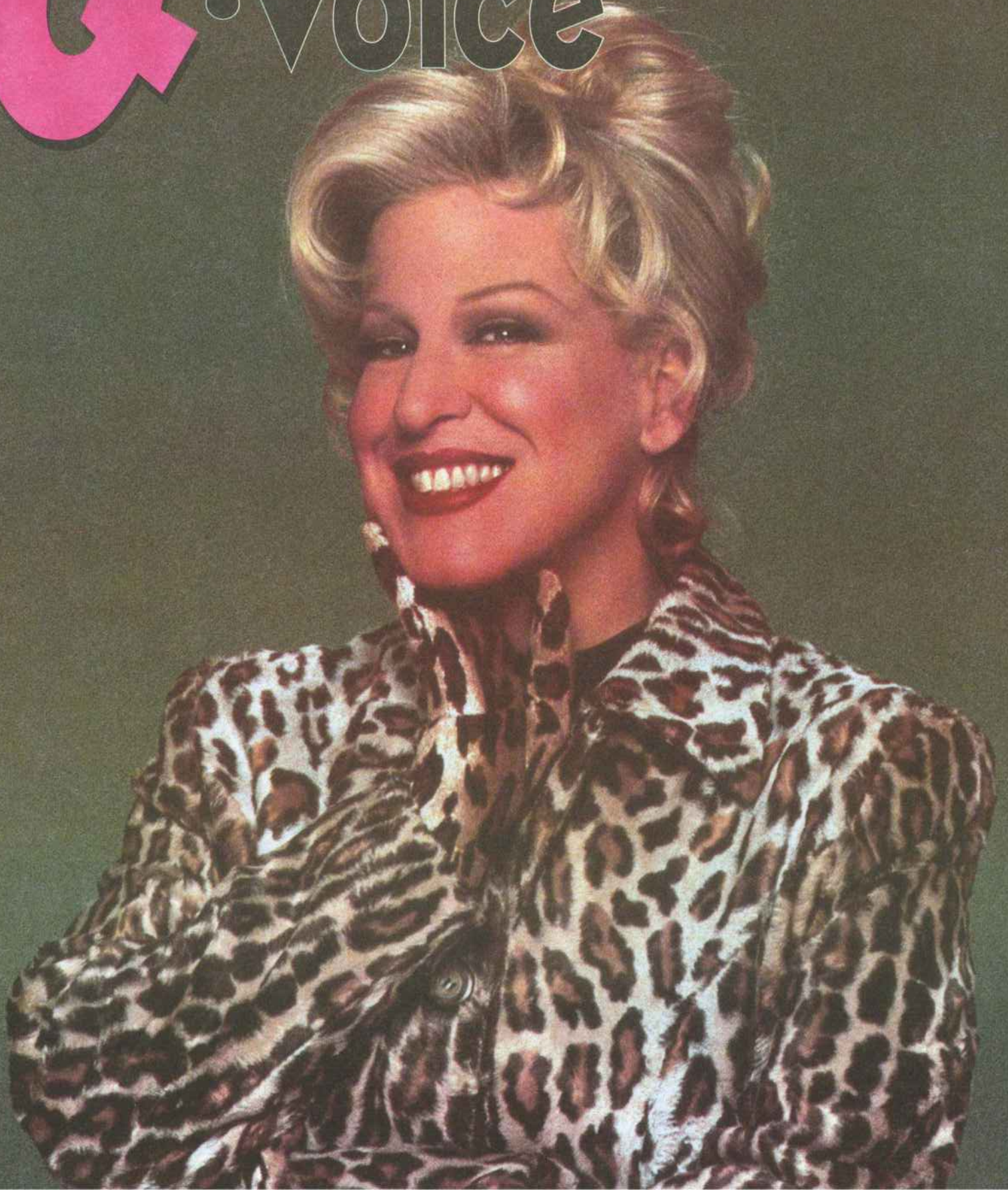
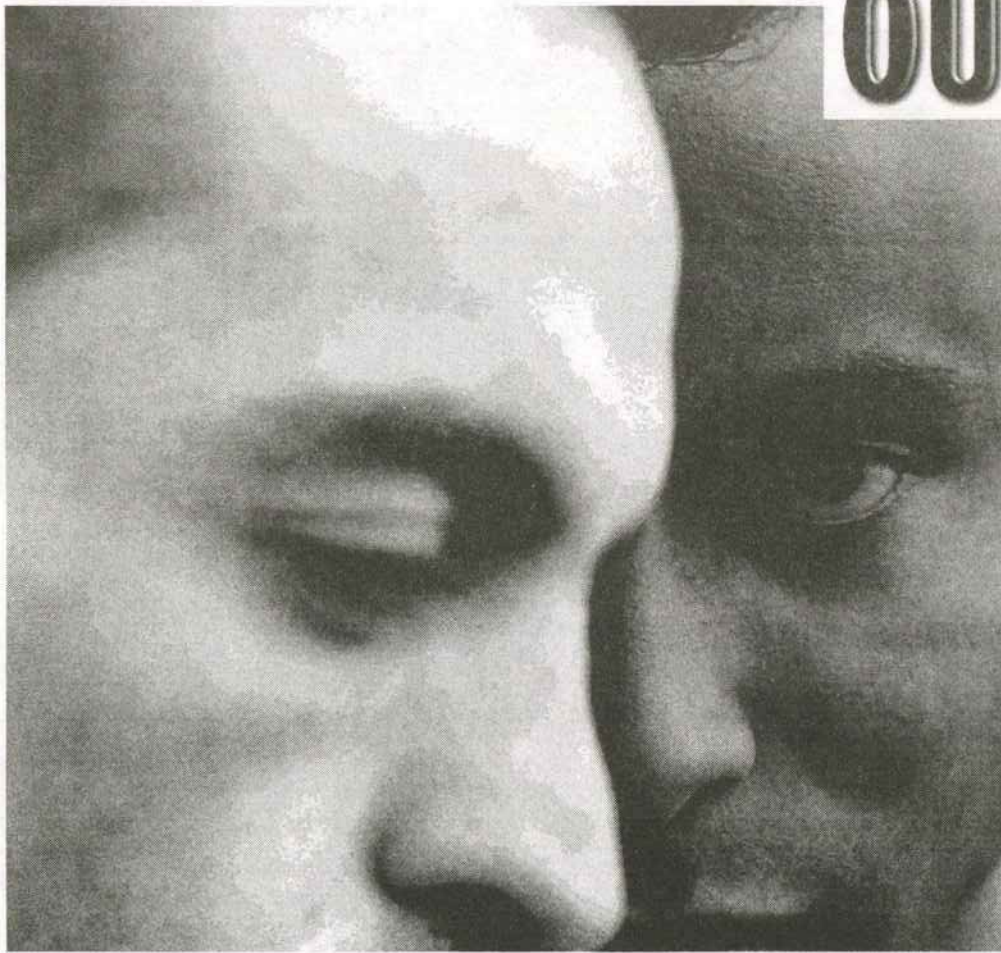


# Q-Voice

Vol. 2, No. 6, April 1997





# OUTreach

Offering anonymous HIV testing, safer sex education, and information about HIV and AIDS at places where men and women gather in our community.

Wednesday • April 2

**LA CAGE**

10pm to 1am

Friday • April 4

**WALKER'S POINT CAFE**

8pm to 11pm

Saturday • April 12

**10% CLUB**

9pm to 12am

Wednesday • April 16

**MAMA ROUX**

9pm to 12am

A Co-operative Venture of Your Favorite Bar...

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THE MILWAUKEE AIDS PROJECT

*and*

**BESTD**  
CLINIC

MAP and BESTD Clinic working together to serve the gay/lesbian community. For more information call 414/225-1502 or 414/272-2144

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**NEXT Q•VOICE: Deadline: April 17 • Appearing: April 24**



# Letters

## Beware of Homos Bearing Gifts

**To the editor,**

Just like to drop a note and let you know, that you have a great magazine. I do have a question for you.

About three months ago, I became friends with another guy; not lovers just friends. During this two months friendship, he had bought me several things, including wigs and plane tickets to California. I thought things were kind of weird, but he owns his own business, and said he had extra cash and enjoyed buying me things.

After two months of being friends, he suddenly tells me he's "in love" with me! I freaked! He knew I had a lover for the past two years that I love very much.

He said, he didn't care and said he'd wait for me! After that our friendship fell apart and now we can't stand each other.

Now the question:

He had stopped in my work a couple weeks ago and handed me a piece of paper with all the things he had bought for me with the prices. He then proceeded to tell me he wanted all the money or he'll take me to court. I thought these were gifts. Can he sue me? Or is he just as psycho as he acts? Help me please!

**M.B.,  
Milwaukee**

## Hold the Cheese Head!

**To the editor,**

I have just started to receive your monthly magazine, *Q•Voice*, which was sent to me as gift by a friend. I wanted to take a minute and thank you for the in-depth interviews and articles about people in the gay community, the humor and the general good looks of the publication.

I especially like the photographs by Jorge Cabal. The cover-shots and "Out of

The Closet" spreads are a pleasure to look at. It's nice to see attractive, vital young people from the area portrayed in your magazine.

The cover of your March, '97 issue was most interesting, in that it had a front and a back view. I was astounded, however, when Michael Lisowski of the *Queer Program*, asked his partner on the show if the dictionary was, in fact, a "cheese head" on a recent Tuesday evening. I guess that some people just *don't* look at things and make what they consider to be "flip" comments because they haven't anything better to say.

Keep up the good work and I look forward to your next issue.

**Name Withheld,  
Milwaukee**

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Don't miss a single issue! Have *Q•Voice* delivered right to your mailbox each and every month. Send your address and a check for a measly \$35 for a one year subscription to:

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**Q•Voice World Headquarters**  
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## The Pink Zone

Guest Editorial by Mark Behar

Spring! A person's fancy turns to ... especially if you're single. For those of us not into bars or smoke-filled 12 step meetings, those fancies drive us to outdoor, public areas!

I was leaving for work the other day and as I was driving on Brady Street, I noted the conspicuous presence of a very attractive (i.e., he looked at me), well dressed (i.e., not the typical street riff-raff), probably queer man (i.e., all men are assumed queer unless proven otherwise) wearing shades ever-so-fashionably as he walked eastward into the early morning sun past the street's queer hardware store and queer STD clinic.

I looked twice and he returned the look. Since I was on my way to work, I had to turn off Brady, and noted his eyes followed me in my rear view mirror. I hung my queer muscular hairy arm out the driver's side window and offered a little wave of my queer hand, as if to say, "Perhaps another time, fellah, I am late for work," and I noticed a repeated hand and wrist gesture that resembled what I do every night in front of the same segment of video. Then I realized that the gesture has a second meaning — he was selling crack cocaine.

Had I the luxury of more time, I would have returned, and told him that his gesture has a double meaning (for me at least!) and referred him to a drug treatment program. Since he was walking in "The Pink Zone" — a recognizably queer friendly neighborhood and business district, he better know what his gestures really signify around here!

It got me thinking, though — especially in light of the discussions regarding the LGBT Community Center project — how desperately we LGBTers need to take back our streets and neighborhoods, and declare safe public areas — "Pink Zones" throughout the city. Many Pink Zones are well known to all of us — Brady Street, Downer Avenue, Juneau and Estabrook Parks (especially certain areas in those parks!), the east end of the Grand Avenue Shopping Mall (but absolutely not the public rest rooms). Back in the 1970s and '80s the Lakefront area north of Bradford Beach, as well as Juneau Park, were the summertime Pink Zones. Many large cities have thriving public Gay and Lesbian areas — business districts with surrounding LGBT neighborhoods that are very supportive and nurturing.

Seattle's Capitol Hill and Volunteer Park (can you tell where I was recently?!); San Francisco's Castro; West Hollywood everywhere; Houston's Westheimer; Minneapolis's Loring Park; Chicago's Halsted & Clark; Washington, DC's Dupont Circle & P Street Beach; New Orleans's French Quarter & the Faubourg Marigny; Miami's South Beach; New York's Greenwich Village; Boston's Fenway; shall I go on with my queer geographic

prohess?? (Does THAT turn you on?)

LGBT Milwaukeeans need to identify and claim certain safe areas for us to congregate and meet, both indoor locations and outside. By "congregating and meeting" I emphatically do not mean cruising areas for "safer" public sex or even one night stands — not that this in itself is such a bad idea. There have to be places where our numbers are greater, where we have a chance to meet others!

Here are some indoor and outdoor places that come to mind: East Pointe Pick 'n Save: ignore the pretentiousness of the store's classical music, higher prices, and Chicago-rather-than-Milwaukee labeled wall timepieces at the check out lines! This food store has more than fruit in its produce section, and is much cruisier than the larger East Side Pick 'n Save on E. Capitol Dr., or the Clarke Square Pick 'n Save MegaMart on W. National Av. although Clarke Square has fabulous men as well as a food court, health clinic, and a bunch of other interesting places to meet people.

George Webb's Restaurant on Farwell north of Brady has been nominated as a Pink Zone for G&L youth. How about some of the east side coffee houses? The downtown Central Library? Milwaukee AIDS Project recently drew attention to itself in the autumn when promoting the safer sex interventions and condom giveaways at potential public sex environments at some of the County parks (mainly the north end of Estabrook Park).

What other areas in the city should we nurture and cultivate as "approved" safe outdoor and indoor Pink Zones? The Downer Avenue business district? No openly Gay or Lesbian businesses there yet. Water Street in the 3rd Ward? M&Ms is now the only Gay business in that 'hood. South 1st and 2nd Streets where the bars are concentrated? Not very interesting places during the daytime, and the not-so-subtle association of alcohol and smoking with bars during the evenings suggest a need to look elsewhere. Brady Street near the BESTD Clinic? If only Afterwards Bookstore would move to Brady Street too! This street has great potential, especially with the soon to open Passeggio development!

I propose that each year a group of LGBTers get together to identify the year's selected and "approved" public Pink Zones, and advertise that fact through our media and businesses. Interested in talking about this further? Send me your choice locations in care of *Q•Voice Magazine*, or through my e-mail address below! My hormones are flowing!

*Mark Behar (mbehar@omnifest.uwm.edu) is a long time participant in Milwaukee G&L community activities and is single.*



# ROLL AWAY THE STONE

“I’m not much of a talker,” says painter and lithographer Roy Huth. “If I have to explain my art verbally, I don’t feel I’ve really accomplished my job as an artist.”

The indomitable Huth has garnered considerable attention for his exceptional prints. “I started making prints back in High School, but it was at UWM that I first became aware of printmaking possibilities. My Father was a commercial lithographer. He gave me my own litho stone; a stone that dated back to the turn of the century. Once I had my own stone, printmaking became much more personal and enriching.”

Having quickly established a reputation as one of Milwaukee’s better printmakers, it is easy to overlook Roy’s lifelong love of painting.

“I was initially much more interested in painting than in printmaking. I’ve been painting for as long as I can remember.

“People encouraged me in strange ways. I remember a teacher in grade school who’d let me finish working on a painting rather than forcing me to attend math class. I was good in math, so I guess she thought I could skip a few classes.”

Roy Huth will be reminding us of his painterly roots in an exhibit to open April 18th at Gallery H<sub>2</sub>O. Simply titled *Mixed Media Paintings*, Roy shares the spotlight with fellow printmaker/painter Tom Halas.

“This show is very much about the way materials interact and alter each other,” states Huth.

Perhaps Roy Huth doesn’t care to speak about his art because his art speaks so well for itself.

# “QUIPS AND QUOTES”

## What About the Casual Observer's Column?

“Right now we've got a whole bunch of dumbass AIDS service organizations more concerned with their mortgages than our mortality. More concerned with getting new donors than with getting new drugs. More intent on getting you to the next Carnegie Hall benefit for Angela-Elizabeth-Liza-Buckley-Taylor than on squeezing Bill Clinton's nuts until they exude a cure and a vaccine. These organizations have sacrificed urgency, action and anger in a pathetic exchange for careerism, corner offices, fancy cocktail parties and their names in Liz Smith's column.”

—Activist-author Larry Kramer writing in POZ.

## Tight End

“[The rumors that I am gay are] definitely not true. ... I think for people that choose that kind of lifestyle, that choose a gay lifestyle, then so be it. But it's not for me.”

—Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman to the TV show Extra.



## Imitation of Beauty

“All homosexuals have a capacity for imitating other people and [in my younger days] we learned all their voices in certain cafes and spoke like Garbo or Dietrich or whoever. The easiest people to imitate of course were Mae West and Bette Davis. Everyone imitated Bette Davis.”

—Gay writer Quentin Crisp, 88, to Chicago's Outlines.

