

OUT WEEK

NEW YORK'S
LESBIAN
AND GAY
NEWS
MAGAZINE



GETTING TOUGH

Brooklyn Women's Martial Arts

DENMARK'S GAY GROOMS

LESBIAN AIDS ACTIVISTS

**COMMON THREADS: HBO'S
PATCHWORK POLITICS**

DOWNTOWN DOWN AND OUT

NEWS • SEXUAL POLITICS • HEALTH • THE ARTS

NICE BOYS!!



"Shanghaied!" he groaned. "My head—!"

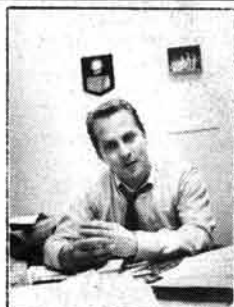
o n m a R s

Chip Duckett presents MARS NEEDS MEN/Sunday Nights at Mars/Dancing / Go-Go Boys / Drag Queens / Live Bands / DJ's Michael Connolly, Larry Tee, Perfidia & John Suliga/West Side Highway and 13th Street

9PM-4AM

OutWeek
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 Oct. 15, 1989

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 Peter LeVasseur



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OUTSPOKEN

Gays and the Mainstream Press

What is it about the "mainstream" press?

It seems that they can spend years studiously ignoring the most earth-shaking developments in the gay and lesbian world: ignoring AIDS, ignoring anti-gay violence, ignoring legal discrimination, ignoring struggles for domestic partnership or basic civil rights, indeed studiously ignoring any news that vitally affects a full ten percent of the entire population. But let them detect what they perceive as scandal and, boom, suddenly we're front page news, deserving the covers of national magazines, besieged by reporters who want to uncover scandal of any kind as they "objectively" pursue the news.

The history of the mainstream press and AIDS is well known. Not until Rock Hudson was afflicted and scientists began to warn about the possibility of a spread into the "general population" did this dire national emergency become a big story. Other equally big stories in other arenas, such as the power of the gay and lesbian vote in the recent New York primary, or calls for domestic partnership legislation, or the alarming rise in anti-gay violence, go unnoticed.

But from the days of the notorious Newport Scandals in the twenties, up through the Boise witchhunts in the fifties, through the Walter Jenkins scandal in the Johnson Administration, and continuing through the latest lies about Tom Foley or tragedies of people like Barney Frank, the straight press is right there, ready to whip up front page headlines like omelettes in their quest for "truth."

We at *OutWeek* recently experienced the reality of this when an inaccurate, inflammatory story about us appeared in the *New York Post*. Sensing blood, the mainstream press deluged us with calls. Everyone from the *National Enquirer* to *Time* Magazine was suddenly interested in the new phenomenon of "outing," a word we had never heard of before, which apparently refers to "dragging people out of the closet" according to an earnest reporter from *Time*. It seems the press, never interested in homeless people with AIDS or the lack of funding for drug trials or treatment, or the rights of domestic partners, suddenly couldn't get enough of this imaginary phenomenon.

The point is that despite all of our hard-won advances, for most people in the mainstream press we're still just a dirty little scandal, not worth a mention unless we're "caught in the act", or thought to be at odds with ourselves. In a remarkably ironic story about Barney Frank in a recent *Newsweek*, Robert Bray of the Human Rights Campaign Fund is quoted as saying, "If we win a court victory I can't get anyone interested. But if somebody gets in trouble, it's front page news." In that very issue of *Newsweek*, Barney Frank was on the cover. *Newsweek* printed Bray's remarks without commenting on the irony. Maybe they didn't even notice it. ▼

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LETTERS

Love That Rag

OutWeek is just wonderful. I truly love and am beginning to await the latest from Bradley and Michaelangelo, and, as a Southerner, I very much appreciated the tribute to Pat Parker. The way you are handling complaints—so openly—is great, and your wide, inclusive political spectrum, bringing to the fore all of the variety in the lesbian and gay community, is heroic. Your covers are beautiful and brave, and your news photos exciting. Your photographers get right in there, don't they? You've come along just in time to make a real difference in New York. I think of

your staff as a very capable group of people, quick witted, politically astute, and never lacking in humor, which permeates the magazine in every issue.

