Wake-Up Call," America is becoming more like South Africa than the land of equality. Carl Rowan will discuss his book, his deep concern for all races and his hope for the future at the Schwartz Bookshop in Shorewood on Tuesday, October 24 at 7 pm. This event is free and open to all. Call (414) 963-3111 for more information.

Most Americans, regardless of how and where they are raised, are taught that America is the land of racial and ethnic equality and opportunity. Respected journalist, presidential advisor and bestselling author Carl Rowan believes America in reality, looks more like the South Africa of apartheid days. With eloquence and anger, Rowan's new book "The Coming Race War in America: A Wake-Up Call," examines the signs of the coming race war: increasing racial hatred and economic jealousies, the rise of the "angry white male," corporate downsizing, growth of right-wing militias, the war on welfare and affirmative action, the growing black prison population, and, of course, the Simpson trial. Carl Rowan offers his compelling warning not to frighten, but as a motivation to take immediate critical steps to avoid the bloody harvest of a race

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Carl T. Rowan has won six Emmy awards and a Peabody, holds fifty-four honorary degrees, and was the first African-American to serve in a presidential cabinet and on the National Security Council. He is a syndicated columnist for the "Chicago Sun-Times" and is a regular radio and TV commentator. His most recent bestsellers are "Breaking Barriers" and "Dream Makers, Dream Breakers."

The "Capitol Steps" at the Pabst

Milwaukee — The "Capitol Steps," the only group in Washington funnier than the U.S. Congress will be returning to the historic Pabst Theater on Saturday, November 2 at 8:00 pm. The "Steps" is a troupe of former Congressional Staffers who travel the country presenting up-to-the minute parodies of contemporary political shenanigans and headline news. Just three days before the November 5th election, it is recommended that you vote early and often, but before you do, see the "Capitol Steps" first!

The "Steps" started in 1981 quite by accident when a few congressional aides staged a show for a Senate Christmas party. According to Elaina Newport, one of the group's founders, they had considered doing the traditional Nativity play, "But couldn't find three wise men and a virgin in Congress." They thought they would be fired, or at least run out of town, for skewering our national leaders and their bosses but people kept asking them to perform at their parties. Thanks ever since to the trails and tribulations, scandals and screw ups of our elected officials, there's never a shortage of material. Even in this period of downsizing, the troupe plans to be gainfully employed well into the next century. The group now does more than 300 performances a year along with regular appearances on National Public Radio and CNN's "Inside Politics."

The troupe still requires that all performers have experience working on Capitol Hill. Many celebrities and politicians, some of whom have been targets themselves, have performed with the troupe including Vice President Gore, Larry King, Pat Robertson, Surgeon General Koop and President Bush, to name a few. Over the past 15 years, the group has recorded 16 albums, their latest being "Return to Center" featuring new releases "Newt, Newt, Newt, Goin' Out My Back Door," "Your Son'll Come Out Tomorrow," and the title tune "Return to Center, Viewpoint Unknown" to the tune of the Elvis classic.

Tickets are \$26, \$20 and \$15 and can be purchased at the Pabst Theater Box Office at 144 E. Wells St or by PHONE CHARGE at 414-286-3663.

"The Middle Passage" to Appear at Schwartz Bookshop


Milwaukee — In conjunction with the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and the Ko-Thi Dance Company's production of "Benito Cereno," master artist Tom Feelings will talk and sign copies of his book "The Middle Passage" which served as reference and inspiration to the production-at the Downtown Schwartz Bookshop. The talk by Tom Feelings will begin at 3:00 pm followed by a book signing on Saturday, October 26. This event is free and open to all. For more information call (414) 274-6400.

"The Middle Passage," the title of author and artist Tom Feelings' exquisite book of sixty-four paintings, is also the name given to the cruel and terrifying journey of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean. Tom Feelings has drawn a startling and haunting pictorial saga of the lives of millions of African men and women who were torn from their homelands, crowded into disease-ridden death ships, and transported to America. The images of Tom Feelings are of unspeakable horror but in them he also pays tribute to the survival of the human spirit. "His book is moving and profound and it has been a significant inspiration and a reference for us in designing and developing 'Benito Cereno,'" said Milwaukee Repertory Theater director Edward Morgan.

Tom Feelings was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York where he attended the School of Visual Arts. He has lived in Ghana, West Africa and Guyana, South America.

His work focuses on African culture and the Black American Experience. His book "Soul Looks Back in Wonder" features original poems by Maya Angelou, Margaret Walker and a previously unpublished poem by Langston Hughes. He also collaborated with Maya Angelou on "Now Sheba Sings the Song." Currently

Tom Feelings is a professor of the arts at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.



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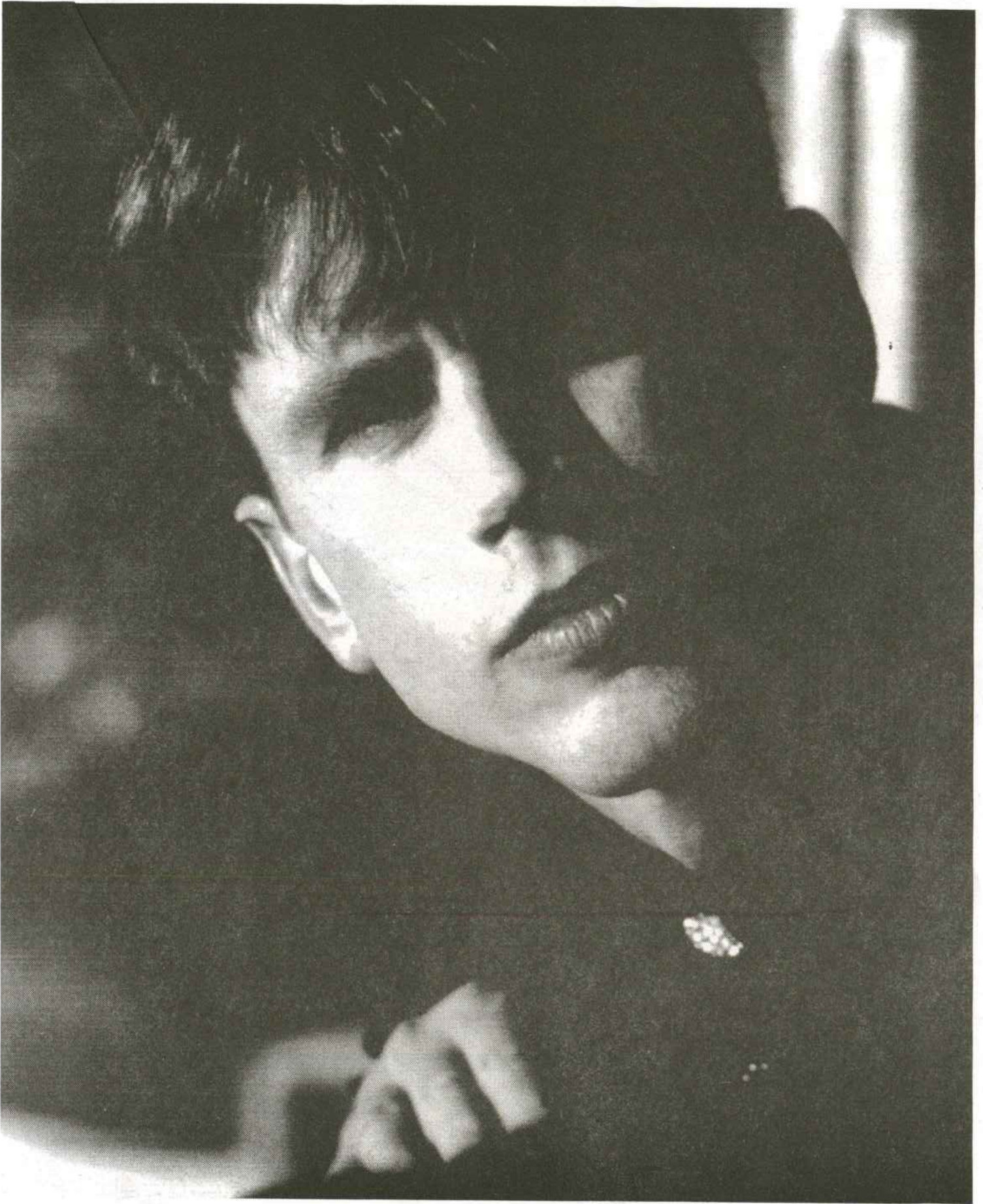




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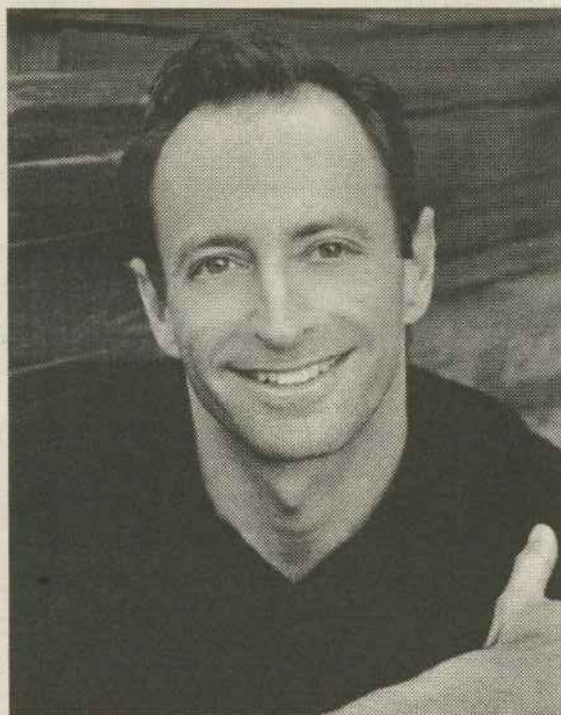
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HERB RITTS AT WORK



Interview by Timothy Nasson

For someone who majored in economics at Bard College in the early 1970's and worked in his family's furniture business for several years, Herb Ritts has come a long way. Born in Los Angeles in 1952, Ritts was only casually interested in photography at first. In the early 1980's that casual interest - photographing up and coming stars such as Richard Gere - attracted the attention of national magazines.

He won rapid success as a fashion photographer, working for such magazines as Harper's Bazaar, Vogue and Elle. Wanting an additional challenge,

Ritts' curiosity in the portrait field got the best of him and his portraits of people as opposite as William Burroughs and Elizabeth Taylor began to appear in *Interview* and *Vanity Fair*.

Ritts is know for creating bold and immediate images. He maintains that his style derives its formal clarity from his intuitive under-

Photos: Opposite Page: Jump, ©1996 Herb Ritts, Vladimir I, ©1990 by Herb Ritts, Backflip, ©1987 by Herb Ritts
Following Page: Madonna: Tokyo, © 1987 by Herb Ritts. Photos courtesy of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

standing of forms, silhouettes, and lines that are strong and classically inspired.