## Duck, Duck... Goose!

“Yes, and it's [a] little scary. But now women do too. You know, I'll occasionally go to a gay bar because it's lower profile and you don't get hassled as much. And I'll stand there and slowly a circle of women will form.”

—actress Jennifer Tilly, on whether men now treat her differently after she did a steamy lesbian love scene in the movie “Bound.”



## Come Out, Come Out ... Wherever You Are...

“Having Ellen's character come out of the closet could only help the show. It might give this insubstantial ball of lint the weight it needs by giving its star something real to deal with. And it might stop that star

from acting like such a blithering idiot. DeGeneres plays her part like a bad imitation of Diane Keaton in an early Woody Allen movie as reinterpreted by the producers of Family Matters. She rambles, babbles, hems and haws until even she realizes she has nothing to say and she shuts up, grins, and thinks that's cute. Her show has become just as pointless and grating. The show and the star should both just decide what they are, announce it, and be proud of it. Enough rambling.”

—Jeff Jarvis, “The Couch Critic,” the TV Guide.

## Original Clones

“We're fighting for research and we're defending people's reproductive rights. I realize my clone would be my identical twin, and my identical twin has a right to be born.”

—Randolfe Wicker of the new gay group Clone Rights United Front, which demonstrated in New York's Greenwich Village March 1.

## Terminating Lesbian

“[Lesbian rumors:] That's something that's been haunting me since I was in school. I didn't put out, so they said I was a lesbian. [As for my upcoming wedding to Terminator director James Cameron,] they'll say that's just a cover for an alternative lifestyle.”

—Actress Linda Hamilton, star of the Terminator flicks.



## What About Casual Sex?

“The gay community, in particular, could benefit from pondering a number of thorny questions related to sex: What are the effects of the widespread use of pornography among gay men? How much do we support relationships and provide forums for fostering them? How does our focus on casual and anonymous sex affect us individually and as a community? What, in fact, is the morality of casual sex?”

—Dan Perreten, editor of the gay Windy City Times.

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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 [qvoice@aol.com](mailto:qvoice@aol.com)

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## Will DeGeneres Come Out For Real on April 23?

**Ellen DeGeneres**, whose "Ellen" character will come out of the closet as a lesbian April 30, is expected to do the same thing in real life April 23 on "PrimeTime Live," ABC sources said earlier this week.

On "Ellen," Ellen Morgan "discovers" her true sexuality in a therapy session with guest star Oprah Winfrey. On "PrimeTime," Ellen DeGeneres is expected to discuss her sexuality—common knowledge among show-business insiders for years—with co-host **Diane Sawyer**.

Officially, ABC had no comment except to confirm the DeGeneres booking. "Until the interview actually happens, who's to know what she will say?" a "PrimeTime" spokesman said.

Meanwhile, The Human Rights Campaign has created "Ellen" house party kits to make it easy and fun for people to share the historic coming out episode on April 30.

A new HRC television ad to increase awareness that job discrimination based on sexual orientation remains legal in 41 states will also air during the coming out episode.

A VHS copy of the ad, with a special videotaped message from **Elizabeth Birch**, will be part of the HRC house party kits. Also in the kits: a unique, color "Ellen Coming Out Day" poster, designed by HRC, party invitations, party planning tips, and an entertaining "Ellen" trivia game, created by Ellen DeGeneres' many fans at HRC.

To host an "Ellen" house party & receive a kit, call HRC at (202) 628-4160 or visit HRC's "Ellen" web site at [www.hrc.org/events/ellen](http://www.hrc.org/events/ellen).

## Marty Burns Wolfe Comeback Expected?

If the rumors are to be believed, our favorite news hound, **Marty Burns Wolfe** may be soon be back on Milwaukee airwaves after a six month absence. Unconfirmed reports indicate she's headed for the WDJT, **Channel 58** newsroom. Our advice to Marty ... black is slimming, stay out of Fannies, and no Tiffany stories.

## Bufferflies are Not Free!

The Milwaukee Public Museum's new butterfly exhibit, "Butterflies Alive" allows you to rub shoulders (or wings) with hundreds of free-flying, butterflies and moths including Monarchs, to the Giant Atlas Moth and even the eerie Death's Head Sphinx moth made famous in the thriller "Silence of the Lambs."

The 7,000 square foot exhibit runs until September 1. Bug repellent is optional, and we can't wait until next year's "Wasp's Alive Exhibit!"

## To Boldly Go

Thirty-year-old **Michelle E. Green** was born the same year as the TV series "Star Trek" and grew up watching the show with her Trekkie parents. Her only regret: "I always wanted to see a female captain."

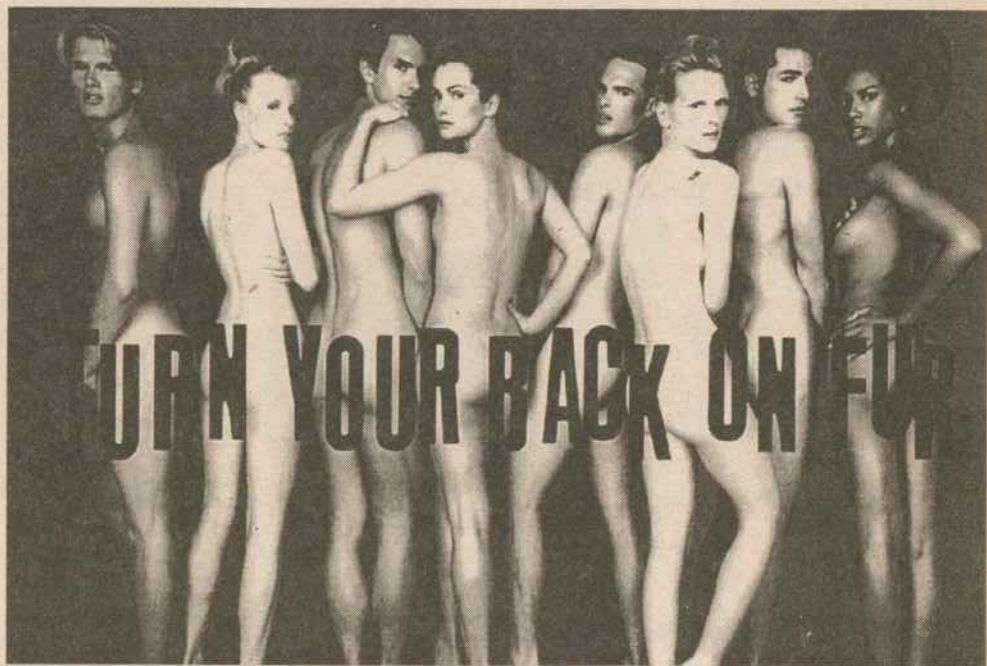
Green finally got her wish when actress **Kate Mulgrew** stepped aboard as Kathryn Janeway, the first female starship captain in the show's third spinoff series, "Star Trek: Voyager."

Searching for a way to tap into a network of fans, she posted a question on the Internet: "Kate Mulgrew Fan Club, anyone?" Instead of finding an existing club, she found 100 fans who urged her to start one.

So Green, an English literature scholar whose speciality is feminist utopias in science fiction, did just that. The club now has 400 (mostly women) members. Its publications are a mix of hardcore science fiction analysis and Hollywood-style star adoration.

Janeway's appeal, Green believes, is her strength. "She comes across as maternal ... not cool and distant ... like the other captains."

Contact the Now Voyager club at P.O. Box 34745, Bethesda, Md. 20827-4745, or check the Web site, <http://www.engr.umbc.edu/~mpantil/mulgrew/>

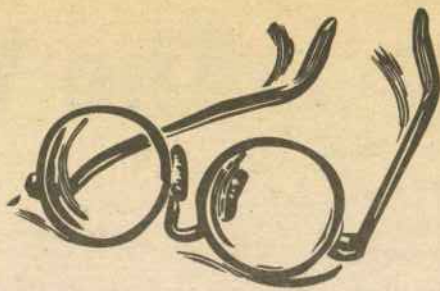


PETA's latest assault against fur comes in this ad running in several big name fashion mags. Boss Models from left to right are: Johann Urb, Tia Fock, Marcus Schenkenberg, Simone Val Baal, Joel West, Kim Inglinisky, Andrea Boccalletti, and Susan Carman. We include it here for voveristic reasons only. Photo: Judson Baker.



# THE CASUAL OBSERVER

by Ed Grover



## All We Ever Wanted to Know About Sex and A Lot We Didn't

### SEXUAL State Of The UNION

by Susie Bright  
*Simon and Schuster, \$23.00*

This comment from the book jacket sets us up for what's to come: "In this distillation of her outspoken and sometimes painfully honest views, Susie Bright explores the hot-button sexual issues of the day, infusing her discussion with personal anecdotes and keenly drawn observations of the big, bad world of sex."

Right from the get-go in the Introduction, Susie Bright lets us know what she thinks about sex, sexual mores and sexual practices in general. "When we talk about sex to each other, one-on-one, we open up a well-worn box of lover's lies: fake orgasms, promises of fidelity, boastful exploits."

Bright, who is a writer, performer, feminist activist, ex-Catholic, a mother who has had two abortions, a bisexual lesbian (is there such a thing?) has voiced her convictions on a variety of sexual taboos. Pregnant teenagers: "Everyone knows that these teenagers were probably knocked up by a full-grown man who is way past adolescent angst." AIDS: "It should not be 'What have I done to deserve this?' but, 'What has stopped us from discovering the origins of HIV? ... A far better and more difficult question.'"

Much more fun to read is the recounting of her first dirty picture. This happened when she was in the fifth grade and she says, "I didn't look at another dirty picture until I was nineteen years old." By then she was well on her way to being the Susie Bright we now know and love. The picture was a color photograph of a skinny man in a bra with an erection. She discovered it in an abandoned black plastic purse in a thicket of bushes while playing in an undeveloped lot with her friend Jessie. That would scare any ten-year old.

In the section called "Plagues, Panics, and General Pandemonium" in a chapter called "Cooties," she discusses the "Scare 'em Safe" techniques used by a theater group from Pittsburgh, called the Saltworks Theater Company to intimidate teenagers into abstaining from any sex at all. Brite says, "People are not going to stop having sex in any kind of significant numbers just because they're scared, or because it's danger-

ous. I always knew sex was fraught with danger ..."

And, she gives voice to another thought on safe sex: "Safe sex doesn't work without sexual fulfillment. That's why I started to do workshops called 'Safe Sex for Sex Maniacs,' because I had to do something dramatic to break through the forbidding qualities of so many do's and don'ts. The most frustrating thing about safer sex is these giant fuzzy areas where no one knows the complete answer."

Later we get the lowdown on gay marriages, oral sex, spanking and S&M. Of anal sex, Brite has this to say: "... It is in fact heterosexuals who have gone wild about their asses." She talks about the joys of a good vibrator (she likes a Hitachi Magic Wand) in a funny and revealing chapter called "The Vibrator Clerk Chronicles."

In "As Porn as We Want to Be," Susie tells us more about porn tapes than we ever really wanted to know. We learn all about the John Wayne Bobbit tapes, the Tonya Harding Honeymoon video and her own venture into making lesbian-made porn videos complete with fistfucking. She suggests finding the one or two moments in a video that satisfy our fantasies, having a giant-screen TV, using the pause and instant replay buttons ... and that Hitachi vibrator. H-e-l-l-o there!

In a section titled "On The Road", Susie "offers us a first-hand analysis of the student-initiated sexual behavior policy that created such an uproar at Antioch College—and reveals whether students really follow it." There are several pages of questions and comments included so you can check out your own supposed reactions to the subject. Other observations follow.

In the last section of the book called "Totally Offensive" she gives us her views on cruising the Internet, Chat Groups, E-mail and making connections with anonymous sexual partners on the Net. We get some first-hand information with names named and a few scum-bags exposed. Thanks Susie!

Armistead Maupin, author of "Tales of The City" says, "Susie Bright is a true American original. She cuts through the crap of modern Calvinism with disarming candor and humor and, yes, elegance. We're so lucky to have her."

I agree! This is a great book to read and it sure helps you to "get over yourself" and any sexual hangups you may have developed. Do yourself a favor and read it.





# The World in Brief

with Rex Wockner

## Australian Human Rights Head Embraces Gay Equality

Australian Human Rights Commissioner, Chris Sidoti called for new laws to ensure gay equality on March 5.

"Australia's international human-rights commitments require Australia to take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination, including discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and transgender identity," he said.

"Full civil rights ... are not granted or created. They are entitlements arising from our common humanity and inherent dignity. By failing to properly address ongoing discrimination we not only contradict Australia's national ethos of a fair-go, but also fail to meet our international human rights obligations."

Two problems, Sidoti said, are Tasmania's ban on gay sex (punishable with 25 years in prison) and variations in the other states' age of consent for gay sex — from 16 to 21.

## 'Supergay' Zaps PAN

SuperGay, along with SuperEcologist and SuperBarrio, zapped the Mexico City offices of the conservative National Action Party (PAN) on March 3. Wearing a rainbow mask, a black sequined cape, tight shorts and extravagant glasses, SuperGay slapped a "Closed" sticker on PAN's front gate.

"I am here to fight for the rights of gay citizens," he declared.

The other two superheroes represented environmental and urban-neighborhood concerns. PAN, the most conservative of Mexico's three main parties, has a so-called "family values" bent.

In some cities where the party has come into power, it has closed gay clubs and harassed homosexuals. But in other PAN cities, such as Tijuana and Mexicali in Baja California, there have been no problems. The less-conservative but more-corrupt Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI) still controls most Mexican cities, but PAN has gained on PRI in every recent election.

## Brazilian Catholic Church Blasts Partners Measure

Brazil's Catholic church has declared war on the gay partnership measure moving through parliament. The head of the National Bishops Conference announced in late February that the bill is immoral and violates God's law, and he promised a fight.

Brazilian gay activists said the Pope may be behind the sudden hostility to the measure, which passed a Senate committee in December by a vote of 11-5.

The plan grants homosexual couples spousal rights in the areas of property, inheritance, pensions, health benefits, loans, taxation and immigration. Adoption rights would be withheld.

## Dutch Railways Equalizes Gays

Dutch Railways (Nederlandse Spoorwegan) has granted gay employees' families foreign-travel benefits. Employees' spouses and children receive a certain amount of free foreign travel each year and a 50% discount on other foreign tickets.

The move follows rulings from the Dutch Equal Treatment Commission and a judge in favor of the benefits. At first, the rail line announced plans to contest the rulings but then said it had changed its mind. For the time being, gay family tickets for foreign travel will be paid for out of Dutch Railways' own pocket since international agreements among train companies do not recognize queer families.

MAY 2, 3 & 4, 1997  
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BY UMBERTO GIORDANO

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**OPERA**  
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## Calgary Schools to Protect Gay Students

The Calgary, Alberta, School Board voted Feb. 25 to make life easier for gay students, reported the CBC. Schools will offer counselling for students struggling with sexuality issues — with or without parental consent. They also will let gay support groups advertise public-school meetings, and will announce a zero-tolerance policy on anti-gay name-calling, harassment and violence, the CBC said. Some parents objected that the plan gives gays special rights.

## Finnish Partnership Bill Inches Forward

The Finnish Parliament's Law Committee began study Feb. 27 on a registered-partnership measure, reports correspondent Hannele Lehtikuusi.

A day later the committee issued a request for comments from academics, religious leaders and gay activists. When it finally passes, the law likely will mirror the "gay marriage" statutes in Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, which grant every right of matrimony except access to adoption, church weddings and artificial-conception services.

## New Anti-gay Campaign In Zimbabwe

Gays and lesbians in Zimbabwe describe an advertisement that appeared in the March 3 issue of Harare's daily newspaper *The Herald* as frightening.

The ad read: "God commands the death of sexual pervers. Our culture and traditional justice system condemns them to death. Our religion condemns them to death. Rape, incest, and homosexual victims want the sexual molesters to die. Why does the law condone these evils and save sexual pervers from death?"

The ad invited the public to a meeting "to debate ... enactment of laws that will protect the sexual victims and prescribe effective punishment for the culprits." Committees will be set up "to mobilise Zimbabweans against sexual pervers," the ad said.

"Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ)

is appalled at the hate propaganda targeting homosexuals published by Dr. Michael Mawema in *The Herald*," the nation's only gay group responded in a press release. "For Mr. Mawema to include homosexuality in activities that do not respect consent is both destructive and ill-informed."

GALZ urged activists to write Mawema at 2 Dan Judson Road, Milton Park, Harare, Zimbabwe. Phone: 011-263-4-740983. Letters are also urged to *The Herald*, P.O. Box 396, Harare, Zimbabwe. Fax: 011-263-4-791311.

The ad followed by one week allegations that former Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana forced a policeman aide to have sex with him from 1983-1986.

