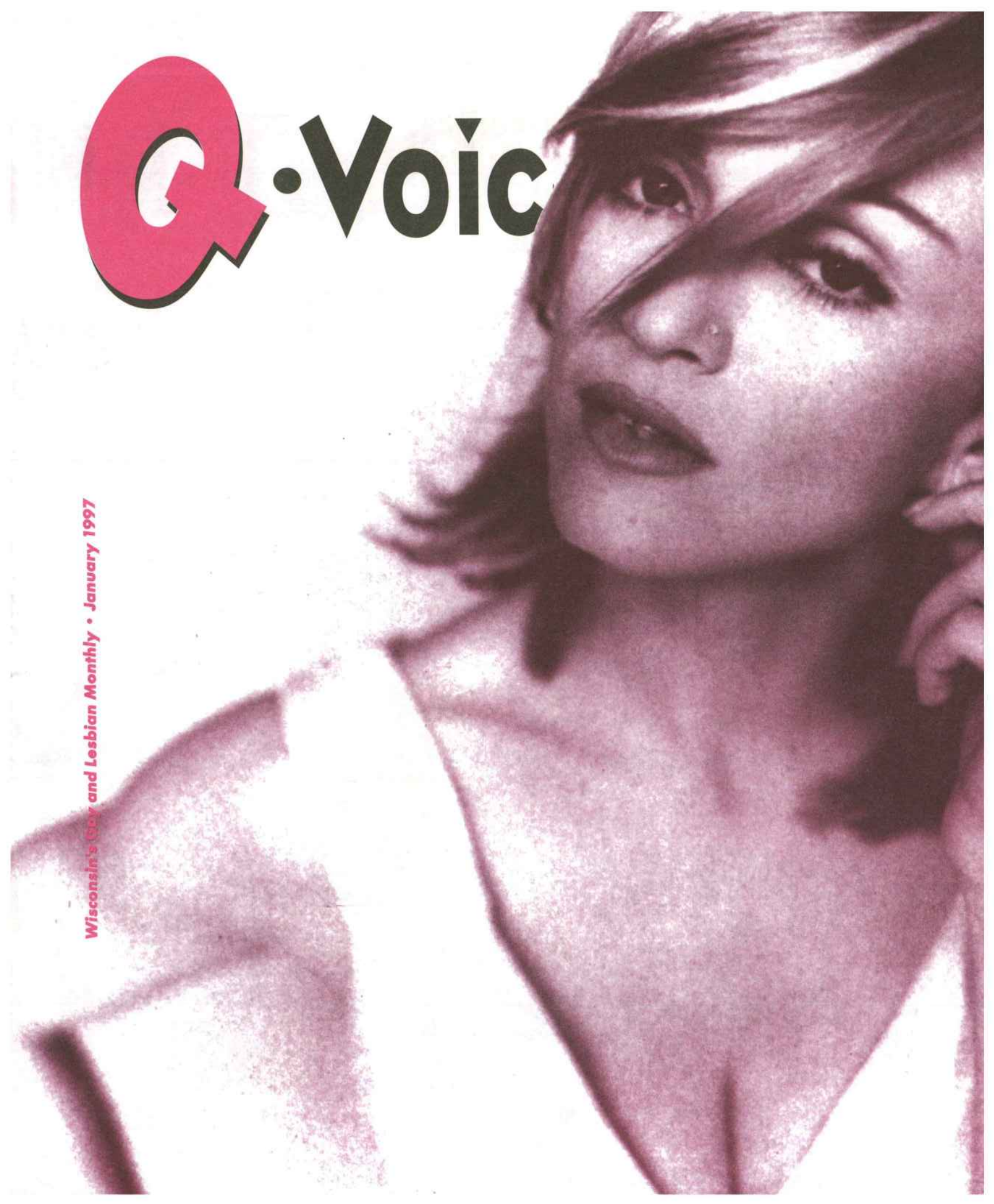



# Q•Voice

Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Monthly • January 1997





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by Jamakaya

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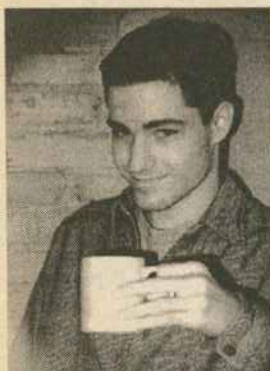


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# Special Report

## Our Pilgrimage to Madonna: Milwaukeeans Crash "Evita" World Premiere!

by Garth Wangemann  
Very Special Q•Voice Correspondent

**W**hen I had received the news from the Official Madonna Fan Club that I was the winner of their *Evita Movie World Premiere Contest* I was in shock. I've been a member of her club for ten years and had never won a contest that they sponsored.

Without hesitation I said I would be there! My partner Roy and I headed for Los Angeles on Thursday, December 12, 1996 to attend the world premiere on that Saturday.

The World Premiere was held at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium which is across the street from the University of Southern California campus. It has been the site for numerous Oscar and Grammy telecasts and will hold the Oscars again for this year's awards.

We checked out the place on Friday and what I had been told by Madonna's fan club president was true. This was going to be an all out Hollywood premiere. The bleachers were set up, the front entrance to the Shrine Auditorium was draped in a huge scarlet banner with the word "Evita" written in gold. A red carpet was being laid for the guests and 125 news organizations were setting up their equipment in anticipation for the following night's premiere.

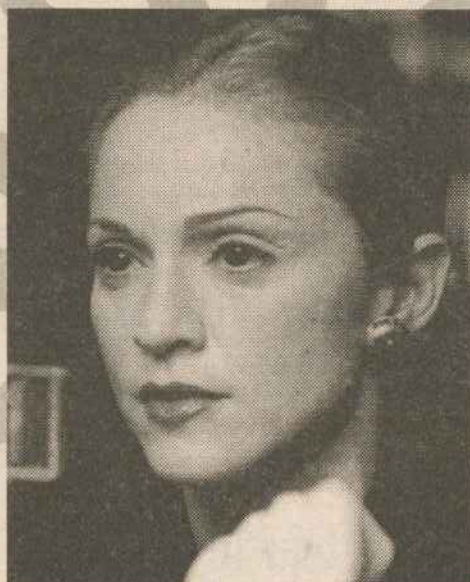
The following afternoon as we dressed in our tuxedos for the premiere I was as nervous as Madonna must have been. I knew from talking to her fan club president that the like-

lihood of meeting Madonna would not be possible. Nonetheless, I was hoping to at least catch a glimpse of her.

The event at the Shrine was nothing like I've ever seen. Thousands of people jamming

***Madonna was dressed in a 40's style magenta gown designed by Givenchy's John Galliano with a matching 40's veiled hat. It was truly spectacular.***

the street hoping to catch a glimpse of some favorite star, searchlights scanning the sky, limos backed up for blocks and the roar of the crowd in the bleacher section as each star passed their way. We along with other win-



ners were ushered into the theater first and watched the rest of the festivities on a large closed circuit TV screen.

When Madonna entered the bleacher area

from her limo with Carlos Leon on her arm, the roar of the crowd was deafening. Even in the auditorium one could hear them.

Madonna was dressed in a 40's style magenta gown designed by Givenchy's John

Galliano with a matching 40's veiled hat. It was truly spectacular. It took her forever to enter the auditorium with every step down the red carpet she was stopped by a reporter to answer inane questions regarding her daughter or how she was feeling at the moment. However, Madonna handled it well and when she entered the auditorium the audience inside went wild as well.

We were seated in the lower section of the balcony which was actually the best place to view the film. The Shrine is a carnivorous place to show a film. It seats 6,300 people with the balcony holding 3,600 seats alone. Once Madonna entered the auditorium we then lost track of her until she started walking down the aisle next to us. She smiled as she walked past our seats and sat down about ten rows from us.

She was flanked by bodyguards, but I finally got to see the object of my obsession for so many years. The only thing that struck me upon seeing her up close was how tiny she is. I expected this larger than life woman and instead she is quite small and petite.

Soon other stars gathered in our area and within ten minutes we were sitting in the



midst of Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Tim Rice. The gay community was represented by Greg Louganis and Melissa Etheridge along with her very pregnant partner Julie Cypher, who is due to give birth in January.

Not long after that the film started the audience went berserk as each star's name appeared on the screen. I've read many glowing movie reviews regarding "Evita", including Madonna's performance in this film.

The soundtrack to the film is glorious with strong singing performances by Antonio Banderas and Madonna, but I was curious to see how they translated in the film. To my relief they translated intact and with a style and power that the Broadway soundtrack

***The only thing that struck me upon seeing her up close was how tiny she is. I expected this larger than life woman and instead she is quite small and petite.***

could not match. This sixty million dollar movie is glamorous and paints 1940's Argentina in dark tones that evoke a sense of mystery. It is truly a beautiful looking movie, grand in scale and feeling like any production of "Evita" I've seen on the stage. This movie stands on its own.

Antonio Banderas as the narrator (Che Guevera) is stunning both in presence and in his singing. This is a part that could either break or make the movie and he stands up to the demands of the role. From rock to soft ballads Banderas brings a playfulness, sexuality, and energy to the role of Che who follows Evita from small town girl to First Lady of Argentina.

Jonathan Pryce as Juan Peron, brings his extensive stage experience to the role of the Argentine President, seduced by Evita and pushed and prodded to reach for the Presidency and make Evita the First Lady.

Madonna as Evita? Many were skeptical about her playing this strong and demanding role. Most of Hollywood viewed this performance as being her last chance in the Hollywood star game. Did she make it? Yes, with flying colors. This is a new Madonna. The Material Girl has grown up and she is now a woman. Madonna, with extensive voice lessons, has a powerful singing range and depth of performance that she has never given.

This is not the MTV Madonna mugging for the camera. This is a Madonna who is sure of herself and pulls out all the stops to portray Evita as a woman who was a saint to some and a monster to others. Not unlike Madonna herself, this Evita is arrogant, pushy and demanding and at the same time poignant. Madonna has never acted better and I believe this will be the signature role of her career. Whether the public thinks so is another thing.

"Evita" will be a hard sell to the movie going public. It took 20 years for this film to be made. The last successful Hollywood musical was "Grease". The entire movie is musical with little additional dialogue. Will the public be able to sit through a 2 hour plus film about an Argentine dictator and his manipulative wife? Only time will tell, but no matter what Madonna and the rest of the cast have scored a total knockout.

"Evita" is scheduled to make its Milwaukee premiere on January 10, 1997. Check your local listings.

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# “QUIPS AND QUOTES”

## Hey Sailor!

“Hey, whatever floats your boat.”

—The-artist-formerly-known-as-Prince when Oprah asked him Nov. 20: “People thought you were weird or gay. Did that bother you?”

## Queer Glass Ceiling?

“NGLTF’s current executive director, Melinda Paras, is resigning. The board has named NGLTF deputy director Kerry Lobel the new ED. For all who would care to count, that makes five consecutive lesbian chiefs. Anyone familiar with the Task Force knows that the board would not even pretend to consider a gay male applicant, regardless of his experience or qualifications. I say, ‘Overthrow the Matriarchy!’”

—Syndicated gay-press columnist Stephen Miller in his Nov. 20 column.

## Man Shortage: Rationing Expected

“[M]en are hard to find these days. Oh, sure, there are scads of annoying fellows doused in Obsession for Men just lying about for the taking. But the really good ones, the ones who like big dogs and don’t care what Madonna is up to today, are fairly near extinct. When I do find one that might be interesting, his wife always comes along to spoil it.”

—Columnist Michael Ford writing in Virginia’s Our Own Community Press.

## Rodman Tongue Tied

“I knew I was in trouble as soon as I sat down. He didn’t have a damn thing to say.”

—RuPaul on her talk-show interview with guest Dennis Rodman, the crossdressing Chicago Bulls star player, to Boston’s Bay Windows.

## Elton’s Out There

“I just wish more of my fellow queers would come out sometimes. It’s nice out here, you know?”

—Elton John, accepting a Distinguished Achievement Award from Elizabeth Taylor at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center’s 25th anniversary blowout. The event raised over \$500,000.

## Hey Sailor!

“Today’s parental response to the great ‘Guess what, Mum, Dad...I’m gay’ scene is more likely to be, ‘That’s nice, dear,’ followed after a moment’s thought by, ‘You will

be careful, won’t you, dear?’ About the same level of alarm is manifested if you announce you are going to take up hang-gliding.”

—Melbourne Star Observer columnist Lance Spur.

## Rope-a-Dope

“Who the fuck are you? You gotta be kiddin’. ... All right. Well. Come on over. Bring all your gay buddies with you. I’ll kick all your asses.”

—HIV-positive boxer Tommy Morrison when the Advocate phoned him to finalize a planned interview.

## Monogamy Man

“I’m a one-man man. That’s how I function. And it’s absolutely no judgment whatsoever on people who structure their lives differently from that. All I ask is that if you do believe in structuring your life in a monogamous way, that your desire not be condemned as impossible.”

—Former Mr. Universe and Mr. America Bob Paris in the Advocate.

## Out on “Ellen”

“With my character and my looks, energy, humor and voice, I can be an out-gay actor and it enhances me. Some classically handsome, well-built and tall actor would find it more difficult to be out. But they should be allowed to come out on their own. I think outing is doing damage to the gay community and to the straight community at large. You know, it would help if everyone would get into therapy — before you’re allowed to get a driver’s license.”

—Actor Patrick Bristow of TV’s “Ellen” to the Texas Triangle.

*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*





## Hey, Pass That 'Jungle Red #4' Would Ya Fred?



**Allure**, the makeup magazine, reports that San Franciscans buy more lipstick and eyeliner per capita than residents of any other area in the country.

The savvy women's magazine says this may be because of what it calls "the Castro Street factor," giving lipstick and eyeliner manufacturers a larger potential market among San Francisco's gay men — and presumably its "lipstick lesbians" too.

No wonder San Francisco often promotes itself as "the city that knows how."

## Bride's Maid Alert: Mass Gay Wedding Planned for February

Ft. Lauderdale organizers recently announced that they are planning a mass gay commitment ceremony in Fort Lauderdale on February 15th, 1997. Some of the nation's leading corporations will help finance Winter Gayla '97, a weekend of events to celebrate pride in gay culture, which will draw thousands of gay couples to the city.

"We want to give couples the opportunity to pledge their commitment to one another in a loving, caring, and sharing way," said Rev. Grant Lynn Ford, who will officiate the massive service known as "Love Celebration" on behalf of The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). MCC is the

nation's fastest growing religious denomination; members from its 250 churches nationwide are expected to participate in "Love Celebration."

Events throughout Ft. Lauderdale's Winter Gayla '97, made possible through the support of corporate sponsors, include: a beach party, MCC Love Celebration, and Fantaseas, a massive dance party in the open air atrium of the Museum of Discovery and Science, all presented by A.A.R. Productions, Inc. on Saturday, February 15th, and a President's Day Cruise on Monday, February 17th.

A portion of the proceeds from the weekend's events will benefit MCC in its effort to establish a couple's ministry to help same sex partners deal with the challenges of ongoing relationships. The donation will also help MCC expand its outreach ministry to all gay men and lesbians; and assist Ft. Lauderdale's Sunshine Cathedral in the establishment of a national gay and lesbian domestic partnership registry.

All Winter Gayla '97 events will take place on the weekend of Ft. Lauderdale's annual gay pride festivities, which have been moved from the traditional June date to the winter. This weekend of events will raise the city's profile as a major gay destination.

## "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" for San Francisco Boy Scouts

In a bid to regain the favor of financial supporters, Boy Scouts officials in San Francisco have quietly adopted a more lenient policy toward gay members and Scout leaders.

The action by the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts puts it squarely at odds with national Boy Scouts of America policy, which opposes homosexuals in the organization and expels gays.

The new policy adopted in San Francisco, however, sounds something like the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy, activists say.

It doesn't call for expulsion unless a Scout or Scout leader engages in some sort of public conduct or advocacy that identifies him as being gay. The policy also prohibits the Scouts from investigating anyone's sexual orientation.

The local chapter of the United Way cut off funding to the Bay Area Council of Boy Scouts in 1992 because of its anti-gay policies, as did several other major local corporate contributors.

The recent policy change will allow the

Scouts to again seek United Way and other financial backing for its youth programs. A merit badge for cruising can't be far behind.

## Man-to-Matt Kiss OK with Greg Evigan

**Greg Evigan**, who plays gay Dan Hathaway on **Melrose Place**, would have no trouble kissing Matt, his boyfriend on the show, but there are no immediate plans to script an on-screen smooch.

"I'm an actor. I mean, he's not Heather Locklear. And it wouldn't be the same. But I like the guy. I'd do it," Evigan told **TV Guide**.

No male kissing is likely any time soon, "Melrose Place" executive producer **Frank South** said.

"Fox has been increasingly open, but they're still in a bind as far as advertisers go ... Matt and Dan will hold hands, and there will be a lot of intimate touching. We'll keep pushing," South said.

## Amy Irving Remembers Her Barbra Streisand Smooch

**Barbra Streisand** talks a good ultraliberal ballgame. She puts lines like: "He's too boring to be gay" in her **"The Mirror Has**





**Two Faces**" to flatter her gay cult. But when it comes to putting her hetero reputation on the line ...

**Amy Irving**, who stars next in **"I'm Not Rappaport,"** remembers their unrehearsed kiss in **"Yentl"** (1983).

"All during rehearsals, she wouldn't let me kiss her," recalls Irving. "When that moment came, she'd just pull away. Finally, when the cameras were rolling and I kissed her and someone yelled Cut! she said, breaks into Jewish New York accent 'It's not so bad. Like kissing an arm.'" Which Irving took as something of an insult.

"I mean, it wasn't like I went for a tongue down her throat." Is it any wonder Streisand never got **"The Norman Heart"** off the ground?

## Get Naked for Gay Greek Cruise

Naked Magazine announces Naked Gay Men's Cruise - to Greek Isles. Naked Magazine, the premier publication for gay male naturists, announced another cruise in its series of gay, naked, male-only, tall sailing ship cruises. The itinerary for this cruise is to the Greek Isles. Previous naked cruises have been only to the Caribbean.