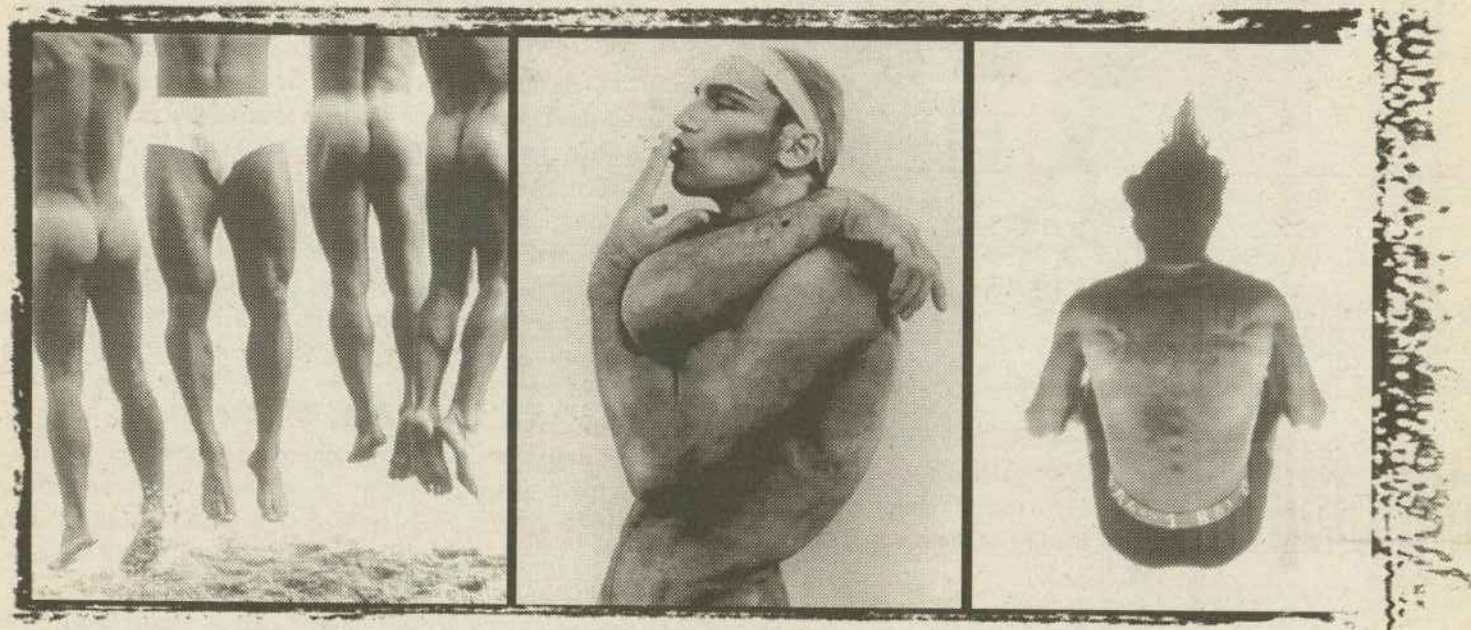
His imagination is also a lively one which sometimes creates whimsical and sometimes surreal pictures.

In conjunction with both an exhibit sponsored by Donna Karan at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, beginning on October 22- first stop on an international tour - and a new coffee table book, his biggest yet, that is over 400 pages thick, entitled Herb Ritts "WORK," I managed after many misses, (even when I was in Los Angeles) to finally pin Ritts down for a telephone interview from his Los Angeles home.

Just home from shooting a Revlon commercial featuring Cindy Crawford, he enlightened on a variety of subjects, from what it was that

his books "Herb Ritts Duo" and "Herb Ritts Africa," among many others, but in the television business as well. "I like variety. So for the past three or four years I have been doing music videos and television commercials which enables me to also work with moving bodies instead of just stationary ones. I have directed Madonna in her *Cherish* video as well as Michael Jackson's *In The Closet* and Janet Jackson's *Love Will Never Do*," he says. Most may remember the Chris Isaak video *Wicked Game* he directed most of all, for its rich and sensual quality, filmed in black and white of course. One may also remember the commercials he directed, including the fragrances Calvin Klein's *Escape*, Donna Karan Men, Chanel Allure, Guess as well as commercials for Cartier, Levi's and Revlon.

"When people find out that someone they respect, for whatever the reason, is gay, it breaks that barrier of uncomfortableness."



catapulted him to super stardom to the effect his being openly gay has had on young people just coming to terms with their sexuality.

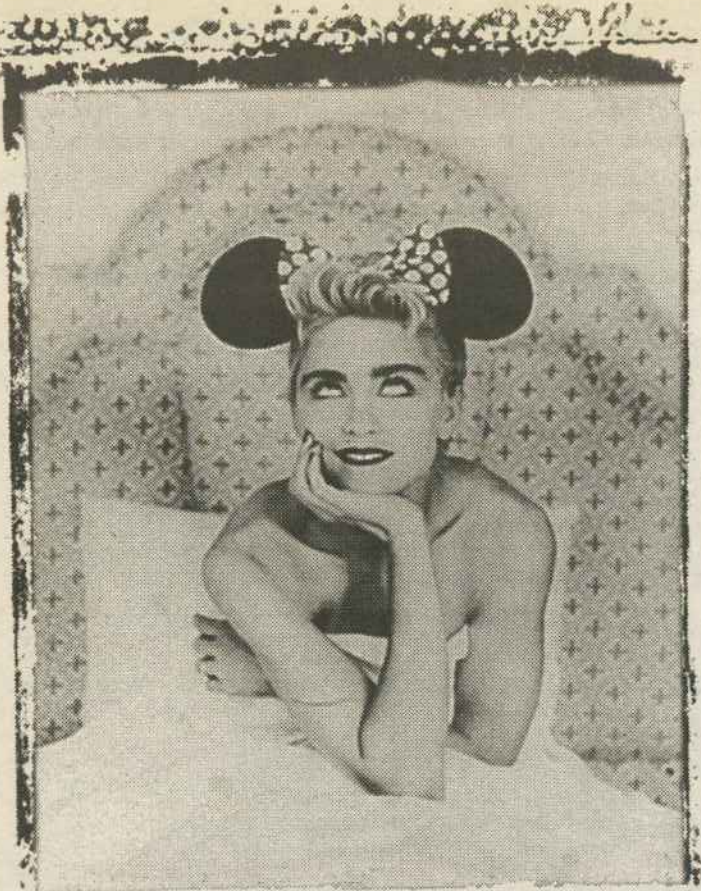
"My start in photography is what most may call a lucky break. I became friends with Richard Gere through his girlfriend whom I had known for a long time. One afternoon, we decided to drive out to the desert from Los Angeles in my old car. It got a flat tire and while we were waiting at the gas station for it to get fixed, I remembered that I had a camera in the car. I began to take a bunch of pictures of Richard (which are in the new book and the exhibit, by the way) standing in front of the gas pumps and around the station. He was just starting out in his career, so he wasn't too big yet. I thought nothing of the pictures when I got them back, but sent a set to him anyway. Somehow, his publicist - whom he had just taken on - got a hold of them and thought enough of them to send them to a bunch of magazines in New York. When it was all said and done they had been published in *Vanity Fair*, *Mademoiselle*, and *Vogue*," he says of the remarkable feat.

As they say, the rest is history. He has since worked not only on photographing people and landscapes, which have been chronicled in

Ritts calls Los Angeles home for many reasons but namely because, "Even though the east coast is where all of the action seems to be, it isn't suitable in the winter, especially since I use a lot of natural light," he says.

One of Ritts' most photogenic and popular models of recent was Marky Mark, whom he photographed for Calvin Klein in both print and television ads. "I always choose subjects that have something on the inside that shows up on the outside," he says when asked how it is that he comes upon likely candidates for getting snapped. "Generally, casting is key, for commercials or print ads. I want to know that the people I am working with have some inner quality or character to offer the camera. I love character and love being able to record that."

Sometimes ideas for photo shoots come from nothing other than a relaxing vacation. "My book "Herb Ritts Africa," came from a safari I had gone on a couple of years ago. I was so taken aback by the beauty of certain areas that I decided to go back with my camera and do a book."



ON COMING OUT

"Coming out was never an issue for me. The national declaration happened when good friend Maria Shriver was doing an NBC special entitled the Gay Nineties, which showcased many prominent gay people. She asked if I would be part of it and I never thought twice about it," he says.

"When people find out that someone they respect, for whatever the reason, is gay, it breaks that barrier of uncomfortableness. People sometimes have a tendency to fear things that they don't know too much about. For that reason it wasn't a big deal for me," he continues.

As for repercussions on talking about his sexuality in such a public light. "The only letters I got from doing that television special were from gay kids who were fifteen or sixteen years old that lived in small towns in the Midwest. Kids who were in despair, who had no clue as to what was happening to them and who seemed suicidal. They were glad to see people on the show that were gay but who were also visible in the entertainment community. I am glad that some kids were comforted in some way by seeing role model-like gay people on the show, even though I don't consider myself a role model. There is a need though, for kids and people of all ages, to see positive and strong role models in the gay community, who can show these kids that what they are feeling is ok and that they can be proud of who they are."

Ritts' modesty and intelligence also shine through when mentioning his modus operandi for charitable contributions and describing his philosophy as to whether or not other gay celebrities who may be in the closet should come out or not. "I donate portions of my proceeds

to AMFAR and other gay charities, however, these things don't need to be announced. I do it because I feel it is right and that is all that matters to me," he says.

In addition, he explains, "I am not into condoning the outing of anybody. One needs to be comfortable in their own life and with themselves and their sexuality before they make the big decision to make it known to others. And when one finally does make that decision, there are many great examples to show how it doesn't hinder ones' career. One example is Elton John. Elton, who is a friend of mine is a legend. He is out of the closet and was doing the songs and score for Disney's film "The Lion King." With this type of exposure, more straight people become aware of gay people in higher profile positions, and see them for who they are inside."

If everyone took the attitude that Ritts has, it is apparent that the world would be a more tolerant place to live. But, for the time being, one must continue in trying to get the world to such a tolerant level.

The future holds even more promise for the versatile image capturer. "I am co-partner in a movie production company and hope to direct a movie someday soon. The only drawback to that will be that it will take so much of my time, I will have to just about drop everything else for a while. I would like to do a movie that is character driven," he says. "It will not be a "Ready to Wear" or have anything to do with the fashion industry," he adds.