The allegations surfaced as the policeman was sentenced for murdering a fellow cop who allegedly had teased him about the relationship with Banana. Zimbabwe also is in the midst of a two-year anti-gay campaign by current President Robert Mugabe who has called homosexuals "repugnant to my human conscience ... immoral and repulsive."

He has declared gay sex "an abomination" and "sub-animal behavior" and urged citizens to "hand [gays] over to the police."

"I don't believe they have any rights at all," Mugabe declared in 1995.

## Thousands At Aussie Mardi Gras

More than half a million people partied down at Sydney, Australia's March 1 gay Mardi Gras, one of the two or three largest recurring gay events in the world. A record 200 floats joined the parade which capped a month of gay-pride events.

Memorable contingents included male brides in g-strings, skating nuns, a large pack of furry bears, a float of 50 Madonnas (the singer not the Virgin), and real-life flight attendants performing a dance version of the airline safety spiel. Mardi Gras pumps \$40 million a year into the local economy, a recent survey found.

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# Simply Divine

Editor's Note: It was announced last year at this time that Bette Midler would be the honorary chairperson of last fall's AIDS Walk Wisconsin. We immediately set the wheels in motion to obtain an interview. Unfortunately, while in Milwaukee, Bette maintained a strict press black-out, no interviews of any kind were granted. But we never gave up. One year later, we are pleased to report that we are finally able to bring you an exclusive Q•Voice interview with The Divine Miss M. She talks about her tremendous talent, her upcoming movie and her experience at last year's highly successful AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

**M**

ith thousands of actors, starring in hundreds of new movies each year, it would seem unlikely that more than a handful would find a broad, vast audience.

It is apparent though that Bette Midler can cheer up and put a smile on the face of anyone, whether they are young or old, black or white, male or female, straight or gay.

It was with great anticipation that I flew to LA to interview the star I first came to know and love as a teen, after witnessing her uproarious and genius comedic performances in 'Down and Out in Beverly Hills' and 'Ruthless People.'

The past few months have been especially good to Midler. She starred in the \$100 million mega hit, 'The First Wives Club,' appeared in her own HBO special, live from Las Vegas, completed another comedy, 'That Old Feeling,' which we talked about in great detail, and is also featured on an upcoming *Lifetime Television: Intimate Portrait*.

Not bad for a fifty-one year old woman.

Part of what makes Midler so appealing is her ceaseless spark and spunk. She walked into the Beverly Hill's Four Seasons hotel suite around 9:00 a.m. looking around, wearing a black blouse covered with a brown spring jacket, her blonde hair looking better than ever. "Hello," she said, in her combination raspy/cartoonish voice. "Is there a muffin back there?" she asked pointing to a table covered with

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**"One more thing I want to do  
before I die ... is to become a diva!"**

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Exclusive Q•Voice Interview by Tim Nasson



coffee pots and cups. "I'll be right back," she said, not finding what she was looking for. "I've got to get a muffin."

Returning with a plate of food; watermelon and orange slices — and a muffin, she sat down and began to talk about her spectacular career and life which includes her husband of twelve years and ten year old daughter.

First and foremost on Bette's mind that morning was the fabulous role of movie star Lilly she has in Carl Reiner's new film 'That Old Feeling'.

The story of 'That Old Feeling' is simple. Or is it?

Movie star Lilly (Midler) and journalist Dan (Dennis Farina) have been happily divorced for 12 years. Everyone, especially their daughter Molly (Paula Marshall), would like it to stay that way. But when Molly's boyfriend Keith (Jamie Denton) proposes marriage and insists on a large traditional family wedding, nothing short of a natural disas-

they discover in the midst of a knock-down, drag-out fight at the wedding reception that they still share an inexplicable, uncontrollable passion for each other.

"It was such a pleasure to be able to work with such a comic genius," she said of Reiner. Something that almost everyone who has worked with Midler has said about her as well. "Directors usually want to do their own thing and do not want any input from the cast. Carl is different he would listen and take everything into consideration that came his way."

He didn't take all of the suggestions that came his way, however. "My favorite line in the film got cut out," says Midler, with an audible gasp. "It was 'My tits killed your mother?' Although it is a hilarious line, Carl thought it would detract from the scene, so it is on the cutting room floor."

When one interviews the Divine Miss M, one must find out where

---

**"A great movie career. A great singing career. A great husband.  
A great daughter. I have lived the life I dreamed of."**

---

ter is going to keep Molly's parents from coming. Even though they swear to behave, everyone braces themselves for the inevitable — after all, Lilly and Dan hate each other with nuclear capacity.

So no one is more surprised than Lilly and Dan themselves when

the nickname came from. "The first night I was at the Continental Baths (a gay bath house in NYC during the early 1970's, for those of you who don't know) the owner asked me 'how do you want to be introduced?' and I said 'tell them I'm divine.' And he heard my hairdresser call me "Miss M", he had heard that was kind of my nickname, and he announces '... and now "The Divine Miss M" ' — and there she was."

With all of her success, Midler has never forgotten where her roots were planted and where she got her big break. If it were not for the gay bath house in NYC, she would not be The Divine Miss M.

On September 22nd of last year, Miss M took Wisconsin by storm, leading the AIDS Walk Wisconsin, which raised a reported \$1 million for AIDS Services throughout the state.

"I was very glad to be able to help out," says Midler of her participation in the AIDS Walk.

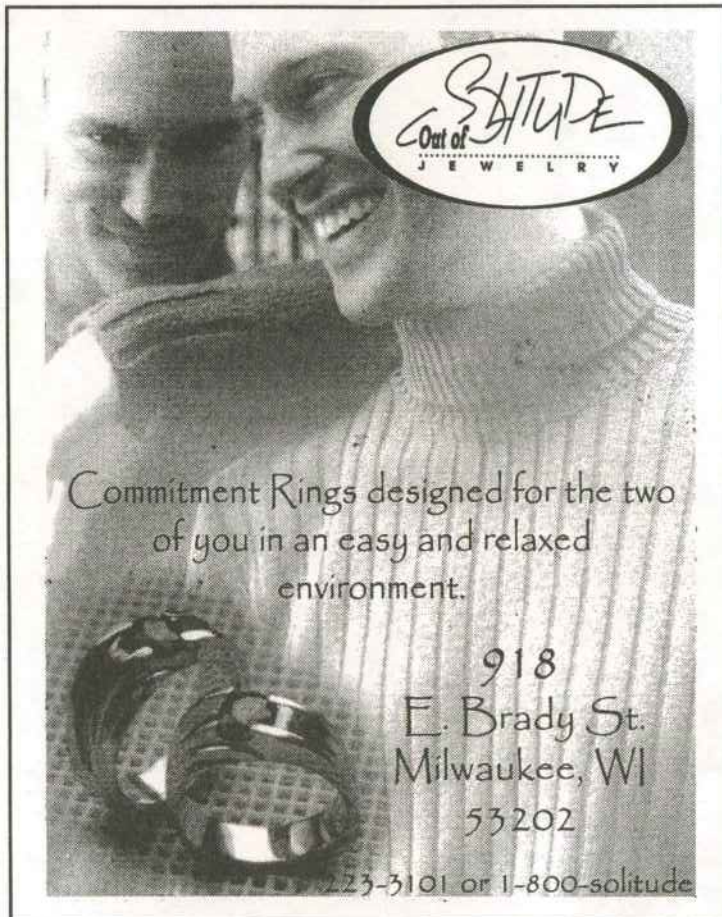
Bette and her daughter Sophie, charmed Wisconsin with her big smile flashing, bright green suit and good humor.

"It was alot of fun. A great afternoon," she said of the Walk.

Since all of the bathhouses are closed, Midler chose the next best thing for an impromptu show last year as well. At NYC's gay bar Champs, she belted out a few of her own and the customer's favorite tunes. She certainly knows who some of her biggest fans are and is glad to be able to pay them back.

In addition to her astonishing film career which has netted her two Academy Award nominations, one for her 1979 motion picture debut in 'The Rose' and the other for the 1991 film 'For the Boys', Midler has won four Grammys, two Emmys and four Golden Globe Awards.

Midler, born in Hawaii right after World War II, on December 1, 1945, grew up with two sisters - all three named for movie stars. "Growing up in Hawaii amidst an odd mixture of Hawaiians, Americans, Japanese, Samoans, Filipinos and Chinese, lent itself to a carnival like setting of sailors, strippers, gamblers and drifters." It



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seemed that Midler was destined to become a true original.

Her big break came when she was offered the part of Tzeitel in Broadway's 'Fiddler on the Roof'.

"When I turned 50 I took stock and looked back on my career. I consider myself very lucky. How many women can say they have had it all? A great movie career. A great singing career. A great husband. A great daughter. I have lived the life I dreamed of."

She has a little bit of advice for keeping a marriage together for as long as she has. Twelve years and counting. "Separate vacations," she says with a howl, "is the secret to our successful marriage. My husband and I still do not completely know each other. Commitment and trust are also key."

She recalls, with almost a tear in her eye, the most romantic thing that has happened to her thus far in her life. "My fiftieth birthday occurred during the filming of 'The First Wives Club' in NYC. It was the snowiest winter on record. But my husband had the roof of the hotel done up to look like a Hawaiian island, with dancers and all the tropical stuff one could think of. It was very touching. What a way to enter the second half of the century mark."

There are other moments of her life that she relishes. Among them? "Johnnie Carson's farewell show was a highlight in my life. He was always so good to me, but to choose *me* as his final guest. What a privilege."

In addition to acting, Midler also sings in 'That Old Feeling.' She sings 'Somewhere Along the Way' to the tune of Tommy Flanagan's

piano playing.

"I really didn't want to sing in this movie," she says laughing. "I was lobbying for 'My tits killed your mother?'"

"I don't want to fall of the stage so I think I might retire to Hawaii soon. Make room for all the young people who can fill my shoes," she says with all sincerity.

That won't be before she takes on the lead role in the film version of 'Green Acres'.

Bette may be as down to earth as the lady next door, but certainly lets no one in on the secret when performing on stage or in front of a camera. "My favorite things in life are things that people take for granted. Food. (She laughs, although she looks wonderful and has lost a lot of weight.) Flowers. And being in a room full of fun people. The thing that may surprise people the most about me though, is that I do my own dishes."

One can catch Midler in her newest act in 'That Old Feeling' which opens in theaters April 4. One can also catch a glimpse of the personal side of her on Lifetime television both March 30 and April 3 at 10 pm.

"One more thing I want to do before I die," says Midler getting up, ready to do another interview. "Is to become a diva I guess to become a diva though, you have to talk really loud."

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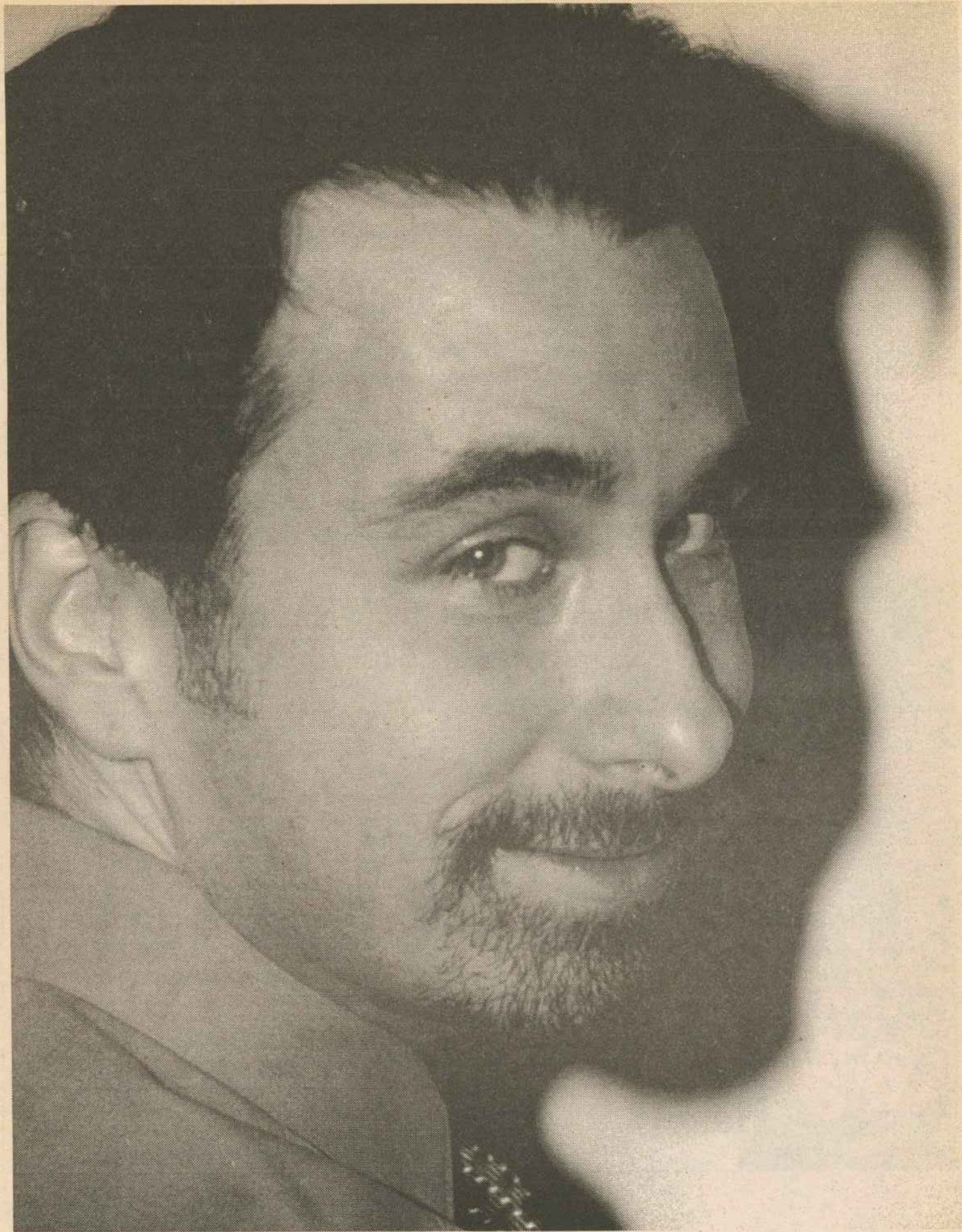
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# New Kid

DT: We have two fairly big acts coming in. Those are Bjorn Again and Lea Deleria. I believe that they will both be performing on Saturday evening. However, Joan Clark, who's the Entertainment Coordinator would probably know the exact particulars.

**WA: How is PrideFest going? It seems that PrideFest is more organized this year.**  
DT: Last year, when I got brought into the fold, it was at the eleventh hour, and I had six weeks to get things done. This year, I've had a little bit more time to plan, and we've definitely raised the bar a little bit this year.

**WA: How have you done that?**  
DT: We're coming out with a four-color brochure in the next few weeks; that's three months before the festival. The Pride Guide should be a little bit nicer this year in direction and format. I think that due to a higher profile and the better relationships we have with Milwaukee World Festivals and the many agencies that have helped us get where we are, we have a lot of support in the community. There's been a lot of criticism, but there's been a lot of support as well.

**WA: How do you deal with the criticism? How does the Board deal with the criticism?**  
DT: How does the Board Deal with it? Well ... some better than others. I'm a businessman and I'm doing a job, so I don't take the criticisms to heart. In fact, I just received something that could have thrown me into a tizzy and it didn't. I'm doing my job, I'm doing it for this organization ... and I do it for free, for PrideFest.

**WA: Have you been surprised at the amount of politics that's involved in an organization like PrideFest—or, is it just from the community in general?**  
DT: I think it's the community in general. It's not so much PrideFest; we do a fine job internally. The Executive Board is extremely cohesive; there hasn't been any squabbling or power plays or anything like that. That's not the direction we want to go in. That's a really good thing; I have a great working relationship with all the other Board members. I do as much as I can; I pretty much service the board. When they want me to do something, I do it. If I have a plan, I bring it to them and if it's yea or nay, great. If they say, "No, we don't like the plan," I don't take it to heart.

**WA: What can people look for at PrideFest that will be different from last year?**

**names announced?**  
DT: I doubt it. There could be a couple of political people that we might get.

**WA: I know you're not in the news department, but do you think we're going to see better coverage of gay and lesbian news on local television?**

DT: I think that ... CBS 58 has always been very rounded. I'm not the only gay employee at the company, and I think I made a fairly good statement [about being gay] without trying to make one at WITI.