The Naked Gay Greek Cruise dates are June 7 - 15, 1997. Prices begin at \$1,799.00, per person double occupancy. Single shares, as well as single cabins, can be arranged for solo passengers. The price includes on the cruise, all food, all liquor on board, all gratuities, transfers, taxes and port charges. Included also is sight seeing in Turkey. Discounted airfare is available.

Robert Steele, publisher, said "We are very excited about this new destination. It gives our naked passengers a chance to play bare in the home of the Greek gods - one of the ultimate fantasies. Our passengers can be as naked as they want while they enjoy the fun and sun of the Mediterranean."

Additional information and brochures are available from Naked Magazine Travel, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste 109-232, West Hollywood CA 90046 or by calling (800)962-5330.

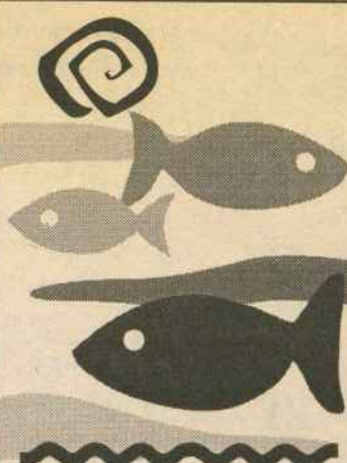
## Q•Voice Writer in "Shocking" Relationship?

After years of being the man behind the camera, Milwaukee photographer, artist and **Q•Voice** contributor **Richard Waswo** finds himself photographed and on display between the pages of a new cocktail table book titled **Couples**. The 85 black and white photographs were produced by **John Gettings**. **Couples** features an afterword by author **Quentin Crisp**.

**Couples** forms a documentary, in words and images of the diversity to be found in gay and lesbian relationships. The photos were taken in 1994 at the end of the Stonewall 25 celebration in New York City. Waswo is pictured arm in arm with boyfriend **Tom**.

"Now the whole world can read the shocking details of our courtship," quips Waswo, who says he is proud to be in a book that might help bring more understanding to the wide variety of gay relationships.

"I'm sure we are not the most typical of gay couples, but I'm glad we were chosen to be included."



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# The World in Brief

with Rex Wockner

## British Gay Group Threatens Outing Orgy

**London** — The British gay group OutRage! announced plans last week to out 15 closeted members of Parliament who have voted against gays.

"OutRage! is urging male prostitutes, staff at gay bars, saunas, etc., [to] give us details that prove that these MPs are gay or bisexual," the group announced. "It is also urging House of Commons researchers, political lobbyists, journalists and party activists to volunteer information."

The targeted MPs voted either against equalizing the age-of-consent for gay sex or in favor of excluding gays from the military.

"All are Conservative or Unionist. Two are cabinet ministers. One is a woman. They must be stopped before their homophobia damages more queer lives," said OutRage! leader Peter Tatchell.

## ILGA Plans Romania Boycott

**Romania** — The International Lesbian and Gay Association is preparing to launch a boycott of Romania in protest against its refusal to legalize homosexuality. Targets will include wine, tourism and TAROM, the national airline.

"The vote by Romania's parliament to ban gay bars, clubs, associations, media and organizations breaks the commitment to decriminalize homosexuality, given by the government over three years ago," said ILGA spokesman Andy Quan.

"It is a flagrant violation of the European Convention on Human Rights and condemns Romania's sexual minorities to further state persecution."

Despite demands from the Council of Europe, Romanian legislators have failed to

legalize gayness and — during their drawn-out consideration of the matter — have managed to pass two new anti-gay measures.

One states, "Sexual intercourse between persons of the same sex, taking place in public, or producing a public scandal, is punishable by one to five years imprisonment."

This measure is particularly problematic, ILGA said, because Romania's legal definition of "public scandal" is "anything two or more people find offensive."

The second new measure states, "Propositioning or enticing a person to take part in sexual relations with a person of the same sex, as well as propaganda or association or any other acts of proselytism with the same purpose, is punishable by one to five years imprisonment." ILGA notes: "Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals and even heterosexuals who simply give a positive representation of homosexuality in conversation face five years behind bars. Of course, gay clubs, bars, helplines, media, associations and even meetings between two known lesbians, gay men or bisexuals will also be banned."

At present, a Communist-era ban on all gay sex remains in effect in Romania. Earlier this year, the Chamber of Deputies passed a new ban on gay sex (in conjunction with the anti-gay measures detailed above) but then later voted to delete it following an outcry from European institutions. None of the new measures have become law yet, leaving the old law in effect.

To help with ILGA's planned boycott, visit the World Wide Web site [www.raglb.org.uk/boyc.htm](http://www.raglb.org.uk/boyc.htm) or e-mail [boycott@raglb.org.uk](mailto:boycott@raglb.org.uk).

## Thai Gay Resort Is All Prostitutes

**Patong Beach** — The gay resort of Patong Beach, Thailand, is all prostitutes, travel writer Mark Walder reported in the

December issue of Britain's *Gay Times*.

"There are no gay places where you can hope to meet local guys on a non-commercial basis," Walder said. "And once you get the reputation for not wanting to pay for sex your popularity will wither faster than a scrotum rubbed in snow."

Walder estimated that Patong Beach's "bar boy" prostitutes outnumber foreign visitors to the area by a ratio of six to one.

Sex with one of the "boys" — aged late teens to early twenties — costs about \$10 plus about a \$25 dollar tip, he said.

That contrasts with an average wage of about \$135 a month for local hotel and restaurant workers.

## Vietnamese Gays Launch AIDS Project

**Ho Chi Minh City** — "I.E.C." is Vietnam's first gay AIDS-education group. The letters stand for "Information, Education, Communication."

The group's 40 members cruise around Ho Chi Minh City's very cruisy Nguyen De Boulevard dispensing condoms, advice and crudely duplicated pamphlets to the estimated 20,000 gay and bisexual men who visit the city's gay pick-up spots.

The organization also hosts discussion groups and offers counseling at its small downtown office.

Meanwhile, a group has formed in San Francisco to help I.E.C. achieve its goals.

"Gay people in Vietnam really need help when it comes to AIDS education," said Douglas Thompson, who founded "OrchidMania" after a recent trip to Hanoi and Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City).

"They are officially and culturally invisible... they suffer enormous discrimination. Yet it's growing into a sex vacation paradise — just like Thailand in the seventies."

"Vietnamese guys are warm and friendly



and anxious to meet foreigners," Thompson said. "A lot of these guys have never seen a condom before, and wouldn't know what to do with one. To make matters worse, visitors and foreign workers think they're coming to a land of virgins and they leave everything they know about safe sex at home."

For more information, write OrchidMania, P.O. Box 14666, San Francisco, CA 94114. Phone: (415) 267-4814. Web: <http://www.orchids.org>. E-mail: [thompson@orchids.org](mailto:thompson@orchids.org)

## Mexican Lesbian Archive Seeks Material

**Mexico City** — This city's new "Nancy Cardenas Lesbian Documentation Center and Historical Archive for Mexico, Latin American and the Caribbean" is seeking contributions.

"We've found that our history is dispersed in the personal archives of activists or ex-activists and has a serious risk of disappearing," the group said in a press release.

They invite submissions of pamphlets, newspapers, clippings, books, magazines, posters, buttons, T-shirts, videos, photos and other matter. For further information, contact Norma Mogrovejo, A.P. M- 7459, C.P. 06002 Mexico D.F., Mexico. Phone: 011-52-5-583-7830. E-mail: [archiles@laneta.apc.org](mailto:archiles@laneta.apc.org)

## Belgian Deputy PM Under Investigation

**Brussels** — Gay Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Elio di Rupo is under investigation for pedophilia, local activists report.

But they say there is doubt about whether the youth in question was below the age-of-consent (16) at the time of the alleged sexual contact. And they allege that the youth has a reputation for making up stories about his affiliations with famous people. Di Rupo has called the allegations baseless and politically motivated. The activists said there is a good chance di Rupo will be exonerated.

## 86 Countries Have Outlawed Gay Sex

**San Francisco, CA** — Eighty-six nations (or semi-independent states) ban gay-male sex and 44 of those countries also prohibit lesbian

sex, according to data accumulated by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission in San Francisco.

Gay-male sex is illegal in Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Armenia, Australia (Tasmania state only), Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Burma, Cameroon, Cape Verde Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgystan, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa (which is also the only nation in the world with a ban on anti-gay discrimination in its constitution), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Tokelau, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America (21 of 50 states), Uzbekistan, Western Samoa, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The states which ban gay-male sex but do not ban lesbian sex are Antigua & Barbuda, Armenia, Australia (Tasmania), Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Burma, Cayman Islands, Chile, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgystan, Macedonia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tokelau, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In most instances, lesbian sex is permitted because sexist legislators didn't think to ban it rather than because of good will toward lesbians.

Corrections to these lists should be sent to IGLHRC, 1360 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Telephone: (415) 255- 8680. Fax: (415) 255-8662. E-mail: [iglhrc@iglhrc.org](mailto:iglhrc@iglhrc.org).

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# 1996 BIG NEWS

## A Roller Coaster Ride for Wisconsin's Queer Community

b y J a m a k a y a

“I

t was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” wrote Charles Dickens. “It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us...”

Dickens' words came to mind as I pondered the major queer news events of 1996. It's been a wild roller coaster ride for Wisconsin's gay and lesbian community, with historic events providing a substantial lift to our fortunes one day and a dramatic plummet the next.

Early in the year, an extraordinary pledge of financial support by a gay couple launched a renewed campaign for a LGBT Community Center in Milwaukee, while in Madison, a catastrophic fire destroyed one of that city's most revered gay institutions, the Hotel Washington.

We won a fantastic victory in the US Supreme Court in May, when Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 was ruled unconstitutional. But we seethed in anger in September when Congress passed the so called “Defense of Marriage Act” and defeated the Employment Non-Discrimination Act by just one vote.

In June Pridefest made its long-awaited debut on the Summerfest grounds in Milwaukee but was nearly flooded and frozen out by unseasonably inclement weather.

This Fall, thousands of us marched with Bette Midler, raising a record amount of money at AIDS Walk Wisconsin. But by year's end, almost 200 more men and women had died of AIDS complications, and 300+ had been newly diagnosed with AIDS. The following is a review of the major events of this topsy-turvy year.





Hotel Washington Fire. Photo: Courtesy of Hotel Washington

## THE HOTEL WASHINGTON

**I**n the destruction of the Hotel Washington in a devastating blaze on February 18 sent shock waves through the gay and lesbian community in Madison and throughout the state. The entertainment complex — featuring Rod's, The New Bar, Cafe Palms, Club de Wash and the Barber's Closet — served as the unofficial social center for queers in the capital of the Gay Rights State. More than 1,000 stunned and tearful people attended a rally at the Capitol, mourning the loss of this beloved institution.

The fire (ruled accidental in origin) came as a real body blow because it occurred in the context of a wave of homophobic activity in the Madison area. Wisconsin Christians United was calling for openly lesbian State Rep. Tammy Baldwin to "repent" of her lesbianism or resign from office. A homophobic backlash was developing over the city's newly appointed Fire Chief, Debra Amesqua. And an anti-gay marriage bill was about to be introduced into the legislature. The initial fear, unfounded, was that the fire might be a part of all this madness.

Hotel Washington owner Greg Scheel announced that the hotel would be rebuilt and open for business by the end of the year. But all sorts of bureaucratic complications and financial shortfalls delayed the rebuilding. The on-again, off-again plans could have driven anyone nuts. (As a reporter, I can tell you, it was nuts to cover!) But Scheel persisted, and by the end of the year, with financial backing by a new bank, an announcement was made that the hotel would indeed be re-built at its current West Washington Avenue site.

## NABOZNY WINS \$900,000 IN COURT CASE

**2.** In a story equally as dramatic as that of the Hotel Washington but with potentially even greater impact on gays and lesbians nationwide, a federal jury in November award-

ed former Ashland high school student Jamie Nabozny \$900,000 in damages for anti-gay abuse he suffered by fellow students when school officials did not intervene.

For literally years while he attended Ashland Middle School and Ashland High School, Nabozny was spit at, pushed, beaten, kicked and urinated on by other students. "We did it every day because he acted like a sissy," one of his tormentors testified in court. Jamie attempted suicide several times, required surgery to repair wounds from his beatings and finally, at age 17, fled his hometown.

During this long ordeal, even after Jamie's parents repeatedly asked that the violence be stopped and their son be protected, Ashland school administrators did nothing. Well, not exactly nothing. Middle School Principal Mary Podlesny told Jamie: "If you're going to tell people you're gay, you've got to expect this sort of thing." Ashland High School Assistant Principal Thomas Blauert admitted in court he took home school records pertaining to Jamie's case and burned them.

Nabozny's lawsuit took years but ended in a victory, a personal vindication for himself and a broader victory for the rights of gay and lesbian youth who, the jury ruled, are entitled to the equal protection of the laws and the institutions that serve them. School systems everywhere have been put on alert that they cannot tolerate anti-gay abuse. In the words of Jamie's Lambda attorney: "Countless gay kids have paid a high price for abuse. Now the tables have turned, and it is prejudice that is costly."

## ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE BILLS

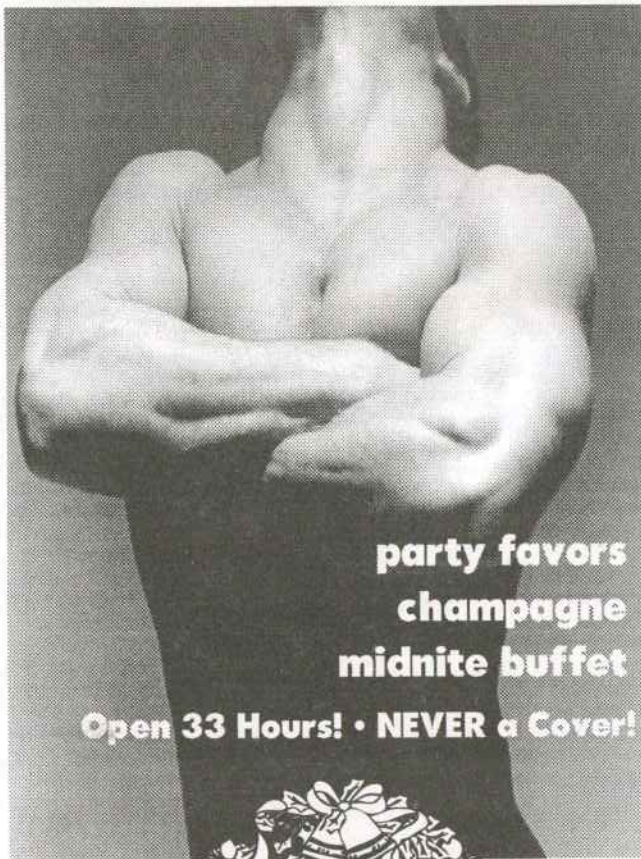
**3.** The gay and lesbian community statewide was thrown into a flurry of activity in February and March when several legislators announced they would introduce a measure to outlaw same gender marriage in Wisconsin.

The first effort was initiated by Rep. Dean Kaufert (R-Neenah), who, after being inundated with calls from gay constituents in the Fox Valley area and dismayed by the vitriol of radical right proponents, eventually withdrew his idea. A bill was introduced, however, by Rep. Lorraine Seratti (R-Spread Eagle). It was referred to a committee where it died a quiet death with no action having been taken on it by the end of the legislative session in May.

In the wake of the latest Hawaii court decision in support of gay marriage, however, Seratti has vowed to reintroduce her bill and Tammy Baldwin will offer a counter-proposal recognizing same gender marriage in Wisconsin. The battle lines are drawn, and gays around the state better be prepared for a knock-down fight next year. Political organizations like Action Wisconsin, the Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays and the Log Cabin Republicans need to mobilize our community and its supporters and flex some political muscle.



# NEW YEAR'S EVE



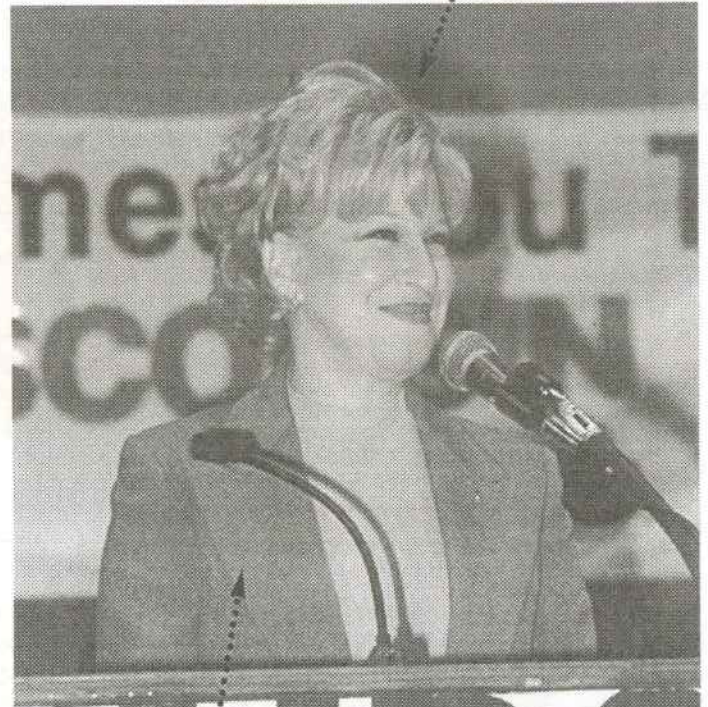
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Bette Midler



## AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

**4.** I have never seen so many mature adults make such fools of themselves as I did on September 22 as they jockeyed for position to be near The Divine Miss M as she visited Milwaukee for AIDS Walk Wisconsin! OK, from the queens, I expected it. But from the "pillars" of our community?

Well, Bette really was something to see that day. Decker out in a bright green suit, with her red hair and big smile flashing, she (and daughter Sophie) charmed us all. At the AIDS Breakfast that Sunday she set a perfectly balanced tone for the day: while sharing her own grief and personal memories of those lost to AIDS, she also exuded a fighting spirit and confident mood.

Midler's divine presence boosted participation in the annual Walk to over 12,000 people. Now that's star power! Together, they raised a new record — more than \$1 million for AIDS services and education throughout the state.