When asked if there are any actors in particular he would like to work with he says, "As with anything I do, commercials, print ads or videos, I like to see something special in the person I am capturing on film. An actor that comes to mind, whom I have photographed, that has what I look for? Gary Oldman."

Herb Ritts "Work" hits stores in late October. Just in time for early Christmas shoppers. In its over 400 pages, it features perennial favorites such as Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren and Milton Berle, as well as Madonna, Pee-Wee Herman circa 1987, RuPaul, Barbra Streisand, Tom Cruise, Johnny Depp, and a special, brand new treat, Matthew McConaughey.

And, heartwarming, newly photographed images of Christopher Reeve. Also included in the oversized portfolio are some of his famous nudes, as well as a few of the political and religious figures he has had the privilege of sitting with, such as The Dali Lama, Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The one and only photograph that seems out of place in a book that is sure to entertain and delight all, is the one of Dennis Rodman. Where is his character and what does he have on the inside that compelled Ritts to waste a session with him? If I had seen the book before I interviewed Ritts, I surely would have inquired.

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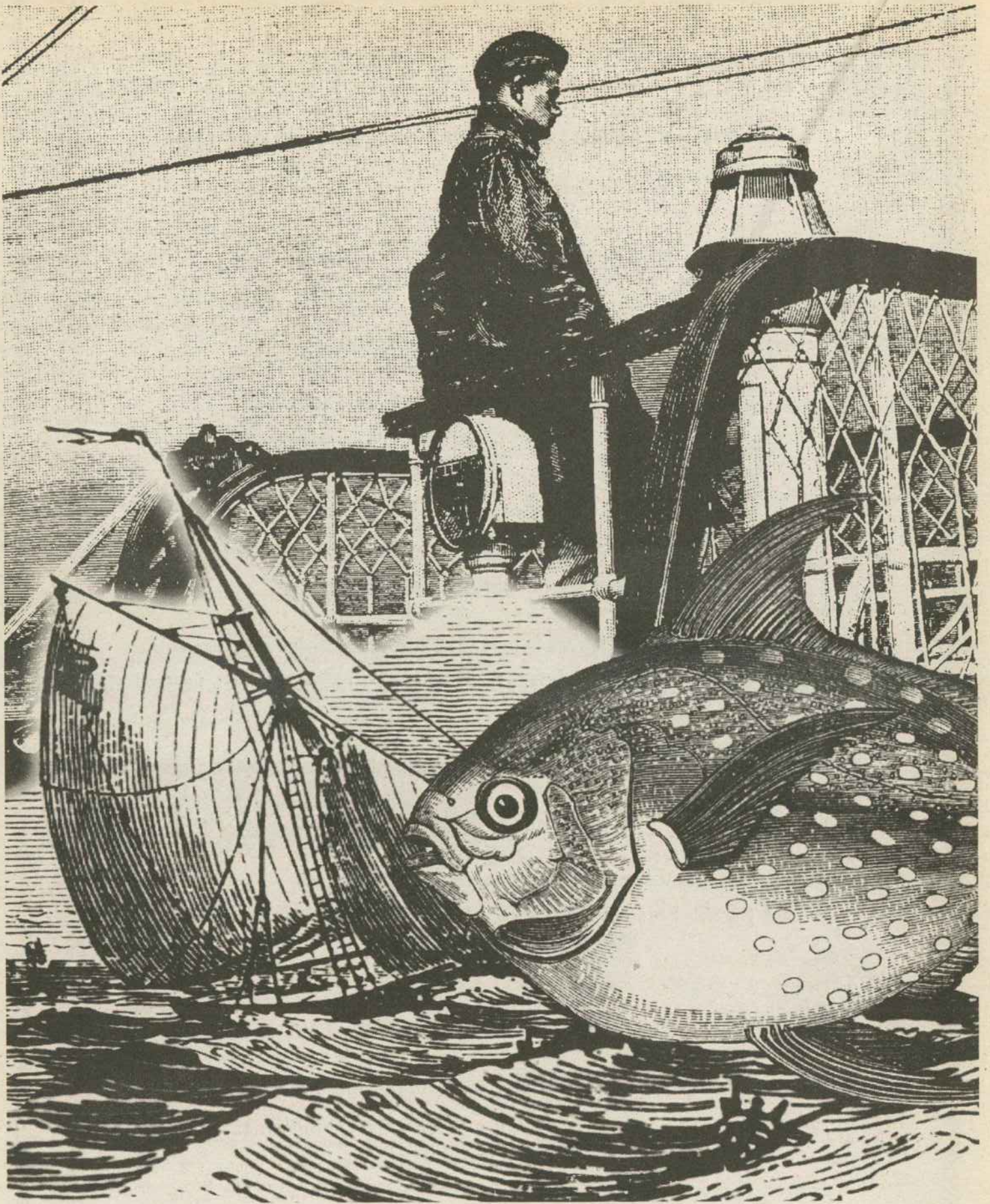
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Chickening Out

Crossing Lake Michigan from west to east is one thing.
Crossing Lake Michigan from south to north is another. WASWO
hooks up with some wild-eyed boat boys, and discovers there is no
room for fair-weather sailors among the racing set...



East

I remember some years ago sailing on shimmering waters outside of Seattle. A one day sail on Puget Sound with an old friend, amidst scenery so impressive it eludes adequate description. Thinly hazed Olympic Mountains stood in a snowcapped line to the west, while to the east the Cascade Range jutted sharply into the blue. Mount Rainier dominated the shrinking Seattle skyline, and in the distance the Bremerton ferry chugged relentlessly toward the Space Needle. A coolish breeze failed to keep us from being warmed by the sun. Our shirts were off as we rested upon the incline of our bounding sloop. This was paradise.

This was my idea of sailing. But here I am in Milwaukee, standing at the edge of the McKinley Marina, nervously looking at stormy western skies as the wind slaps hard into my face. Rob and RJ are pulling foul weather gear over heavy sweat shirts and rubber boots. The radio has alerted me to severe thunderstorms for late this afternoon. But Rob and RJ smile demonically behind cocktails that just graze their lips. "Weather reports? Haven't listened to 'em. We sail no matter what."

These are party boys. Big time. "Have another Seven and Seven and find some foul weather gear that fits you. This might be a bumpy ride." We are crossing to Michigan. No matter what. Rob has been sailing the Great Lakes with a passion for the past eleven years. We are about to

THE SKY IS NOW UNIFORMLY GREY. BEHIND US MILWAUKEE'S CONSERVATIVE ARCHITECTURE SEEMS TO HAVE MARCHED TO THE SHORELINE AND THEN SUDDENLY STOPPED, AS IF KNOWING BETTER THAN TO PURSUE US INTO THE LAKE.

entrust our lives to *Pure Luck*, the forty foot sloop he proudly owns. Rob and RJ take their toy collection seriously. I am told of the fleet of three single engine planes they keep back home. I am told how they religiously race the many competitions that take place each summer on the Great Lakes. Below deck I struggle to get a wet weather slicker over my jacket and dutifully notice the collage of racing stickers plastered to the wall in front of me. Two stickers in particular catch my attention: *Queen's Cup* and *Chicago-Mac*.

We are refueling and the smell of gasoline mingles with damp afternoon air. I climb back to deck and show off my chosen weather gear. "I think red is your color", Rob states. I'm not sure if he is teasing. RJ is

busy working the lines as we shove off. Two other crew mates, Vince and "John John" eye me suspiciously as we motor from the marina. A stereo system is cranked to high volume and Tina Turner is suddenly belting out a tune that helps cover an awkward silence. I've just met these guys. Four men from Michigan I met at a leathermen's party just last night. With a bit of boldness I have invited myself for a sail to their Michigan home. What have I gotten into? *Pure Luck's* departure seems perfectly timed with the first drizzle of rain. The sky is now uniformly grey. Behind us Milwaukee's conservative architecture seems to have marched to the shoreline and then suddenly stopped, as if knowing better than to pursue us into the lake. I start to think of the safety we take for granted in our homes. I start to think that I could be eating dinner tonight somewhere warm and inviting — maybe Pieces of Eight, just *looking* out upon the water. I'm offered another drink and remember the dire warnings about boating accidents and alcohol. But I'm good at shaking away fears. The fool and the braveheart are opposite inscriptions on the same coin. I have never once gotten sea sick. I love the rocking of a boat.

Rob has the fair skin and blond hair of the Dutch. He seems to be in his youthful thirties. There is a devil-may-care attitude to his lingo, but his movements are precise and his eyes sharply intelligent. His lover RJ sports short brown hair under a baseball cap that perpetually sits at one cocky angle or another.

RJ has a rougher look than Rob. A gravelly voice booms from his unshaved jaw. Rob and RJ have the looks and demeanor of badass

pirates. They have that aura of crazy masculine wildness that strangely commands confidence. I begin to lighten up and enjoy.

Two hours later the Milwaukee skyline has disappeared. The temperature has dropped and there is a steady downpour of rain. *Pure Luck* rocks in gentle swells as her motor continues to purr. We are caught with the contradiction of winds blowing out of the east and storm clouds gaining on us from the west. It is impossible to sail. We continue motorized chugging and hope the wind will turn. Vince and John John are in the cold and wet above, dutifully keeping watch for freighters. They have told me of their close encounter on the voyage over. It seems that they were in a fog bank in the middle of the lake

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WATER IS RISING, AND JOHN JOHN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THAT "PURE LUCK" HAS SUNK ABNORMALLY LOW. SOMEONE HAS PULLED THE RUBBER LIFE RAFT INTO VIEW.

when the horn of a freighter sounded loud and ominous and fearfully close. Vince told me with a grim smile "We could hear the rumble of its engines, but we couldn't see it". Rob had grabbed the shortwave and sent out a warning call. Thankfully the freighter answered.

Pure Luck was on the freighter's radar and it had already taken evasive action. I'm a little apprehensive. Though we are two hours from Milwaukee, we have really just begun to cross the lake. We won't be crossing the shipping lanes until well after dark.

I'm on my belly in the bow stateroom, Rob and RJ stretched out at my sides. Pungent smoke is drifting in from the galley where Vince and John John sit drinking and bullshitting. We are on auto-pilot, the ship's GPS (Global Positioning System) keeping us on course via satellite. A small bleeping dot of light shows our whereabouts on an electronic

map. Rob is rubbing my back with one hand and smiling at my nervousness, his blond hair dangling down across his eyes. "I've crossed this lake a hundred times".

RJ rolls over on his back, scratches his crotch and lights a cigarette. "We've crossed this lake without a navigation system. We've crossed with only dead reckoning and made it only a few miles off course. Every year we race from Chicago to Mackinac Island. Two and a half days in God knows what kind of conditions. Don't worry."