Jack Nichols
Cocoa Beach, FL

Sugar Daddy

I am appalled by three glaring, unforgivable omissions in your issue of October 1. How could you print an item titled "If Men Were Snacks" and *not* mention Twinkies, Sugar Daddies or Big Hunks? Would you do a story on candy and pastry and not mention tutti-frutti, cream puffs, fruitcakes, layercakes, cupcakes, tarts, ladyfingers,

date bars, jelly-rolls, lollipops, all-day suckers, horehounds or popcorn balls?

Maybe you're too young to remember that Sugar Daddies, Twinkies and Big Hunks were once among the most popular treats available. Having myself feasted on all of them, I can tell you that each in its way was a special ambrosia. It's true that Sugar Daddies



never looked that impressive once you took the wrapping off and they sometimes went all soft as soon as you put them in your mouth; but the great thing about a Sugar Daddy was that if you got tired of it before it was fin-

ished, you could always wrap it up and save it for later. And what about Twinkies? Remember how smooth and soft they were? Who can never forget slurping up that delicious fresh cream filling? And there was always enough to share with a friend. My favorite snack of all was the Big Hunk: ten inches of rock-hard confection (with nuts for days) that would last as long as you could want.

All I can say about your shoddy journalism is, YOU COULD NEVER MAKE MY PEANUT BRITTLE.

Truly sugar shocked,
Aldyn McKean
Manhattan

Viva Martina

In response to Rachel Lurie's article about Martina Navratilova (Sept. 24):

Dykes to Watch Out For



I've followed Martina's brilliant career for a decade and a half now, and I've sometimes wondered if anyone else has felt the pain and frustration that I have watching her recent struggles. I want desperately to see her win a few more Grand Slam titles and regain her #1 ranking, so that there will be no shred of doubt about who is the greatest player in the history of women's tennis.

Of course, every dyke knows she's the greatest, but there is a larger point to make. Martina is not only the greatest player, but also the greatest champion—something that Steffi Graf will never be even if she wins every match from now until she's 90, unless she has a serious attitude adjustment. She's undoubtedly awesome on the court, but outside of those white lines I see nothing to admire. She rarely utters a civil, let alone gracious, word about her competitors, and seems to have no historical perspective of how Martina, Chris Evert, Billie Jean King, et al, have made it possible for her to get to where she is. *That* is what adds insult to the injury of Martina's defeat.

The question now is, when Martina does retire who will be her successor as our new champion? Who can dykes root for? The present lack of any other out lesbians on the circuit should make us look at other qualities: which players really give their all to the game, and play with style? Who appreciates the fans and acknowledges their opponents' fine play?

Looking ahead to the post-Martina years, whenever they come, I see something among serious dyke tennis fans that's been missing for years: diversity. Imagine watching tournaments with your friends and actually rooting for different players! It'll take some get-



ting used to, and there will probably be couples splitting up over bad line calls, but, hey—it'll be interesting. Until another intelligent, compassionate, pioneering, brave, honest dyke with muscles and a heart-stopping smile rises to the top and revolutionizes the game, well, we'll just have to make do.

Mir Imblum
W. Versailles, PA

Goodbye to Julius'

Recently, a friend and I went to Julius' for a chin wag over a drink. After commenting how glad I was they no longer stocked Coors (there were no signs up indicating it was for sale), I was disheartened to have the bartender "reassure" me that yes, indeed, they had Coors Light on tap.

Upon my departure, I said to the bartender that "as long as they carry Coors, I would no longer be a patron of Julius'." It was that simple! I had always passively accepted the boycott of Coors by simply not buying the beer. *That isn't Enough!* In order for this boycott to have an impact, those of us who believe in it need to let the owners and managers of gay bars know how we feel. If enough "regulars" stop coming to neighborhood bars because of this, the bar owners may just not renew their contract with Coors. We must, each, do what we can.