*At 27, Milwaukee's David Todd is a veteran in Milwaukee broadcasting. He worked behind the scenes for several years at Channel 6 and earlier this year won a plumb position as Promotion Manager for Milwaukee's fledgling CBS affiliate, Channel 58. Todd volunteers his services as the Marketing Director and Secretary for PrideFest, Wisconsin's gay and lesbian pride celebration. On a sunny Saturday afternoon, Todd visited the Q•Voice World Headquarters for a discussion about Pridefest, Milwaukee broadcasting and gay weathermen.*

**Interview by William Attewell  
Photos by Jorge L. Cabal**

I was very impressed last year by the coverage of PrideFest. All four major stations: Fox, CBS, ABC and NBC were down there. Fox was down there three days, ABC and NBC were down there two days and CBS only had week day news then, so they were down there on Friday.

There was a lot of positive coverage and, because I am in the business, I knew most of the people. Whether or not that lent a comfort level to them, I don't know; I would hope so. I don't think that would be the only reason. People really, really came out, and did positive stories on it.

The other story was: "It's raining all over town and you're the only festival that's got any people to go there." The rain killed River Splash, which is canceled this year — I think. There were a couple of other ones that were canceled last year. We did amazingly well — nearly 10,000 people for the three days.

As far as other coverage, the sensitivity is there, and the importance is there. Especially

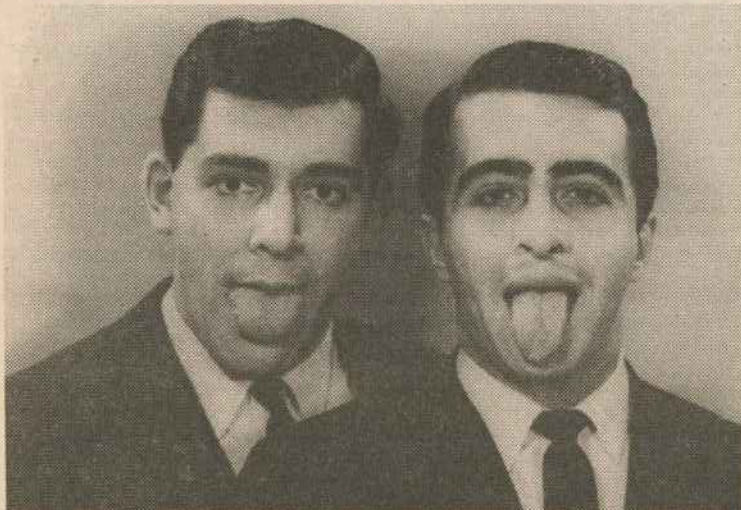
with gay marriage being in the media, and all the politics that are happening during the presidential year where Republicans have tried to label that a "Democrat" thing, and Democrats have tried to label it a "non-issue" thing. It had its merits and while it was newsworthy. I

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think it was covered well by at least WITI and WDJT. I don't watch other stations, so I don't know what they're doing.

**WA: Really?**

DT: No, I'm a loyalist. I never watch Channel 12 and I never watch Channel 4. On occasion I will watch Channel 6 because I have friends there.

**WA: "I Have a Friend at TV6," isn't that how that goes?**

DT: (laughter) No, it's "Friends You Can Count On." How far can you turn your back on a friend? (laughter) I do click over there on occasion, but I'm a company guy. It really just doesn't ever occur to me to check out what the other guys are doing. On occasion for competitive reasons I will, but I really don't watch the other stations.

**WA: What's the deal with the gay weather men in this town?**

DT: (laughter) I don't know. It's not like any of them are that cute either (more laughter). I just don't know; isn't that kind of a weird thing? I know of one that's confirmed — on the record. There are a couple of others who are not confirmed. I can't give you rhyme or reason for it — it's a heavy, heavy math thing — it's not liberal arts or fun stuff, so I don't know.

**WA: How are you finding the job at Channel 58? That's a pretty big position over there.**

DT: Yes, it's a big position, but I learned from the best. The boss that I had at WITI is a wonderful woman; we're still very good friends, but now we're competitors. There's been a little change in the friendship.

It was a big change [going to Channel 58]. I report directly to the Corporate Office in Chicago. It's a huge undertaking because the station is at a growing point and a changing point. I seem to come into organizations when they're in a state of change. I like the challenge and I like the amount of involvement. There's a lot of involvement with this job; some days it's a nine-hour-a-day job, some days it's a sixteen-hour-a-day job and many, many times it's a weekend job.

**WA: Many people would be surprised to learn how much of a business broadcasting really is. How do you deal with the business aspect of it?**

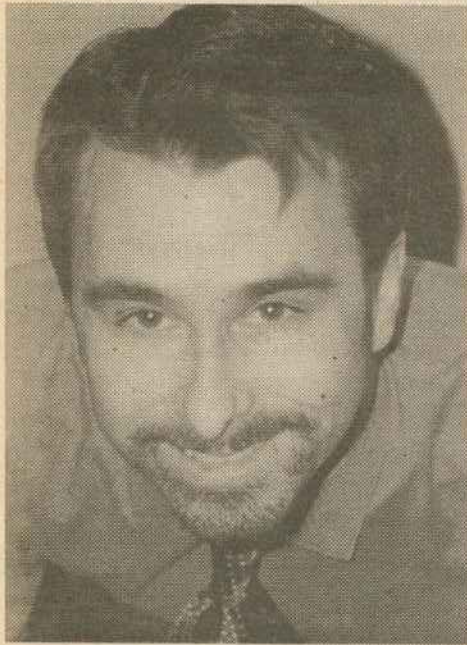
DT: Of television? For a long time I didn't deal with it very well. I started out — I was hired at Channel 12 when I was still in college — I didn't even have my degree yet, as a producer. I've worked for seven years — coming up on eight — in Milwaukee broadcasting and there has been an enormous amount of change in that time.

When I was at Channel 12, everything was going through down-sizing and I went to Channel 18 and was laid off due to down-sizing. Now, everything is growing; there are more operations, there are bigger operations, there are more television stations. It can be very, very stressful if you can't keep up with it.

Luckily at some point—I don't know if it was my own maturity or a certain amount of therapy—I just learned to say, "That's the job and you don't take the hits to heart," and, "You don't take the successes to heart either." There's no

room for a big head or vanity when you're trying to get the work done—it just gets in the way.

Very recently — because of my new position — someone said, "Just look at you. Isn't this just amazing?" And I said, "Yeah, for where I've been, but I'm too busy to think



about it that way." I look at my contemporaries and think of what they're doing as equally amazing ... or more! A friend of mine is a radio disc jockey in the mornings — she's two-years younger than I am. I said, "God, this is incredible, you're this famous personality on radio," and she said, "Look at yourself."

**WA: Does it concern PrideFest organizers that if there is good weather, the festival could be swamped with people?**

DT: Yes, but I don't have as much involvement this year with the operation of the actual festival as I did last year. Last year I was in charge of the entertainment and media. One of the operations managers at SummerFest — after the first night — said, "You might want to think about getting an assistant." I was running to all the stages and I was greeting media and I was taking photographers around; everyone from the *Journal-Sentinel* to this and that, to TV stations. It was a bit of a run around.

This year we have a bigger staff, we have more people volunteering, we have more of the areas broken down so it's more ambleable. Everybody has a small area to cover, instead of just one person having a huge area to cover. I

think we're prepared for the good weather. There's this theory that PrideFest has a sunny year and a rainy year and we're due for a sunny year.

**WA: With all the gay weather men in town, you'd think they could guarantee some good weather.**

DT: You'd think so; they'll have to pray to the gay weather god (laughter).

**WA: What do you think that people would be sur-**

**prised to learn about you?**

DT: Whenever I talk with a lot of my friends about my involvement in the community, they are surprised to know how much I do. I am currently doing public relations for Survival/Revival. I just got New Rock 102 as a sponsor for the event, which is the first time

Continued on page 46



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**“Intimate Portrait: Bette Midler”  
Narrated by Barbara Hershey on  
Lifetime Television**

**New York** — She is described as a lionhearted original; a comedic genius with a gift for song and an appetite to perform. Yet as “Intimate Portrait: Bette Midler”-premiering Sunday, March 30 from 10-11 p.m. ET/PT on Lifetime Television-points out, “The Divine Miss M” did not have such divine genesis.

Bette was born in Honolulu on December 1, 1945. Her father, Fred, had moved there to paint houses for the Navy with his wife, Ruth, and Bette’s older sisters, Susan and Judy. Bette grew up in Hawaii after World War II, amid a rummy mixture of Hawaiians, American, Japanese, Samoans, Filipinos and Chinese; a carnival like scenery of sailors, strippers, gamblers and drifters. Bette’s emotionally lean home became leaner when her brother Danny was born with a severe mental disability. From then on, Danny’s needs came first, and the rest of the family had to abide. That is when Bette commenced to lay the psychological foundation for acquiring the love and affection she needed. Bette Midler ascertained what every entertainer lives for-applause!

Perchance it wasn’t a fluke that Bette’s mother, a nurturing and idealistic woman in strong contrast to her disheartening husband, named her three daughters after movie stars. Susan was named after actress Susan Hayward, Judy for Judy Garland, and Bette for Bette Davis. Little did Bette’s mother know that Bette Davis pronounced her name “Betty,” not “Bet.”

At the age of 19, Bette was cast as an extra in the film “Hawaii.” This serendipitous turn of events brought her to Los Angeles, and Bette never looked back. After filming completed in L.A., she moved to New York, and after a year of odd jobs and auditioning, Bette was cast in the chorus of the hottest Broadway musical of 1966, “Fiddler on the Roof.” Within months she sang her way out of the chorus to the featured role of the eldest daughter “Tzeitel.” Bette Midler was enroute to stardom.

One evening, ending up by chance at an open-mike night, Bette took the stage and crooned “God Bless the Child.” Her raw talent and charisma had the room mesmerized. “The Divine Miss M” was conceived. Then tragedy struck. Bette’s older sister Judy came to New York to see her on Broadway. While walking to meet her after a performance, Judy was hit by a car and killed. From this terrible pain, Bette’s puissance and determination were further developed. She desried a most unusual place to stage her act, The Continental Baths, exclusively for gay men. Her act included a back-up band with a young piano player named Barry Manilow. It was here that Bette created the persona that became her immortal trademark.

By 1972, Bette had a record contract with Atlantic Records, a world



tour, and Grammy nominations. Her first album, “The Divine Miss M,” went platinum. A few years later, she was offered the lead in the feature film, “The Rose,” based on the life of singer Janis Joplin. “The Rose” earned Bette both Oscar nomination and a Golden Globe Award. Her next film, “Jinxed,” was a disappointment. Bette focused more on her personal life. She met and married Martin von Haselberg. They were perfect for each other. Behind his debonair facade lurked the crazy over-the-top antics of his stage act.

After three years of refocusing her life, Bette was offered a role in the film, “Down and Out in Beverly Hills,” which became a smash hit, and was followed by a string of other Disney hits. Bette then formed her own company, All Girl Productions with friend Bonnie Bruckheimer. Bette Midler’s proudest accomplishment is her daughter Sophie.

Ms. Midler is an outspoken advocate for many charities and causes, from AIDS to cleaning up the City of New York.

At the age of 50, Bette Midler had one of the biggest hits of her career, “The First Wives Club,” and recently completed a critically-acclaimed Las Vegas stage show for HBO.

Her latest film is a romantic comedy entitled “That Old Feeling.” “Intimate Portrait: Bette Midler,” includes commentaries by Bette’s husband, Atlantic Records co-chairman Ahmet Ertegun, three of her former back-up singers, “The Harlettes,” music arranger Marc Shaiman, director Carl Reiner among others. “Intimate Portrait: Bette

Midler" is produced by Gay Rosenthal Productions. Executive Producer of the "Intimate Portrait" series for LIFETIME Television is Rosemary Sykes.

## Showtime to Feature "The Twilight of the Golds"

**New York** — The question raised: ten fingers, ten toes and homosexual, would you keep it? A film that premiered on Showtime in March that is certainly worth waiting for the next showing is "The Twilight of the Golds." Jennifer Beals, Faye Dunaway, Brendan Fraser, Garry Marshall, Jon Tenney, and Rosie O'Donnell are the all-star cast of "The Twilight of the Golds," a Showtime Original Picture. A produc-

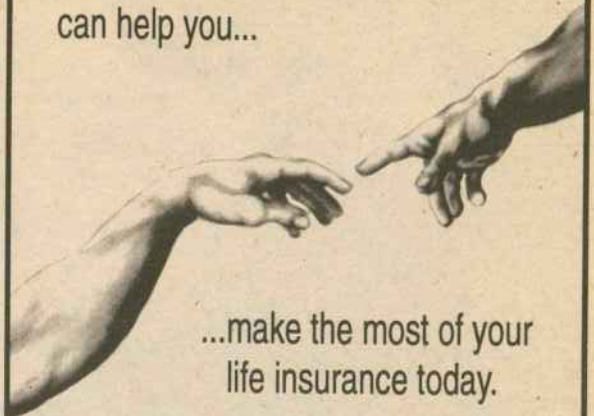


tion of Showtime in association with Regent Entertainment, Below the Belt Productions and Hallmark Entertainment, the film is directed by Ross Marks from a screenplay by Jonathan Tolins and Seth E. Bass and based on a play of the same name by Tolins. Paul Colichman, John Davimos and Mark Harris serve as producers. Gary Marshall is the executive producer. The film was featured at this year's Sundance Film Festival in January.

Suzanne Stein (Beals), the daughter of Walter (Marshall) and Phyllis (Dunaway) Gold, is carrying a male child who has been determined to have the possible genetic makeup for homosexuality, like Suzanne's brother David (Fraser). This brings the Golds' true feelings about their son's sexual orientation to the surface as well as creates tension between Suzanne and her husband Rob (Tenney). The film reaches a climactic end when Suzanne makes a decision that could change everyone's life forever.

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Dancers: l-r Gordon Reistad, Robert Nehring, Kathleen Moore, Betty Salamuna from Dancecircus. Photo: David HB Drake.

## Dancecircus Slated to Perform "Sticks and Bones: Journeys of the Barefoot Sole"

**Milwaukee** — A program of fresh and repertoire dance acts performed by Betty Salamun's Dancecircus with percussionist Carl Storniolo will be performed at the new Wisconsin Lutheran College Concert Hall. The concert will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Wisconsin Lutheran College. Tickets are \$12 and \$8, and can be obtained by calling (414) 443-8802 or (414) 481-4324.

Carl Storniolo, who performs with two local groups, "dredbeat," a calypso-raggae band and "Pangrea," a steel drum group, will compose and perform for two of the dances as well as a solo percussion work on varied toned percussion instruments.

Betty Salamun and Carl Storniolo's collaboration evolved from Salamun's dream of fire sparking into stars and a nebula taking flight as a bird. The dream-time journey of the swan from Native American totem imagery and Storniolo's fusion of classical, jazz, African and calypso-raggae will give "wing" to a Surrealist "Swan Song."

Marion Lang, writer and director of the Greenwood Players in Menomonie, has written an ineffable monologue on the burden of "carrying" a company of players. Salamun's rock-like burden is a very, very large chunk of styrofoam.

"Driftless," a new work by Salamun; influenced by her Croatian heritage, explores the cultural disintegration of the former Yugoslavia. Changing the dancers roles, distorting relationships and fragmenting movements creates a journey propelled by music from Croatian, Serbian and Muslim traditions.

Repertoire includes "Pictures" by Bob Eisen, an athletic and challenging dance performed in silence. Isthmus in Madison delineates "Pictures" as "fast, hearty, damn funny and damn smart ... cart-wheeling, stomping and breathing like mad, the dancers create an audible rhythm with their bodies."

Lisa Moberly performs "Stone and Light," based on Maggie Perry's poem of enduring

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memory. The first act closes with Karen Steele's Fire. Originally choreographed as a solo, the work is being performed as a trio by Georgeanne Bartlett, Gordon Reistad and Betty Salamun to a score by Carl Stornio.

## Alverno Presents the Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet

Milwaukee — The superb jazz of the Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet will be heard on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, in Alverno College's Wehr Hall, 41st and Morgan Avenue. The performance com-



mences at 8 p.m. For ticket information call (414) 382-6044.

The Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet is an all-female saxophone quartet plus drummer, based in Seattle. The band chose its name to pay tribute to big band saxophonist Billy Tipton, who, it was discovered postmortem, was a woman who lived as a man for 50 years. Many believe this allowed Tipton to pursue a career in the male-dominated world of jazz.

All of the Tiptons share in composing and arranging. With a repertoire that ranges from New Orleans jump groove to hip hop, punk to Eastern European klezmer and beyond, Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet creates some of the wildest sounds ever to come out

of a saxophone quartet. The high-energy interaction between band members creates a memorable live performance. *The Seattle Times* says of the quartet, "The best thing about the Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet is that you never know what you're getting. From Led Zeppelin to klezmer music to a concerto for bus horns and saxophones, the Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet are happily not what you'd expect."