It has now been five hours since we left Milwaukee. In the dimming light we cook steaks, warm stew, and pour more drinks. We are nearing the center of the lake. Rob and RJ have a perverse tradition of cooking and eating in the middle of the shipping lane. It is just the time I think we should all be most on lookout, and here we are opening tin cans and watching steaks sizzle. It is cold and wet, but

we seem to have outrun the thunderstorms. The wind has shifted in our favor, and we make plans to attempt a sail after dinner.

There is a sudden shout from RJ who has emerged from the head. "Which one of you fuckheads is pissing between the floorboards? We have a toilet you know!" He says this while looking straight at me. Everyone shrugs. I emphatically protest that it wasn't me.

"Well someone is!" RJ continues, "Water is sloshing under the floorboards!"

Rob suddenly jumps and pulls the boards that cover the bilge. For a moment we stand in drunken, stunned silence. Water is just a fraction of an inch from flooding into the cabin. Rob falls to his knees and stretches a long arm into the murk of the bilge.

"The bilge pump has stopped working! We must have a leak somewhere!"

Rob is trying to explain to us what is happening. He says that there must be a leak around the drive shaft that runs to the propeller. The bilge isn't suppose to hold so much water. If we don't get the pump working, the water will soon flood into the cabin.

Rob explains this calmly, almost humorously. But his frantic search in the murk of the bilge better expresses his very real fears. To his credit, Rob seems to know what he is doing. He pulls the pump to the surface and discovers that the tube which is meant to direct leaking water overboard has come loose.

RJ and Vince help Rob swish arms through the bilge in search of the lost tube. It is obvious that water is rising, and John John reports from outside that *Pure Luck* has sunk abnormally low. Someone has pulled the rubber life raft into view. But the missing tube is located and the pump is returned to service. To my relief the water level of the bilge tank starts to recede.

"I'll have to get her checked for leaks before the Queen's Cup" says Rob.

He is trying to be nonchalant as he finishes his cold steak, but his voice wavers a bit. RJ is turning the whole incident into a joke.

"Who's the chickenshit who brought out the rubber raft?" But no one admits to it and

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nobody laughs. *Pure Luck* has cut into choppy waters, and the boat is beginning an unsteady rock.

Nine hours since we left Milwaukee. Vince and I sit at the wheel. We have hoisted the jib but allow the motor to continue its work. The air is warming as we approach the Michigan side of the lake. In the darkness we have seen no freighters, no lights.

A mist has settled around us. We shine a flashlight into the fog and guess visibility to be at about fifty feet. At times we imagine hearing fog horns or seeing lights. But nothing ever materializes. Rob and RJ are now alone in the bow stateroom. John John is asleep. With the jib sail up *Pure Luck* slices through the water at a comfortable angle.

Just after dinner time I had used Rob's cell phone to call Tommy and tell him we were safe. He was worried sick. Milwaukee is being pulverized with thunderstorms. There have been tornados.

I feel guilty for having put him through this. He is still recovering from a heart attack he suffered this spring. He urged me to do this crossing, but I know how he worries. It is not easy for him. He puts few strings on our relationship. I sit in the stern with Vince enjoying the damp quiet of the dark lake. I think of the storm left behind us. The quiet solitude of the night is strangely wonderful.

Eleven hours since leaving Milwaukee we cruise past the lights of "Big Red", the monumental lighthouse that guards the Holland Harbor. It is three in the morning. By the time I snuggle to sleep between Rob and RJ, dawn is streaking through the windows.

West

Two weeks later I wake up in Milwaukee with Tommy at my side. The phone is ringing. Crackling static nearly covers Rob's voice.

"Hey Waswo! It's the boys from across the lake! We're sailing west! We're sailing in for the Queen's Cup! Wanna party?" I toss in bed and Tommy groans. Where do these guys get such annoying energy?

Tommy decides to make a big spaghetti dinner for everyone. He's heard all about Rob

and RJ, and wants to make a good impression. He wants to show that he is recovered well enough from his bypass surgery to make a big meal and entertain. It is now late in the afternoon and I'm driving to meet the boat boys at the South Shore Yacht Club. Tommy is reveling in his Italian heritage, stirring a huge pot of tomato sauce with a wooden spoon, meatballs baking in the oven, steaming pasta pulled in long strands from a boiling kettle.

By the time we all gather around the table

there is fresh baked bread, a huge bowl of salad and umpteen bottles of wine.

Rob and RJ have returned to Milwaukee minus Vince and John John. In their place is an assemblage of heterosexual friends who make up the racing crew. Tomorrow they race to Michigan. I remember the route. But tonight the boat boys have snuck away to party. We laugh, joke, reminisce, and feast on spaghetti. Lou Reed drones in the background. He is singing that he wishes he was a

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"THIS IS JUST SO LOVELY. WE LIVE IN LONDON. WE KEEP OUR BOAT IN SCOTLAND, BUT I'M AFRAID WE DON'T GET OUT OFTEN BECAUSE IT IS JUST SO FAR TO TRAVEL! WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR BOAT?"

sailor. He is singing that he wishes he was born a thousand years ago.

Rob and RJ want to dance. We are at LaCage and we shout to be heard over pulsing disco. RJ's deep voice is screaming in my ear.

"Do you want to do the Chicago-Mac?! I'd be glad if you took my place! I've got to spend time with my business! Do you want to race?"

I foolishly and impetuously shout back. "Yes!"

South

Flashback to the spring of '93. I am sailing in the southern hemisphere aboard Errol Flynn's old ketch the *Barbary*. It is just a silly thing. For a handful of New Zealand dollars I have chartered an afternoon

cruise along the shores of Lake Taupo on the north island. It is an unimpressive boat other than for its history. How Errol Flynn's old ketch ever ended up on Lake Taupo is beyond me. The *Barbary's* skipper reminds us the film star was born not far away on the island of Tasmania. It was in Tasmania where, according to biographers, Flynn grew up handsome, hung and bisexual. It is an incredibly brilliant blue day, but the sky is so cloudless it makes for boring photographs. Two Britishers have joined me. The three of us sit stiffly in the lazy sun.

"Oh!" the English matron says, "this is just so lovely. We live in London. We keep our boat in Scotland, but I'm afraid we don't get out often because it is just so far to travel! Where do you keep your boat?"

I pull on a thread that is dangling from a hole in my jeans. "Chicago." I lie.

North

It is Friday morning, the day of the big party. Full color photos in yesterday's Chicago Tribune depicted some of the most prestigious sailing boats in the world pulling into the Chicago harbor. Tomorrow is one of the world's great sailing races. And I am in it.

Rob has phoned me from the *Pure Luck*. I am to meet him and the rest of the crew later this night. I'll be taking the train to Chicago. I'll be mingling with all the right people at one of the events of the season. The party at the Chicago Yacht Club. I have eagerly waited for the day to arrive. I have bragged to my friends. I am sailing the length of Lake

Some decisions are easier than others.



Conquer the world?

Cancel

OK

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Michigan in the Chicago-Mackinac race.

I am racing the length of Lake Michigan. The words start to pound through my head. *The length of Lake Michigan.* I start to quietly fathom their true meaning. Two to three days in the lone coldness of middle lake. Two to three days of sleepless racing. Two to three days of rolling swells, whitecaps, and unseen freighters. This will be no party. No Gin and Tonic social club. I will be on a cramped boat filled with strangers. I'll be the inexperienced newcomer. More a hindrance than a help.

Tommy is reading the morning paper. There has been a spill of timber from a freighter heading south out of Superior. The coast guard is concerned that hundreds of water-soaked logs now float semi-submerged in northern Lake Michigan waters. Small craft are advised. I go to the window and realize there is an unseasonable northeasterly blustering out of grey skies. I turn on the weather channel. A tornado watch is in effect. Could it be any worse?

I try to remain calm. I pack my gear and take a warm bath. Lying in the tub the water sloshes past my ears. I think what a lousy swimmer I am. I think how I hate to get water up my nose.

Fuck it! Do I really want to do this? What am I trying to prove? That coin inscribed with the fool and the braveheart is now spinning in the air. I try to remember what RJ said. No one has ever died during the Chicago-Mac.

The coast guard is on alert. But none of this seems comforting just now. I remember *Pure Luck's* overflowing bilge tank, and that horrendous second we first realized we were taking on water. I remember pulling out the rubber life raft. I imagine what it would be like to have waves crashing through port holes in the middle of the night. The power is out and the short wave doesn't work. Yes, it's the wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*...

Tommy is a godsend. He is having chest pains. Nothing serious. But he looks at me and I know he doesn't want me to go. It is a convenient excuse. I phone Rob and explain.

"I'm so sorry, I just can't! Tommy is having problems! I wish I could go! Yes, chest pains! I'd never forgive myself if something happened to Tommy!" Rob phones back twenty minutes later. He has replaced me with his accountant. I have been spared.

Two seconds later I regret my decision. Two days of glorious sunshine later I hate myself. I blew it. The chance of a lifetime.

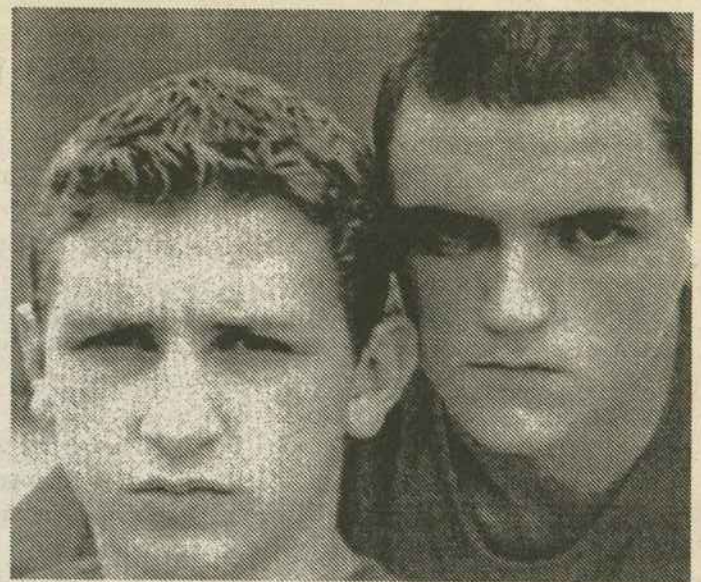
A few weeks later the phone rings. "Waswo! It's us! The boys from across the lake! Well of course we didn't win! But we placed pretty well! Wish you were there! Maybe next year! When are we gonna get together and party?!"

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Off My Rocker

by Lesleá Newman

I am standing in the tchotchke aisle of J.C. Penney's trying to convince Flash that a teapot shaped like a typewriter is a household necessity, when a high-pitched shriek pierces our eardrums. "Poor kid," Flash mumbles. "Poor mother," I mumble back. The shrieks grow louder. All of a sudden a thigh-high child tears into our aisle and wraps its little arms around Flash. I have to give the kid credit: Flash's leg is the first thing I clutch when I'm scared out of my wits, too.