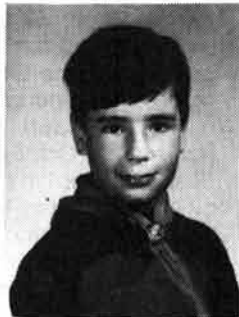
Thank you *OutWeek*—for just being here. It's so good to (finally) have a local gay magazine that is so good.

Terry McCann
Manhattan

Ball Squall

Let's start from the beginning...well, let's not rehash that business about a party to which I was not invited nor even informed was taking place. Let's start instead from last week when my name was misspelled as "Bradly Ball" in the Letters to the Editor. Fond as I am of the adverb form, I prefer to remain a proper noun. For many years I chose simply to go by the name "Brad Ball" because I found this very misspelling unendurably insulting. It's only been in the last two years that I have acquired enough self-confidence and enough faith in the literacy of others to venture forward under my full, given (and all too Christian) name. Now, in one stroke all of that self-confidence and faith has been shattered and I'm afraid this will result in a major setback in my therapy.

This week an astute reader called up to point out that in the Table of Contents, my column was listed under the title "Out Of My Mind." I could swear we had this discussion back in June before the magazine ever went to print. I requested that this



column be called "Advice to the Lorn" and you said you wanted it to have the word "Out" in the title, assuring me that this was going to be the appellation in the magazine. I was then arbitrarily presented with the title "Out Of My Mind" and proposed the compromised title "Out Of My Hands" which I felt was somewhat better although not entirely to my

satisfaction. And now this.

You know, this whole thing puts me in mind of the spring of 1978 but that is, I suppose, another story. All I'm asking is to be left relatively intact. That's all I've asked of any man.

Fondly,
Bradley A. Ball
Manhattan

Coors Advocates

The letter-writers in your Sept. 24 issue were mistaken when they wrote that *The Advocate* ignored public debate over the Coors brewery position on gay rights. We published an in-depth newsfeature about the issue in our February 14, 1989 edition.

Jim Schroeder
National News Editor
The Advocate

Photo Opportunity?

This is in response to Tom Rubnitz' letter to ACT UP (Oct. 1st issue):

Tom, you said you were thankful that the attackers were finally arrested and the ACT UP member released. Maybe it was because ACT UP put pressure on the police to make these things happen. Otherwise we're sure it would have been a very different and less desirable outcome. You are partly right about ACT UP's attempts to get people to help, but you must realize that it was a very serious situation that could have turned out much worse. If everyone had acted like you and done nothing and thought, oh well, I'm sure it will straighten itself out, let's not disturb my fun anymore, the bashers would be free and the innocent jailed.

As for ACT UP being there for a riot, give us a fucking break. You can't honestly believe members of ACT UP attended Wigstock, predicting there would be trouble. As we see it, when ACT UP has its meetings, that

XEROXED

is a group. Outside we are individuals, who happen to be ACT UP members. But we also happen to share a similar train of thought, which is to help the gay and lesbian community in any emergency situation, any time. To put it simply—we care. Just remember Tom, if you or anyone were ever in a similar situation, ACT UP would be there for you. But maybe in light of your attitude, ACT UP would just stand by and do nothing while you sat in a police car, handcuffed with blood dripping down your face because you were being yourself (gay), and the offenders were let go because it's okay to hurt and kill lesbians and gays. But we guess it wouldn't be all that bad for you, Tom. Just remember, all you would have to do is stick your bloody face and cracked skull out of the patrol car window. We're sure it would make for a fabulous "photo op"! Just try to remember though, as long as there is an ACT UP, jerks like the bashers and the police will know not to fuck with our people anymore. We'd also like to thank David Robinson for his response, and for trying to enlighten your heart.

Erik Smith
Dan Hunter
Manhattan

You Limelight Up My Life

Two matters of concern:

1) As a personal recipient of anti-gay physical violence—surely due at the time to that pricklier American conservatism of the late, late 70s and 80s—the insanity of it, man's inhumanity to man, not to mention the pathetic, heartless and at times heart-wrenching ramifications of the AIDS epidemic, brings me back to the way I was treated at St. Vincent's emergency room when requiring treatment for serious head injuries incurred in the anti-gay atrocity.