## Lawrence Foster Conducts the Civic Orchestra of Chicago with Soprano Nancy Pifer

Chicago — Guest conductor Lawrence Foster will lead the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in a performance on Wednesday, April 9 at 8 p.m. in Orchestra Hall. One of the most highly acclaimed American conductors in Europe, Mr. Foster will conduct the Orchestra in Gerhard's Concerto for Orchestra and Beethoven's "Incidental Music" to "Egmont" featuring soprano Nancy Pifer and Mervon Mehta as the narrator.

For the second consecutive year, Lawrence Foster, in town to conduct Chicago Symphony



Orchestra subscription concerts, will lead the Civic in one of the orchestra's eight concerts this season. Mr. Foster, who became Music Director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and National Orchestra of Catalunya with the start of the 1996-97 sea-

son, has also served in recent years as Music Director of the Monte Carlo Philharmonic and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and as Principle Conductor of the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra.

Soprano Nancy Pifer, a frequent performer with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, sang the role of "Schleppträgerin" in Daniel Barenboim's production of Richard Strauss's "Elektra." Most recently, Miss Pifer appeared with the Chicago Symphony at the Ravinia



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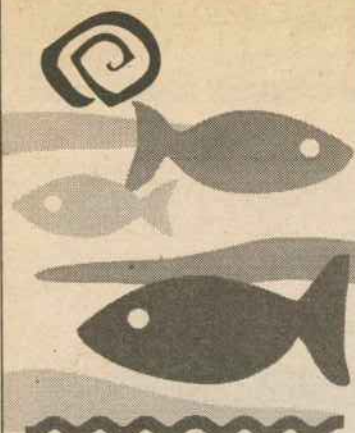


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Festival as the soloist in Schumann's Scenes from Goethe's "Faust." In addition to her CSO performances, Nancy Pifer has performed with several opera companies including Opera! Lenawee, Opera San Benedetto, and the Summer Opera Festival at the University of Chicago.

Mervon Mehta received his training under the late Sanford Meisner in New York and spent the next several years there acting in and directing new plays, appearing on television, and singing on the night club circuit.

## Two New Series by Community Media Project Focus on African Cinema and Youth Media

**Milwaukee** — The Community Media Project at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee presents two series this spring. The first, "Reinventing Africa: The Griot Tradition in Cinema," is presented in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Museum. The series will be screened at the museum, 800 West Wells Street, on April 6-11. Sunday's screening is at 3 p.m., while Monday through Friday, screening will begin at 6 p.m.

The second series, "Youth Visions: Two Nights of Video," will be screened April 18 at 7 p.m. and April 20 at 3 p.m. at the UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. This series will focus on the lives of African American youths as told through their own voices. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call (414) 229-2931.

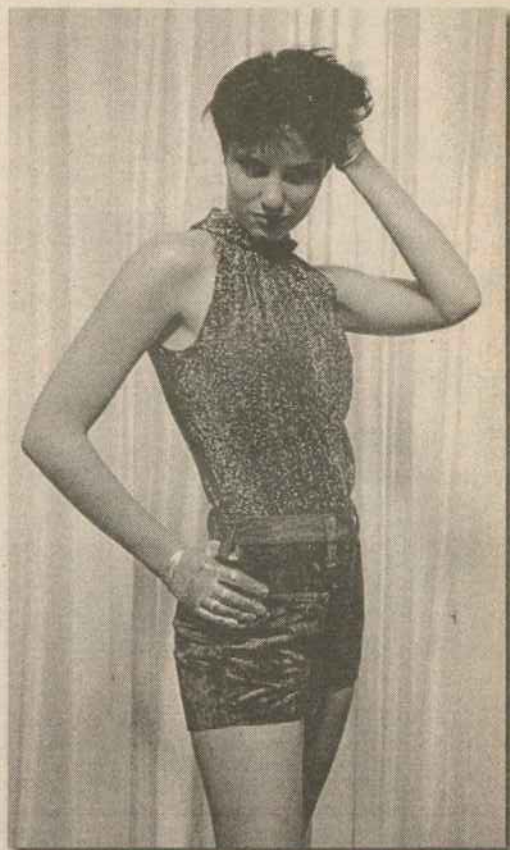
"Reinventing Africa: The Griot Tradition in Cinema" is a week-long series of films and videos that explores the African tradition of retaining heritage, history and cultural truisms through oral storytelling. A "Griot" (pronounced gree-oh) is a French word used in West Africa to designate a cultural historian. A Griot is a revered clan member, male or female, who, before the use of the written word, would memorize the village's significant events. This would ensure that the cultural heritage and lineage of the clan would continue.

The series begins with the film "Guimba," which is set in pre-colonial times and is a cautionary tale about tyranny, and ends with "Don't Hurry Back," which chronicles the present-day journey of an African American woman traveling to the land of her ancestors.

## Street Beat Caters to Slaves of Fashion

**Milwaukee** — Unique fashion, good prices, interesting people. For the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), this combination has a name: Street Beat fashion extravaganza, and it will take place April 5 at 8 p.m. The event is produced by Survival/Revival resale shop, located in the Historic Third Ward, one of the several fundraising programs developed by MAP. Beyond the people who volunteer at the resale shop daily, 16 models, one beauty salon, artists and performers will join the team during the show, all as volunteers.

"Raising money is surely our focus and that



Street Beat model, Nikki Phipps. Photo: Laura Glawe

couldn't be done without dedicated volunteers who believe in the cause. The effort that these people put into making this event fun and successful is phenomenal," said Kathy Fortier, manager of Survival/Revival since its creation, three years ago.

In the last fashion show, in September '96, about 300 people attended raising over \$3,000 in the fight against AIDS.

This spring, Street Beat features the Milwaukee band BLEED, singer Marie Elene and special guest



Kenya Moore, Miss Gay Wisconsin '97; fashion commentary by Sister Cashbox and BJ as the MC. As usual, the fashion show will be divided into three different themes: Garden Variety; Night ware/Nightmare; and Underpants and Beyond. During the event, the public can win prizes offered by both Beauty Salon and The Skin Institute and Day Spa, donating hair styling and makeup for the models.

"We are happy and grateful to say that with every fashion show we can see the event increasing significantly in terms of participation of the community. It means more people are involved with MAP and its goals," emphasized Fortier. The Street Beat fashion show will take place at Survival/Revival resale shop and will start at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$6 for students and \$8 for the general public. For more information, call (414) 291-2856.

Located at 246 East Chicago Street, in the Historic Third Ward district, the store offers antiques, clothing, furniture, house ware items, records and CDs, electronics, sporting goods, books and fashion accessories. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call (414) 273-1991/ (800) 359-9272.

—Jorge L. Cabal



Sculpture by Mark Winter and paintings by Valerie J. Christell will be featured at Valenti Art and Design Gallery in Milwaukee. An opening reception for "Images from Elsewhere" will be held Friday, April 4, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 1223 N. Prospect Ave. Gallery Hours are Tues., Thurs., and Friday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Pictured above: sculpture by Mark Winter.

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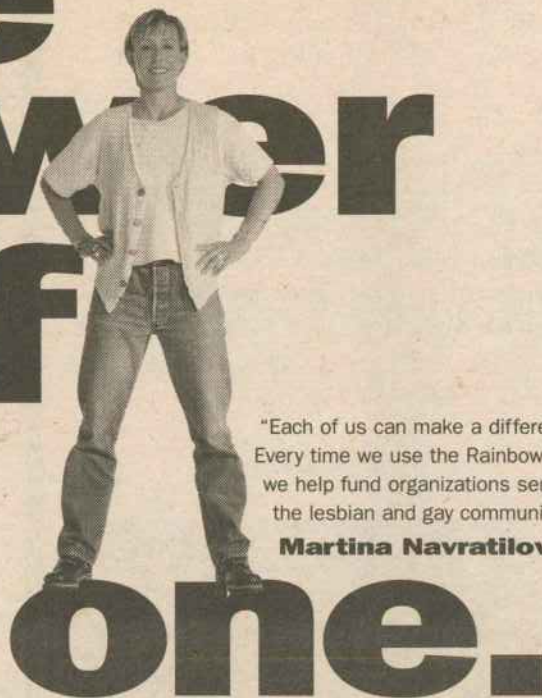
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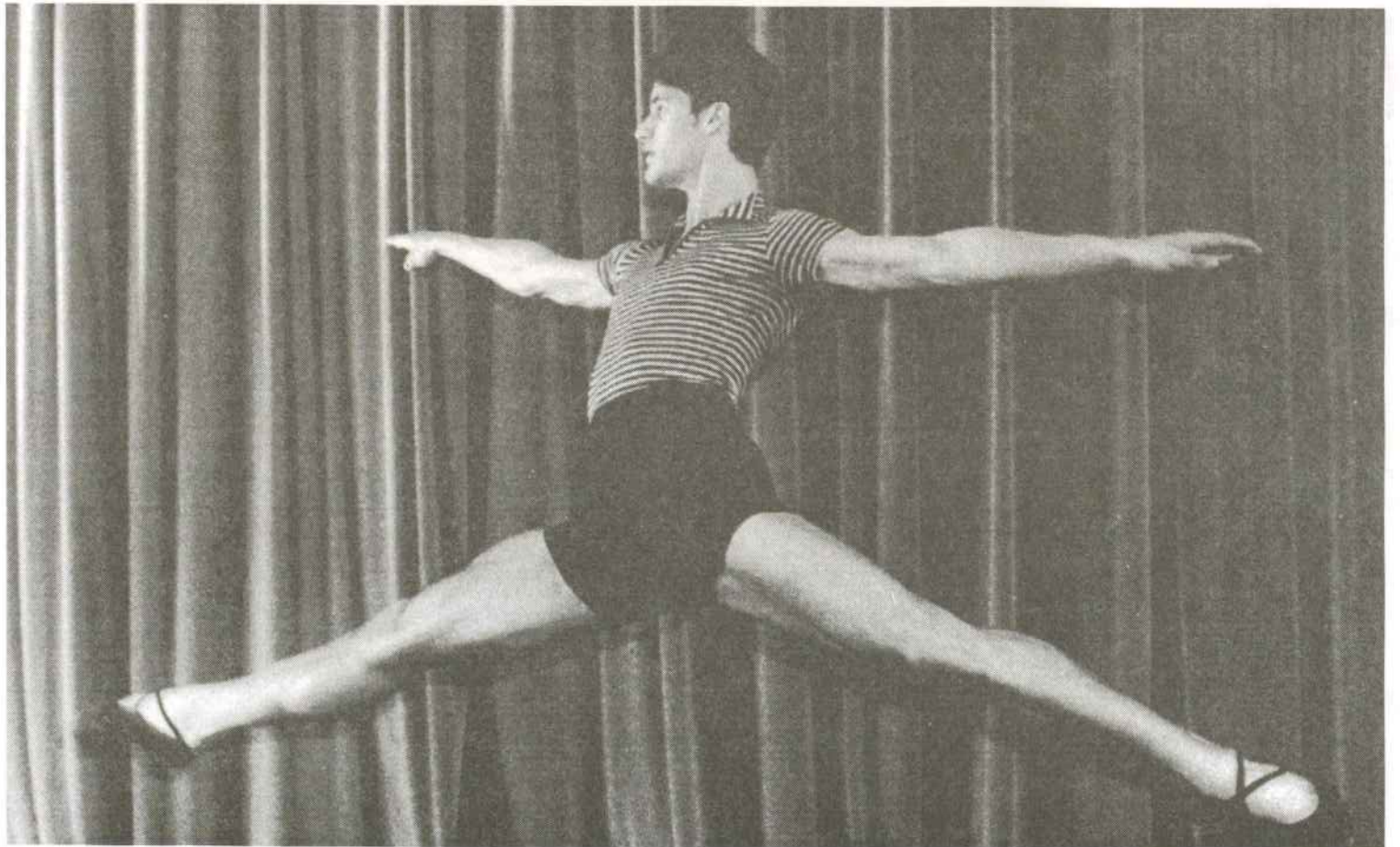
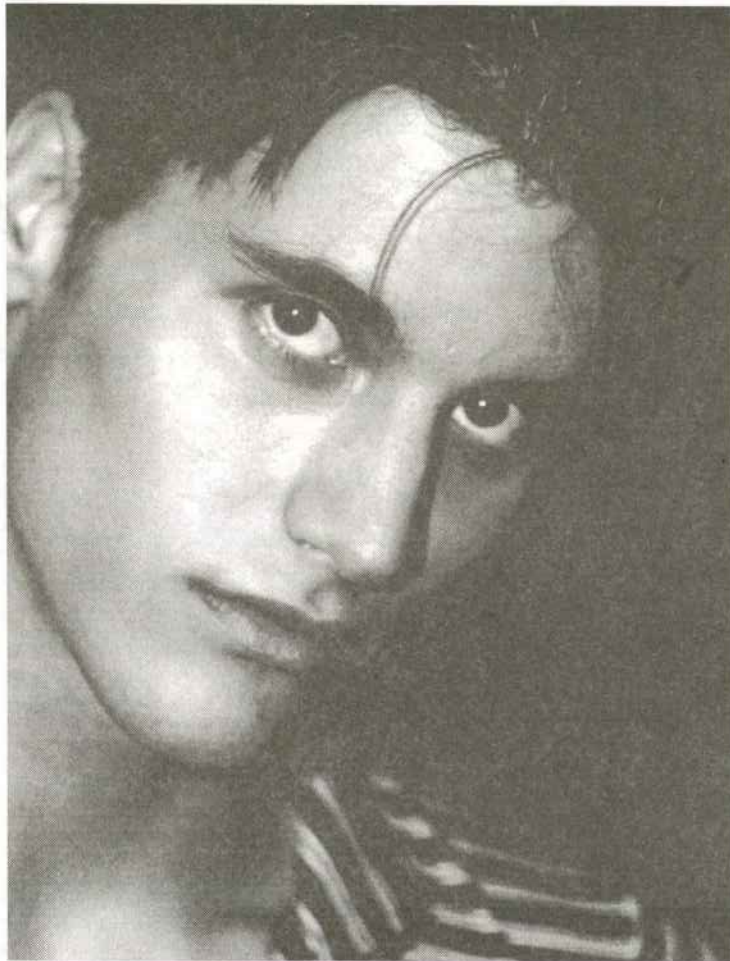


*Et toi, tu dances?*

PHOTOS: JORGE CABAL

DANCERS: JESSICA BIORN, SAMUEL PERGANDE, ROBIN VAN VALLIN  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: YVES DE BOUTEILLER, STYLING: MANUEL KORTRIGHT







Page 27, Yves de Bouteiller, Page 28, Robin VanValin, Page 29, Samuel Pergande, Page 30, Jessica Biorn  
Special thanks to Yves and Et toi, tu dances? a chamber ballet company whose mission is to perform classical repertory, present new works by young choreographers and to educate the community about dance through teaching, touring and community outreach.

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Sometimes teased for being a "Little Miss Sunshine," painter Pat Hidson offers no apologies for her effervescent charm and *joie de vivre*. As an internationally exhibited artist who makes Milwaukee home, Hidson remains a spring-like breath of fresh air.



# Happily Hidson

I am sitting at a white table marked with brilliant splashes of multi-hued paint. A crust of bread sits in a dish that nestles inside yet another dish. There is a coffee mug and a vase holding carnations and roses. A brown pear sleeps alone in a small bowl. Nearby, a protruding black handle threatens to reveal a very large knife. It is all so very Hidson. A still life waiting to be painted.

Across the room two tiny finches flutter and chirp incessantly. Their small cage holds a woven nest of colored yarn and bits of cloth. Pat Hidson herself is flitting about, boiling water and searching for coffee. "I love my birds! I just love them!" she joyfully twitters. Her blue-grey eyes never seem to lose their sparkle. There is a smile on her face that wavers between simple contentment and near laughter.

"First I bought Lily. I was totally in love with her. Then I bought Albert. They were babies. I got them at just that age when they are almost newborn. I remember it was a cold day, and I had Albert carefully tucked away when I brought him



Story & Photo  
by WASWO

home. But I still worried."

Just a year ago I attended a Pat Hidson opening at Milwaukee's Tory Folliard gallery. She stood elegantly in long black dress, with the same radiant smile showering the crowd. The finches were there too: lovingly rendered with iridescent paints on paper. The flowers, the fruits, the cups and dishes — all caught with a flurry of brushwork that paid homage to Matisse. There was not so much a childlike simplicity to the work, but a childlike complexity.

Pat Hidson is pouring me coffee and still talking about birds. "Albert and Lily just totally inspired me. Around the same time a student of mine gave me a wonderful big bird feeder. I keep it in the yard of my home on the East side. I just love to watch birds. The black swan painting behind us is from when I use to go to Vancouver and see them on the ponds. These days almost everything I paint has a bird in it."