Flash and I look down at her new appendage. Flash tries to move but the little male tot has attached himself to her pant leg like velcro. Flash strokes his shiny black hair. "Let me pick you up."

"Up."

The little boy-toy raises his arms and gazes at Flash as if she is his own personal messiah. Flash picks up the little tyke who instantly nestles his head into the soft space where her neck meets her shoulder. I almost tap him and say, "Excuse me, tateleh, that space is reserved," but I restrain myself. For not only is the little boychik in heaven, but so is Flash. She's rocking back and forth like all women when a wee one is placed in their arms. All women except yours truly, that is. I don't rock. I freeze.

The first time this happened, I was with Sal and Val and their new baby, Gal. "Don't you want to hold her?" they asked, handing me a bundle of blankets with a baby inside. "What do I do?" I asked. "Just relax," Sal and Val chorused, seeing that my entire body had stiffened like the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* before he gets that lube job from Dorothy. Gal sensed danger and started screaming. I

handed her back to her co-mothers, a little relieved and a little sorry that my suspicions had been confirmed: I have all the maternal instincts of an oil can.

Flash, however, was born to rock. I watch her and the joy-boy for a while and then ask "What now, my love?" Flash hears my question as a suggestion and starts singing to her charge with all the passion of a young Frank Sinatra. Flash's rocking turns into a fox trot as she dances the Boy Wonder up and down the aisles of J.C. Penney's.

"Flash," I tap her shoulder. "We can't keep him." I am stern, as if the child is a puppy and Flash is the child. "We better bring him to customer service." Now I am referring to him like a bedspread that's shrunk in the wash.

"C'mon, J.C.," Flash says. I assume my lapsed Catholic has named the little darling after the store we found him in, not the Jewish Carpenter. We turn up the next aisle and there's Dad, darting among the glass swan barometers, his shiny black hair flying. He spots us and falls upon Flash. "Thank you," he calls, scurrying away. J.C., who is now draped over his father's back like a sack of potatoes, waves at Flash. She waves back, and then he is gone.

That night Flash and I talk baby talk. Do we want one or not? I've never wanted a child. Though thirty-something years of Jewish training has me convinced that my non-desire to breed means there is something wrong with me.

I bring the issue up in therapy. "Funny you should mention that," my therapist says. "I'm taking a maternity leave."

"You're pregnant?" I stare at her stomach, which is still as flat as I've always wanted mine to be. "Don't you think you're taking this mirroring thing a little too far?" She nods, her body already rocking slightly, and asks me how I feel about her being pregnant. I feel like an idiot for paying her a dollar a minute to talk about her pregnancy. What about mine? My therapist suggests I make a list of all the

reasons I think I want a baby:

1. So I'll have someone to take care of me in my old age.
2. So I can dress it up in cute little outfits from J.C. Penney's.
3. To replace P.C. who is now watching over us from Pussy Cat Heaven.
4. So I'll have something new to write about.
5. Because she's having one.

"Why is it so hard for you to accept that you don't want a baby?" my therapist asks.

"Why do you want a baby?" I try to divert her with a question about herself.

"Why do you want to know why I want a baby?" As usual, she answers my question with a question.

"Why do you want to know why I want to know why you want a baby?" She doesn't answer. I glare at her. She sits perfectly still, waiting for me to say something. Then she starts to rock.

"Will you quit doing that?" I yell.

"Doing what?"

"Rocking! You rock, Flash rocks, everyone rocks but me."

"Our time is just about up."

Back home I tell Flash about the session. "I'll be right back," she says. Left alone, I decide to watch a movie on TV, but my only choices are *Rosemary's Baby* and *Mommy Dearest*. Does this mean my kid will grow up to be a devil-child who writes a memoir called *Mommy Queerest*? As I ponder this, Flash returns, banishing me to the bedroom for an hour. When I emerge, I see my darling has assembled a genuine imitation Bentwood rocker. Tentatively I sit. Immediately Couscous the Cat jumps into my lap. I lean back. My feet touch the floor. My toes push off. Problem solved: I rock to my heart's content.

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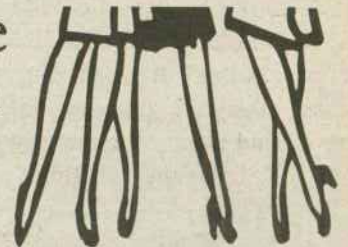
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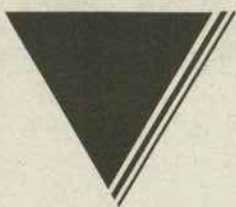
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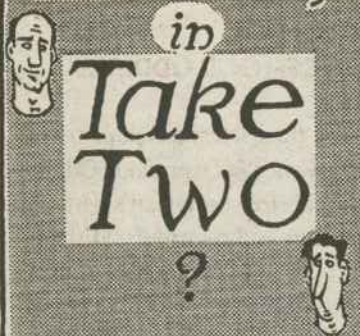
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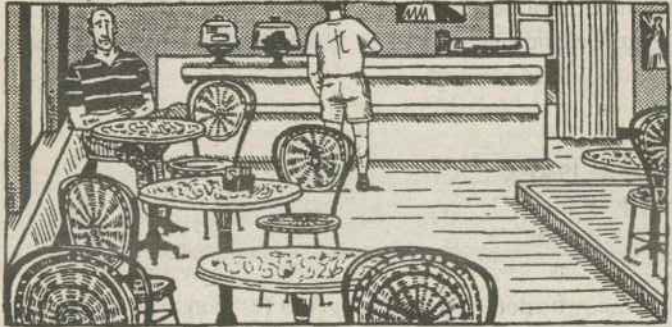
HE ASKS YOU TO MEET HIM FOR COFFEE.

I WAS ABOUT TO GET TOGETHER WITH A COUPLE OF FRIENDS, BUT I CAN RE-SCHEDULE.

(art film)



YOU SPOT HIM AT A CORNER TABLE. HE LOOKS NICE. YOU CAN SMELL THE SOAP HE SHOWERS WITH.




YOU PROCEED WITH CAUTION...

I MISS YOU. SPENDING TIME WITH YOU WHEN GUNTHER WAS SICK MADE ME THINK. HARD, I LOVE YOU. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE. I WANT US TO BE TOGETHER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? TONIGHT? THIS WEEKEND? THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE?

ALL OF THE ABOVE.



MY THIS IS STARTLING!

SNORE
SNORE
SNORE



EHEM, WE SAID, "MY, THIS IS STARTLING"...

THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.

REALLY! MYMY!

YOU'LL ZOO-PEE GUESS.

AT THE COFFEE SHOP?


WITH DOUG?

NO KIDDING



YOU'D CONFER WITH YOUR FRIENDS, BUT, IRRITATINGLY, THEY ALL SEEM TO BE IGNORING THEIR "CALL WAITING". PERHAPS MADAME ZOLNA, YOUR THERAPIST, MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NEXT.

TELL ME AGAIN, HOW MUCH DOES THIS DOUG EARN ANNUALLY, AFTER TAXES?



By Eric Orner

FOR THE EARS

BERNADETTE PETERS **"I'LL BE YOUR BABY TONIGHT"** **ANGEL RECORDS**



I first heard Bernadette Peters sing on the Dinah Shore show way back in the middle seventies. She was a guest on the show and she sang "Feelin' Groovy." I became an instant fan before Bernadette finished the last note. It has been some twenty years since that guest appearance; and it's nice to see a blossom where there used to be a bud. It would be even nicer to have more albums under her belt than just the three: "Bernadette Peters," "Now Playing," and her latest release "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight."

If there were a singing angel somewhere up above, she would sound and look just like Bernadette Peters. Ms. Peters has an impressive vocal range and pitch. She dives into low and high ranges without a bead of sweat, and always in full vocal control.

"I'll Be Your Baby Tonight," is a composite of songs ranging from pop/rock to musical theater, the collection includes composers and songwriters from Lennon & McCartney, Billy Joel, Lyle Lovett, Stephen Sondheim and Roger & Hammerstein.

Not many people know that Bernadette Peters sings. And she sings magnificently magical. Her third solo effort, like her previous two, are like fine bottles of wine that endure the test of time, hopefully it won't be too long before Ms. Peters does another album. So for now, pop the cork, play it loud and let the music in your ears!

SIMPLY RED **"GREATEST HITS"**



America's first exposure to Simply Red was with Top 40 ballad "Holding Back The Years," which was written by lead singer Mick Hucknall; and it became the centerpiece of Simply Red's debut album "Picture Book" in 1985.

Another attention-grabber on the first disc was their scintillating cover of the Valentine Brothers' contemporary hit "Money's Too Tight To Mention." Those two hits, and a string of acclaimed live performances, established the group as one of the stellar British acts of the day, and the second album "Men and Women" in 1987 built on that foundation. "The Right Thing," a breezily up-tempo tune, which became a concert favorite, is included on this compilation.

"A New Flame" brought forth one of the most enthralling vocals from Mick to date, while the equally impassioned treatments of "It's Only Love" and "You've Got It" offered convincing testimony to the idea that Simply Red were closing out the decade as one of the major bands on the global music scene. A memorable track from "A New Flame," was the soulful rendition of Harold Melvin's "If You Don't Know Me By

Now." Simply Red's "Greatest Hits," is truly a soulfully rich body of work. If you're not familiar with the English band. This compilation of 10 years of recordings is an excellent place to make an introduction. Simply Red's "Greatest Hits," is pure delight for the ears.

DEEE-LITE **"SAMPLADELIC RELICS & DANCEFLOOR ODDITIES"** **ELEKTRA RECORDS**

What can I say about Deee-Lite and their latest envelope-pushing-cutting-edge-style-sound "Sampladelic Relics & Dancefloor Oddities," but keep the mixed nuts fresh and the cheetos coming...it's party time! Deee-Lite have seized their greatest songs and reformulated them. In the process redefining the club culture as they gear up their sound for the next millennium.

This new formula is definitely caffeine driven laced with a heavy dose of pure granulated sugar ready for spontaneous combustion. It is high energy with all the high tech gizmo instrumentation and some primal vocals that works well together. If you don't like to dance and just like to stand there, "Sampladelic Relics & Dancefloor Oddities," guarantees to cause some body part to at least twitch.

"Sampladelic Relic & Dancefloor Oddities," is a mouthful to say and definitely recommended with low doses of caffeine, otherwise crank the volume and deaden your ear drums.