The St. Vincent's E/R "staff," if they can be called that, were bigoted, using insulting "homophobic" remarks around me, as though they had to "lower" themselves to tend to a homosexual. I thought I was back in the Dark Ages. It was 1985.

If this hospital doesn't change its policy of employing unprofessional health



workers (and security guards) it should be closed down or be relocated to someplace like Jesse Helm's state. But North Carolina may look liberal compared to the bigots at St. V's.

The fact that it's a Roman Catholic facility probably has everything to do with it. I'm not a fanatic or a terrorist, but sometimes can't help pleasantly fantasizing churches being bombed or all turned into gay discos—the Limelight, only one, isn't enough.

2) I support Barney Frank as your Oct. 8 editorial does. However, I'm mystified by its not seeming at all to know that Barney "came out" very publicly about a year ago. That action cannot be ignored in light of his current "predicament." It will probably end up being his winning volley in the course he's on.

Al Fahn
Manhattan

OutWeek welcomes your letters. Please include your name and phone number for verification, and mail to: Letters to the Editor, OutWeek Magazine, 77 Lexington Ave., N.Y., NY 10010

Homophobia Tonight

Mr. David Nuell
Executive Producer
Entertainment Tonight
Los Angeles, CA
Dear Mr. Nuell,

Last Thursday night Entertainment Tonight carried a feature piece on anti-semitism and racism in rock lyrics. It seems clear that the impetus for this piece was a fine *New York Times* Arts & Leisure feature on the same subject. However, the *Times* piece devoted fully 50 percent of its coverage to homophobia in rock songs. The Entertainment Tonight Report didn't even bring it up.

This is distressing for a number of reasons. Unlike anti-semitism and racism, homophobia is still socially acceptable. Films and television shows which would never allow the use of words like 'nigger' or 'kike' feel comfortable using words like 'fag' and 'dyke.' The current AIDS epidemic has exacerbated this problem in the sense that screenwriters, lyricists and TV writers feel now more than ever before they have permission to be anti-gay.

This is exactly why homophobia is not yet seen as a serious problem in our society—because the fact that it is bigotry is not enforced in the media.

Please consider these arguments in the future. Prejudice kills and we are currently in the midst of another epidemic in America—one of anti-gay violence. When teenagers aren't taught that anti-homosexual prejudice is wrong they feel it's o.k. to go out and beat up queers. Thank you for your time and attention on this issue.

Vito Russo
Manhattan

ddlgnorance

Mr. Max Frankel
The New York Times
229 W. 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036
Dear Max,

In your front page article of Friday, September 29th, "F.D.A., in Big Shift, Will Permit Use of Experimental AIDS Drug," your reporter, Mr. Philip J. Hilts, makes the following unfortunate mistakes:

1) "Scientists and public health officials... expressed concern that the distribution of the drug may make it difficult to get patients to volunteer for the clinical trial..." Clinical trials for ddl are, and have been for some time, completely filled, indeed overbooked. Why didn't Mr. Hilts make a few phone calls and discover this information, readily available, for himself, before making this statement not once but twice? Why, indeed, is he so determined to be so negative about these ddl trials, which are undertaken in such a spirit of hope?

2) "Suppose someone who experiences side effects sues and wins?" Mr. Hilts quotes from the mouth of Dr. Jere Goyan, a former FDA commissioner. There is no legal recourse under clinical trials. Patients sign release forms to that effect and pharmaceutical companies, before they even provide any of the free drug, demand the inclusion of same. Since Dr. Goyan, as a former FDA commissioner, must certainly know this, one can only assume that Mr. Hilts has quoted him entirely out of context.

3) Describing those accepted for the trials, Mr. Hilts says: "They must be over 12 years of age and

meet stringent medical criteria." The requirements for these ddl trials are among the most generous and relaxed of any trials in recent memory. Both the FDA and Bristol-Myers have bent over backwards to allow inclusion of patients never before given consideration on trials. FDA and Bristol-Myers met with community-based physicians (an historic first—another story other papers ran but the *Times* overlooked) and together negotiated these new entrance criteria.

How can a reporter slant a story so falsely? How can a reporter not avail himself of all the information available to anyone before reporting a story?