Born in Edmonton, Hidson lived in Canada's western province of Alberta until her mid-twenties. At one time she worked on Prince Rupert Island, just below Alaska. She knows British Columbia well, and still dreams of returning to the west.

As a child Hidson was surrounded by art. Her mother worked as a commercial artist, and even her grandmother paint-







ed. She began to draw and paint at age four. Pat took art seriously, starting classes at Edmonton's art museum when she was five.

"At a very young age I started drawing very intently. I drew all the time and still do. There are hundreds of sketchbooks that I've filled. I actually started selling my work and getting press in High School. I was president of the art class and had the run of the art room. I more or less lived in there.

"Then I went to the University of Alberta. Those were the days of the beginning of 'conceptual' art. Everyone was suddenly getting away from the whole notion of traditional art training. I did take classes drawing from the model, but I don't think my teachers were very inspired. They told me that I already knew how to draw and paint, and now I had to come up with *ideas*. Well, I was only seventeen, and I did-

## I FEEL THAT THE ACCOLADES BEING POURED ON SOME OF THE JUNK IN MUSEUMS IS OFTEN A CASE OF THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES, EVERYBODY'S AFRAID TO SAY THAT THEY REALLY DON'T GET IT.

n't think I had that much to say!

"I ended up feeling like I didn't belong in that kind of environment. So I focused on being a dancer and a poet instead."

Hidson had taken ballet classes since she was seven, so it was easy to channel her creative energies along a different path. She found herself immersed in modern dance, performing at the university for the next five years. She also wrote, publishing in school newspapers and the *Edmonton Journal*.

"After college I tried to keep up with my writing and my dancing and still paint. But when I finally focused I realized that a whole lifetime is not enough time to pursue painting. I had to let the other things go."

Since making the commitment to be a full time painter, Pat Hidson

has relentlessly filled paper and canvas. Her productive energy has cluttered the studio with a jumble of tantalizing imagery. As I lean back and sip coffee, I see goldfish and geese, peaches, plums, snails and porcupines.

The paintings are often sectioned into juxtaposed planes of harmonious pattern. They seem to capture a complexity of memories. Elaborate overlapping stories are being told. Hidson weaves visual tales like a painterly *Scheherazade*.

"None of the objects I paint are used just because I like them. They all have a meaning, or an association with a childhood memory. Or they relate to something I've experienced, or would like to experience. We all have a fantasy sort of existence. We all have an inner life going on, even if day by day we live on a much more mundane level.

"When I do objects I tend to repeat the motifs. The patterns have things to do with wallpaper and old bedspreads. The sort of things remembered from places like grandmother's house. I like interiors. I'll remember the textures of old cushions.

"I like the way our environments express who we are. It might be something goofy that inspires me: like a person's home that has duck pillows all around the interior.

"I spent a lot of years doing watercolors. I did a lot of pastels. I did a lot of *plein-air* oil painting. I went out of doors and set up my easel and painted in the natural light. I'd get a model in the backyard or set up a still life. I admit that I now keep photographs on file. Especially of birds. I'll go to Whitnal Park and take pictures of flowers. For about the last ten years I've become strictly a studio painter."

Limited edition silkscreens of Hidson's work have been printed and distributed to galleries and collectors worldwide. She has been collected in Europe and Australia, and exhibits in Canada and throughout the United States. Currently having no less than thirteen separate shows running simultaneously, Hidson is one of Milwaukee's most circulated artists. Her works are on view in places such as Portland and

Kennebunkport, Philadelphia, Houston, San Francisco and Chicago. She is currently showing at the Wustum Museum in Racine, Grace Chosy gallery in Madison, and Tory Folliard gallery in Milwaukee.

"I'm really lucky. People seem to respond to my work. Being in so many galleries I've still managed to keep shipping costs down. The gallery in Florida trucks it down for me. I'm in two galleries in Minnesota: one in Minneapolis and one in St Paul. They do all the framing for me. I can ship unframed work. Framing is also done by the galleries in Maine, and the one in San Francisco.

"As a painter, there really isn't much time to do anything else but paint. I put my painting first before everything else and keep a regular schedule of work. At the end of the day I'm really exhausted. I sometimes procrastinate the business aspect of the career."

The Matisse influence in Hidson's work is so strong that it is one of the first things commented on by viewers. Pat makes no secret that she loves the comparison.

"I went to the big Matisse retrospective in New York. I actually went twice. I just couldn't get over those paintings! He told stories about life with paintings that were just so gorgeous. I really liked his spirit.

## MILWAUKEE SEEMS TO SUFFER FROM A HUMONGOUS INFERIORITY COMPLEX. THERE'S NO REASON FOR IT. BUT A LOT OF MILWAUKEEANS SEEM TO FEEL THAT ART FROM SOMEPLACE ELSE IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN WHAT'S RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSES.

Matisse is translucent.

There's fresh air blowing through his paintings. Looking at them makes you feel like you've just emerged from a cave and into the light.

"I don't like art that's too intellectual. But I do like Rothko. Those paintings are evocative, and I like being next to them. Ellsworth Kelly? Forget it! I'm bored to death!"

"I feel that the accolades being poured on some of the junk in museums is often a case of the 'emperor's new clothes'. Everybody's afraid to say that they really don't get it. But museum curators are making careers on this kind of stuff. They're always looking for something new that they can claim they've discovered. Everyone in the art world ends up getting in line, because no one has the courage to say 'wait a minute, this stuff really sucks!'

"I like the Rahr-West Museum, and the Kohler in Sheboygan. The Wustum Museum in Racine does marvelous shows. But the Milwaukee Art Museum doesn't have any sense of regionalism. It claims to be the largest and best art museum in the state. But it does little to present the real creativity of Wisconsin. There are marvelous artists and craftspeople here. You'd never know it from visiting that museum! In Milwaukee, I much prefer what the Haggerty Museum does.

"I think one reason the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis has attained such glory is that it's not afraid to promote regional art. Minneapolis has a stronger sense of self. Milwaukee seems to suffer from a humongous inferiority complex. There's no reason for it. But a lot of Milwaukeeans seem to feel that art from someplace else is always better than what's right under their noses."

Clouds seem to be moving in off the lake, and the light from huge studio windows begins to fade. There remains a happy glow on Hidson's face. The famous smile still beams. We finish our coffee and I fidget with my camera.

"All my life, when I feel a need to, I'll paint in a dark moody palette. Sometimes that helps me through ... whatever ..."

Hidson breaks for a moment and throws back her hair.

"I'm often teased, even by my husband, that I'm just a 'Little Miss Sunshine.' But hey, I had to fight off terrible depressions when I was young. In my youth I was often suicidal. I was hospitalized twice for depression and nervous breakdown. I had to battle my way through all that.

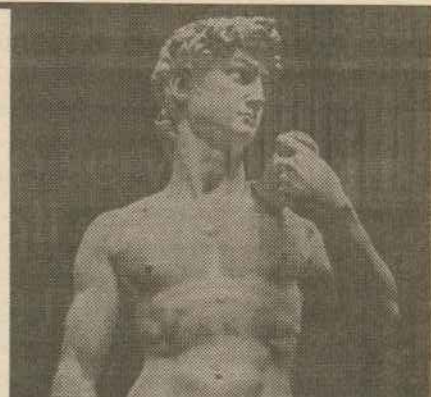
"Eventually I just made myself live on the other side. I want to be part of what makes life great. The nicest compliment is when someone says that they really enjoy my company. I like to be cheerful and have people consider me fun to be with.

"Part of my livelihood is making things that look good behind the couch. Like that still life sitting over there. It's a still life! I don't pre-

tend that it's anything more. And I don't apologize for it! But that doesn't mean that everything I do is meaningless!"

For the first time I detect just a hint of exasperation in Hidson's voice. On the brightest and clearest of days the artist still struggles to be understood. It is good to remember that spring is defined by both sun and rain. I think this to myself as I leave Hidson's studio and feel the chilly air. ✿

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# The Show Must Go On

by Lesleá Newman

When I'm away on a book tour, I call home every night. On a recent Thursday, the conversation went like this:

Flash: I'm so glad you called! Any word from Michael?

Me: No, and not a peep out of Liz, either. I'm worried.

Anyone eavesdropping on our conversation would think we were talking about friends of ours. But no, Flash and I are talking about people who really concern us: Michael Jackson and Liz Taylor.

We move on. "I'm so annoyed with Madonna," I say.

"You usually are," Flash reminds me. "Listen, we better go, it's 8:59." There's a slight panic in Flash's voice. "Bye, I love you."

"Love you, too. Bye."

As soon as we hang up, I zap on *Seinfeld*. Some couples, forced to be apart, take comfort in knowing that every night the same stars are shining above their heads. Not me. My security lies in knowing that Flash and I, though separated, are both watching the same stars on television. We're laughing at the same jokes. We're muting the same commercials. We are one.

It hasn't always been like this. I went through a long "Kill Your Television" phase, starting when I was sixteen. Back then, television ruled our household. The television even had its own room, the TV room. There was no toaster room or blender room. I didn't even have my own room. But the TV room was sacred so I refused to enter it. While my family took their places to watch *Flipper*, I retreated with a Dostoyevsky novel. "Come watch with us," my parents would plead. "Ed Sullivan's coming on."

When I finally left home, I was proud to be among the 1.7% of the American population who lived sans TV. I lived this way until I met Flash. Luckily she discovered this flaw early in our relationship, when she was so sleep-deprived she would overlook anything. Pretty soon though, we began spending most of our time at Flash's house so she could watch TV. She'd don her headphones, plug herself into the set and watch something called *Cheers* while I curled beside her with *The Selected Poems of Yevtushenko*.

But then something happened. One night Flash was watching a celebrity benefit and my eyeballs kept catching a red sequinned gown on the set across the room. "Who's that?" I asked. "What's she saying?"

"Goldie Hawn. Shh. I can't hear."

"Let me hear." I lunged for Flash's headphones and in an instant I was back among the living. "Ooh, look at Jane Fonda," I crooned. "Oh my God, is that Marilyn Monroe?"

"No, that's Madonna."

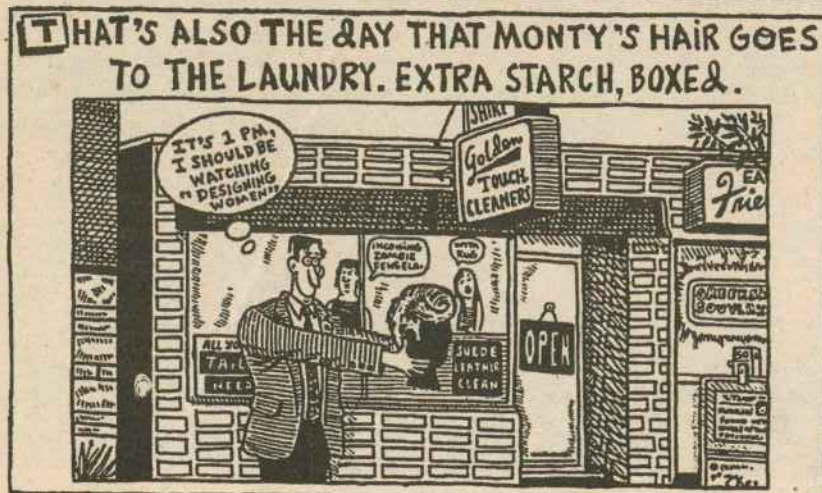
"Madonna who?" Obviously I had a lot of catching up to do. I started watching TV with a vengeance and now the biggest issue in our relationship is who controls the remote. Flash likes the butch shows like *Star Trek* and Discovery Channel specials on spiders. I like the femme shows, those made for TV movies based on real life stories with titles like *Seasons of the Heart* and stars like Sally Field. But we do compromise. I have watched a few episodes of *The Next Generation* (mostly to see how Counselor Troi was wearing her hair) and Flash did watch all three Amy Fisher movies with me, though she refused to watch *The Joan and Melissa Rivers Story*. Thank God for Raven, who was over in two seconds flat with a bag of Chee-tos and a bottle of Black Cherry Soda.

Over the years, Flash and I have found some common ground. We both love cooking shows (we get especially turned on by Julia Child slapping a monkfish). We both love women's tennis, especially if Martina's playing. Everyone knows we adore *Ellen*. If the phone rings between 9:00 and 9:30 on a Wednesday night, either someone has died, or Raven is in a particularly obnoxious mood. We like *Murphy Brown*, too, and of course the lesbian shows are our favorites: the reruns with couples like Lucy and Ethel, Mary and Rhoda, Laverne and Shirley, Wilma and Betty. Of course they're dykes: they dream together, they scheme together, they laugh together, they cry together, they break up, they process, they make up. And they never have sex. Sounds like half the lesbian couples I know. Including Bert and Ernie.

So Flash and I tune in every week, waiting for the big lesbian moment to happen. That unsatisfying Roseanne Arnold/Mariel Hemingway kiss a while back wasn't it. I'm holding out for that femme/butch couple: *Xena* and Gabrielle. Now that would be hot.

But I think it'll be a while before Flash and I see anyone like ourselves on television. The lucky lesbian who's going to direct "As The Dyke Turns" is just cutting her baby teeth. That's okay, though. I'm still working on the screenplay for the made for TV movie based on actual events called "Leslea: My Life As A Lesbian." And we're having a little trouble casting it. Flash thinks Tony Randall should play Raven, but I think it should be Tom Cruise. Flash wants Tom Cruise to play her, and Raven wants to be portrayed by Christian Slater. Raven and I both think Geena Davis would be perfect for me, but Flash thinks she's too tall. I think kd lang would be perfect for Flash (if I can't have her in real life, that would be the next best thing) but Flash yearns for a real butch like Joan Crawford or Barbara Stanwyck. Finally I decide to play myself (anything Joan and Melissa Rivers can do, I can do better) but Flash says then there's no way she'll let kd lang be my leading lady. If Flash thinks I'm kissing Tom Cruise, she can just forget it. Stay tuned.

THE MOSTLY  
UNFABULOUS  
SOCIAL LIFE OF  
ETHAN GREEN  
by Eric Orner





# BACKING UP BETTE

*As an "original" Harlette, Charlotte Crossley has a unique perspective of the Divine Miss M. As a performer, she has lent her talents to a wide range of successful projects including "The Preacher's Wife," "Ghosts of Mississippi" and a new Warner Brothers film, "Steel." In this Q•Voice interview, she discusses Bette Midler, life as a Harlette and show business.*

## Interview

by

Jorge L. Cabal

**C**harlotte Crossley (pronounced Charlow) has done it all, from stage: "Hair," and "Jesus Christ Superstar" on Broadway, to live concerts with "The Divine Miss M" as an original Harlette. There were a number of appearances on television including recurring roles on "Married With Children," to feature films such as "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Preacher's Wife," "Ghost of Mississippi," to Warner Brothers' soon-to-be-release "Steel." Charlotte has also lend her vocal talents to such vocalists as Barry Manilow, Luther Vandross, Chaka Kahn and Lanie Kazan among others.

Recently, I telephoned Charlotte at her California home only to be accosted by a warmhearted message, "Be encouraged in the Lord. Leave a message for Steven, for Charlotte (an original Harlette) or for Steve Jr (Charlotte's son). God bless ya. He really will. Bye now!" After the second attempt, I connected with this glorious, genuine jewel-of-a-person. I felt as if I've know Charlotte Crossley all my life.

**JC: It's a thrill to talk to you.**

**CC:** Thank you. And you too. I've been expecting this call. I've got somebody coming over here in a little while for an interview and I have to get my son to

school and take care of my husband. I'm in the middle of my June Cleaver routine ... Let's talk!

**JC: I have a load of questions here ... how many Harlettes have there been?**

**CC:** There have been about a total of 21 of us.

**JC: I had no idea that there were that many.**

**CC:** Well, she [Midler] went through a lot of different incarnations. There was a period of time when she worked with a specific number of us a lot of times.

**JC: Can we anticipate a Harlette Reunion?**

**CC:** We lost Sharon Redd in 1992. We had one reunion before that, but there was only like, 16 of us that got together at that time. The last time we all got together was in 1987, I think. It was right after [Bette's daughter] Sophie, was born. We hope there will be one. Let's see ... I started with her in 1972 ... that's twenty-five years for me, already — so we don't really know. it's possible.

**JC: What qualities does a Harlette possess that most women want and don't have?**

**CC:** Well let's go back in the time-frame on this and their inception in 1971 — that's when they were created. That's when the original ones came to be.