## **AIDS: MEDICAL AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS**

**5.** There were many hopeful signs in the battle against AIDS this year, chief among them the effect that the new protease inhibitors are having on many people with the disease. Protease inhibitors work to block an enzyme that assists in the replication of HIV. Use of the new drugs, often in combinations popularly called "cocktails," is helping to reduce and/or slow the development of HIV levels and increase t-cell counts in the blood, enabling some people's immune systems to rebound to the extent that some symptoms have faded and, as one PWA said happily: "I just generally feel better!" Protease inhibitors are no cure, but offer hope for longer life with less debilitating illness.

Meanwhile, clinical trials of a potential AIDS vaccine, REMUNE, were initiated. REMUNE therapy consists of inoculations every third month rather than daily pill-popping. The shots are believed to stimulate the body's immune system in a natural way, slowing the replication of HIV. REMUNE cannot prevent one from acquiring HIV, but can possibly slow its growth. Results are pending.

In other AIDS developments, the federal Ryan White CARE Act was finally re-authorized by Congress. With aggressive lobbying by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, the bill passed with revised formulas to provide more equitable funding, giving AIDS service groups in the state an extra \$3 million over the next few years. Also, the state legislature in May approved a viatical reform bill, mandating greater consumer protections over the viatical industry.

Despite all this positive news, by November 30, 323 more cases of AIDS were reported by the State Department of Health, and 185 people had died of AIDS complications this year.

## **PRIDE CELEBRATIONS**

**6.** Gay and Lesbian Pride celebrations were held throughout the Badger State this year, drawing large crowds. Milwaukee's PrideFest made its big debut on the famed Summerfest grounds, lending it a long sought-after legitimacy. Henry Maier Festival Park is the site of most of Milwaukee's other major ethnic festivals, so the venue was a really coup for organizers. Too bad Mother Nature didn't cooperate. A bizarre cold wave with torrential rains almost halved attendance from the previous year. But PrideFest is moving onward, planning next June's bash at the same site. With better weather, some national talent and the fireworks/laser show, it could rival Pride events in the biggest coastal cities.

The sun shone down on two other state celebrations. A record crowd marched and partied in Madison at the annual MAGIC picnic and Pride March in July. Highlights were an appearance by feisty NGLTF Director Melinda Paras, whose trip was something of a homecoming (she was raised in Madison), and a rousing march down State Street that put Milwaukee's "parade" to shame. Meanwhile, almost

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
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2,000 people attended the Rainbow Over Wisconsin picnic in Appleton's Memorial Park September 1.

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

**7.** Efforts toward building and strengthening community were evident all over Wisconsin this past year. Rainbow Over Wisconsin, an alliance of bar owners in the Green Bay/Appleton area, sponsored events which raised money and solidarity among the region's gays and lesbians and AIDS service groups. For the first time, members of Positive Voice, Northern Womyn and the Gay and Lesbian Education & Economic Development Alliance (GLEEDA) published a Gay/Lesbian Guide to Northeast Wisconsin, which highlights 300 gay and gay-supportive organizations in the 12-county region of northeast Wisconsin.

Madison's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Business Alliance reactivated and, in Milwaukee, an Alternative Business Association was formed with plans to publish a directory of gay-owned and supportive businesses.

Milwaukee's oft derailed plans for a gay community center got a huge shot in the arm in January when a well-known gay couple, Ross Walker and Erv Uecker, pledged up to \$120,000 over a ten year period to help fund such a center. Open forums were held and dozens of people signed up to assist in the effort. Despite some bad-mouthing by the usual do-nothing troublemakers, the organizing is moving forward in a careful, precise manner. I've been impressed with the caliber of the organizers and their commitment to inclusivity. This project is a go. To get involved, call 414/483-4710.

## GUNDERSON: IN AND OUT

Ex-Congressman Steve



**8.** Our own reluctant poster boy for gay rights, soon-to-be former Congressman Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin's 3rd District, bid adieu to the House of Representatives in one of the clumsiest, most declassé long goodbyes in Congressional history.

As if performing a parody of Rep. Bob Dornan's infamous remarks about his relationship with the closet ("He's in, he's out, he's in, he's out..."), Gunderson announced two years ago that this would be his last term in Congress. But as election time approached, he reconsidered. Well, he might run, he said coyly, if his constituents wanted him. How many times he then said he would and he would not run, I can't remember, but he threw the GOP in his district into chaos and, very possibly, cost them the seat.

GOP leaders, pissed off with Gunderson's dithering, told him to get the hell out once and for all. At which point the long-time closet case issued a self-pitying statement about how homophobic col-



leagues had ruined his career. Mark me: I have no doubt that Gunderson experienced homophobia, but his disgraceful exit was largely of his own making.

## POLITICAL RACES

**9.** Dane County retained its reputation as "Gay Dane" with the re-election of Scott McCormick to the County Board (along with several other closet cases, informed sources tell me) and Tammy Baldwin to the State Assembly. Madison City Council members Mike Verveer, Judy Olson and Napoleon Smith all announced their bids for re-election this coming April, and Dick Wagner, a longtime County Supervisor and Chair of the County Board, announced his intention to run for Dane County Executive.

In Milwaukee, two openly gay candidates, a first for Brew Town, ran for the City Council. Steve Rose was eliminated in the primary but veteran activist Karen Gotzler proceeded to the general election, only to fall short by several hundred votes. The Rose and Gotzler campaigns mobilized hundreds of volunteers whose energy is likely to be tapped for future openly gay candidates.

Meanwhile, Tim Carpenter, who represents a southwest side district in Milwaukee, easily won re-election to his seventh term in the State Assembly. An attempt by Wisconsin Christians United and his opponent to out Carpenter failed to dissuade his loyal constituents. But Carpenter's latest brush with public exposure dismayed many of his long-time supporters who wish he'd just come out and get it over with. He hinted he might make a statement after the election but, apparently satisfied that his closet is still intact, has kept mum.

## AMESQUA AND MORE



**10.** A brief rundown of other important events would have to include: the homophobic attacks against new Madison Fire Chief Debra Amesqua and the complaint alleging that as a female, Native American and lesbian, she received preferential treatment in hiring; the Madison City Council's defeat of a superfluous and unconstitutional ordinance intended to curb public sex in the parks; the purchase of *In Step* magazine by the owners of *Q•Voice*; the resignation of Bill Meunier as Co-Director of PrideFest; and the opening of the Angels of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Green Bay.

Also significant: the plea bargain by lesbian activist and law student Kitty Barber for felonies related to the police chase and subsequent police wounding of her in December '95, resulting in five years of probation; the murder of Milwaukee drag performer Mandi McCall and the maximum sentence for her killer; the formation of United HIV Services, an alternative to the Milwaukee AIDS Project; and the 4th Midwest Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual College Conference at Beloit College.

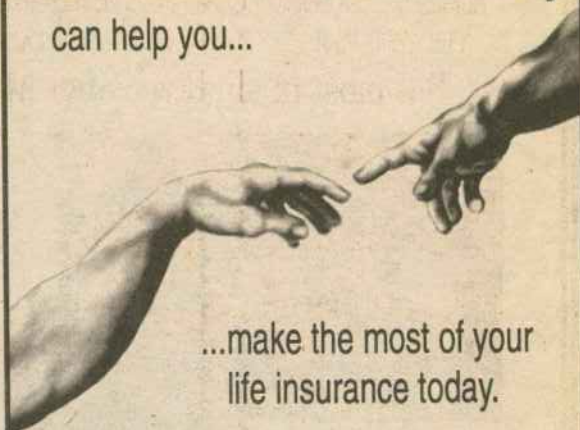
Whew! What a year it's been. On December 31, let's raise a toast to ourselves for having survived it all, to the friends who didn't make it and to the challenges that lie ahead in 1997. Happy New Year, everyone!

In Memoriam Of Our Founders, David Scott Reed (1946-1996)  
and Cecil Ray deLoach (1952-1991)

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# Lesbian of Many Hats

Interview by William Attewell • Photo: Cabal

Over the past 12 years, Stephanie Hume estimates she has been involved over twenty gay/lesbian organizations throughout the state. Currently, Hume is a board member for the Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays (HRL), the liaison to the Milwaukee Police Department for the Lesbian and Gay Community. She is involved with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. This year, she sat on a National Council of Gay and Lesbian Representatives for the National Democratic Party. There were two people represented from each state; for Wisconsin it was Hume and State Representative Tammy Baldwin.

Recently, I sat down with her at the *Q•Voice* World Headquarters. We discussed the state of our community, her commitment to the LGBT Community Center Project, dysfunctional families and her Christmas Card from Bill and Hillary Clinton.

**WA: What do you get out of so much involvement? What's in it for you?**

SH: I think, for me, the biggest thing is the message I grew up with: To make your corner of the world a better place; to do random acts of kindness, think locally, act

locally. Those kinds of messages really move me, or drive me, to do things that I believe, or I hope, will affect people in a positive way in the future. I don't think that any of the work we do today is really about immediate successes or immediate satisfactions. It's a hope that the person who comes after me may have a little bit of an easier time, may have better resources, may have little better experience than what I've had.

That's the biggest reason why I'm involved in the Community Center. To me that is such an important project for our community to undertake. I'm so excited that we have finally gotten to a place where people are really able to start having the dialog and the conversations about it.

I remember the first time I walked into the New York Lesbian/Gay Community Center. I saw what I knew in my heart and my mind was our community. I saw such rich diversity it was incredible. I saw people from all walks of life and I really got a sense of what everybody always says, you know that expression, "We are everywhere." People say that a lot in our community, but I don't think they really understand what comes along with that.



**WA:** As an community activist, you work with the Milwaukee Police Department, the police recently worked with the County Sheriff in sting operations in County parks. How do you help to educate police on this issue?

**SH:** I think that's an ongoing process for the Police Department. To date we've trained approximately 1,200 recruits. I think that that makes a difference. I also work with the other side of the police department, which is the administrative side.

One of our jobs is to talk about respectful treatment of people in our community. Also, the other side of that is for them to know me

...there are still people in the Police Department who look at themselves as the moral police.  
In other words it's their job to decide what's morally right.

as a person. It prevents them from putting all those stereotypical labels thrown on people in our community: All lesbians are this and all gay men are that. That part is a constant education.

Clearly, there are still people in the Police Department who look at themselves as the moral police. In other words it's their job to decide what's morally right. Whether that's prostitution, whether it's sex in the parks, whether it's drugs — they decide.

I don't know that we'll ever reach those police officers. The best we can hope for is that they retire at an early age and that we don't have a lot of contact with them.

**WA:** When incidents like these recent arrests take place, do you contact the police or the sheriff and say, "Hey, what's going on?"

**SH:** We have conversations with them frequently. This is not the first time. There have been stings over in the Third Ward as well. There are constant conversations; it's two-sided, though. Unfortunately, because people (who are arrested) are closeted, or people don't identify as gay, they aren't necessarily interested in taking a course of action, or a complaint against the Police Department.

In the last four years, I think we've had five complaints where people have come forward. That's an unfortunate part about people being closeted, or not identifying with any particular part of our community. They feel victimized—they may have a belief, and it may be a

legitimate belief, that if they report it to the police that they will be re-victimized. It's two-sided, it's not just the police. I need to say that, and having sex in the parks is not legal.

We need to give people opportunities and alternatives. The Community Center is a prime example. We need to have a place where people can learn that they can meet people — other gay men and bisexuals and transgender people — that it doesn't have to be in a bar, it doesn't have to be in a park, it doesn't have to be in a warehouse district. It can be in a positive and safe place.

My biggest concern, quite frankly some-

times, is not so much that these guys are going to get tickets, but that they are an easy mark to be beaten, to be mugged, to be raped. I think these are really serious, serious problems that we have people in our community who put themselves at that kind of risk.

**WA:** What do you teach these recruits?

**SH:** It's interesting. We started in '92, and in the beginning we taught them a lot about "don't say the faggot word, don't say the dike word. We talked about what stereotypes they had of us, and they were all things that we've heard on television or seen or were aware of. In the last couple of years the caliber of recruits and the diversity training that the department is doing, above and beyond what we do, has really changed the dynamics and the questions.

We spend a lot less time now on the kind of "pointing your finger at them" kind of stuff. We talk about how behavior and professionalism are very important in the job and the work that they do. If they don't act professional and their behavior is disrespectful or racist or sexist or homophobic, that there can be consequences to that behavior. The days of beating up a faggot are not acceptable anymore.

The days that it's OK to go to a gay bar and make comments about drag queens and stuff; these kinds of actions can have repercussions. They can go on their record, and they can be reprimanded for that. I think that that's a

whole different ball game. Jeffrey Dahmer, and that whole incident that happened in 1991, has really shifted the idea that the Police Department and its personnel are responsible for their actions.

We may not have the same beliefs, and we make *that* very clear in the class. There's an expectation and a requirement of how you have to act on the job; your personal beliefs, your behavior and your actions. And, if you don't act the way you're supposed to, we're damned well going to make sure you see the consequences because of those actions.

We want to be respected and we want to work with the Police Department. Most of us are home owners, many of us have kids. We don't want somebody breaking into our car anymore than our neighbor does.

I think changes, like Sherman Park Rainbow Association and the Riverwest Association and neighborhood groups that are now identified with lesbian and gay community are really significant. The police see that as a way that we are being active members in our neighborhoods, which is a part of community policing. It's the whole idea that people are responsible and active in taking care of their neighborhoods.

**WA:** Right now you are heavily involved with the Human Rights League. What is the focus of that group, what do they do?

**SH:** The Human Rights League is one of the very few — actually it's the only political organization that has parity around men and women—around gender—the other is that we have the parity around people of color. We strive to make sure the people we bring up to the Board, and the people who are on our committees and do our projects are representative (if there is a way to represent the whole LGBT community), we try to do the best that we can. It's not a nice "window dressing", it's not a "nice thing to do", it's not the "politically correct" thing to do. It's the way that we have to organize in our community.

**WA:** As you look at Milwaukee's gay and lesbian community, do you see fractionalization or do you think it is coming together with the projects like the LGBT Community Center Project?

**SH:** I think that if there's anything that can circumvent that kind of clashing of agendas and of personal egos, and certainly history—there's a lot of history in our community; it



can be a real small community at times. I think that when we've had conversations about the Community Center — I said once at a meeting that, "This is not for me. I think I do very well, and I'm very fortunate that I have enough people in my life and have enough outlets and enough things to do that I don't feel isolated and I don't feel alone. I've been very fortunate in the last 12 or 13 years."

That's what this is all about, and I think that this is one of those rare opportunities where people can join together. It's challenging, but they can put their egos aside and they can put their agendas aside, because what we are trying to create is something bigger than any one person in the process.

It's not about the 20 people who are starting it now. We've talked to people from other community centers across county and they have said, "You know, ten years from now, five years from now, somebody's going to be saying 'I started the Community Center,' and you know damned well that they weren't at any of those meetings and they didn't do anything. But that's just kind of how it goes."

Ralph Serpe said to me, "Only you will know the work you did. There's not going to be some huge ceremony, you're not going to have your names etched in stone somewhere. You're just going to know that you participated and contributed in making this place happen."

**WA: Do think it's going to happen?**

SH: Yes, I do, absolutely.

**WA: How long do you think it will be?**

SH: The physical building ... the walking in and cutting the ribbon to the door? I think about a year.

**WA: Do you think it's that close?**

SH: Yeah, absolutely. I think that there's been so many other attempts at this that there are a lot of people out there who are skeptical. And then, there are people in our community who are so overburdened, because they have so many things going on, it's hard for them to make the commitments. What I think we're doing right now is figuring out how to have people be involved and not say, "You have to go to 20 meetings a month."

Being able to utilize people as resources based on "What's the reality of their life." Quite frankly, we have very few people in this community doing the majority of the work and that's not new ... that's for as long as I've been an activist in Milwaukee.

I think what we're seeing now is people who want to be involved and are willing to do this piece or that piece. You have people who have no history of involvement, no preconceptions about this person or that person, they really just have the dream. For myself, that keeps me going. It makes any problems look pretty inconsequential when you're looking at the bigger picture, I think that that's why we'll have it within a year.

**WA: What do you see as the big issues for our community? Could you give me two or three things that you think are really important for people to focus on...**

SH: I think that a commitment to the Community Center would be the biggest one. I think another one would be to find a way to be able to empower our community; the people who are marginalized, the people who are not a part of the "mainstream."

**WA: How do you do that?**

SH: I think you do that by looking at those people as an incredible

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enrichment; as a gift, as a resource, as a blessing, instead of as I said before, "Oh, it isn't politically correct to do this, or this is the right thing." If we looked at some of the folks that we have in our community that are of such different backgrounds and bring such interesting things to the table, we would see that we are really an interesting, exciting and vibrant community.

**WA: How do you do that in a real way?**

SH: I think that in a real way you create events and clearly, a Community Center, and I would think of speaker events and receptions. We did a thing with Linda Paras on multiculturalism in an LGBT community. She said it's not about just getting together and processing, it's about having a film about African Americans, or about Asian Americans, who happen to be lesbian and gay, and then having discussions after that to talk about I... to talk about those kinds of things.

It's about figuring out how to be supportive: How does HRL support LAMM? How does LAMM support HRL? How do we support MAP? We have to figure out ways to not figure out how much of the pie we

*I think there' are many in our community who are in that place where they're trying really hard to be something and important in a pretty small microcosm.*

have, but figure out what the pie looks like when we bring it together, and to do those collective kinds of projects. I think we—the police training—the fact that we have trainers from all different groups, and we do good work together—we wouldn't be as effective as we are if we didn't have a diverse group of folks. It's about having those conversations. It's about building... I don't want to say, "Building Bridges to the Twenty-first Century," but I think it is about building bridges, it is about realizing who our allies are.

**WA: Who is going to be running for office in the Gay and Lesbian community?**

SH: I hope Karen (Gotzler) will run again. I don't know if she will. I don't think that she had any idea of how much energy and how evasive being a political candidate can be, but I hope that she does. I see other people like Laurie Guilbault, who used to be the Chair of LAMM. I believe at some point, I will probably run for something. So, I think that we have some people in our community who are looking at being... if there is a time for us to be politically savvy, this is it!

