

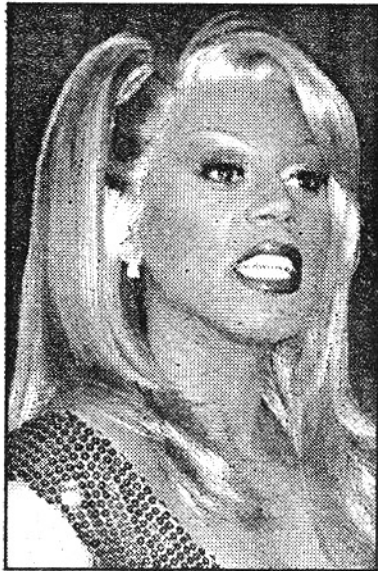
# Waxing eloquent at Madame's

'**M**AN'S CAPACITY for justice makes democracy possible, but his inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary," said Reinhold Niebuhr.

**T**HE AMAZON drag queen **Ru Paul** was right. He says if they turn you into a wax figures, just pull out the wick and light it! There I was at Madame Tussaud's new wax museum palace on 42nd Street the other night for the kickoff of this new Times Square attraction. We were fronted by the mayor and the governor of New York, who were both in fine ironic humorous form.

The group included our peerless emcee **Michael Feinstein**, the gifted pianist, singer and music historian. He presented a small group of us, immortalized in wax inside. We were with the one-named sensation **Ivana**. She was friendly and chatty with her ex and his beautiful Brunette girlfriend **Melania Knauss**. There was **The Donald** himself. Then, actor **Patrick Stewart**. He told me that in one brief second of time this year, he turned 60, had a grandchild and married his darling **Wendy**. Now the "Star Trek" star looks younger than ever and insists he has never known such bliss and been so happy.

## Liz Smith



**RU PAUL**

Burning candles at both ends.

The distaff side of the team that makes up **Wolfgang Puck** and Hollywood haute cuisine offered up **Barbara Lazeroff**. What a body; can it possibly be all hers? Well, I know the glit-

tery sprinkles on her shoulders and bosom had been added. Our gang included **Huey**, a rock singer, who complained that nobody seemed to know who he is. In our presence was **Evander Holyfield**, the strong silent champ. Believe it or not he was wearing blue patent leather shoes. **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** out-towered 42nd Street and was wearing a cast on one foot that doesn't appear on his wax figure inside. The fabled **Tony Bennett** was our *piece de resistance*, flanked by his charming and attractive blond daughter, **Antonia**, who is also a singer.

And, there was the great poet, **Dr. Maya Angelou**, who remained serene throughout chaotic rehearsals prior to our being launched outside in 30-degree weather to greet the crowds. As some attractive females, attired in pink tie and tails rehearsed with a giant champagne bottle, Dr. Angelou took exception to their being referred to as "girls" by the rehearsal master. "Are there any boys in this program?"

she asked with great solemnity. "No, just these girls," said the man. "Do you mean these women?" asked the doctor. (Oh, it was a wonderful moment in show business.)

I didn't get to see the entire museum as my date was chomping at the bit to go to Swifty's for corn cakes and salmon roe. But I did find my "portrait," as the Tussaud people call it, in the gala party room. The waxy company there was grand indeed. The men — John Travolta, Morgan Freeman, Samuel Jackson, Christopher Reeve, Regis Philbin, Woody Allen, Harrison Ford, George Steinbrenner are all stunningly real. You wait for them to move or speak. Another realistic figure is Larry King who is standing near my "portrait" as I take a party note on a pad. Larry, too, is magnificent — all too human.

The best of the women, hands down, is Susan Sarandon who is herself to the life. She greets you with a beautiful arm gesture as you step off the elevator. Her "portrait" is so good you want to give it a welcoming squeeze. The makers have placed Ru Paul in the center of the room like some ascended angel with a cascade of blond hair. He/she are too far away for one to examine.

But women must be harder to reproduce. I found myself ex-

tremely matronly looking even though I am wearing \$8,000 worth of **Arnold Scaasi** original. And they do have to get **Vincent** in from Saks Fifth Avenue to rearrange my coif. But I expect the person Madame Tussaud is going to be hearing from with thumb screws and guillotine will be the one and only **Barbra Streisand**. Here her "portrait" is seated on a curving fountain, chin in hand. She is wearing an unbecoming gray dress and with a nose bigger than the combined egos of every VIP enshrined here. Barbra isn't going to like this one bit. And I do think they done her wrong.

Oh yeah, yeah — I know you readers expect anyone my age to be "matronly." It's just that I haven't accepted that yet.

**T**HE DIVINE actress **Rebecca DeMornay** and her significant other, sportscaster **Patrick O'Neal** expect their second child next spring. The couple already have one daughter, **Sophia**, age 6. DeMornay, who gave one of the greatest performances ever in the TV mini of **Dominick Dunne's** "An Inconvenient Woman" appears as one of the stellar attractions in Showtime's January event, "It's a Girl Thing." (She's currently onstage at the Mark Taper Forum in "Closer.")