CHRIS ISAAK **"BAJA SESSIONS"** **REPRISE RECORDS**

Chris Isaak describes his latest effort "Baja Sessions," as "A record for people who don't have time to take a vacation. Just put it on, sit in a wading pool and you'll pretty much get the effect."

"Baja Sessions" conception arrived by a recent surfing and souvenir safari that Chris and his band (Kenney Dale Johnson, drums and vocals; Rowland Salley, bass and vocals and lead guitarist Hershel Yatovitz) recently took south of the border. "It's a great place," says the singer/songwriter, "to slow down and play your guitar, and the perfect setting for romance."

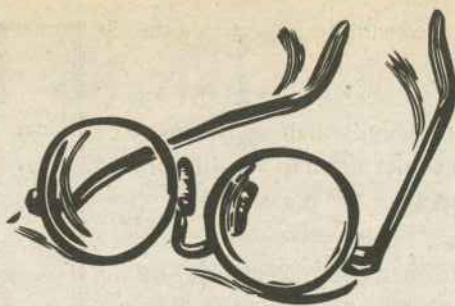
The thirteen sun-drenched tracks that comprise "Baja Sessions" is divided equally between some of the artist's all-time favorite tunes, new renditions of Isaak's classics and three new tracks. "Baja Sessions" could be described as an easy-going musical travelogue to a sedate state of mind. Listening to "Baja Sessions," I couldn't help but imagine myself being in a 90's version of Elvis Presley's movie "Blue Hawaii," getting a nasty sunburn while waiting for the beat to pick up.

As with Isaak's other musical efforts, these compilations have a certain melancholy feel to them. One look at Chris Isaak, I can't help wondering, what is going on in his life that he is so unhappy about? Maybe if he explores a new emotion and gets over his unhappiness, he might have a #1 hit.

—Jorge Cabal

THE CASUAL OBSERVER

by Ed Grover



Some Personal Observations

After spending the summer working on the Old Gays issue, going to the nude beach at Mazo and doing a bit of traveling, it's time for me to think about covering a few of the many things that are happening in the Gay and Lesbian Community this Fall.

Sunday September 22: AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

As I started out for the SummerFest Grounds to get some information on the start of AIDS Walk Wisconsin, the sun was just breaking through the fog and the weather was starting to warm up a bit. I made my way across O'Donnell Park and found a nice picnic table right in front of Reverend Ovidal's born-again Christian protesters. I was told that he's a "sheep farmer" from Monroe Wisconsin. Does that tell you anything about the way he spends his spare time? Those poor sheep!

The word was out that they were going to do something "big", but neither I nor Katerina Hass of the Milwaukee Clinic Protection Coalition were impressed by their numbers ... and neither was the crowd that came thundering down Harbor Drive. Katerina told me, "These are the people that drove me out of the Republican Party." I said, "Welcome to humanity," and we both chuckled. The "Reverends" were all pointed out and named for me and they were a most unattractive group of people in bad suits; overweight and white, as if they had all crawled out from under rocks.

By now some of the clouds had cleared and the sun was warming things up considerably. There was a strong breeze that managed to blow a few signs around. A message from the Almighty? It seemed to

out them), many gay men and lesbians took the opportunity to be photographed kissing in front of a banner that said "Homosexuality is [a] Sin" (These protesters are so dumb that they can't even use correct English), to cheers from everyone and frowns of consternation from the religious right.

The marchers, who consisted of gays, lesbians, straights and people of all colors (young and old) turned right and continued down Lake Shore Drive with walkers pushing persons living with AIDS in wheel chairs and children in strollers. There were lots of dogs on leashes (everything from Dachshunds to Wiemariners), and banners and balloons were held high. After the Walk, everyone returned to the SummerFest Grounds for food, entertainment and congratulations. The entire group seemed to have had a great time. It was a job well done with over one million dollars pledged. I mailed out my check to the people I sponsored. I hope you all got yours in the mail, too.

Thursday, September 26: TOWN HALL MEETING

After checking for directions on how to get to the Milwaukee Enterprise Center (not the easiest place to get to) by bus, I made my way up to the Town Hall Meeting to check out what was happening with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Project.

There were about 40 people in attendance at this most recent meeting, and I suspect that most of them were there to hear Special Guest Ralph Serpe's comments. Serpe is the Executive Director of the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center of San Jose, California.

Carmen Murguia and Rod Johnson, among others ... voiced concerns regarding diversity, and when asked if they would be involved with the project, said they were too busy to volunteer.

be saying: "Don't fuck with these marchers. They're out doing good for their community. What are you doing except causing strife and getting my words all wrong?"

At 12:30 prompt, the Walk started. Bette Midler came zooming by in the back seat of a white Excalibur convertible wearing a lime green pant suit. Wasn't this the same one she wore on Oprah? After the car sped past the protesters, with Bette waving madly, it detoured over the Lincoln Memorial Bridge and came to a halt on the foot-bridge the leads from O'Donnell Park to the lakefront. As the crowds of marchers passed they alternately "booed" the protesters and then roared their approval of Midler, who was cheering them on from the overpass.

While the volunteers tried to direct traffic (where would we be with-

He had been invited to speak by Nancy Snow, and after attending committee meetings and a luncheon at M&M's, it must have been a full day for him. He was pronounced "real cute" by many who were there; not that I find that a prerequisite for the sharing of information.

Initial reports were made from the co-chairs of the Feasibility Committee (Nancy Snow and Mark Street), the Public Relations Committee (Wendy Radish and Mike Phillips) and the Finance Committee (Larry Stocks).

Carmen Murguia (ORGULLO) and Rod Johnson (UJIMA), among others, voiced concerns that the report of the demographic survey taken at PrideFest seemed heavily weighted to an East-side, upper middle-class, white population. They voiced concerns regarding diversity,

and when asked if they would be involved with the project, said they were too busy to volunteer.

Rod Johnson, stated that he was a "consultant" and that the Community Center Project "could hire him to help reach a more diverse community," but that he, "could not afford to help [the project] for free as a volunteer." However, since this is a volunteer-only group, this uncharitable "offer" seems extremely unlikely to be accepted. What do these comments tell us about cooperation and diversity here in Milwaukee?

These speakers were assured that when the database was completed, target groups would be identified and these groups would be approached personally to try and gain their participation on committees and for the formation of the Center.

Later when Ralph Serpe spoke, he said there were always two types of people who visit the San Jose Center: There are those who say, "You should be doing thus and so," and those who say, "I want to do thus and so." The latter type was always welcomed with outstretched arms.

An announcement of a "Naming Contest" for the proposed Community Center was made. Part one of the contest begins on November first, when posters will appear in the bars and in stores. Look for entries. These must be received by November 16, 1996. Then, on January 2, 1997 part two begins when new posters will appear with ballots for the ten finalist names, which must be received by February first. The winning name of the Center and the person who submitted it will be announced on Valentines' Day, so plan on entering or, at the very least, casting your vote for your choice of best name.

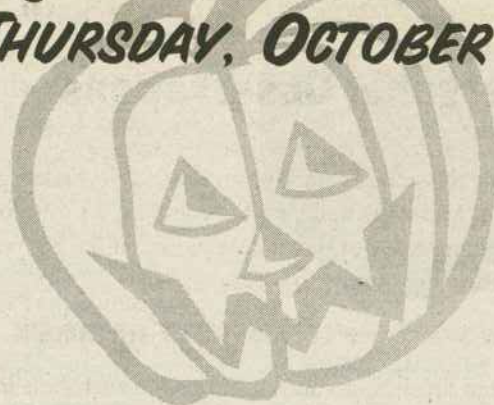
Also announced was the "Creating Change Conference" to be held from November 6th through the 10th in Washington DC. This conference sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will hold a special seminar on creating community centers and eleven volunteers of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Project will be paying their own way to attend. Now, that's commitment!

It is my understanding that the people who set up these meetings are making an effort to offer them to as diverse a population as possible. They are also making an effort to schedule the meetings at various times to accommodate those people who may have different work schedules. I applaud that willingness to include as many persons from the Gay/Lesbian /Bi/Trans community as imaginable.

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 7th, 1996. The location and time will be announced at a future date. Remember that this process is open to everyone and they need more people. I urge everyone to call or write and get involved in whatever way they can. The address is: GLBT Community Center Project, PO Box 92722, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Or, call them at: 414-483-4710.

PS: In response to Mr. William Krug's observation (Letters: in the September Q•Voice) about me and baby zucchini, (my August, 1996 column) I can only say that as a *sexually compulsive vegetarian*, "He oughta know!" And, with respect to his comment about me being lonely: "I don't think so, William." Thanks for the attempted analysis!

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MUSIC FOR A QUEER PLANET



by Margaret "DJ Mags" Coble

Those expecting former **FOUR NON-BLONDES** lead singer **LINDA PERRY'S** debut solo album to be just another angry, white-riot-girl rant album should be pleasantly surprised with *In Flight* (Interscope Records). Though often criticized for her somewhat simplistic lyrics and trademark vocal yowl, she's no **ALANIS MORRISETTE** clone. In fact, Perry's collection of introspective, mind-journeying classic rock anthems and ethereal psychedelia is actually quite refreshing.

Dubbed a "concept" album by critics desperate for a way to categorize this surprising effort, *In Flight* is more of a diary, in Perry's own words, than a concept. The lyrics mark a time of personal growth and change for Perry, who left her enormously successful alternative rock band as they were beginning work on their follow-up to 1992's multi-platinum selling *Bigger, Better, Faster, More!* (Interscope). "It came down to my need to go a different direction," the openly lesbian singer/songwriter explained. "I didn't want the responsibility of asking them to come with me, but I knew I had to explore this other place."

The album plays like a classic **PINK FLOYD** opus, each moody, atmospheric song making way for the next—with the notable but excusable exception of the delightfully uptempo ragtime swing of "Fruitloop

Daydream" (which describes a typical day's stroll through the colorful Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, where Perry lives). Acoustic guitars, jangly electric guitars, pianos, violins, and sparse percussion make up this more sedate sound, which deftly moves from the rootsy rock of "Freeway" to the zone-out mellowness of tracks like "Success" and the opening "In My Dreams."

The track, however, which stands out the most on this album is her duet with '60's/'70's rock icon **GRACE SLICK**. "Knock Me Out" is a bittersweet, at times violent, love song between two women, based upon a former relationship of Perry's. It is no small coup that Perry was able to impress and therefore enlist the help of the great rock queen, and their collaboration solidly anchors the album.