**WA: What do you want to run for?**

SH: I'm not sure. I think it's going to depend on what presents itself. Currently I live in Bay View, so part of that has to do with where I live and what becomes available. My guess is that it would probably be local politics. I don't know that I want to go to Madison. I wouldn't rule that out, but me belief is that I work with a lot of people from different communities and organizations in the City. I'm very vested in the City of Milwaukee. My family is here and this is where I live. I really want to work to make it better, so I think I would stay in some kind

Continued on Page 44



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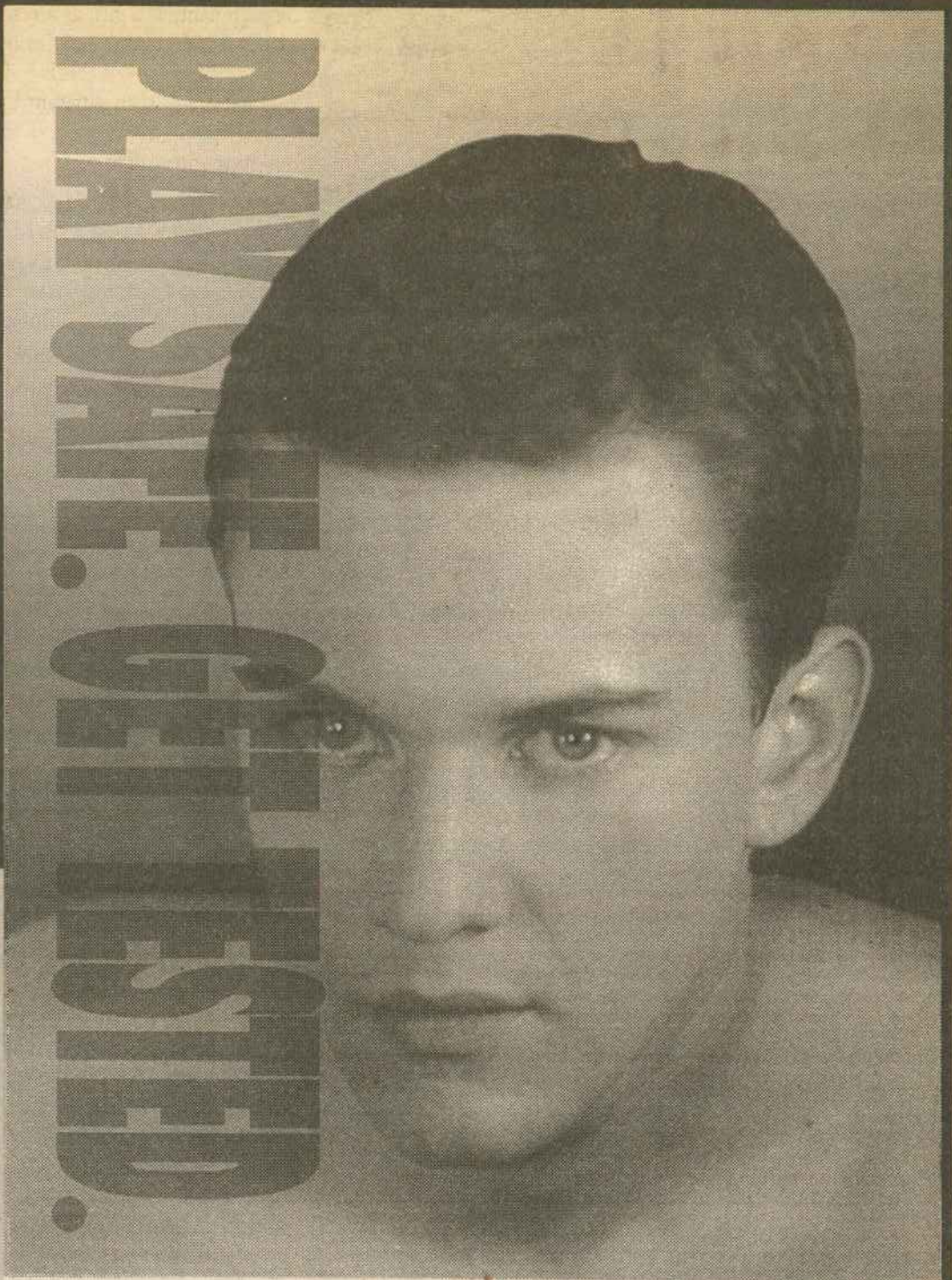
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## Boulevard Ensemble Lynn Siefert's Dark Comedy "Little Egypt"



**Milwaukee** — The Boulevard Ensemble will again introduce Milwaukee audiences to challenging and entertaining theatre by premiering Chicago playwright Lynn Siefert's dark comedy "Little Egypt" December 19 through January 12 at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 South Kinnickinnic. Ensemble Artistic Director Mark Bucher will stage the production. Tickets for Thursday performances

is \$9.00, Fridays and Sundays are \$10.00, Saturday evenings will be \$12.00; and students and group rates are available for \$5.00. Curtain times are 7:30 pm for Thursdays, 8:00 pm for Fridays and Saturdays, while Sunday times vary. For reservation or further information, call the Boulevard Box Office at 414-672-6019.

"Little Egypt" paints a portrait of love, lust and romance gone awry in Cairo, Illinois when two waitress sisters and their less than saintly waitress mother pair off (respectively) with town stud, a nerdy security guard, and an adulterous mayor. Siefert's odd comedy explores the characters' shaky foray into love and trust with a quirky, eccentric humor that neatly dovetails with her compassionate respect for their many flaws. Siefert's romantic fable was first staged at Chicago's prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre Company, as did her other dark comedy "Coyote Ugly."

The cast of "Little Egypt," include: Michelle Waide, Jane Hanley, Megan Powell, Robert Kennedy, Jim Gallagher, and Craig Halstead who was voted Best Actor of the year as reported by "Shepherd Express." Mary Bailey and Lisabeth Laciak are the Boulevard's Production Stage Managers.

## Guided Holiday Tours Offered at Historical Society After Christmas

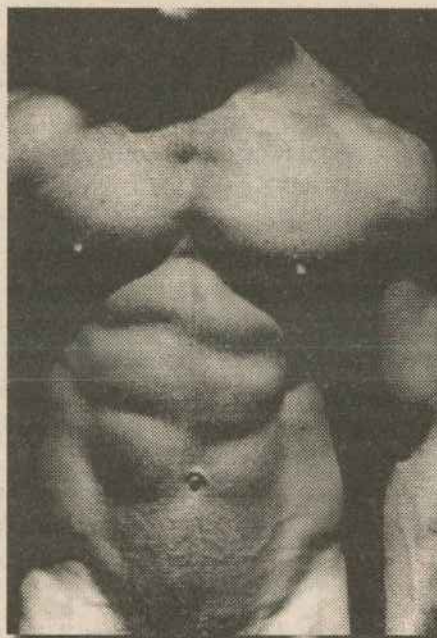
**Milwaukee** — Free guided tours of the Milwaukee County Historical Society will be offered on Thursday, December 26 and Friday, December 27. One tour will begin each day at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Each tour will last approximately one hour. For more information call (414) 273-8288.

As part of the city's sesquicentennial celebration, the Historical

Society has expended exhibits that highlight Billie the Brownie and other Milwaukee holiday traditions. Displays include changing images of Billie, promotional items, a scene portraying Schuster's Christmas parade and a scale replica of parade float.

Vistors may listen to recordings of the "Billie the Brownie" radio program on a large radio in the "parlor" by the light of a Victorian style Christmas tree, view a series of 1927 photographs of school children with Santa and his Eskimo driver Me-tik, and admire elaborate fringed holiday postcard greetings from the 1880s and 1890s.

## Photographer David Morgan Featured in Key West Exhibit



**Key West** — The stunning male physique studies of celebrated New York photographer David Morgan will be featured in a group show opening on Friday, December 27, at Bodyscapes Gallery in Key West, Florida. The two month exhibition will present archival black and white nudes by four outstanding photographic artists including Morgan, Alan Bonicatti, Randall Lum and Ed Cox.

Morgan is well known to collectors around the world for a wealth of classic male figure imagery in

advertising, greeting cards, posters and fine art prints. A selection of his studio work was recently spread over eight pages in the art magazine "Provocateur," which also included a fascinating interview with the photographer by playwright, screenwriter and author Paul Rudnick of "Jeffrey," and "Adams Family Values" fame.

While much of Morgan's work has depicted classically proportioned male physiques cropped to omit faces, his very familiar images from the packaging and advertising of a popular line of men's underwear have often featured exuberant and happy faces on some of those same magnificent physiques we see in his art. The photographer claims both pride and some amusement in fancying himself "a director of little plays in which I told stories with only the bodies. A hand touching the chest, the tilt of a head..."



In addition to the work displayed in this new exhibition, Bodyscapes offers a continuing "drawer show" of unframed prints from its previous presentations including images by: Tom Bianchi, Kal Yee, Dennis Dal Covey, J. Davy Kirkpatrick and more. For further information about Bodyscapes, this show or any of the artists, call 305-292-2940 or e-mail to [BODYSCAPE@AOL.COM](mailto:BODYSCAPE@AOL.COM).

## AIDS Benefit Calendar Makes Second Round of Donations

**San Diego** — "It's so interesting...just this past week we have heard from three people in three different areas of the country each saying how our Calendar is the best kept secret in the Gay Communities" says Joe Pascale, producer of the male nude calendar that has raised and contributed more than \$350,000.00 to agencies across the country that provide direct services to people with HIV and AIDS.

"I told all of them to get out there and tell 5000 of their closest friends about the calendar ... because the last thing we want to be is a secret!"

It's no secret that two more contributions were distributed this week to HIV and AIDS agencies: The Alamo Area Resource Center in



San Antonio, Texas and the Health Crisis Network in Miami, Florida are the recipients of the second round of distributions of the

proceeds from the 1997 calendar.

The calendar features thirteen photographic images by San Diego-area photographer Jeff Palmer. To order the 1997 AIDS Benefit Calendar by mail, send \$13.00 plus \$3.00 shipping/handling to: AIDS Benefit Calendar; Dept 53, P.O. Box 230034, Encinitas, CA 920023-0034; or order by telephone with a credit card: 619-744-8360.

## "Explore" Set For '96 Chicago International Film Fest

**Chicago** — Victor Skrebneski's newest creation, in an ongoing series of daring and provocative images, continues to capture the essence of the festival. Skrebneski's perennial interpretation of the festival's dedication to world-class cinema, brought to life by his signature blend of light and shadow in contemporary black and white photography, produces unforgettable images. "Explore" is available in high quality poster format for collectors and cinephiles alike.

The poster measures 39 x 26.5 on varnished black and white 100 lb cover stock. It is available for \$25.00 plus shipping/handling from Cinema/Chicago, 415 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610. "Explore," along with other posters and products from the Chicago International Film Festival, is also available by calling 312-644-3400. Proceeds benefits the non-profit organization Cinema/Chicago, producer of Chicago International Film Festival and other year round cultural and educational arts programs.

## Art of Marlon Banks at BESTD Gallery

**Milwaukee** — The art of Marlon Banks will be featured in a one artist show opening on Friday, January 3rd at the BESTD Gallery. The show entitled "MARLON BANKS: the beauty of color" will feature a variety of works executed during the artist's careers of commercial art, military service and education.

The public is invited to view the exhibit and meet the artist at an opening reception on Friday, January 3rd from 6 until 9 pm at the BESTD Gallery. The Gallery is located on

the first floor of the BESTD Clinic, 1240 East Brady Street, side entrance. Regular Gallery hours are Monday through Wednesday, 10 am until 9 pm; Thursday and Friday 10 am until 5 pm. For information on the exhibit or the opening reception, please call 414-272-2144.

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# FOR THE EARS

## Evita

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The count down is over, the movie we all have been hearing about is made; and the motion picture soundtrack is on record shelves ready to be picked up and listened to. And what a surprise for your ears it will be!

Alan Parker, the director of "Evita," appraises the recording experience of the movie soundtrack: "When we first started recording in London in October of last year. I think we were all very daunted by the mad mountain we had decided to climb. All of us came from very different worlds—from popular music, from movies and from musical theater—and so we were very apprehensive. But hopefully, after nearly 500 hours of recording, we have all inspired one another in creating something very special."

The challenge of climbing Parker's mountain to reach new heights to "Evita," depends



on execution. The original stage orchestration arrangements has been preserved for the film's score. The work of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice still has luster and definitely lots of gem quality. The music moves and tugs all your emotional strings; and the lyrics are powerful, narrative and rich. What would have been an explosive combination, is the vocal forcefulness of Barbra Streisand or Patti LuPune, who sparkled on Broadway and earned a Tony Award.

Parker recalls: "The hardest work that any-

one had to do was obviously done by Madonna. She had the lion's share of the piece, singing as she does on almost every track. Many of the songs were comfortable within her range, but much of the score was in a range where her voice had never ventured before. Also she was determined to sing the score as it was written and not cheat in anyway."

Madonna's interpretation of these songs is sincere, she has a clarity like fine crystal. I hear a new display of vocalization that I haven't heard before in previous work. There is more raw emotion expose than flesh. Artistically, Madonna has shed her emotional clothes displaying vulnerability; and reaching new heights to her craft. If the film has the same passion, luster and drive as "Evita-The Complete Motion Picture Soundtrack," Madonna will be known as a movie star.

Antonio Banderas, who plays Che, has a sassy-latino tenor quality to his voice. Is there a recording contract in his future? Stage veteran and "Infinity" spokes person, Jonathan Pryce as Juan Peron delivers with force and panache. Jimmy Nail tingles deliciously-vocally speaking- as Augustin Magaldi.

Madonna's overall synopsis of the making of the musical is, "It was much more than a role in a movie. It was exhilarating and intimidating at the same time. And it was the farthest I've ever had to push myself creatively. At every level, I had a great education."

For those who are waiting to see the film, the "Evita" soundtrack will entice and perk your imagination to create your own visionary masterpiece of a woman who died at an early age who some see as a saint and others as a media queen. "Evita-The Complete Motion Picture Soundtrack" is pure candy to the ears!

—Jorge L. Cabal

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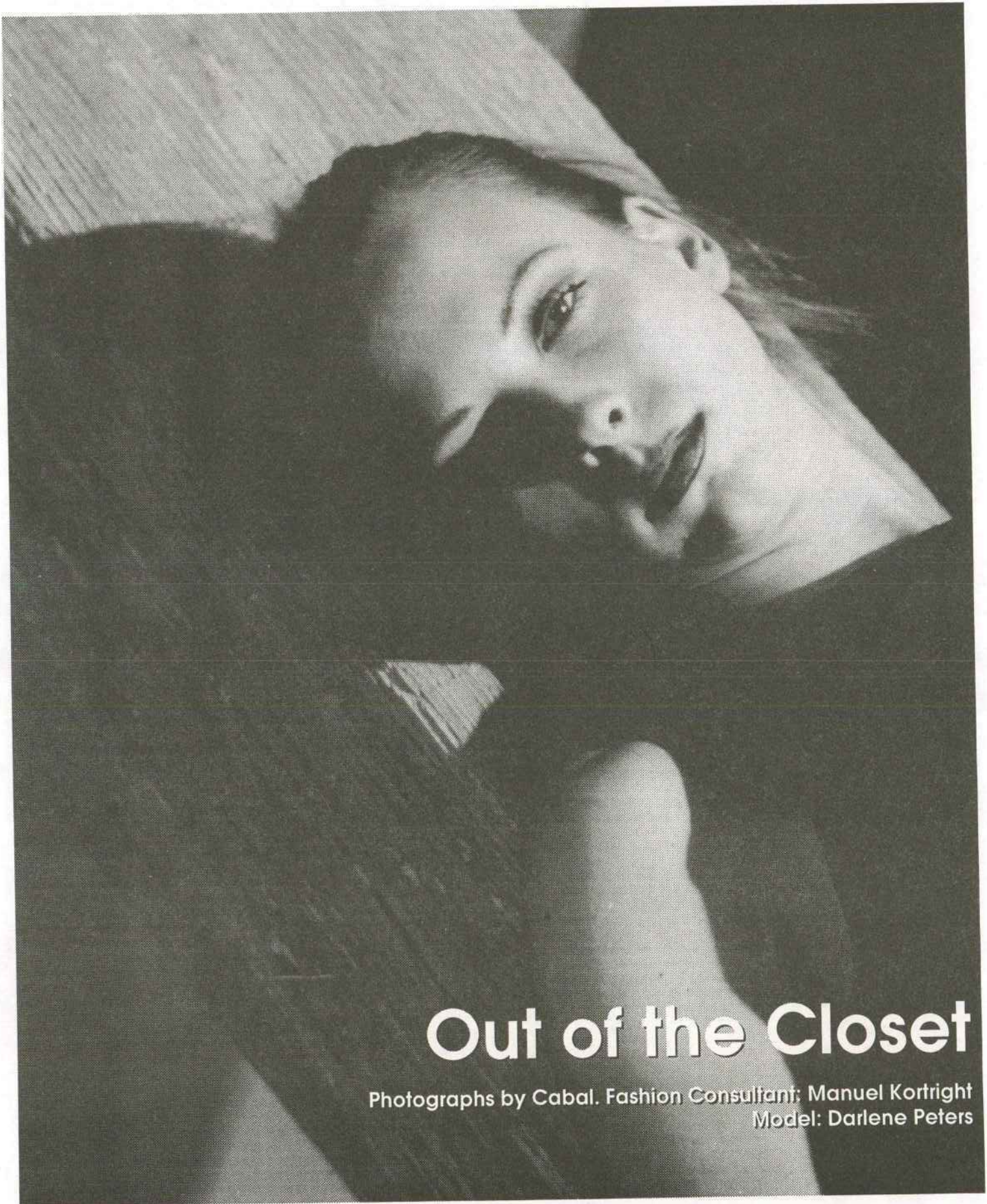
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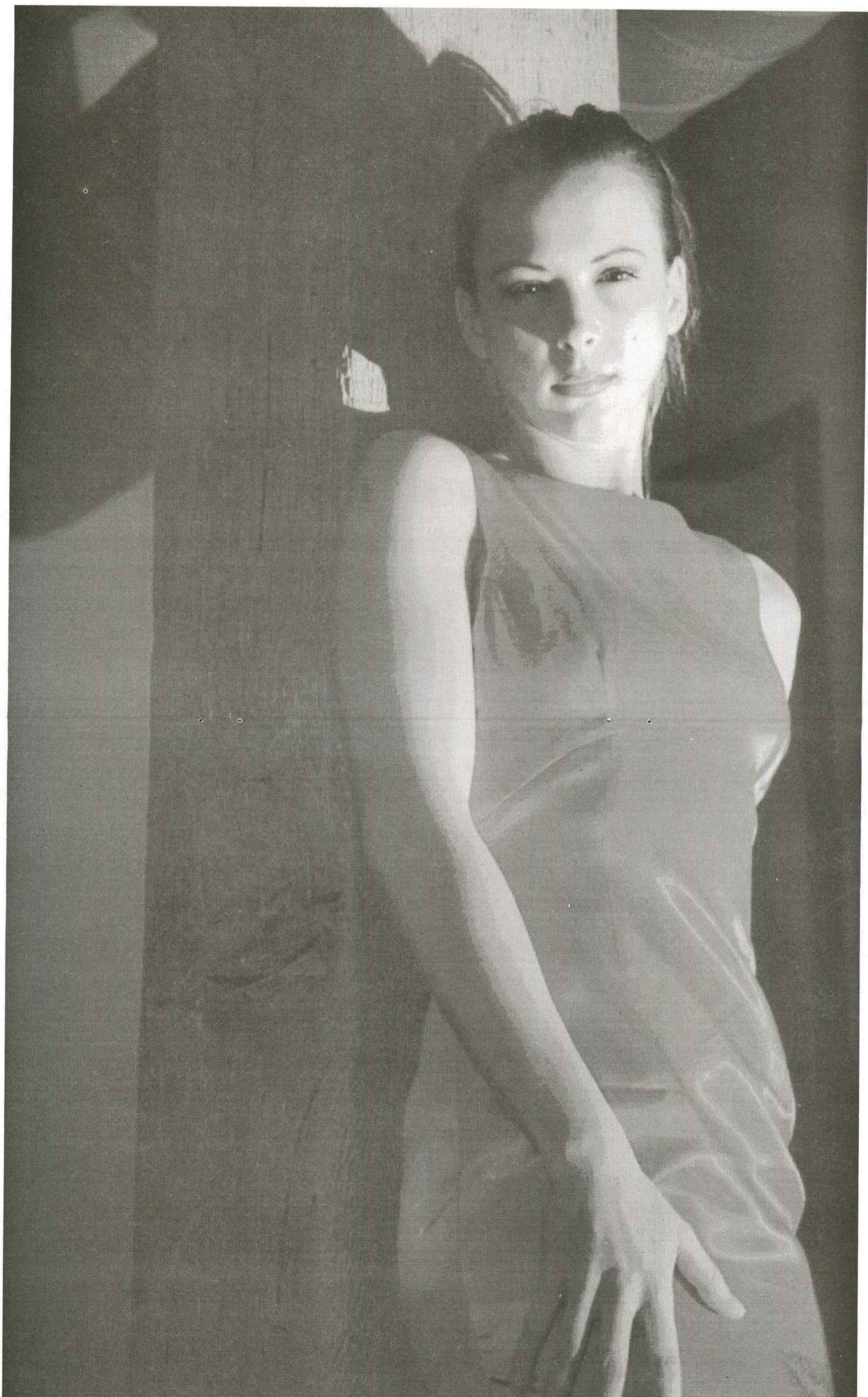




