

all from grace

and the horrors of the late Victorian prison system?

Some scholars have theorized that Wilde developed an acute sense of doom and directed himself in a long search for suffering. Wilde felt that he had to suffer in order to be a complete artist. And in a sense it did. His trial and conviction made him the literary figure he is today. If not for his nefarious trial Wilde would probably be all but forgotten today (even one of Wilde's biographers Hesketh Pearson admits that without the trial Oscar would be "dismissed in half a line in the Encyclopedias"). As it is, Wilde is not studied in most Canadian public schools and university survey courses and isn't all that widely read.

Wilde may have also been tired of living the double life of a closeted homosexual. Wilde's literary works are riddled with references to hidden crimes and secret lives. Men living double existences are a recurring motif in Oscar's works and probably a sore point to his spirit as will, since Wilde was never one to keep anything secret.

There are signs that Wilde subconsciously wanted to drop the pretense. Oscar would often flaunt his male prostitutes at lunch at The Savoy, oblivious to who saw him. Not to mention that Wilde's writings were highly homoerotic and those very same literary works (as subtle as they were) were what got him into trouble. Only a few people were aware of the excesses of Wilde's private life, but after the publishing of *Dorian Gray* all the empire was aware of Wilde's leanings.

Perhaps the trial was Oscar's way of escaping the coded world of the intellectual homosexual and its double existence, his way of coming out of the Victorian closet. In a sense Wilde was also criticizing his peers for their hypocrisy and narrowness. The trial's witness box was Wilde at his best, both in the condemnation of his persecutors, and also in his defence of "Greek Love".

Wilde became a strong and visible symbol



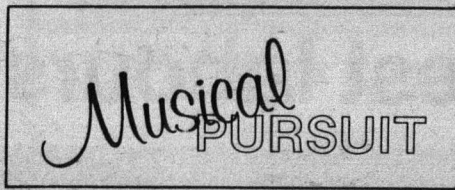
of homosexual intellectuals and writers. His trial left no doubts as to his sexual inclinations. While other gay and bisexual writers are made into posthumous heterosexuals by puritanical biographers and professors of literature, Wilde could not be whitewashed. History had to recognize the fact of Wilde's sexuality.

So much was Wilde's influence on homosexual identity that many traits associated with Wilde — hedonism, the search for pleasure, cleverness, and the campiness and effeminate traits associated with Wilde's flirt with aestheticism — have been associated with all homosexuals. So much did Wilde symbolize homosexuality that the boundaries between the two blurred and the traits associated with the one eventually tarred the latter.

Wilde's trial was a double edged sword. On one hand it made Wilde's reputation and earned him a spot in history, but on the downside it destroyed him. After his release from prison, he died within a few years — alone, poverty stricken, and unable to write. He was only 46.



Bruce's swan song



by Don Teplyske

Heavens to Betsy! The "Continual Pursuit" has been solved and congrats go out to Richard Smith who successfully deciphered that Gil Scott-Heron was the mystery artist. For his efforts, receives a five dollar record token from Auracle Records. A new Continual Pursuit begins with this column.

Last week's pulling back the covers contest drew in several entries, a couple of which had only one incorrect answer. The first entry drawn was that of Ken Johnston and he will also receive an Auracle record token.

Numerous people have mentioned to me that a high ratio of Bruce Springsteen questions appear in this space. Personally, I hadn't noticed. Today's column will rid me of all my Bruce questions and I promise not to include any more questions that can relate to Springsteen. But I still won't ask any Talking Heads questions.

Features Topic: Bruce Springsteen

1. What is Springsteen's middle name?
2. With what band did Bruce co-headline at Max's Kansas City club in New York July 18-23, 1973?
3. When Manfred Mann's Earth Band recorded Bruce's "Blinded By The Light", how far

did it get on Billboard's Hot 100?

4. What song does the following appear: "Sometime I sit up in the darkness/and watch my baby as she sleeps/that I climb in bed and I hold her tight/I just lay there in the middle of the night".

5. Most of Springsteen's singles (since *The River*) have been released with previously unreleased b-sides. Which was the only b-side recorded live?

6. Speaking of singles, only one Springsteen album has not had a single taken off it. Which album?

7. What is the name of Clarence Clemon's band outside of the E Streeters?

8. Which current member of the E Street Band has been with Bruce since 1968?

9. "I met her in a Kingstown bar/we fell in love I knew it had to end/is from what Springsteen hit?"

Continual Pursuit

Clue #1 — She was born at Locust Ridge, Tennessee in 1946.

Last Week's Answers

1. Steely Dan and Tom Robinson — "Rikki Don't Lose That Number"
2. Trashman and Ramones — "Surfin' Bird"
3. Sam Cooke and the Manhattans — "You send me"
4. Little Eva and Grand Funk — "The Locomotion"
5. The Drifters and Rickie Lee Jones — "Under the Boardwalk"
6. Eddie Floyd and Amii Stewart — "Knock On Wood"
7. Rod Stewart and Free — "All Right Now"
8. Jimmy Jones and James Taylor — "Handyman"
9. Bruce and Frankie — "Born to Run"

Apology...



In the October 10 issue of the Gateway, the above photo of The Independents was run without a photo credit. The picture should be credited to Dave Johnston, MUBIUS. The Gateway apologizes for the omission.

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