**JC: You're an original, right?**

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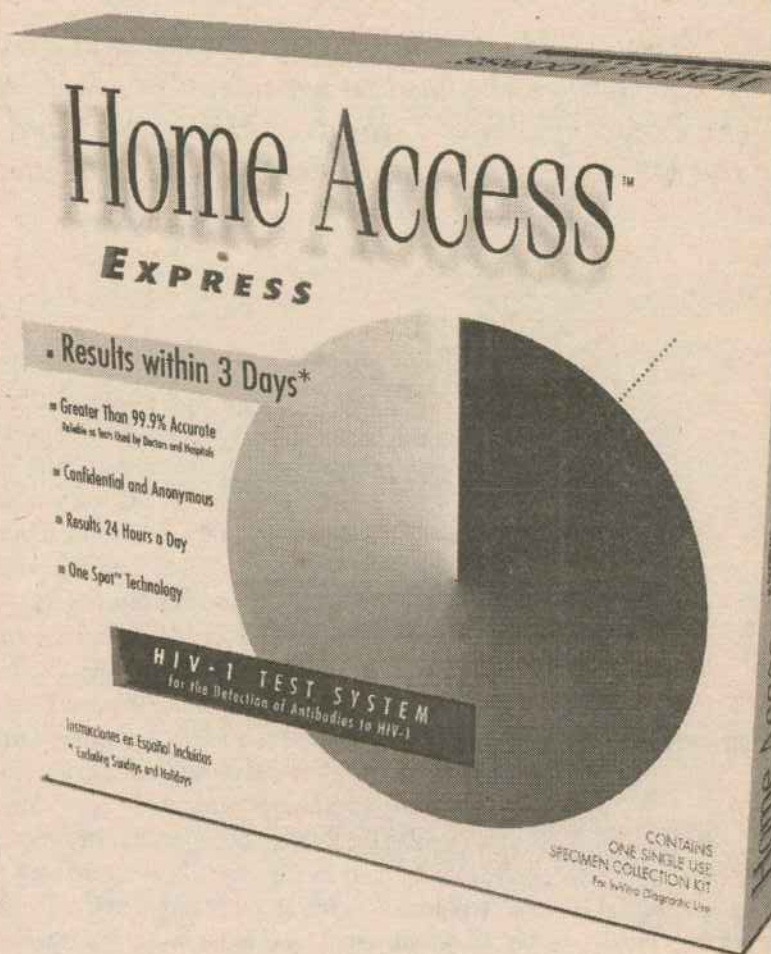
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CC: I replaced Melissa Manchester, so I'm kinda like one, yeah.

**JC: Melissa Manchester was a Harlette?**

CC: Oh yeah! She was there from day one. That particular group of girls: Merle Miller, Gail Kantor, and Melissa Manchester. They were all studio singers in New York. They were very good singers — they were jingle singers and did a lot of records, but they really weren't stage performers. I think that Melissa, of that particular group, had the most potential. She was the most talented.

When I saw them in Chicago 1971-72, at Mr. Kelly's — they had not done Carnegie Hall or Lincoln Center yet—they were pretty raw. My friend Andre DeShields, of *Ain't Misbehavin'* fame choreographed the

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**“You had to learn to flow — if you didn't know how to flow with her [Bette] — with that groove that she was in — you really got left behind.”**

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very first Harlettes. They were very timid. They were all brunettes and all really incredible singers.

I think the concept was that these were three angelic looking girls, kind of in the “Ronnettes/I'm kept” vain. If you messed with them, they would cut you. They were tough but they were heart-of-gold types. Each one had specific qualities. I think that they were tough, but they were vulnerable and wanted to be loved.

I think that whatever the scenario was about us, it was like three gang-girls and here we were with our fearless leader. We all had the same needs. It was interesting. I think you could draw any kind of little picture, but I think for me that's what it was: We were tough and we were strong, yet we were vulnerable.

**JC: How does one become a Harlette?**

CC: I don't know. You gotta remember that back then I was chosen, Bette and I were already friends — she asked me to replace Melissa. I was doing a show on Broadway at the time that unbeknownst to me was about to close. So, when she asked me to join her group and replace Melissa, I had no idea what I was in for. It was a lotta hard work and I was used to that.

There was a lot of singing, which was great because we really got a chance to sing the songs — we were singing great songs — great Ronnette songs, and a lot of that girl-group stuff that she and I really liked. It wasn't a big stretch for me.

**JC: Your voices blended so beautifully together...**

CC: She [Midler] told me when I was with her in January for “Diva Las Vegas,” that Sharon and I were her favorite Harlettes. I think that we had the best vocals and we were like another entity. We were really funny and her alter egos, as well as good singers. If you've ever seen the “Live at Cleveland” show, you'll see that we're doin' that (laughter).

**JC: Is the Divine Miss M demanding, or easy to work with?**

CC: Very demanding. Very demanding and a perfectionist and a control freak. But you had to realize what your boundaries were, which at that time were pretty limitless. When I started out with her she was very edgy — it was a lot of fun and there was a lot of unpredictability.

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I think that now she's become more predictable. It's a very polished well-oiled machine. Back then she was still exploring, and I think she's still exploring now, but in a much more defined area. Back then, she was just kind of all over the place, yet she was very focused.

That was one of the things about being a Harlette: You had to learn to flow — if you didn't know how to flow with her — with that groove that she was in — you really got

left behind.

That was a testimony to the ones of us who worked with her over and over again, like myself, Ula Hedwig, Linda Hart, and Katie Segal [the mother on *Married ... With Children*], Katie was a Harlette, and you had to have a real tough fortitude to hang in there with her [Midler]. She was not the easiest person to work for if you were timid.

**JC:** It seems like there was a lot of energy there.

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CC: Oh yeah, very much so! You had to be able to harness and control your own energy, and then flow with whatever place she was coming from. Not all of us were able to do that. I was, because that was my relationship with her and we just flowed. It was one of the

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**“It was one of the most intense, creative processes I’ve ever been involved in in my life. It kind of set a precedent for me as far as my career in terms of excellence.”**

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most intense, creative processes I’ve ever been involved in in my life. It kind of set a precedent for me as far as my career in terms of excellence. She really demanded excellence out of you and that was a wonderful thing to learn and a great discipline to surrender to.

**JC:** Did everybody seem to get along? There were so many creative people...

CC: We did, we had to. The one person who really helped focus a lot of that harmony was Bill Hennessy. He was the man who helped create the “Divine Miss M” persona and help her define that. He really gave a lot of himself to her. When the girls came in he helped to define who we were in relationship to her. There was always a lot of heart and a lot of love and a great deal of positive energy.

**JC:** It shows, it shows.

CC: Thank God. I’m really glad to hear that. This man was just one of the sweetest men in the whole wide world. He was just a love and when he died we all took it pretty hard. I guess what it meant for her was that he had taken her as far as could.

**JC:** How long have you been in the business?

CC: I’ve been in the business 26 years. I started out when was 18, right out of high school.

**JC:** What was your big break?

CC: My big break was that I was in the musical “Hair” ... in the Chicago cast. I toured with that company for about a year-and-a-half after it left Chicago and I did it in Vegas. Then I went to Europe for a while and didn’t do anything ... I just bummed around. I came back

and joined the national tour of "Hair" and sat down in Washington DC. I went to New York and joined the original cast of "Jesus Christ Superstar" on Broadway in 1971. That's when I met Bette.

**JC: Did this idea for Bette and the Harlettes mature there?**

CC: She was already working in the Continental Baths when I met her. She was like, the HOT ticket in New York. That was a very *verboten* place to go. Women were not allowed there. But she was there, and they let a few women "guests" in.

**JC: What do you think people would be surprised to learn about Bette?**

CC: How down-to-earth she is. What a homebody and voracious reader she is. Bette is a very intelligent, warm and genuine human being. Us girls owe so much to her. Bette has been our role model for a very long time.

**JC: Do you have a favorite song or production number?**

CC: "Lullaby of Broadway." We worked so hard on that number ... it was choreographed to look like the scene from the film "42nd Street."

**JC: Why do you think gay audiences respond so strongly to Bette and her shows?**

CC: Bette has a radiant, giving soul. Her performances are straight-from-the-heart. She never judges, there are no hidden agendas, just pure entertainment.

When Bette Midler is on stage, you will forget your troubles for the time you're there, and you'll be entertained. Bette is genuine; and again, I'm so grateful for her. She's a sweet and gentle soul. She's one of the sweetest souls I know.

**JC: It's really interesting that you say that about her. Not knowing too many show business people, I think that, that kind of persona is out of character. Do you agree?**

CC: I think that to people who are from the old school ... I think that's very prevalent among old school entertainers because they were reared and groomed to be pleasant. A lot of these people out here don't have good manners, they're just like heathens.

They're vile! They're not very respectful overall. But those that have been reared and groomed and trained to be pleasant and to give good interviews and to be respectful and have heart, those are the ones you

don't forget.

There are people who act badly and are crazy and rude and there seems to be a lot of that. Some people seem to accept that, but I don't, and that's one of the things I loved about her is that she had that sense of ... you know back in the days of the movie studios, when they had the studio system, you could not go out lookin' ugly. You were poised, you were gentlemanly and ladylike.

She embodies that, she has always been

very poised and very pleasant. That's an important quality to maintain and that's one of the things I love about her.

**JC: Thank you so much and it's been a real pleasure speaking to you.**

CC: God bless you.

# HIV TREATMENT UPDATE

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# And the Winner Is...

Just when you thought award show mania was over, here comes our annual look at the best queer Wisconsin has to offer. We've tallied your votes and now we can announce the winners. Please keep the acceptance speeches to a minimum and now... the envelope please and thank God the English Patient wasn't eligible!

## Favorite Place to Buy Furniture

Ladies and gentleman, we have a tie! Steinhafles ran neck and neck with Rubin's. Dueling Lazy Boy Loungers at 30 paces to decide the winner.



## Favorite Place for Romance

Número uno was "at home in my own bed," and that out-of-the-way romantic getaway Station II came in a distant second.



## Favorite Place of Buy Gifts

Shopping is one of the official gay pastimes. Designing Men topped your shopping list with AfterWords coming in second.



## Favorite Leather Bar

The Boot Camp can strap on first prize. Coming in second were those leather boys from 1100 Club.



## Favorite Place to Buy Books

AfterWords topped the best seller list here, followed by Barnes & Noble.



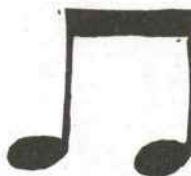
## Favorite Restaurant

M&M's Glass Menagerie. Runner-up: Walker's Point Cafe.



## Favorite Music

Many of you entered your favorite recording artists, but when the votes were counted The Triangle won, followed by Station II.



## Favorite Female Illusionist

Lana St. James walks away with this year's diamond tiara. BJ Daniels comes in second, down a notch from last year's first place finish, which is pretty darn good considering BJ "retired" more than a year ago.



## Favorite Male Dancer

Boogie-Oggie, your favorite dancer goes to the appropriately named, "Dance." Jimmy from the Triangle came in second with some nice hip thrusts. Fred Astaire made a nice showing.

## Favorite Dance Bar

Number one for strutting (and posing) goes to La Cage. Club 219 came a close second.



### **Favorite Entertainer**

Lana St. James wins this category with Rosie O'Donnell coming in second. We'll just have to see if those rumors about Rosie taking the lead at this year's AIDS Walk Wisconsin come to pass.



### **Favorite Special Event**

No big surprise here as PrideFest walks away with the first place win. Bo Black is busy worrying about job security, but will be glad to know that Summerfest came in second.

### **Best Kept Secret**

This category featured some of the juiciest, non-printable responses. When the votes were counted, Triangle won this one too, with all the votes Rob got this year, it can hardly be much of a secret any more. Runners up included Mama Roux and Gallery 218.



### **Favorite Men's Bar**

The Triangle comes in first with M&M Club making a late run for second place. Mama Roux made a good showing as well.



### **Favorite Place for Coffee**

Walker's Point Cafe brews coffee that would make even Mrs. Olson jealous.

### **Favorite Q•Voice Writer**

Waswo narrowly defeats Leslea Neuman, who quickly demanded a recount on the basis of vote tampering.

### **Favorite Women's Bar**

The Station II's loyal following brought it in first this year! Fannies came in second.



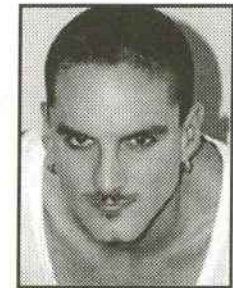
### **Favorite Female Bartender**

For the 2nd year in a row, Cheryl from Station II comes up number 1!



### **Favorite Male Bartender**

Bill from the Triangle comes away with the first place finish!



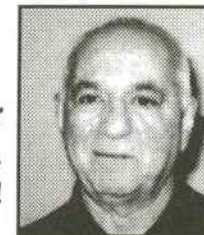
### **Favorite Community Activist**

Andy Bagnall wins first place and a box of condoms. Runner up was Mark Street.

### **And the \$75 Cash Prize Winner**

Ted Quartuch from Milwaukee.

Thanks to all who entered, congratulations to all and see you next year!



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David Todd, Continued from page 19

**WA: You mean Street Beat.**

DT: Yes, they'll have a radio partner. They will have a promotional tie-in. I was able to get that done for them, which is more than I've been able to do in the past. I'm involved with PrideFest and was involved for a very, very short time with the Community Center with Jim Schlieff, who is a very good friend of mine. I do a lot of things, but I'm not very high-profile in the community.

Because I live in the suburbs, I don't ever go to the bars, really. On occasion I'll go to M&M on a Thursday night, but not too often. I'm just not out and about as many other people are. So, although I'm active and have taken on a large roll in behalf of the community, I'm kind of in the background.

**WA: Do you like it that way?**

DT: Yeah. I don't really differentiate between the gay community and any other community. I'm in the media community, I'm in the gay community, I'm in the North Shore community, I'm in a lot of different areas. I don't reserve my gayness for one certain area of my life.

Everybody knows I'm gay at work and it's been that way for years and years now. Last fall I hosted a little hour-long program

**I'm in the media community, I'm in the gay community, I'm in the North Shore community ... I don't reserve my gayness for one certain area of my life.**

with the Human Rights League called *Out On The Job*. I've been supported through all of it, so I'm out to all my family—including my extended family. When everybody saw me on television last year for PrideFest they called and said, "Oh, we saw you on TV, that's great." I don't have different facets to my life, it's just kind of all one big life.

The other thing that I think is really unique about me is the support network I have with my family. My father's a huge benefit to me and to the gay community. My mother is too, but my father is very active in it, he's very much on the political side. He's involved in PFLAG and the Human Rights League and a lot of different areas. He does write-in campaigning. He's the one that writes to the congressman and says, "Don't do this." He calls people and, again, he plays a quiet roll, but an important and positive one.

I couldn't be prouder of the way he supports me. So many people don't have that support and that's sad because I think it's one of the most tragic things when gay individuals don't feel that they have support from their friends or family or their workplace. I have all three of those and I can never want for anything more in my life because I have that. I'm a happy person.

**WA: What changes do you see in the gay and lesbian community in**

recent years?

DT: I do in a sense, now that the closet is an option. Nobody *has* to be in the closet; especially in Wisconsin, because you're protected in the workplace. I think it's because of the first branding of the 90s as the "Gay 90s" that so many high-profile, mainstream people like Melissa Etheridge and Candace Gingrich have come out. Many of people have simply said, "I'm gay," and, "You know what? Nothing has changed

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**What is so disheartening is ... seeing the people who want to cast a bad shadow on it [PrideFest]. The protesters outside the gates and the Mark Bellings and the people like that.**

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because I've said that. The music's the same, the politics are the same, life is the same and, I love somebody of the same sex."

I've always attested to that and I think it just gets easier. Because of that, we are seeing the reflection in confidence levels. I think that we're seeing more young people who are active in different areas of the business world. The development of the Alternative Business Association has been a great thing for the community.

We've seen a lot of new bars open, which means that there are more new gay business owners. There's a gay and lesbian spin to almost everything these days if you look for it, and I think that's great; I think it empowers people and it empowers the youth to go for it and not to be afraid or ashamed of it or not to have to feel uncomfortable about who they are.

**WA: What do you think the importance of PrideFest is in the community in general?**

DT: I'd like to think — and I want to speak from outside — I'd like to think that people look at PrideFest as *the* celebration of Pride. These are three days where you can celebrate with friends and family, with good weather (knocks on wood), with the support of the Police Chief, of the Mayor, of the Common Council, of all those people we got proclamations from last year. Like the letter from the President saying, "Good going. Stand up for the community. Be out, be loud, be proud." and, "You deserve it."

What is so disheartening is that knowing that it's such a good thing and knowing in your heart that it's a good thing, is seeing the people who want to cast a bad shadow on it: The protesters outside the gates and the Mark Bellings and the people like that. They want to demean people's confidence and break their confidence. They want to make you feel, somehow, lower than any person should feel. I think that's reprehensible.