# Out of the Closet

Photographs by Cabal. Fashion Consultant: Manuel Kortright  
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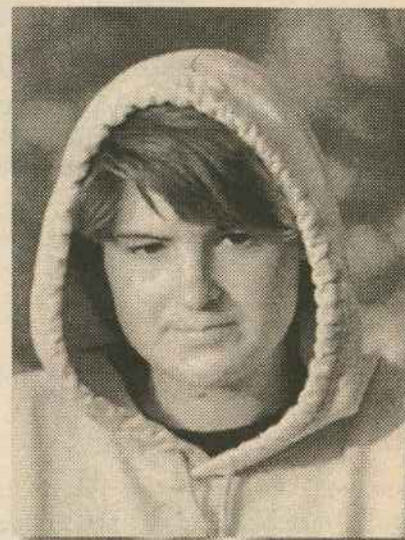
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# LINDA RONSTADT

As a young singer growing up in Tucson, Linda Ronstadt dreamt often of what she would do when she grew up. Would she be a rock 'n' roll queen? A country-folk crooner? A diva who called Broadway her home, or who sang with Nelson Riddle, or warbled tunes from her ancestral land of Mexico?

With characteristic spunkiness, she must have thought, why not do it all? And sell 30 million albums along the way. She has in fact done it all. Except, of course, for those things she keeps inventing in her new role as singer/producer.

Ronstadt's intentions should have been clear from the words to her first hit single in the late 60s with the Stone Poneys: "I travel to the beat of a different drum." Since then, her three-decade career has carried her across every musical and cultural boundary. Surprisingly, the territory that brought her the most fame was her least favorite.

Producer Peter Asher made Ronstadt into a rock star in the early '70s, after years of living lean and singing backup. Pulling her from her folkie-country nest into the whirlwind of rock 'n' roll, Asher was responsible for the breakthrough album *Heart Like a Wheel*, which catapulted the 20-something Ronstadt into fame. But too often, she says today, that rock 'n' roll crown felt more like a halo of thorns.

After several platinum albums, feeling artistically compromised and restless, Ronstadt fled to Broadway, taking on Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" and "La Boheme" off-Broadway. Bold moves, and modestly well-received.

Since then, she's recorded albums with Nelson Riddle, country trios with Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris, Afro-Cuban and Mexican tunes, opera and jazz adaptations. Most recently, she's turned back to her country roots, in the acclaimed 1995 album "Feels Like Home." And now, in 1996, she's found a way to meld her personal and musical life into one charming package.

"Dedicated to the One I Love," her 30th and newest album, is a collection of lullabies recorded in her San Francisco home and in the presence of her two children, five-year-old Mary Clementine, and two-year-old Carlos. A lush and breathy mix featuring harp, strings and glass armonica (a little-heard 18th century instrument), *Dedicated* features sweetly fascinating versions of songs like "Angel Baby" and "In My Room" by the Beach Boys. Upon its July release, the *Washington Post* proclaimed it as "the boldest, most innovative recording of her career."

Such accolades, while pleasing to Ronstadt, are not what gets her up in the morning anymore. That honor is taken by her kids, whom she



adopted as a single parent in recent years. Ronstadt divides her time between a home in Tucson and one in San Francisco, to which she has recently returned after a long absence.

At 50, as in the past, she is forthright and talkative, with the warm, no-nonsense energy of a den mother. Her hair in a chin-length bob

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I have a real issue with how that all happened, with how Annie Liebowitz does her job. Mick Jagger was the one who warned me about that. He said, "Look out, she'll make you take your shirt off!"

---

and, wearing sweats and clogs, Ronstadt is no longer the svelte cutie-pie who flirtatiously graced the pages of *Rolling Stone* and went to Africa with former Governor Jerry Brown and later, dated director/magnate George Lucas.

That mischief still dances in her deep brown eyes, but now it is tempered by experience and a tremendous inner strength. She is happy with her life, and it shows.

**JG: You first moved to San Francisco from L.A. about 12 years ago. Why?**

LR: Well, I didn't like Los Angeles. I lived there for 30 years and never felt at home. (Pauses) It's too easy to do L.A.-bashing. There are some good things about L.A. but right now I can't think of a one. (Laughs heartily).

**JG: So what made you choose San Francisco?**

LR: I like the architecture, and I like that people don't occupy 90 percent of their thinking with whether they have the right haircut, or the right outfit, or whether their plastic surgery is up to date. I find that mentality exhausting. When I met Rosemary Clooney in my '30s, she said, "Let me tell you something - you don't have to be the prettiest girl on the block!" I loved her to death for saying that. I like that people here aren't all tan here; that how they look isn't all-important. That they don't say "you look fabulous," even if I do manage to look better than I do this morning.

**JG: You turned 50 this year. Does life feel any different?**

LR: Well, my back hurts, but it always has! (Laughs) I like being 50. It gets me off the hook about a lot of things.

**JG: What kinds of things?**

LR: I guess it forces me to be a grown-up. In this society, it seems like we go through everything ten years late: adolescence, mid-life, everything but puberty. Baby boomers have been the toughest to kick into adulthood. I've always tried to do things that were appropriate for my age and sensibilities.

**JG: What feels appropriate for you now?**

LR: I recently saw a dance concert, with Andalusian dancers. Not one of those women was chosen for her physical beauty. They were chosen for their artistry. When they danced they were all beautiful, sexual, vibrant. This one woman must have been 65 and I could barely understand her dialect. But what I got was that she was singing about years

of heartbreak, about her babies, her life. A full female life, and I was blown away by that. I thought, that's what I want to do with my music. I want it to be cumulative from my life. I want people to hear my age in my music.

**JG: So it hasn't been hard to give up the doll-baby Linda Ronstadt image of the '60s and '70s? The one who was made famous wearing lingerie in *Rolling Stone*?**

LR: (Groans) Hey, that was not my lingerie. I never owned red lingerie in my life! I have a real issue with how that all happened, with how Annie Liebowitz does her job. Mick Jagger was the one who warned me about that. He said, "Look out, she'll make you take your shirt off!" She gave me this red slip that she said would look good with the wallpaper in my bedroom. She had me pose on my bed looking straight up at the camera, and after 45 minutes I was really tired, so I flopped on my stomach. And there's the photograph! And even though Annie said I could see the finished product - which I did - I had no say in what was used. So that was that.

**JG: That magazine sold a lot of copies. . . .**

LR: Oh, I know! It sold a ton. But it was real bad for me. I'd already shot the cover of my next album, "Simple Dreams," and I was wearing cami-knickers. It was very modest, but because it was lingerie, and because this had happened, I had to re-shoot the cover.

**JG: At the time, though, you were quite the goddess among the boys.**

LR: No, not really! Just because of that cover. I was never a conventional beauty. I never had the figure or the looks for that. I was what men always considered "cute." And none of my album covers reflected me attempting to be sexual.

That cover was reflective of my being used. Jann Wenner had some weird feelings about sexuality that was probably reflective of his own being in the closet. I have tremendous empathy for gay people; this is a homophobic culture. It's unfair that he's been treated unfairly, but

---

Jann Wenner had some weird feelings about sexuality that was probably reflective of his own being in the closet. I have tremendous empathy for gay people; this is a homophobic culture.

---

equally unfair what he's done to people in his magazine. That icky, uncomfortable part of Jann made it so that he set out to shame other people.

**JG: You've had trouble during your life with stage fright.**

LR: It's not stage fright, exactly; I just don't like all the variables of live shows. I've never been a person who liked to get up on stage and sing, that was never my goal. I'd rather be the producer and use my favorite people and control it. The stage, I'm fussy about. I want only the best musicians, and the right sound.

**JG: Some of your more popular rock songs are reminiscent of some of the new and angry breed of female singers, like Alanis Morissette or Tracy Bonham. Songs**



like, "You're No Good," or "Poor Pitiful Me." Do you feel a connection to these younger singers?

LR: No, none whatsoever. Because I don't think that's what I was trying to do back then. "You're No Good" was a song I tacked on at the end of my set, so the show would have some oomph to it, because I was basically a ballad singer. I was astounded that it became a hit. And disappointed. I wanted "Heart Like a Wheel" to be the hit; it was more a part of me. Same with songs like "That'll Be the Day" and "When Will I Be Loved?" But those songs are sort of a waste of time to me, those "short note" songs.

**JG: Do you keep up with popular music?**

LR: I wish I could say that I do, but I haven't for years. When I went to Broadway, I got to take a break from rock and roll - I'd become very fed up with it. I wanted to make my singing better, my phrasing and my musicianship. So I studied some female singers, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald. Then I took on Pirates of Penzance, and finally got to work with Nelson Riddle. And that was it, I got out of pop music jail. And I never looked back. Sometimes I turn on the radio now and I still say yuck! Prince still gets through to me, and Tom Petty, but not much else...

**JG: Do you still consider yourself political?**

LR: Not really. I joined Jackson Browne for an anti-nuclear album, and I did a concert for Jerry Brown with the Eagles. I sang at the White House for President Clinton this year, and I did it because I figured it could be my last chance to sing for a president I voted for! I'd been asked by other presidents but I didn't want to sing for them if I didn't support them.

**JG: Are there any musical worlds left to conquer?**

LR: Well, I could never be a blues singer, for instance. I don't come from that culture. I could try but it wouldn't be authentic. Bonnie Raitt did a pretty good job of sliding over, opening that door. But I feel humbled by that; I feel like I have no business going there. It's not my heritage.

**JG: Was your love of Mexican music influenced by your father?**

LR: Yes, very much so. It was a revelation when I finally listened to nothing but Mexican music for four years. I learned it all and it was just like heaven! I found out over the years that even the best songs by the best songwriters that were offered to me weren't as good as the Mexican music I used to sing as a child with my father.

**JG: I understand your father died last year...**

LR: (Sighs.) Yes, it left a big hole in my life, I'll tell you. He was 93 but he could have lived several more years. He took an anti-inflammatory drug called naprosyn, and it can kill people who have gastro-intestinal bleeding, as he apparently did. And he died in 10 days. It was a very unnecessary death. It made me more than a little annoyed at how medicine is practiced, and how insurance companies are forcing doctors into practicing in a way that isn't proper.

**JG: Is that why you take your children to a homeopath?**

LR: Yep, and why I won't give them antibiotics, and why I give them vitamins and seaweed. And fresh fruits and vegetables. And they are very healthy and happy.

**JG: They're also bilingual, I hear.**

LR: Both were bilingual up until the last six months; for a while there wasn't anybody speaking to them all the time. Now they're learning again. My daughter told my friend on the phone the other day, "Mommy's up in the bedroom making the bed" - in Spanish! I couldn't even say that myself...

**JG: You've been private about the adoption process with your two children. But can you talk about why you decided to do it?**

LR: I had been in the process for several years and they just came to me. I was offered and I accepted. I went through a family for one and not for the other. Actually, I had been offered a baby earlier by someone - a teenager - but she changed her mind. It was okay, I wanted her to keep her baby if she wanted it! (Laughs.) But that got me very interested in following through.

**JG: Did you intend to have two children when you started or did you just enjoy the first one so much that you wanted more?**

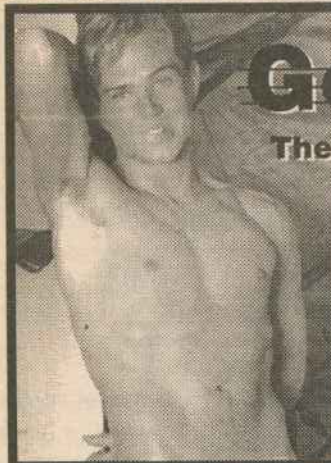
LR: Yeah, that's exactly what happened. I said, "This is so great! I want to do this again." And of course it's not the same dynamics with two. Children do not like to share their mommies! (Laughs.) When I realized what was going on I dealt with it, and now things are a lot better.

**JG: Were you worried at all about the burdens of being a single parent?**

LR: I didn't know enough about it to know I should be worried! And I thought because I have an enormous amount of personal and professional support, I would be fine. What I didn't realize was that those people are there to help you get the job done.

**JG: So two kids are enough?**

LR: Two are plenty! I don't even want a dog! The kids are wanting a



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dog and I think I would rather put an Uzi to my head.

**JG: It seems there is more focus on adopted children nowadays — special books for them, programs...**

LR: Well, I'm glad that it's no longer wrapped in mystery; both my adoptions are open adoptions, which I support. Although there are times when it should be closed, for the child's benefit. But I've never liked the idea of telling children that you picked them out because they're "special." Every child is special! It's not like, "Go out and say eenie-meenie-miney-moe," either. Sometimes they come to you. And you love them no matter what. I tell my daughter that her mother was not emotionally or physically able to take care of her, so she was looking for someone to be her mother. And she chose me! So I'm special! (Laughs.) And anything else she wants to know she can ask me when she gets older. I figure, "Why not tell the truth?"

**JG: Has she seen An American Tale, where you sing the mouse anthem?**

LR: No, she hasn't! I don't have a TV. Although when I travel they get to watch videos some. She's more into adult movies, like Carmen. She loves to do the hula to the opera score.

**JG: Tell me about your new lullaby CD, "Dedicated to the One I Love."**

LR: Ah, a true labor of love. Brian Wilson was directly responsible. He showed me how to layer tracks. My partner and I built a little studio here in this house. It was great, I didn't have to leave home to do it. Although with all the noise from the kids, we had to stop sometimes. I had the cover originally mocked up with my daughter's picture on it but I didn't feel right about using it. (Fetches a picture of a baby with enormous blue eyes.) See? Isn't she cute?!

**JG: I understand the CD is selling well. Who's buying it?**

LR: New parents, plus people who give it as gifts. It's gotten a really nice reception. James Taylor, of all people, called to tell me "I love this record!" He always calls me after I put out something new.

**JG: Anyone special in your life right now?**

LR: (Smiles.) I don't really want to talk about that. This is a busy household, let's say. A busy household.

**JG: Are you still friends with Jerry Brown?**

LR: Sure, he was just here for a visit. He was

never well understood. He had ideas that were way ahead of their time. He is a good thought-provoker, but there are things he doesn't understand about families. I don't know that he would have made an ideal president. I think Clinton has done a pretty good job. He dared approach things no other politician has — gay issues, family issues. He's getting killed for not going far enough but I think he's courageous.

**JG: What's next for Linda Ronstadt?**

LR: I'm wildly excited about this new album I want to do, with a glass harmonica player who lives in Palo Alto. I'm always looking for something new and authentic. And I don't give a damn if it's not Top 40. I didn't care before and I don't care now. It can't be contrived. If it is, it just won't work.

**JG: Would you call this phase of your life my "I don't give a damn" phase?**

LR: Yes, I think I would call it just that!