On a more jazzy, spoken-word vibe, funky wordsmith **DANA BRYANT'S** long-awaited debut disc *Wishing From The Top* (Warner Brothers) finally sees the light of day. With production help from former **ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT** frontman **SPEECH** ("Wishing From The Top"), and collaborations with **PM DAWN** ("Bone Simple"), world-beat acapella sensations **ZAP MAMA** ("Food"), and acid jazz/r&b diva **CARLEEN ANDERSON** ("Religion" and "Ode To Chaka Khan"), Bryant's brilliant rhythmic word-flow meshes her poetic vision with jazz exploration. The Grand Slam Champion of New York's famed Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, Bryant is not only influenced by black writers like **NIKKI GIOVANI**, **NTOZAKE SHANGE**, and **AMIRI BARAKA**, but also by her early involvement with the acid jazz collective known as **GIANT STEP** (now the acclaimed **GROOVE COLLECTIVE**). She's often referred to as the female second-coming of **GIL SCOTT HERON** (her updated rendition of "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" was included on the Giant Step Vol. 1 collection, as well as on Island Records' *The Rebirth Of Cool 3*), and if *Wishing From The Top* is any indication, we have a lot more to look forward to from this talented performance artist.

QUICK NOTES: In the "Great name!"

category is the latest riot-dyke, power-punk/new wave trio from the Olympia-Portland scene, called **The Third Sex**. Their debut album on dyke-extraordinaire Donna (as in Team) Dresch's label Chainsaw Records is campily titled *Card Carryin'*, and it is undoubtedly 27 and a half minutes of the most energetic, queer-powered guitar punk you'll hear this year. Often compared to labelmates **TEAM DRESCH** and **SLEATER-KINNEY**, as well as a host of other Pacific Northwest dykecore groups, **THE THIRD SEX** are well on their way to carving their own, unique niche in the queercore scene via their raw, garage punk sound and their trademark retro-mod costuming fetish.

Queenly B-52 frontman **FRED SCHNEIDER** has released *Just Fred* (Reprise Records), the latest in his struggling solo career. His characteristic, wacky vocal style remains, though the somewhat bland guitar-based power-pop of the eleven tracks included doesn't in any way compare to the creative genius of the campy retro-jangle of the B-52's. "Coconut" stands out as the best cut here, but if you're looking for that signature B-52 sound, you'll have to wait till next spring for the reunited group's new material.

REPUBLICA is a one woman, four man ensemble from South London who were seeking to turn London's stagnating club scene on it's ear, which they quickly accomplished with their debut self-titled album, now released in the *States on DeConstruction*/RCA Records. Full of powerful electric guitars, melodic vocals and intense, driving beats, they describe themselves as "techno-pop punk rock," and tracks like "Ready To Go" and the wry "Bloke" have catapulted them to the spotlight of Britain's ever-evolving music scene.

SINGLES FILE: Instead of just briefly mentioning some of the more interesting dance single releases of the past few weeks, this issue marks the beginning of an ever-revolving Top Ten list that will focus on different genres of dance music from column to column. To start it all off, I have assembled ten of my current favorite garage/vocal house tracks, in no particular order. In

future issues look for listings of HiNRG, R&B/HipHop, Progressive /Alternative and more.

1. **NEW EDITION**—"Hit Me Off" (MCA). Classic house master Frankie Knuckles reworks this big comeback track for the now fully-grown soulsters—his Franktified Club Mix is a brilliant mid-tempo shuffler that spotlights NE's smooth vocal stylings.

2. **RANDY CRAWFORD**—"Forget Me Nots" (Atlantic). From her dazzling collection of classic covers Naked and True (Bluemoon), Todd (the God) Terry's jazzy Deep Zone Club mix works it in typical fashion.

3. **URBAN BLUES Project** featuring **MICHAEL PROCTER**—"Love Don't Live" (AM:PM). No, it's not the same Madonna song—it's much, much better. The Original Vibe Mix is a peppy, piano-rolling house interpretation that remains my favorite after countless spins.

4. **BORIS D'LUGOSCH**—"Keep Pushin" (MAW). Originally made hot by an early summer import, New York's MAW Records releases this German-based house gem stateside with additional jazzy mixes by DJ's Spen and Disciple, though the Original and Path Of Club mixes by D'lugosch and Mousse T. remain the bomb.

5. **ABSTRACT TRUTH**—"Get Another Plan" (StreetWave Music). A beautiful nu-jazz groover from this up and coming New York band—we'll be hearing more from them, I'm sure.

6. **ANN NESBY**—"Can I Get A Witness" (Perspective). The former lead singer of **THE SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS** belts out this fiery gospel houser with much vim and vigor, while Germany's fast-rising house star Mousse T. gives winning funk and garage mixes.

7. **STEPHANIE COOKE**—"Holding On To Your Love" (Kingstreet Sounds). The latest in a long string of solid vocal tracks from the Kingstreet camp, this one sporting infectious mixes by the UK's Grant Nelson and garage-guru Big Moses.

8. **KRISTINE W.**—"Land Of The Living" (Champion Records). What more can you say about this diva goddess? Every thing she touches is golden, and the hot Deep Dish remix team serve up some sparkling, progressive jazz mixes here that perfectly complement Ms. W's smokey voice.

9. **JOSH WINK**—"You Are The One" (Sorted Records). Not what one generally expects from Josh Wink—the King Britt mixes are smooth vocal house forays into straight-up melody and smokin' garage beats.

10. **VICKEY MARTIN**—"I Love You" (Strictly Rhythm). This one didn't initially grab me, but upon repeated listens, David Anthony's jazzy club mix sticks in my head, as does Martin's sweet vocals.

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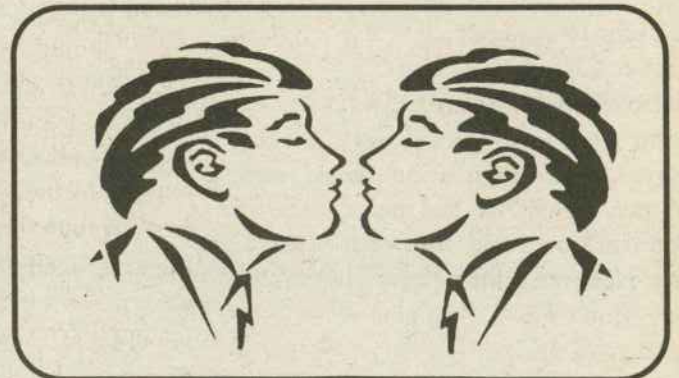
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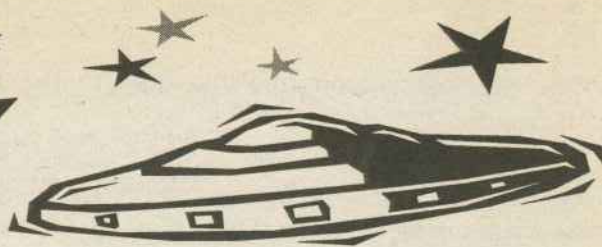
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pisces • (feb 20 to march 20)

A misunderstanding plagues you early in the month with a co-worker and tensions run high in the workplace until you confront the problem head-on. The lunar eclipse at the end of the week gives you inspiration for a new professional direction. Try to go it alone.

aries • (march 21 to april 19)

The lunar eclipse which effects Pisces so positively has different effects for you since the Moon is in your sign. This means that things are not always what they seem. Be very careful to not make any decisions or sign documents until next week.

taurus • (april 20 to May 21)

Your confidence returns and you start to feel more like your old self after months of struggle and imbalance. One thing that doesn't improve is your ability to take a chance, and this comes into the spot light by midweek when you are given an opportunity with no guarantees. What will you do?

gemini

(may 22 to june 21)

This is a month where you may start to feel the walls closing in and people seem too demanding. Try and spend more time alone and get some of those household projects done. The weekends look better and a spontaneous party at a friend's house looks promising.

cancer • (june 22 to july 22)

Your emotions run high and close to the surface and almost anyone can hurt your feelings without even trying. However, you won't see it that way and may think people are out to get you. Rational thinking is not your strong suit this month, so don't be a wuss and give it a try.

leo • (july 23 to august 22)

The Full Moon brings you wisdom and insight you usually don't have. Use this new perspective to make some important decisions, including those about your residence. Moving doesn't look imminent, but changes really must be made, and perhaps someone else should be moving.

virgo • (august 23 to september 22)

A tough month for Virgo as the coldness of the Sun leaving your sign sets in. This is a week where you really have to stand up for yourself if you are going to accomplish anything. Nothing will come to you easily so you might as well decide to fight or live with the status quo.

libra

(sept. 23 to oct. 22)

Of all the signs, Libra has the best week of all. Granted, the Sun is in your sign, but more than that, all of the planets conjoin to make this an easy month for you. A new person comes into your life by midweek but bear in mind that all that glitters is not gold.

sagittarius

(nov 21 to dec 19)

Where did all your energy go? It seems like this month you are zapped of all drive and just seem blah. Look at the people around you and see who is taking advantage of you and do something about it. But; tread carefully at work where mind games are running rampant.

capricorn (dec. 21 to jan. 19)

Let go of past problems and try to start with a fresh slate. Not easy, particularly since Saturn is making your mind work overtime. But, try and concentrate more on things you can actually control and change. That party you are planning will be a big success.

scorpio (oct. 24 to nov. 21)

You are in the middle of everyone's problems as the week begins because everyone is bringing their problems to you. Try to help them but do not get personally involved or disaster could strike. If you're tempted to get involved go to the nearest mall and buy yourself a brand new wardrobe. You'll be broke, but very happy; and notice the clerk helping you pick out your wardrobe. This may be a new pal.

**The Pageant
Sunday, November 3, 1996**

The grandmother of all Wisconsin pageants, The Pageant 1996-1997, will be held Sunday November 3, at the Milwaukee Hilton (formerly the Marc Plaza Hotel) at 8 pm.

The Pageant committee is accepting applications for Miss and Mr. contestants now through October 27. "The first ten applications received in each category will be the ten contestants chosen to compete for the titles. Sometimes it comes down to whose application is post marked am or pm," said committee member, Ladybelle Bradlee.

Although rich in tradition, The Pageant will have changes this year. The committee has decided to increase the talent portion of the competition from four minutes to five. By doing so, they will eliminate the fantasy walk category.

"The fantasy walk was the part of the competition where the contestants could play out any fantasy they wished (within reason). Whether it be dressed like the Energizer Bunny or Marie Antionette," said President/Director, Ronnie Marx.

To compensate for the elimination of the fantasy walk, this year's contestants will be free to wear the evening attire of their choice for the opening number. In previous years they were required to wear black and white.

"People are sometimes reluctant to enter The Pageant because they feel they must have a big song and dance number," Marx added. "That's not necessarily the case. The Pageant has had talent as diverse as contestants taking a bicycle apart and putting it back together, to a contestant making a very dry Martini for a judge. One contestant entered two or three times in the Mr. Pageant, and he didn't win a thing. He came back the next year in the Miss Pageant and won the crown," Marx said.