**WA: Is there anything that you think I may have missed that was important?**

DT: Not that I can really think of ... don't forget to mention that I'm single.

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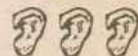
 Let the ear wax build.

The Criminals  
"never been caught"  
Lookout

Here is a band that will make straight hair curl and curly hair straight! The Criminals' latest artistic head rush, "never been caught," will see the light of day on April 22. I deem these boys have a pinching streak to them, mothers be forewarned and lock your daughters in their bedrooms! The Criminals are reminiscent of "Motorhead," "The Saints," and "Sick Pleasure." They've been browbeating the punk scene since 1994 with a U.S. tour and numerous west coast tours under their belt. The Criminals will be on tour in the U.S. and Europe for the rest of '97, and should be first in line to snatch the punk in your rock!

"never been caught," consists of 16 nails-on-a-chalkboard tracks like

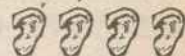
"you stupid fuk," and "latex drool." Each track does have its own nerve-pinching lyrics and singular sound! "never been caught" has a venomous bite to it that feels like an unexpected splash of ice-cold water. It is for the criminal ears!



Sherly Crow  
"Sherly Crow"  
A&M

Sherly Crow's follow up to the successful debut compact disc "Tuesday Night Music Club," is titled "Sherly Crow." Ms. Crow wrote the songs, produced the recording sessions, played a lot of the instruments, and sings about what's been passing across her field of vision the last few years, subjects ranging from the crossdresser at her local coffee shop to the carnage in Bosnia. Sherly Crow's veteran musicianship and songwriting is reflected throughout "Sherly Crow," and the unvarnished emotions of a gal from Missouri who's grateful for her success but isn't about to let it shadow what she wants or how she'll say it.

"Sherly Crow," has a wide emotional range and depth: it's a photo album without pictures. The lyrics paints the sights of what is real out there! As Crow expressed, "I really want to get down to the bottom of it, you know? Get into the thick of it and avoid the surface-y bullshit." "Sherly Crow" is emphatically real for the ears!



Bernadette Peters  
"Sondheim, Etc. Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall"  
Angel

"Sondheim, Etc. Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall" is a jewel you wear everyday not just on special whiles! Peters shimmers deliciously as she sings, and tells-a-tale or two about what she sings. The concert, Bernadette Peters's Carnegie Hall debut as well as her first solo concert in New York, was a benefit for the Gay Men's Health Crisis. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of "Sondheim, Etc. Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall," will go to Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Bernadette Peters's exquisite voice, and Stephen Sondheim's sovereign songs are synonymous! A scintillating marriage, a comfortable easy-chair to snuggle into. "Sondheim, Etc. Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall" is "Being Alive," for the ears!



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Toni Braxton  
"Secrets"  
LaFace

It's no secret, that Toni Braxton walked away with two Grammy Awards. And it's no secret that "Secrets" is turning out to be a mega cash producing cow-I mean compact disc, for Ms. Braxton! She has enveloped herself with the most clarion pop music

writers, producers and musicians for her latest artistic fusion.

"Secrets" is filled with melodically rich tunes that's tailored made for Braxton's melodious voice. "How Could An Angel Break My Heart," brings a chill up the spine and a warmhearted tear to your eyes. Toni Braxton has the aptness to be an eminent singer, I would like to see her stretch artistically, and not get pigeon-hold doing ballads that reek of saccharine. "Secrets" are best kept for the ears!



Reinhard Goebel/Musica Antiqua Köln  
"Chaconne"  
Audio

As ambrosia is food of the gods, "Chaconne" is music of the gods! This musical experience is splendid and addictive. I wanted more. Musica Antiqua Köln under the artistic direction of Reinhard Goebel, deemed as the leading chamber music

ensemble on the international concert scene recently performed at Pabst Theater. The members of Musica Antiqua Köln perform on some of the finest old instruments that have been restored to their original playing condition.

You don't have to be a classical music connoisseur to relish the purity, the richness and the power of this musical feast. "Chaconne" is a private concert for the ears!



Cris Williamson and Tret Fure  
"Between the Covers"  
Wolf Moon/Goldenrod

I was pleasantly surprised by Cris Williamson and Tret Fure's musical cahoots "Between the Covers." Each track had a diacritic sound, not ground-breaking material; lyrically the prevalent thread that ties these songs together is love. Williamson and

Fure's voices blend nicely like a Reese's peanutbutter cup. Williamson's voice is redolent of Linda Ronstadt and Anne Murray.

"Between the Covers" on Wolf Moon/Goldenrod label doesn't surpass the idea that "love means never having to say you're sorry." It is perfect for those honeymoon ears!



—Jorge L. Cabal

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**\$\$\$Reward:** male and female models needed for local and national gay and lesbian advertising. No experience required. Healthy appearance, positive attitude needed. Call Wells Ink at (414) 272-2116 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays to schedule an interview.

**Licensed Bartender Wanted and Part-Time Bar Back:** Apply in person at Triangle between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. No phone calls.

## HOUSING

**Live/Work:** Stunning west side loft 3000 square feet, Euro-kitchen, fireplace. Professionally decorat-

ed, washer/dryer, black-faced micro dishwasher, fridge/stove. Three car heated garage available. One-of-a-kind space. \$750. Call (414) 672-3906.

**Don't Go to the Bars, Bring the Bars to You:** Hot Walker's Point Historical home. Four bedrooms, formal dining room, appliances, hardwood floors, completely remodeled. It includes jacuzzi tub, washer/dryer hookup, off street parking, ADT alarm system. Available April 1. \$650. Call (414) 627-3906.

**1/2 Block from In Between:** Live in the heart of hot Walker's Point. Brand new renovation, four bedrooms, fireplace, new kitchen and bath, Brinks alarm system,

washer/dryer and all appliances. New carpet, nice yard, off street parking. Must see! \$750. Call (414) 672-3906.

**Sharp Junior:** one bedroom, must see Walker's Point! Fireplace, appliances, with built-in micro. Nice courtyard and off street parking. ADT alarm system. \$325. Call (414) 672-3906.

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**Virginia B. Pierce Properties:** Offering one and two-family homes for rent throughout the Walker's Point area. Call (414) 271-7282.

**Studio/Efficiency Apartment:** \$310 per month all utilities included. Available immediately call Grant at (414) 342-2142.

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**Let My Fingers Do the Work!** After a hard day at the office or at play, it's time to relax! Let a handsome, muscular man give you a massage you will never forget! Call me now at (414) 239-0786.

## BI BOYS

**Bi-Male Well Developed:** Muscular, gymnastic, built for endurance. Into movies, massages and photography. Seeking young male, couple or female for fun and friendship. Call (414) 744-8337.

## BOYS FOR BOYS

**College Student from Brazil:** I'm twenty-four years old with light-brown eyes. Into traveling, reading, writing, dancing, being in contact with people around the world. I would like to correspond with men ages twenty up to thirty-five who want to become a friend. Please, letters in English, French, Portuguese, or Spanish. Caixa Postal 5068-80060-050, Curitiba-PR, Brazil.

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# The Bazaar™

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Join the leader in LesBiGay news and entertainment. *In Step* Newsmagazine is now seeking writers and reporters to cover news and special events in Milwaukee and through-out Wisconsin. *In Step* is also considering columnists and reviewers. *In Step* is Wisconsin's largest and most respected gay and lesbian publication. Our writers are compensated for their work.

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**In Step Newsmagazine**  
1661 North Water Street, Suite 411, Milwaukee, WI 53202



# Star Patrol

your monthly guide to the stars with your astro cowboy, andie jaye

## **PISCES** ★ (feb 20 to march 20)

In the romance department, last month was no picnic. For you, who came no closer to true companionship than one of those annoying direct marketing calls, it's pay back time. There's a special guy you need to get revenge on. Promise to take him to a Three Tenors concert, then dump him at Right to Life rally instead.

## **ARIES** ★ (march 21 to april 19)

Leave the easy jobs to others, Aries. You are the hard-working type who may finish last, but at least you know that you didn't give up at the last moment. Boy or girl problems figure largely in the next month. A scarcity of romantic company will need to be remedied by a quick trip to the pharmacist for something to take care of that smell.

## **TAURUS** ★ (april 20 to may 21)

In many cases, telling the feelings of boredom and fatigue are replaced by extreme horniness. You can't seem to get enough of the nasty stuff. Be on guard for rumors about your past. Some say that you have slept with everyone you ever met. But you know that's not true; you never did your third grade teacher.

## **GEMINI** ★ (may 20 to june 21)

Precocious thing that you are, you have been out a long time. What is there left to do in life? Try making a million dollars. If that fails, you can still get your ten minutes of fame by using that big thing down below, and we do mean your Adam's apple. Yes, become a singer. If the Brady Bunch can do it, so can you.

## **CANCER** ★ (june 22 to july 22)

Being ignored is something that you just can't take. And you especially can't take. And you especially can't stand being ignored by the person you desire. First of all, he's so cute you could eat him right up. And second, you know he likes you. You know he's just playing games, waiting for you to make the first move. Well, go ahead and make it.

## **LEO** ★ (july 23 to august 22)

Finding a boyfriend who will last longer than two months is your objective. Concentrate on him and think "long-time companion." Then visualize an old, old man with no hair and a big stomach; this is what he'll look like after you've been together long enough to be considered life partners. Maybe it's not such a good idea after all.

## **VIRGO** ★ (august 23 to september 22)

Virgo is full of heat this month, with steam practically coming out of his ears. There are ways to release that steam, head to the nearest sex venue and shoot your steam with as many guys as possible. We do not recommend romantic attachments at this time. The vile and bilious humors running through your system would doom any relationship at present.

## **LIBRA** ★ (sept. 23 to oct. 22)

The need to be dominated becomes overwhelming. Out there somewhere is the man who will tie you up, make you lick his boots, and call you all kinds of names you've never heard before. And you really want to worship him. To find him try hanging out in dark alleys and in sex clubs where you have to wear leather and nipple clips to enter. Don't worry, he'll find you.

## **SCORPIO** ★ (oct. 24 to nov. 21)

Torrid sex will not quench the desire running through your veins. That's because what you really want is ice cream. Thick rich chocolate running over a big mound of cookies and cream. How can sex compete with pigging out like that. Unless you can think of somebody to lick the ice cream off of.

## **SAGITTARIUS** ★ (nov. 21 to dec. 19)

Coping with your problems is getting difficult for your friends. There is only one solution. Stop whining. Get out and look for a fresh face. The only time you are happy, is when you are getting laid regularly. So stop pretending to be some kind of sweet innocent thing. You'll thank us for saying this some day.

## **CAPRICORN** ★ (december 20 to january 19)

Perhaps it's the season, but we see sex, sex and more sex for you. Your rest periods will be brief, just enough to refill the old fire hose and then back to putting out the fire. Do try to get to work once in a while though because they miss you.

## **AQUARIUS** ★ (january 20 to february 18)

Another Valentine's Day has come and gone. And all over America, if you listen carefully, you can still hear the sighs of happy gay boys and girls who got flowers and candy from that special guy, and spent the rest of the evening thanking him in the bicycle position. Thank your lucky stars.

# HANG-OUTS

## Milwaukee

### 1100 Club

1100 S. 1st Street  
414/647-9950

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

### B's

1579 S. 2nd Street  
414/672-5580

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

### AfterWords

2710 N. Murray  
414/963-9089

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

### Ballgame

196 S. 2nd Street  
414/273-7474

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

### Boot Camp

209 E. National Ave.  
414/643-6900

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

### Cafe Melange

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

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

### C'est La Vie

231 S. 2nd Street  
414/291-9600

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

### Club 219

219 S. 2nd Street  
414/271-3732

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

### Designing Men

1200 South First St.  
414/389-1200

We know its not a bar... but, people do hang out there to shop or to catch up on the latest dish.

### Fannies

200 E. Washington  
414/643-9633

Popular Third Ward women's bar.

### Grubb's Pub

807 S. Second St.  
414/384-8330

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

### In Between

625 S. 2nd Street  
414/273-2693

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

### Just Us

807 S. 5th Street  
414/383-2233

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

### Kathy's Nut Hut

1500 W. Scott Street  
414/647-2673

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

### M&M Club

124 N. Water Street  
414/347-1962

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

### La Cage

801 S. 2nd Street  
414/383-8330

The Death Star of Milwaukee's queer clubs is now undergoing another serious renovation. With Dance<sup>3</sup> closed, the serious butt shaking has moved over to La Cage and continues very busy on weekends.

### Mama Roux

1857 N. Humboldt  
414/ 347-0344

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

### Renez CoZ Corner II

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

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

### Station 2

1534 W. Grant St.  
414/383-5755

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

### South Water Street Docks

354 East National Ave.  
414/225-9776

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

### This Is It

418 E. Wells St.  
414/ 278-9192

This eastside bar features a diverse crowd of various ages.

### Triangle

135 E. National Ave.  
414/383-9412

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

### Walker's Point Cafe

1106 S. First St.  
414/384-7999

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

### Zippers

819 S. 2nd Street  
414/645-8330

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

## Madison

### Geraldine's

3052 E. Washington  
608/241-9335

A popular Madison mixed bar.

### Manoeuvres

150 S. Blair Street  
608/258-9918

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

### The Men's Room

3054 E. Washington  
608/241-9335

Upstairs from Geraldine's, this popular hang-out features lots of men and occasional male strippers.

### Scandals

121 W. Main Street  
608/257-5455

This Madison bar is just a few doors down from the Shamrock. Featuring a backroom dance floor, its bright and clean, with a CD jukebox and even a fireplace.

# Juicy Bits

by W.W.Wells III

## Truth vs. Fiction

According to Bob's Big Book of Quotations, "truth is stranger than fiction." I also know several of my ex-lovers were stranger than fiction too! The truth is, when it comes to dating, nearly 40% of what a potential boyfriend says should be considered fiction or at least a big, fat exaggeration. People fail to realize this can cause serious disappointment, especially after seeing your partner naked for the first time and your sexual satisfaction rides (no pun intended) on finding that missing 3-inches.

So, unless you're planning on living a fantasy life filled with fiction and exaggeration (which might not be a bad idea especially if you're mentally having a torrid love affair with Mario Lopez) it's time to face reality and I'm just the guy to help separate truth from fiction. Oh, and just for the record, that pun in the previous paragraph WAS intended ... see you can't trust anyone these days.

### FICTION

He says its easier for him to communicate with you via e-mail.

### TRUTH

He's addicted to America-On-Line and will try to seduce you with lines like, "May I put my hand on your laptop?", "May I move your cursor?" and "May I insert my floppy disk into your port?".

### FICTION

During a difficult, heated discussion, he says he's silently reciting The Serenity Prayer.

### TRUTH

He's mentally chanting a new revised version which goes something like: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to hide the bodies of those people I had to kill because they really pissed me off!"

### FICTION

He doesn't care that you're not endowed like a porno star.

### TRUTH

He's actually only interested in having sex with men who have a lifelong membership in the Genital Power Elite.

### FICTION

The phone was busy because he was trying to call you.

### TRUTH

He was calling up his old boyfriends because after a couple of dates with you he realizes how wonderful they actually were.

### FICTION

He says he enjoys holding hands in a darkened movie theater that's showing some romantic movie like, The Bridges of Madison County or The English Patient.

### TRUTH

He'd rather be home, laying on the couch, holding the remote control, absently zipping to the best scenes in porno videos.

### FICTION

He carries a picture of you in his wallet.

### TRUTH

He also fills his wallet with plenty of \$1 bills for tipping male strippers.

### FICTION

Has dreams of making millions as an entrepreneur and wants to start a business together.

### TRUTH

Wants to open a drag queen rest tent at PrideFest.

### FICTION

He's says he relationship minded and never fools around.

### TRUTH

He's got so many boyfriends he stamps their hand if they plan on coming back a second time.

### FICTION

"Can I call you back? I'm in a meeting and you caught me at a real bad time".

### TRUTH

"That cute UPS man is naked, bent over the loading dock and we're just really starting to get into it so, if you don't mind..."

### FICTION

He proudly introduces you to everyone as his lover.

### TRUTH

If he could get away with it he'd introduce you as his roommate, a distant cousin or better yet some weird stranger from the street who just followed you in.

### FICTION

"I can't wait to see you again."

### TRUTH

"ZZZZZZzzzzzzzzzzzz"

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**The  
AIDS Resource Center  
of Wisconsin  
and  
Center Project, Inc.  
are pleased to  
announce our merger,  
effective April 1, 1997.**

**The Boards of Directors of ARCW and CPI have unanimously voted to merge so that HIV/AIDS services are increased in the most cost effective way. Our mission of providing comprehensive AIDS prevention, care, research and advocacy services will continue. Our merger will build our capacity to better serve the HIV/AIDS community in Wisconsin.**

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