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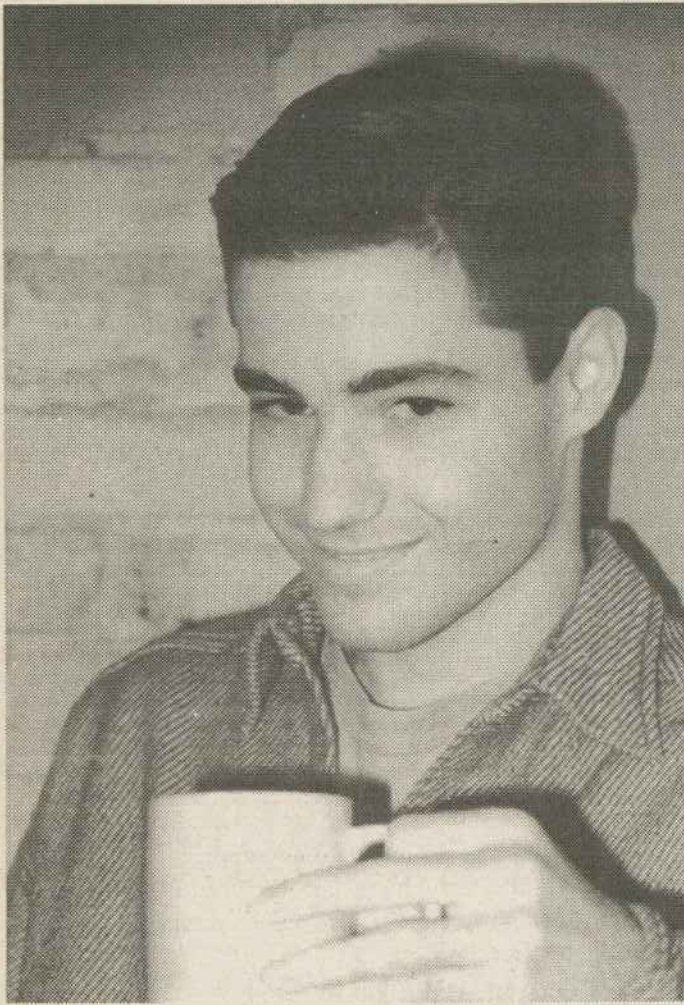
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# Christmas

## Coffeehousing

NEED TO WARM UP YOUR TOES? TIME TO REST FROM THE CHRISTMAS HUSTLE? WASWO DISCOVERS GOOD BREW AND FINE ART IN MILWAUKEE'S MANY JAVA JOINTS. BUT DO COFFEEHOUSES SIGNIFY SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THE WARM PLEASURES OF A COFFEE BUZZ?



Story by Waswo, Photo: Cabal

I know I'm dating myself when I admit to recalling The Avant Garde. It was Milwaukee's first infamous den of caffeined iniquity, and it heralded Milwaukee's golden age of coffeehouses.

From the mid 50's through the early 70's, the mere mention of the word "coffeehouse" conjured up images of bongo drumming beats, psychedelic musings, pansexual explorations, and plotting revolutionaries. Has anything changed?

Today's coffeehouses are a mixed breed. They range from ultra chic cybercafes to punk hideaways. Some are business yuppie hotspots, while others attract the artistic and the disenfranchised. The common denominator is caffeine. Weary bodies expect to be provided with relaxation and recharging. As it was in the 60's, ideas are top priority. The times they are a changing. But just how they are changing has yet to be determined.

Bob Dylan is dead. Perhaps his body has yet to grasp that fact, but the truth is his spirit now wanders amidst such groups as Counting Crows and The Violent Femmes. There is something new blowing in the wind.

After nearly a decade of benign neglect, coffeehouses had passed from the disco entranced 70's into extinction. By the 1980's conformity had become the loudly spoken credo of a populace fearful of any color other than conventional black and white. The ice age of the Reagan era made frozen fossils out of anything that dared hint possibilities of alternative culture. Is it any wonder the 1990's have seen a resurgence of defiant, uncategorizable individualism?

This year I took a break from all the Christmas humbug and spent a few days sampling brews in Milwaukee coffeehouses. I looked at what



hung on the walls. Art has become a mainstay of the coffeehouse ambiance, as integral to the furnishings as the espresso machine. For the budget minded collector, coffeehouses are a glorious bonanza.

Want to add something eye-popping to your walls at home? Between Aunt Sally's Christmas check and the twenty dollar bill that normally falls out of one of your Christmas cards, you probably have more than enough to treat yourself to a coffeehouse masterpiece. Art on coffeehouse walls is generally priced from \$25 to \$250. You don't need to be a billionaire.

Downer Avenue's **COFFEE TRADER** takes the prize for sheer longevity as a coffeehouse. Strictly speaking, the Coffee Trader is less coffeehouse than restaurant. Serving breakfasts, luncheons and dinners, the Coffee Trader was first fashionable in the mid-seventies. It has maintained a loyal clientele and has thankfully survived.

But **FUEL CAFE** is the undeniable granddaddy of contemporary Milwaukee coffeehouses. It is the closest thing you will find to an Amsterdam coffeehouse outside of Amsterdam. Located on Center Street, just a few blocks west of Humboldt Boulevard, Fuel Cafe can be easily spotted by the orange neon that announces "Killer Coffee" and "Lousy Service." Fuel has become more than just another Riverwest watering hole. It has developed a reputation for being a hangout of the hip, the tattooed, the pierced and the poetic. Formica tables scatter above green and white linoleum. Orange and red walls hold a wild assortment of art.

I visited Fuel on a snowy evening in early December. Having already attained a warm coffee buzz, I ordered a cup of hot chocolate. The cup was huge, and complete with whipped cream on top. The clientele

"Next to my table hung a berserk little painting of a flying nun. Rendered in watercolor by the notorious Matt Fink..."

seemed the usual mixed crowd of black leather and plaid. Fuel is known for its eclectic music, and on any given night the selections range from Edith Piaf to Nine Inch Nails. One of the joys of Fuel is not quite knowing what to expect.

Next to my table hung a berserk little painting of a flying nun. Rendered in watercolor by the notorious Matt Fink, it was overshadowed by the installation of six jigsawed and painted Jesus Christ look-alikes on the opposite wall. Upon closer inspection, the presumed Jesus heads turned out to be none other than Charles Manson! Enshrined between the wooden heads was a framed T-shirt, airbrushed with an upside down cross, and the words "burn in hell." What a charming lit-

tle display for Christmas! The perpetrator of this attention-getter was once again the infamous Fink. Best known for his paintings of behind the barn bestiality, it is good to know the motorcycle riding artist is still flying high.

For a measly one hundred smackeros you can own an original Matt Fink Charley Manson. Imagine the joy of your beloved finding this under the tree! It is really one of the best bargains of the season.

Not far from Fuel is **LAVA JAVA**. Located on Burlingame west of Humboldt, Lava Java offers a quieter atmosphere suitable for reading. Colorful chalk drawings decorate the sidewalks in summer. Natural wood floors lead to a sky lit coffee bar. The same snowy night I checked out Fuel, I entered Lava Java and ordered myself a regular coffee with cream. Strangely enchanting vocals, accompanied by tabla and sitar, drifted through the rooms. The music was kept at a reasonable volume, and many tables were filled with folks perusing books or scribbling in notebooks. The thoughtful ambiance of this coffeehouse is one of the most enjoyable.

I have seen some wonderful art at Lava Java. On this visit I viewed the work of Edward Locher. The show consisted of a multitude of small paintings (I stopped counting at 43) priced between \$85 and \$150. Locher's bizarre figuration is named with titles that boast of deep meaning. *Death of the Party*, *Background Check*, and *Blast Furnace Dialectic* are a few examples. Unfortunately, any meaning hidden in the actual art is, for me, indecipherable.

But my visit to Lava Java was the usual pleasure. It is the presence of places like Lava Java and Fuel that keep the Riverwest neighborhood a vibrant and fascinating part of Milwaukee.

On a comparatively warm afternoon I strolled down Brady Street and made my way to **ROCHAMBO**. The atmosphere is sophisticated. A copper surfaced bar mirrors elegant European posters. Two floors of tiny rooms and tiny tables provide small nooks for intimate conversation. There are areas for both smoking and non-smoking.

Rochambo bills itself as a "coffee and tea house" and the assortment to be found is of the best quality. On this particular day I ordered a glass of Spanish Rioja, a medium dry red wine. Rochambo is one of the few coffeehouses to serve liquor. Try one of their coffee cocktails, such as Irish Coffee made with Jameson Irish Whiskey. Or better yet, Cafe Viennese made with espresso, Kahlua and Creme de Cacao.

In grand coffeehouse tradition I soon found myself in hot debate with a man who vehemently opposed light rail. Of course I'm for it, as I think any semi-intelligent person who is not in the pay of the highway construction industry ought to be. But before I get off on a tangent, let's just say Rochambo proved an ideal place for some thoughtful discussion.

Further to the west on Brady is the brightly colored **BREWED AWAKENINGS**. I've always enjoyed this place, with its homey rooms and artzy clientele. The celestial ceiling mural is a delight to sit beneath. The painted angel was commissioned from Madison artist





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Randal von Luckow. Combined with a few of Luckow's hand painted tables, it forms the permanent decor. The walls are adorned with displays of local art.

At the time of my visit the most intriguing things on the wall were black and white photographs by Troy Freund and somewhat figurative abstractions by

"Sunset Boulevard's Christmas tree was an installation of chicken wire, beer bottles, and crushed aluminum cans, all spray painted a holiday gold."

Allyson Claire Mellberg. Freund presented a silver gelatin print entitled *Friday Night in the French Quarter*, in which a wistful young woman looks over a balcony to a street scene below. Also a photo called *Box Office*, in which a pensive woman is haloed by the circular opening of the plexiglass in her cubical. For me, these photographs dominated the show. Also present were typically whimsical wall sculptures by Mark Winter.

One nice thing about Brewed is its selection of sandwiches. The menu is divided into vegetarian and carnivorous offerings. Being a primal, fur-wearing barbarian, I quickly chomped a Ham and Swiss on Rye. The bloodstains on my snout were washed away with delicious Cafe Mocha.

Continuing explorations, I visited **SUNSET BOULEVARD**, which is located on Murray just north of North. I ordered a huge double cappuccino with a raisin scone, and admired the Christmas decorations. Sunset Boulevard's Christmas tree was an installation of chicken wire, beer bottles, and crushed aluminum cans, all spray painted a holiday gold. This "tree" was adorned with a faux leopard skin bow. In the windows hung wreaths made from gold painted Goodyear tires. It was obviously the work of Martha Stewart.

On the walls were some fantastic monotypes and intaglio prints by Melissa Marie Courtney. Also painted wood wall sculpture by Lauri Bauman. Sunset Boulevard provides a fortune teller for its customers every Sunday night. It costs ten bucks a session for an astrological and numerological reading. The nook that hides the fortune teller is dark black and covered with a beaded curtain.

The **COMET**, at Irving and Farwell, sports small stainless steel tables and a gold painted wall with hieroglyphs of lips and high heels. Rather than rotating exhibits of smallish artwork, the Comet seems to prefer the display of just one significant piece. Jason Rohlf's *tour de force* has now been removed, and in its place is another large painting by an artist whose name I couldn't track down.

Further south from Comet is **BREW BAR**. This place is totally non-smoking. It has a clean, modern design, with beautiful wood floors and arched windows. I tried an "Americano," which is espresso watered down to American tastes. Yucky. Since everything else at Brew Bar was enjoyable, I wished I had ordered one of my coffeehouse favorites. Brew Bar also serves juices and cheesecakes and Sprecher Cream Soda. All in all Brew Bar seemed elegant and friendly and definitely worth another visit. Paintings by Ilze Holzer reminded me of the German Expressionist Emil Nolde. I gulped down the bastardized coffee and headed south toward Bay View.

New on the scene is the **HIFI CAFE** at KK and Potter. HiFi boasts a stupendously well stocked jukebox containing classics of all kinds. While sipping an



espresso a customer can jive to the sounds of Tony Bennett, Billie Holiday, Patti Page and Al Green. Even Louis Prima is represented. A buck will buy you seven selections. I listened to both Talking Heads and Howlin' Wolf and felt I had gotten more than my money's worth. A glowing neon crown hangs above the counter where you can order soups and sandwiches and pizza. This is a great addition to the south of the bridge community.

Also in Bay View is **WAGNER'S**, on the corner of Oklahoma and Delaware. I stop here often for breakfast. A pecan roll and a cappuccino generally does the trick, though there are times I go for an omelette. Wagner's has a cozy, friendly atmosphere and it is no wonder that it has become a Bay View favorite.

Besides good coffee and breakfast, there is a rack of greeting cards suitable for any occasion. Wagner's also serves Sprecher Root Beer floats, which can be the perfect thing on a summer's day. This place is always worth a visit.

I grabbed an Italian soda at **BEAR BREW**, which is near the corner of Milwaukee and Wisconsin. Bear Brew has become a businessperson's paradise. Three computer terminals sit on separate desks at the rear of the room. Racks hold the *Wall Street Journal* and *Webweek* magazine. You can download files here with the greatest of ease. With its beautiful ceiling and floors,

Bear Brew is one of the most elegant coffeehouses in Milwaukee. Tourists have discovered it as a place where they can send and receive e-mail. Bear Brew may not be an alternative trend den, but it certainly leads the way to the future.

Next was a stop at **PIER 221** on Water Street. If you haven't already heard the buzz, the Pier is reopened and remodelled, with Gallery H2O now fronting the establishment. This place has a great view of the river, and is always a relaxing retreat.

Unfortunately, the Pier caters to Third Ward shoppers and closes too early for the late night crowd. **WALKER'S POINT CAFE** still pours the caffeine after bar closing. Check out the glamorous new neon that frames the windows!

I was getting the jitters. And running out of time. There are other coffeehouses worth a mention (Verdi's and Fairchild's come to mind), but the scene is so explosive in Milwaukee it is really impossible to describe in such a small space. I ended my coffeehouse pilgrimage at **AFTERWORDS** bookstore.

Once again, it is not strictly a coffeehouse. But for those of us in the gay community it is one of the most inviting coffee bars around. The place just feels like home. Granted, a home with a lot of books.

Coffeehouse people tend to like reading, and tend to like talk. Perhaps coffeehouses flourish when people feel the need to congregate, converse, and reassert the fact that they, and not their institutional masters, are the originators of their thoughts. Our modern day java palaces are more than quickie bars for an espresso pick-me-up. They function as a sort of verbal internet: places for the exploration and exchange of sober ideas. After all, the coffee drug is a stimulant. And coffeehouses ought to be stimulating. ▼

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DROWN



# PMS: Please Menstruate Soon!

by Lesleá Newman



**O**f all the joys of lesbian life, there is only one I can live without: being PMS at the same time as your lover. Luckily this is no longer a problem: my wise girlfriend Flash has achieved menopause. And it's a good thing, too, as I have enough Pre-menstrual STRESS for both of us. And this is the beauty of being a lesbian: Flash has been through it all before. Only someone who has walked a mile in my moccasins (in swollen feet, no less) could possibly put up with this:

**Sunday:** It is 3:00 a.m. Flash stumbles into the bathroom to find me squatting in the tub, naked, scrubbing the hem of the shower curtain with a brillo pad. "Why are you doing that now?" she asks. "Because I can't stand the shmutz in this house for one more minute," I say, doubling my elbow grease. "Somebody's PMS," Flash sing-songs. "I am not PMS!" I shriek, throwing the brillo pad at Flash's head. She ducks and goes back to bed. She'll need her strength: the fun has just begun.

**Monday:** I am at the oven, checking some freshly-baked oat bran muffins. Now that the house is cleaner than when my parents came to visit, my nesting instincts have shifted to nourishment. Supposedly these muffins have more fiber than our socks. Flash slumps into a chair and sips her morning caffeine. "Have a muffin, Dear," I say in my best Donna Reed voice. "No thanks," Flash says. "I haven't eaten breakfast since 1969." "But I made them for you," I wail. "I'll take one to work and have it for lunch," Flash promises. "But I want you to eat it NOW!" I shriek, grabbing a muffin and hurling it across the room. Flash snatches her keys, ducks out the door and calls, "Have a nice day."

**Tuesday:** When Flash comes out of the shower I am sitting on the bed, the picture of despair. "What's the matter?" she asks cautiously. "I have nothing to wear." I say. Flash is hardly concerned. "Oh, is that all?" She opens my closet door and does a doubletake. "What happened to your clothes?" "I got sick of them," I say miserably. "I gave them to Goodwill." Flash stares at me in amazement. "All of them?" she asks. "Yes. Oh, except this." I hold up a skin-tight, black velvet catsuit I bought on a whim and have never worn in public. Flash makes me put it on and drives us to the salvation army. I buy back my entire wardrobe, which is on sale for half-price. "Look at these fabulous clothes," I exclaim. "They're going for a song."

**Wednesday:** The alarm goes off and Flash opens her eyes to find me sprawled on top of the blankets covered in nothing but Saran Rap, a red rose between my teeth. "In the mood?" she asks. I bat my eyelashes in reply. "Honey, you know I have to get to work." Flash kisses my pout.

"I'll come home for lunch, I promise." But when Flash bounds up the back steps at 12:01, I am weeping in front of the mirror. "What's the matter now?" she asks. "My eyebrows are uneven," I sob. "My forehead is slanted. My whole face is crooked." "You're beautiful." Flash reaches to take me in her arms. "Don't touch me," I scream, running from the room. Flash follows, waving a white tissue as an offering and a sign of surrender.

**Thursday:** Flash comes home from work to find a stranger sitting on the couch. "Hello," she says. "Have you seen my wife?" "I am your wife," I say. "How do you like it?" The it I am referring to is my hair. Yesterday it was brown and curly, hanging in ringlets to my elbows. Today it is blonde, spiked, and half an inch long. "It's a wig, right?" Flash runs her fingers over my buzz cut. "You don't like it," I say, tears starting to fall. "No, it's cute." Flash says. "I've always wanted to do it with a blonde." Wrong thing to say. I go right for her jugular. Hours later, after Flash has said 4,357 "Hail Leslea's," I forgive her and allow her to take me to the mall to buy me a dozen hats.