Many would be Mr. contestants often decide not to enter because they feel they have to have a body by God. That's also not the case, according to Bradlee. "One year a guy entered who was probably not in the best shape. He was a little heavy. But, when he came out in his swimsuit, he wore a beautiful medallion around his neck. Everyone was looking at his medallion and didn't really notice his body. He won!

Last year's Mr. title winner was Jeff Jennings. Jennings electrified the crowd with a live, gay rendition of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA." Last year's Miss winner, Mary Richards, turned the crowd on with her smile and with a terrific lip-sync performance of "Jazz Hot" from *Victor Victoria*.

Marx said that each year The Pageant committee try to out do themselves by scheduling a spectacular opening number. He would

not say what this years opening act will be, but hinted that it would be extraordinary.

This year's Pageant is also encouraging all past and present Mr. and Miss title holders from any Wisconsin pageant to join in the festivities. The Pageant is requesting they bring their Tiara, Crown or Sash. If there are questions, call 414-486-6233.

The judges for The Pageant are from the Chicago area, and are anonymous to insure impartiality. The judges will first meet the contestants the morning of the event, and will conduct timed interviews. They will be scored for poise, intelligence and talent. The evening will begin with cocktails at 5 pm, dinner will be served at 6:30 and The Pageant will begin at 8 pm. "Last year we had 250 guest for dinner, and another 500 showed up for The Pageant," said Bradlee.

Tickets are \$50 for the entire evening, that includes cocktails and a prime rib dinner. If you're interested in only attending The Pageant tickets are \$25.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 414-264-1155, or contact your favorite bar to see if a table or seat are available. Contestants and advertisers should call 414-486-6226 or 414-486-6233 for more information.

—Rich White



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Milwaukee

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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.

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.

South Water Street Docks

354 East National Ave.
414/225-9776

This newly re-named southside hang out features a CD jukebox and friendly staff and absolutely no gargoyles.

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.

"We have moved into a commercial space, but don't consider ourselves primarily a commercial gallery," says H2O co-owner Doug Krimmer. "Our main goal is to interact with artists and the community in an exploration of what art is. Art has been defined as the tangible evidence of the ever questing human spirit. We want to exhibit that tangible evidence."

H2O has premiered with a group show by gallery owners Douglas Krimmer, Barbara Peterson, Roy Huth, Joseph Korom, Lonna Parker, and Michael Merritt Mangan. It is a show that ranges from the urban photography of Douglas Krimmer to the pastel portraits of Michael Merritt Mangan to the intriguing print works of Roy Huth.

"In this show I'm exhibiting primarily block prints," says artist Barbara Peterson. "I like bold use of color and design. My

use of strong blacks and colors stems from my background in graphic design. But in my art I use these elements in ways that are not at all mundane."

"Artists go out on journeys without maps," continues Krimmer, "they search and learn, not always with a plan, and this quest may take an hour, a day, or a lifetime. But in the end, the artist brings back something from his quest that he can share with others. Something that will help people on their own journeys. This is art."

Gallery H2O is located at 221 North Water Street, just in front of the Pier 221 "Cafecatessen". H2O celebrates its Grand Opening with music by jazz vocalist Jerry Grillo, on Friday, October 18th.

photo/story WASWO

pictured left to right: Barbara Peterson, Douglas Krimmer, Michael Merritt Mangan



Picture Perfect

Juicy Bits

by W.W.Wells III

The Day After

It was Thursday night. I was home, waiting for my new boyfriend to come over after work. He was supposed arrive before nine. It was now ten and my fabulous hair-do had been ready for nearly three hours! His name was Bob (that's not his real name, of course, his real name is Kevin Anderson, he lives at 6829 N. 15th Street; Age: 26, he's an Aries, has the cutest butt and makes this funny squeaky noise just before he... well, you know). Anywan, he was the man of my dreams, we'd met over two weeks ago. I'd even compulsively purchased an extra toothbrush for him to use on his overnight visits.

The phone rang. It was HIM! He wasn't stopping by. He wouldn't be able to make it Saturday night either! Brain tumor? Death in the family? No, even worse ... the truth was he was seeing ANOTHER man and feeling guilty about seeing two people at the same time. He was SORRY. I was crushed. HE dumped ME! Now what was I going to do?

The phone rang again ... I forgive you... yes... darling.... oh, oh....

"Oh, hello darling..."

"Darling?", muttered a familiar voice.

"Oh, shit." I said.

It was my incredibly —*insert any fabulously complimentary adjective guaranteed to raise my salary*— editor, calling to gently remind me of an impending deadline. Couldn't he tell how DEPRESSED I was? I'd just broken up with my LOVER!

"Lover?", he snidely questioned. "You mean one in the endless streak of two week love affair that populates your life?"

"Well... (pause to make mocking face) yesssss... that's one way to put I suppose. But, that doesn't matter. I HAVE WRITER'S BLOCK! I am too depressed, I can't write."

"Publish or perish. Why don't you write about relationships, you're obviously an expert".

-click-

Maybe I am an expert.

The end of a relationship (no matter how short the duration) is difficult. But, there are things you can do to survive. If he's a dirty coward (like Kevin, er... I mean Bob) using the phone as a method of relationship termination, use the following ten step method to resolve your feelings: 1. With an angry flourish, slam down the receiver. 2. Have a long cry. 3. Write some really bad poetry. 4. Make a martini. 5. Absently devour everything in your fridge, include that big 56 oz. jar of Miracle Whip of undermined age. 6. Head to a local bar. 7. Spend the money you were going to buy Grandma's birthday present tipping male

strippers. 8. Go for a drive, hitting all the cruisy-est areas of town. 9. Pick up some sleazy looking guy you'll be profoundly embarrassed to wake up with in the morning. 10. Repeat steps 2 thru 9 as often as necessary.

"It can't be that easy," I hear you saying. Well, you're right. Everyone reacts differently to losing love. Of course, you'll be comforted and given knowing advice by many self-proclaimed relationship experts, most of whom have never dated the same person more than twice. Each giving different estimates on how long it will be before you're over HIM.

As a rule of thumb, you will be completely over a failed love affair after spending at least \$6,000 in therapy, or after finding a new boyfriend, which ever comes first. Dating costs can be almost as expensive as a therapist, but it's worth every penny if he's a wizard in the bedroom.

Revenge is the sweetest way of recovering from a failed relationship. Use any of the following on your EX and you'll feel better in a matter of minutes:

1. Call every 1-900 line advertised in any gay magazine, talk like a huge slut puppy and then give out HIS phone number and address. This is especially effective if he still lives with mom.

2. Ruin his financial health. Rent dozens of movies with embarrassing titles like *Dumb and Dumber* or *Ernest Goes to Camp*. Don't forget to use HIS video membership card. Keep the movies for weeks, letting those late fees pile up, when you finally get around to returning them, "forget" to rewind them (more late fees!).

3. Bribe his hairdresser into giving him a hair-do that looks at though it was style with a Cuisinart, speed setting on SHRED.

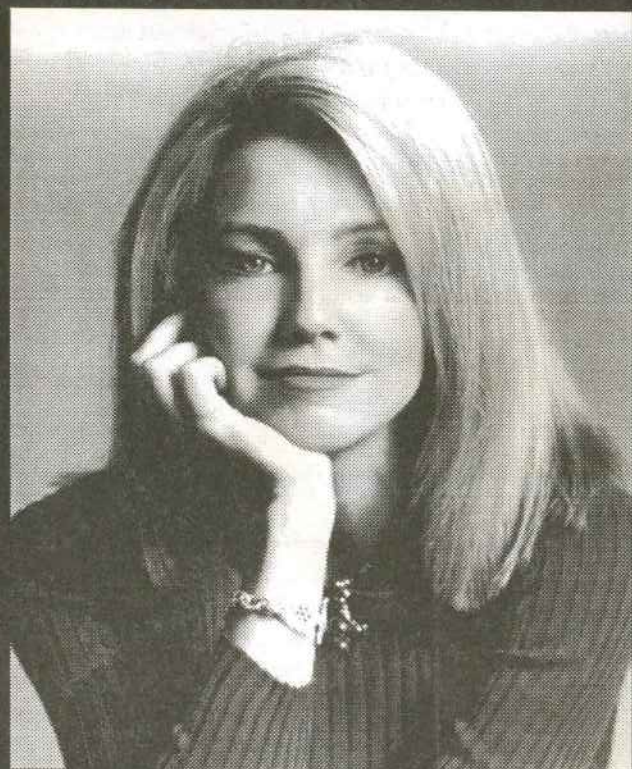
4. Becoming romantically involved with any, or all of his ex-lovers.

5. Leave obscene messages on his answering machine, then start to laugh.

In conclusion, they say that time can heal a broken heart. But, I've found the best way to speed the healing process is by pampering myself. In fact, when I'm done with this column, I think I'm going to hire one of those new gay cleaning services. The only trouble is, which one? I've got it narrowed down to *Dust in the Buff* or *Scrub Naked Cleaning*. Decisions, decisions.

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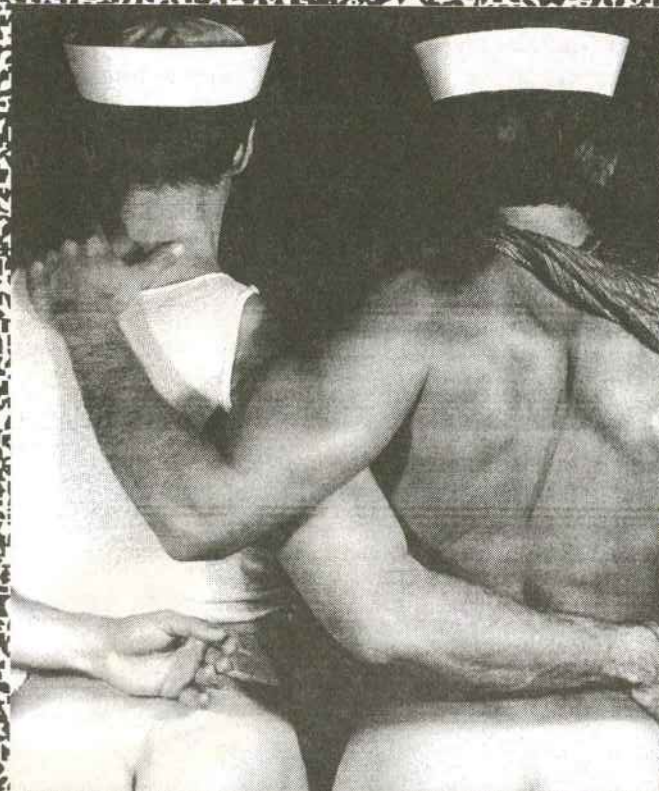
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