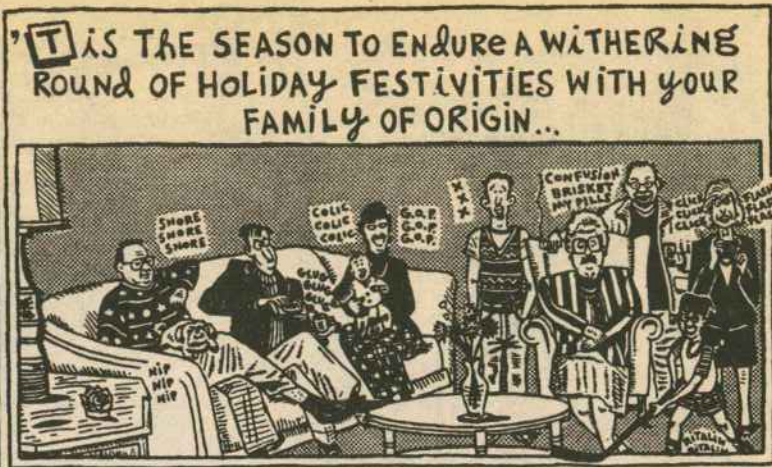
**Friday:** Things are coming to a head. I've been crying over long distance commercials and eating chocolate-covered potato chips all morning. There is a blemish on my chin the size and shape of Canada. My breasts are so huge, I've taken to calling them Norm and Gus (short for enormous and humongous). I paint my nails Deep Slut Red. Suddenly I have an urge to wear white pants even though Memorial Day is months away. I go to my closet but Flash has put a padlock on it. I try to call her at work, but I can't remember the number. I hang up the phone and drop the receiver on my foot. I decide to take a nap. I dream I am drowning in a jar of Paul Newman's extra chunky spaghetti sauce.

**Saturday:** My friend arrives (that's what my mother taught me nice girls say). Flash and I are jubilant. We celebrate as if I have just landed a seven-figure advance. "I'll be better next month," I vow, but she doesn't believe me. "We've been through this 72 times," she reminds me. "I'm not always this bad," I remind her. "That's true," Flash says. "Sometimes you're worse." I tell Flash that if she would only teach me the secret of menopause we wouldn't have to go through this every month. But she refuses. "When you're older," she promises. "You've still got a decade to go." I hope we both live through it.

Leslea Newman's book of humor, *Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear*, which is based on her columns, will be published by Alyson Publications in June 1997.



The Mostly  
Unfabulous  
Social Life of  
Ethan Green



by  
Eric Orner





# Queer Holiday Carols



## Our Favorite (Queer) Things

Dykes in tuxedos with lavender sashes  
Walks with our sweethearts where nobody bashes  
Drag queens with witty rejoinders that sting —  
These are a few of our favorite things!

Gore Vidal writing with great erudition  
Louganis diving in perfect precision  
Swaying and swooning as k.d. lang sings —  
These are a few of our favorite things!



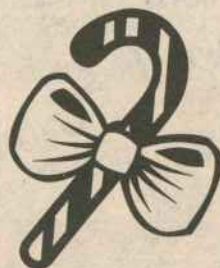
When the 'phobes strike  
and it feels like  
the whole world is mad,  
We simply remember our favorite things  
and then we don't feel so bad!

Rainbow flags flying in brilliant profusion  
Coming out stories that end our confusion  
"Angels" on Broadway has given us wings —  
These are a few of our favorite things!

Nine states protect us from discrimination  
Pride parades spreading from nation to nation  
All of the progress that Stonewall did bring —  
These are a few of our favorite things!



When the 'phobes strike  
and it feels like  
the whole world is mad,  
We simply remember our favorite things  
and then we don't feel so bad!



## Hark the Nellie Faggots Preen!

Hark, the nellie faggots preen,  
glory to each newborn queen!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
Blaine and Antoine reconciled!  
Joyful all ye nellies rise!  
Join the fairies in their cries!  
With falsetto notes proclaim:  
"Queens aren't born just every day!"  
Hark, the nellie faggots preen,  
glory to the newborn queen!



## O, Jesse Helms

(to "O, Tannenbaum")

O, Jesse Helms, O, Jesse Helms,  
you homophobic bigot!  
O, Jesse Helms, O, Jesse Helms,  
turn off your hateful spigot!

You're getting old, you're fading fast,  
Please hurry up and breathe your last.  
O, Jesse Helms, O, Jesse Helms,  
you homophobic bigot!

O, Jesse Helms, O, Jesse Helms,  
your evil seems to hover!  
O, Jesse Helms, O, Jesse Helms,  
your days will soon be over!

For saying Gays engage in sin,  
Your bitter heart will do you in.  
O, Jesse Helms, O, Jesse Helms,  
you'll soon be under clover!



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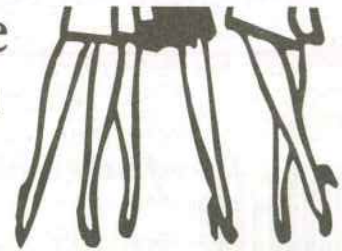
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Stephanie Hume, Continued from Page 44

of local position.

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

SH: I don't think that everybody knows that I have a girlfriend and have been in a relationship for over a year now.

**WA: Is that a record?**

SH: Yes, It's the first time. Absolutely the first time that I've been in a relationship this long and that's hard because of the demands of the political work. If I only did political work I guess it would be easier because I have a regular job. I don't know if everyone knows that I'm in a family-owned business. Some people think that I'm the attorney, when in fact my mom is the attorney and I am the office manager.

**WA: Who's your mom?**

SH: Attorney Kathleen Hume. She's the attorney and I run the office. We've had this family-owned business since 1992. I was born in San Francisco. I don't think a lot of people know that either. As a matter of fact when we have done these things at meetings and people have to say something—truth or a lie—I use that. I always tease my mom with that's why I'm a lesbian, because I was born in San Francisco.

**WA: So your mother must be very supportive.**

SH: She's incredibly supportive. She's involved with PFLAG and in our practice we have a lot of lesbian and gay clientele. She does a lot of work in our community. She's real involved; she was one of the Co-chairs for Friends and Family this year. She supports me, she allows me to go to the conferences and the meetings and to have a flexible schedule.

I couldn't work at a regular nine-to-five job and maintain all the meetings and things that I do. There are a lot of times when I have to work on a weekend because I had to leave early during the week. She's really good about that and she's my mentor. The values and skills and the dedication and desire that I have come from what I've learned from her.

**WA: How did you come out?**

SH: I came out when I was about 21 or so and I had some friends that were — I hung around with a gay guy for a couple of years during college. I liked to dance and go out and had been to my share of gay bars and then I went to a women's bar and met some one and I just

knew. I mean, I knew, I think for a long-long time, but I thought that maybe it was just a phase or something—you know, I heard all those things.

I remember the first time I saw "Personal Best" there was a part of me that knew that that was who I was.

**WA: Which character did you identify with in the movie?**

SH: Definitely not Marielle Hemmingway (laughter). I think it was definitely the other woman; much more so. I think ... that was the first time I had seen lesbians in a positive kind of way. "Desert Hearts" wasn't out yet, and that was the first time that I really thought it was OK. I came out to my mom and to my immediate friends when I was about 21.

**WA: What did your mom say?**

SH: She said two things. One, she said that she was sad that she wasn't going to be able to be a grandmother. The other part was that she was afraid that I was going to put myself in danger. I think she knew I wasn't going to be a quiet, closeted lesbian, and I had never done anything like that in my whole life. I was going to be out there and I could possibly be hurt.

**WA: who do you look up to in the Gay community. Who are people that you think are really important here in Milwaukee?**

SH: Ron Geiman is someone that I have a huge admiration for. The things he has taught me I will use forever.

**WA: What was the best piece of advice he gave you?**

SH: "Never take myself too seriously," was the best one. And my own philosophy, I call it the "Big Fish, Little Pond" syndrome. I think there are many in our community who are in that place where they're trying really hard to be something and important in a pretty small microcosm. That sometimes makes it difficult to work with them. So, you have to be able to not take yourself too seriously.

The other thing that I think has been substantial for me is that I've been in recovery for seven years. That makes and that makes a huge difference for me. I can walk away from a meeting and think of statements like, "Principals before personalities," and that means something to me. It may not mean the same thing to someone I'm in a meeting with, but it helps me to be focused, to see the bigger picture.

It helps me to walk away from that



grandiosity, which can be very infectious.

I have been in Adult Children and Alanon programs for the last 7 years; my mother is a recovering alcoholic, and I grew up in a pretty dysfunctional family. I have spent a lot of time in the last 7 to 10 years working on being in a place where I feel safe and comfortable and good about who I am and what I do.

**WA: What made you go to these groups?**

SH: I had gone to therapy all my life, but I think what happened was that I had gotten to the place where I could pretty well do the therapy thing—I could say the right things and bring up the right dreams and memories, or whatever and I wasn't really getting a huge benefit out of that. I kept being told by my therapist that I need to be in a situation where I was with my peers.

I had a friend who said, "Why don't you try this meeting," and I went with her and I was with my peers. Not just because they were my age—because a lot of the weren't—but they were my peers because they had grown up in very similar places to where I had been.

When I listened to people in my meeting and I felt like they had opened up my diary—if I had ever had one—and were reading from it, it was one of the most incredible feelings I ever had because I felt a connection I didn't know I could feel. I also felt a sense of what happened to me was not necessarily because of me. It was because of the circumstances and the disease and that part of it wasn't because of who I was personally, or something I did or didn't do. It was a huge spiritual awakening for me.

These were all women. and, these were women that on the outside looked pretty strong and looked pretty confident, and yet, were human and I thought that that was incredible. I found out that you can be strong and you can be human at the same time—what a concept. I always believed you had to be one or the other.

**WA: And that's still a part of your life?**

SH: Absolutely! Because it's about perspective, it's about focus, it's about constantly challenging myself. I think that if I don't challenge myself, how can I challenge other people?

**WA: You got a Christmas card from Bill and Hillary?**

SH: Yes I did.

**WA: How did you rate on that? You got one and I did-**

**n't get one?**

SH: I think it's because of the work I did for his re-election campaign. It's the only thing I can figure out. Certainly Bill and I are not on a first-name basis. Or, Hillary, who would be my choice.

**WA: When did you get it?**

SH: I got it about a week ago. It was actually my first Christmas card. I thought it was something asking me for money when I first

saw it in the mail box and then realized it was from them.

It was a pretty incredible feeling. I have to say that part of me wants to frame it and the other part wants to pretend that it's not a big deal. But I think it is for me. I'm sure that they send out literally thousands of those, and yet in little old Milwaukee, little old Wisconsin, it feels kind of neat to have some kind of acknowledgment.



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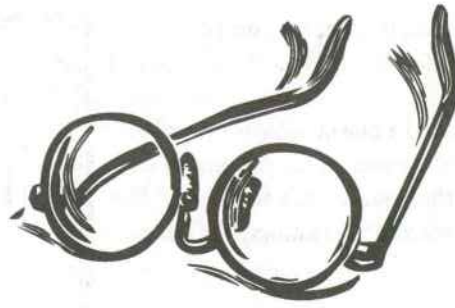
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# THE CASUAL OBSERVER

by Ed Grover



## Oh Deer, It's Aunt Ursula!

For as long as I can remember, my mother and grandmother started baking in late October, and stashed away (under lock and key) tins of different kinds of pastry for the holiday season. Mother had wonderful old tin cookie cutters and was famous for the decorated cutouts she would use as a top layer on the plates and boxes of confections that went to relatives, friends and neighbors. One time they found me being very ill after I had discovered the key and consumed pounds of cookies and fruitcake. I was one sore, unhappy little boy for some time.

The cutter shapes were wonderful: a tall skinny Christmas tree, a reindeer, santas, sleighs, a rocking horse, pigs, bears, stars and moons and hearts and more. The weekend before Thanksgiving my sister arrived from northern Wisconsin and spirited me away to help her start the mammoth family tradition she faces every year: The Christmas baking season. For months we have been going over old recipes and deciding which ones she will make.

It's always the same; pecan logs, almond bark, cinnamon and chocolate stars and a kazillion butter cookie cutouts that will need

to be frosted and decorated. That's where I come in. I sit there pretending to be Martha Stewart and decorate the naked shapes my sister has baked the day before. A frosting of powdered sugar and egg white is used to glue on colored sugars, nonpareils and chocolate jimmies. There are bowls of red-hot cinnamon thingummies to use for eyes, or whatever, and silver dragees (love that name) for other decorations.

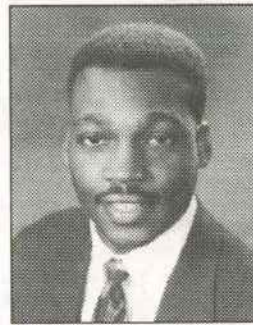
The conversation always turns to what we remember about Christmas as children. While the first big snow of the season started to fall, we find it comforting to talk about family, food and tradition. Just as I dipped into some frosting, I heard a loud bang! "Oh, I forgot to tell you, it's the opening of deer hunting season up here and the *orange people* are all over the place." As I picked up the ruined shape from the table and ate it (no use in wasting the damaged ones), I noticed a dark, old Packard pulling up the drive.

It was Aunt Ursula bearing gifts. She had heard from someone that I was "up", as she put it. She huffed and puffed up the porch stairs like the small, brown bear-shaped woman she is. "Hi all, ainna" she growled and set down her gift of fresh apple kuchen. I always thought Aunt Ursy was kind of butch and might be a lesbian, but my sister swears not. "She's an excellent cook and she really likes men," seems to be the only comment I ever get out of her in answer to my questions. Yeah, she likes men; she can beat them at Poker and Sheephead, that's why. And, she already has her deer for the season.

"Boy! Them guys has been all over my woods like fleas on a dog since early morning. They're shootin' at anything that moves. I got me a six-pointer early and couldn't go back to sleep. I heard you wuz here, so I thought I better make somepin' and bring it on over."

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Aunt Ursula shed her damp blaze-orange jumpsuit on the porch, stepped into the kitchen, and settled down to a steaming mug of fresh coffee.

I handed her a butter knife and nudged a pile of cookies toward her. We all proceeded to talk at once while decorating and Aunt Ursula said, "Well, will ya lookit at us. Just like them ladies at a tea party." She looked directly at me, snickered and winked. She knows! She's always known! And now, I think she's letting me know that, in her own way, she's just as gay as I am.

The kitchen was starting to smell wonderful from the Cinnamon Stars that were just coming out of the oven. I remember helping mother grate pounds of almonds in preparation for these, the Chocolate Stars and other mouth-watering treats. Made of ground almonds, egg whites, vanilla and spices or chocolate, they're rolled out with more powdered sugar and cut into star and moon shapes and topped with a dab of egg yolk mixed with powdered sugar. After baking for a few minutes, they go into tins to age and improve in flavor.

Another customary sweet was mother's all-fruit & nut fruit cake. Everything was glued together with ground raisins, dates and figs, nuts and honey. There was always candied lemon, orange peel and ginger and other kinds of preserved fruit such as red and green cherries and chopped up candied citron. This wonderful mixture was pressed into loaf pans lined with waxed paper, covered with more waxed paper and topped with a brick to weigh the whole thing down. Later my dad would get at a half dozen cakes with brandy, bourbon or rum. These would get locked away with the Christmas cookies.

We took a break to go out and fill the bird feeders and chase away the squirrels that were hogging all the sunflower seeds. Everything needed to be uncovered and the suet was replaced on the tree trunk while the Flickers and Blue Jays screamed. As we stood there admiring the beauty of the first snow fall, two orange shapes emerged through a thicket. It was Gus and Walter, two of Aunt Ursy's card-playing cronies. Tired of chasing down reluctant deer, they had seen the Packard and knew there would be food around.

In they marched with loud greetings and laughter. Coffee was poured and big, fat fingers started to pick up the precious cookies. "Hey you, want a minim. Them's for the holidays. I brung some kuchen and that's what you can have." The next moment they were at a card table playing a game of Sheephead and the living room was filled with shrieks of merriment from Aunt Ursy as she shouted, "Gotcha!"

Soon it was Sunday and time for me to get the train back to the city. As we drove to the station, car after car drove by filled with people in blaze orange; the fenders and tops of the vehicles were festooned with deer and pine branches covered with snow. It seems to be a ritual for the hunters to drive through town showing off for everyone. We all waved and laughed and said, "Did ya see that one?"

The train was 21 hours late due to storms out west and I had to take a bus back. But I had my own trophy, and showed it to no one: A tin of the first cookies of the season—just for me—stashed in my bag.

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## Evita: A Spectacular Disaster

In 1981 or was it 1982?, I could not have been a happier ten year old. After hearing so much about the *Evita* play which was in Boston at the time, from my parents and their friends I became obsessed in wanting to see it.

Thanks to my grandmother, a ten year old's dreams came true and my expectations were wildly surpassed. It wasn't Patty Lupone in the role and it certainly wasn't Madonna, but whoever that has been actress was created an indelible image in my mind of Eva Perone, the tiny fraction I could only begin to understand at that young age.



Nonetheless, my first theater going experience was something I would never forget and completely enjoyed.

Two years later, I (and probably every other gay boy) remember also becoming mesmerized by Madonna's *Borderline* video on MTV and subsequently almost every other song and video thereafter that she sang.

It is safe to say that *Evita* is the movie on most people's (and every gay man's) wish list to see this Holiday season. Some will get their wish earlier than others. Those living in NYC and L.A. will get to see Madonna as Evita don her 39 hats, 56 pairs of earrings and 42 different hair designs, on Christmas day. Everyone else will have to wait at least another week. (Those who have to wait and think that waiting will make the film even better are in for a surprise.)

Last September, tickets went on sale at Sony Lincoln Square in NYC - the NYC theater that will have a one week exclusive - for *Evita* and to date over \$175,000 in tickets have been sold. Over 20,000 tickets. This

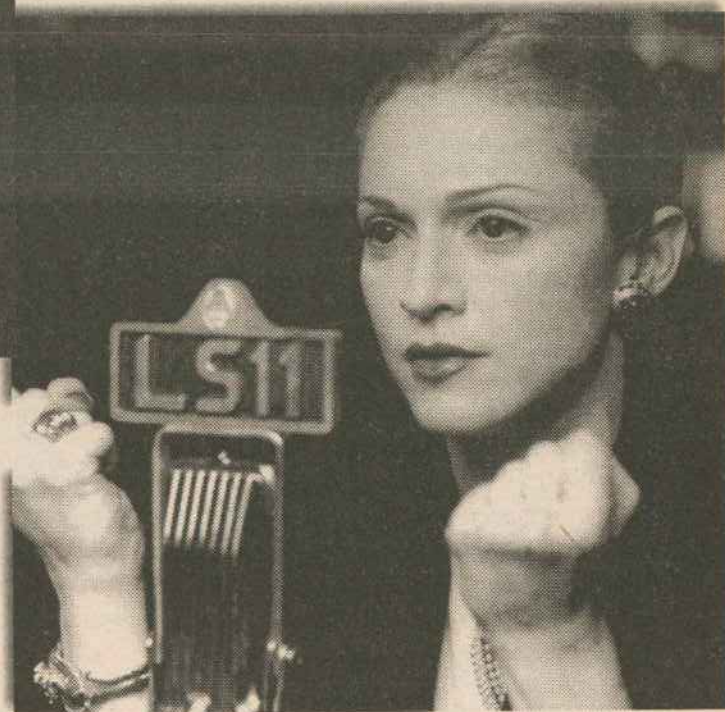
is just a movie. It seems Disney has done it again.

Disney's publicity department which has tried to turn this *Evita* into a theater going experience is causing the public to become embroiled in a tizzy.

Here, one may think, is a movie made in retro style, based on the successes of past musicals such as *The Sound Of Music*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Guys And Dolls* or *Gypsy*. It is bound to be spectacular you may think!

It is spectacular. A spectacular disaster.

The filmed musical extravaganza may experience a resurgence in the very future, but it won't be due to the help of Madonna, rather from a completely unlikely source in the name of Woody Allen whose new, magnificent film, "Everyone Says I Love You," a musical, in the truest sense of the word (due out the same time as *Evita*).



Madonna undoubtedly is a very talented singer and performer, and this is the movie that had the ability to create a movie star out of her. She would have given anything to play the part and gives her all in the production. However, director Alan Parker is the one to blame for this convoluted mess.



Most people who go to the movies want to be both entertained and maybe learn something new about a figure depicted in the film they are seeing. If you know nothing about Eva Peron (a hoar who takes up with Argentine dictator Juan Peron - Jonathan Pryce -and becomes a cult figure of her period- 1944 before dying at age 33) before going in to the film, you will certainly know nothing new about her when finally exiting the theater two and a half hours later.

It seems that Parker was an avid MTV viewer and wanted to keep Madonna's potentially fabulous acting capabilities a secret for now because unfortunately this Evita is one long video.

Madonna doesn't act, she lipsyncs, as does every other person in the film, for the entire two and a half hours. There is not a moments breathing space in between songs. At least MTV has commercials to separate its songs from one another.

When a truly spectacular musical is adapted for the screen, common sense is used when determining when to add a song to the script. Can anyone imagine the von Trapp family breaking into song and dance on the roof of the church in *The Sound Of Music* when being chased by the Nazi's?

Here Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber (an overrated theater producer and writer) have added songs not heard in the play. And in most instances they fail miserably.

It takes over forty-five minutes for a decent song to appear (I'd Be Surprisingly Good For You) on screen. When it does, thankfully it lasts for an extended period of time. Of course the powerful "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" is the title song and conveys Evita's whole message to her people, however here, hardly an emotion shines through and one feels more passion when listening to the song on cd.

Banderas one of the worst lipsyncers in the film does have one good song, "High Flying, Adored." The only song that moves one while watching the film is "Santa Evita," it though, is not sung by Madonna, rather a chorus.



The best thing going for this film is the terrific cinematography, art direction and costume design. They will all get Academy Award nominations and most technical categories will win (cinematography though is not nearly as captivating as that of *The English Patient's*). Will it get nominated for Best Picture, Actress and Director? Probably, since most nominees are old men who have never watched MTV. They are novices in the world of the video and probably will think this Evita is the best thing since the talkie.

This reviewer was not impressed with Madonna or the film and would love to know why anyone is if they are.

Will Madonna win an Academy Award? If they create a new category for Best Lipsyncing she could be a contender. The only singer that has a chance to win any acting Oscar this year is Courtney Love for *The People Vs. Larry Flint*. Who would have ever thought that Love would have a chance to upstage Madonna at the Academy Awards?

—Timothy Nasson

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# Star Patrol



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## pisces • (feb 20 to march 20)

Busy, busy, busy around the house this month as you prepare to make room for that new purchase. What? You haven't bought anything yet? Well, Saturn has a surprise for you and it includes some redecorating. What will you get rid of to make room?

## aries • (march 21 to april 19)

This is a great month for you to bring people together. Your natural diplomatic sense gives way to an ambassador which has just been waiting to break free. Mix and match your friends and you will be amazed at the results. Prepare for an "interesting" dinner.

## taurus • (april 20 to May 21)

Work starts to give you some rewards for your hard work. Happily, no one has found those major errors you corrected and lets keep it that way. Don't get complacent or, even worse, cocky. The Universe will protect you unless you take it for granted.

## gemini (may 22 to june 21)

If you aren't already in a committed relationship, you are coming into a time when it could happen faster than you ever imagined. And, if you are already committed, prepare for your love to reach a new level. Either way, a trip over the holidays looks definite.

## cancer • (june 22 to july 22)

Take a breather as Mercury lets you know you need it. Life has been hectic and rough enough on you and this month you will find that some of your responsibilities will be lifted just when you need them to be. Take advantage of the down time and just chill.

## leo • (july 23 to august 22)

Someone is taking control of their life, and it isn't you. It's someone around you, and that will make you crazy. Why? Because they

are now independent of your influence. But, you thought you wanted them to be more independent. Yeah, that's what you always said, but did you mean it?

## virgo • (august 23 to september 22)

Uranus brings financial gains to your life mid-month. This is not something you have earned, or something you expected. This is a total surprise, and just in the nick of time. Oh, you don't think so? Open your mail on with caution.

## libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

A friend from the past comes back into town for the holidays, and you couldn't be happier. Well, you could be, but you won't let them know that. You make a rash decision to take a personal day at the end of the month. If you plan in advance, there shouldn't be any problems.

## capricorn (dec. 21 to jan. 19)

Love is front and center as the moon makes you amorous just as others are looking at you thinking "Well, why not? Now, granted, that isn't exactly what you were hoping for but, once you get them hooked you are home free. That person you were once interested in now seems unappealing after you seeing them in a different light, daylight. Money is a concern, but your employment situation takes a positive turn in the new year.

## scorpio • (oct. 24 to nov 21)

The gym is a really good idea for the next month. Because, you probably thought that last month was going to be difficult for you to get through, but that was just the beginning. Between all of those holiday parties, you may find that you've outgrown your favorite holiday wear.

## sagittarius (nov 21 to dec 19)

Niceness will pay off this month as people around you are more sensitive. Take into consideration other's feelings and try to think "How would I like them to treat me?" You may feel that it's all for naught but, trust me, they are noticing and they are surprised.

## aquarius • (jan. 20 to feb. 18)

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



# The Ice Wizard of Christmas Past

With a carrot for a nose and a few pieces of coal for eyes, Frosty the Snowman came to life with a magic hat placed upon his head. Ice and snow sculptor Arlyn Kampen brought hundreds of figures to life during his career, not with the aid of a magic hat, but with the loving craftsmanship he brought to his work.

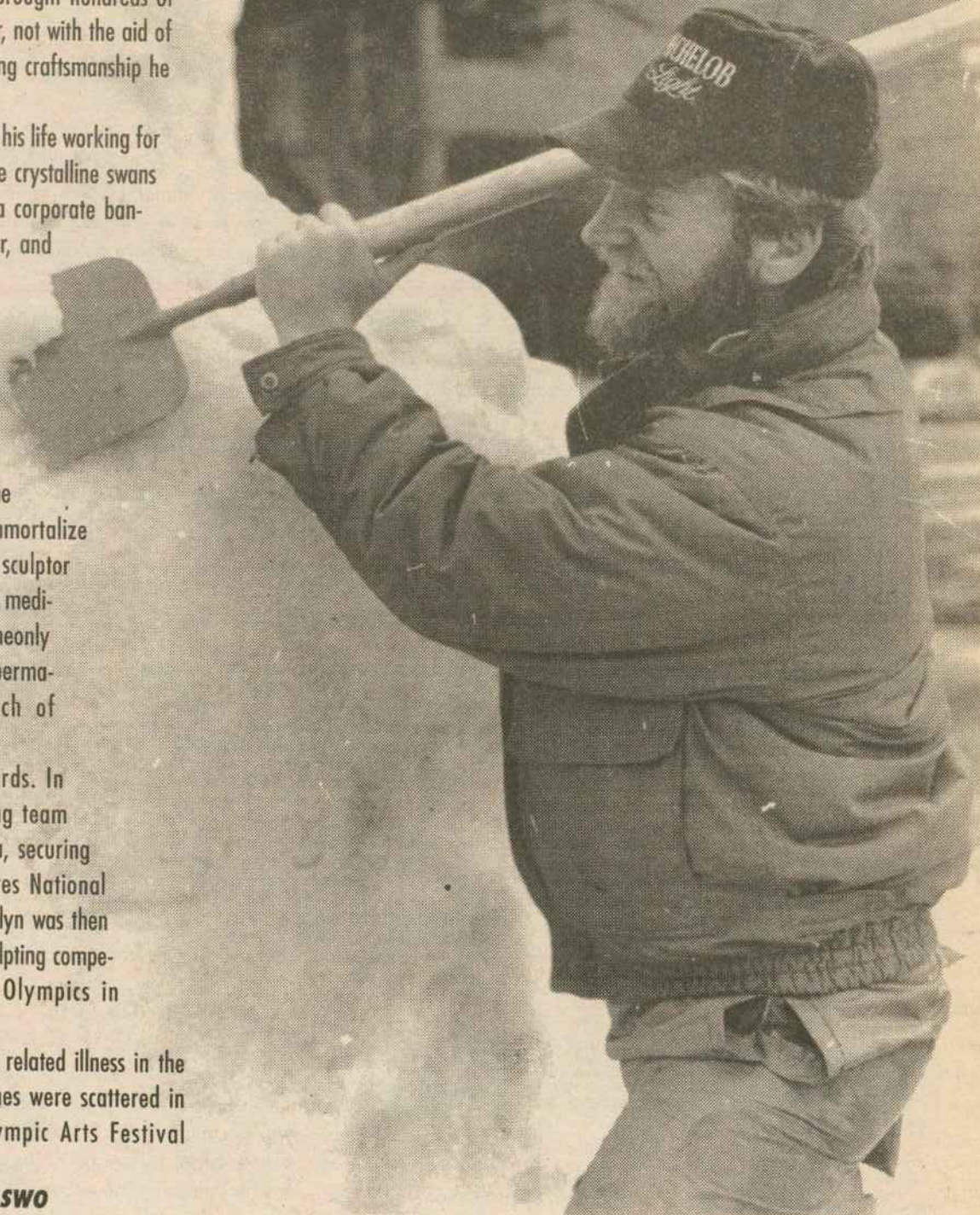
Arlyn spent the later part of his life working for Hometown Ice. He carved huge crystalline swans that melted slowly on many a corporate banquet table. He carved reindeer, and Christmas stars, and ice wizards. Milwaukee's WinterFest in Cathedral Square was adorned each year with a menagerie of Kampen's creations.

While most sculptors seek fine marble, bronze or gold to immortalize their work, the ice and snow sculptor works in the most temporal of mediums. A faded photo is often the only remembrance. The fragile impermanence of the work is much of its beauty.

Arlyn won numerous awards. In January of 1993 his sculpting team traveled to Anchorage, Alaska, securing first place in the United States National Snow Sculpting Competition. Arlyn was then slated to travel to the snow sculpting competition at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lilihammer, Norway.

Arlyn Kampen died of AIDS related illness in the melting July of 1993. His ashes were scattered in Milwaukee, and at the Olympic Arts Festival in Norway.

story: WASWO





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## M&M Club

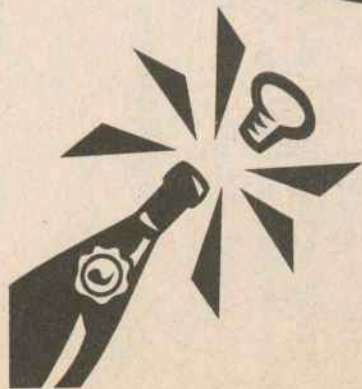
New Year's Eve at the M&M Club, Party Favors, Millions of Balloons, Complimentary champagne at midnight, meet your future Ex!?

## United's Pink Party!

The Pink Party- pink party package 9 pm until 3:30 am: Hors d'oeuvres and jazz in the Starlight Room, and late night dance party in the Spotlight Room. Admission \$30, or two for \$50. Dance Party 10:30 until 3:30 am, Dancing in the Spotlight room with DJ Tony Ritschard, and jazz in the Starlight Room, Admission \$10.

## SWS Docks

South Water Street Docks- Open 2 pm until 6 am, New Year's Eve Party, Party favors, Free buffet starting at 11 pm. Also shot specials.





## Triangle

New Year's Eve Party, Tuesday, December 31,  
Party favors, champagne, midnite buffet.  
Open 33 Hours! Never a Cover!

## B's

New Year's Eve open house, Party favors,  
Champagne Toast at Midnight.  
Open 3 pm until close.

## Club 219

New Year's Party at the Club 219, Five male dancers  
all night, Party hats and horns to the first 100 per-  
sons. Free food- buffet for everyone.

## Ballgame

Open 24 Hours and More!  
Featuring Food, Fun and Party Favors!

## C'est La Vie

New Year's Eve Party, Party favors, Buffet.  
Food starts around 1 am. Open New  
Year's Eve at 10 pm around the dock.

## Mama Roux

36 Hours around-the-dock Party!  
Featuring Champagne, Buffet,  
Bloody Marys and a Brunch!

## La Cage

Celebrate and Remember the Last New Year's  
for Dance, Dance, Dance. Featuring their ever  
popular Top 10 Countdown for 1996!

## This Is It

They will behaving their annual New Year's Eve  
Party with no cover charge.





# Juicy Bits

by W.W.Wells III

## Predictions: 1997

**R**ush Limbaugh to Betty Ford Clinic... Gay Games Controversy... Herb Kohl Napkin Scandal... Mother Theresa Sex Romp... These are just of the few of the astounding, incredible predictions for the coming year made by W. W. Wells III, whose incredible second sight and obsessive devotion to the Dionne Warwick's Psychic Friends Network, makes him the world's leading queer clairvoyant.

Here's what the amazing (and amazingly handsome) W. W. Wells forecasts for 1997...

While engaged in a late night assault of a New York City McDonalds, right wing windbag, **Rush Limbaugh** will deplete his entire 1997 allotment of **Richard Simmons'** "Deal-A-Meal" cards. Shortly after, he will be admitted to the **Betty Ford Clinic** for treatment of an eating disorder after he begins sweating "special sauce."

Citing mounting pressure from drag queen rights groups, who will claim it's already hard enough to walk in high heels, The Federation of Gay Games will it's recent decision to grant the 1998 Gay Games V to Amsterdam, Holland after that country's government announces it will require all visiting participants to compete in wooden shoes. Controversy will again strike the games two months later, when it's learned **Imelda Marcos** secretly funded the drag queen's protest efforts. In a related development, Doc Martens will officially replace Timberlands as the official lesbian footwear.

Citing budget constraints, Congress will deny funding for a multi-million dollar, 3-year research project after scientists fails to explain why, when drag queens laugh, mascara comes out of there noses.

Russian scientists will launch a billion dollar research project to determine if gay men possess special psychic powers. Researchers will be unable to prove this assertion, however, after observations in gay bars around closing time, they will find evidence that most gay men possess an incredible ability to communicate specific sexual needs to total strangers using only their eyes.

A shocking new sex scandal will strike the Catholic church when an Italian priest is charged with sexually harassing

**Mother Theresa.** Church officials will claim the whole incident is an understandable mix-up and the priest should not be held responsible, since Mother Theresa was dressed as an altar boy for a Vatican costume party.

A waiter at the Heinemann's Restaurant will have his name entered *The Guinness Book of World Records* after he memorizes and updates the entire "gay hanky code" to include almost 3,500 color variations assigned to every conceivable sexual fetish and position preference. Unfortunately, he will not be able to personally receive the accolade after he is jailed on obscenity charges for allegedly folding a napkin into the shape of **Herb Kohl's** penis.

During a routine physical, doctors will successfully diagnose why stiff as a board, **Vice President Al Gore** seems so uptight. Upon examination of X-rays, the Vice President will be rushed to Bethesda Naval Hospital where surgeons will remove a 36-inch long 2"X4" from his butt. The Vice President's wife, **Tipper** will not be immediately available for comment as she will be busy taking a break from looking for satanic messages in rock lyrics to search for demons in boxes of devil's food cake mix.

Thirty drag queens will be trapped underground for two weeks, when an explosion seals the entrance to a Colorado rhinestone mine where the illusionists were digging for faux gems to adorn their outfits. The explosion will occur when one of the queens shuts up long enough for internal pressure to build-up, resulting in a colossal fart which could be felt ten miles away and shatter store windows in Denver. The DQs will finally dig their way out using their bare hands and supply of Lee Press-On Nails lowered through an air shaft.

In an attempt to cash in on a lucrative, untapped market, Japanese VCR manufacturers will develop a new VCR specifically designed for gay males. The new machine will be able to instantly fast-forward to the hottest scenes in a porno video simply by pressing a new button on the remote control labeled, "orgasm."



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# HIV+

**If you have tested positive and have not yet accessed health care or have dropped out of health care because of insurance problems, relocation, employment/financial issues or because of other reasons... please contact United HIV Services. Help and new treatment options are now available. Call today for assistance or referrals.**



**For more information call Casey at STD Specialties Clinic, 414/264-8800**



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Entrees • Noodle Dishes • Many Vegetarian Menu Selections  
Teriyaki/Tempura • Luncheon Menu • Combination Dinners

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Dinner - Tuesday thru Saturday - 5pm to 10pm  
Sunday - 4:30pm to 9pm

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