These are not small mistakes. And Mr. Hiltz appears to be making a large number of them.

It has become apparent that the chief source of Ms. Gina Kolata's monstrously bad "reporting" on the underground Compound Q study (Tuesday, September 19th), the roommate of the dead patient, has turned out to be as unreliable as any reporter should have had the sense to know a distraught survivor would be. It is inconceivable to me how a newspaper, with section editors and fact checkers and desk editors (and an editor in chief) could allow a story to see print that is so filled with inaccuracies and so obviously masquerades as "fact" when, also so obviously, it is based on information-once-removed, i.e. heresay. This is the way the *National Enquirer* operates.

I have been informed by NIH that alpha interferon, the subject of Ms. Kolata's page one story, "Long Ignored AIDS Drug Shows Promise in Small Tests," is classified at the *lowest* rating, that of "Not Recommended for Clinical Trials at This

Time"—and has been so classified since May 1987. What this means is that, thanks to Ms. Kolata, the *New York Times* has recommended a treatment that the NIH is not even interested in. On behalf of the NIH, you have told everyone to run out and try a drug that the NIH has pretty much given up on. What this means is that, yet once again, Ms. Kolata has written a story that is inaccurate.

Surely you must concede that the mistakes that I and others point out to you and yours on a regular basis amount to a more than convincing argument that your AIDS reporting is sloppy and bad. Other serious newspapers have not had this problem. Other serious newspapers are doing very fine work indeed.

It gives me pleasure, believe it or not, to find something nice to say to you. Your editorial (I assume

it is by Nick Wade) of Friday, September 29th: "AIDS, Drugs, Need and Greed," is superb. Every once in a while you do throw us a bone. And, grateful beggars that we are, we beg you for more.

Larry Kramer
Manhattan

Fie on Fidel
To the Government of Cuba,

I am writing to protest your policy of imprisonment of people who test positive for HIV anti-bodies. Your government quarantines hundreds of people at "Los Cocos," 40 kilometers from Havana. This policy is not followed in Warsaw Pact countries.

This is not only cruel but does not stop the spread of AIDS in Cuba. The HIV test often produces false results and will not show a positive result within the first months of infection. And Cuba isn't testing tourists.



I am a socialist who has a long record of speaking out against my own government. When the Soviet Union can no longer support the Castro regime, it will fall. I look forward to the day—along with so many Cubans—when you are on trial for your horrible crimes against human rights. People with AIDS have the right to be free and pose no danger to anyone from casual contact.

Robert D'Avanzo
Staten Island

Nightmare of the Week

Helen, Helen, Helen (Gurley Brown, editor of *Cosmopolitan*). The pelting you received by lesbian AIDS activists, hurling condoms Gurley Brown-ward when your rag declared heterosexual women "safe" from AIDS was, alas, not as effective as we might have hoped.

Now, in another desperate attempt to titillate your stimulation-soaked readership, *Cosmo* lists tips on how to spot fag potential in their yupster hubbies (see *Gossip Watch*, page 43).

It's true, Helen. You're not paranoid. We *are* everywhere. In your bedrooms. Your museums. Serving caviar at your benefits. On your editorial staff (gasp!). And among your readers. And we're watching you, Helen. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

Denmark Celebrates World's First Gay Weddings

Copenhagen Couples Make History Under New Danish Law

by Rex Wockner

COPENHAGEN—In what is being hailed as a fundamental turning point in the fight for gay and lesbian equality, 11 gay male couples were legally married Oct. 1 in the Copenhagen, Denmark Town Hall.

Denmark is the first country in the world to allow gay/lesbian mar-

"This is one of the five most important days ever in the lesbian and gay struggle," boasted one jubilant celebrant to Copenhagen's "Pink Radio" station. The Copenhagen daily newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* dubbed the 11 weddings "the event of the year."

At the center of the festivities was

added Eigil. "Of course, we always hoped we would be fully accepted and have the same rights as others."

Eigil said he was not troubled at being married amidst a "media circus" because it is "the necessary price you pay for making world history."

Many other gay and lesbian couples saw it differently, however, and postponed their weddings until later. Activists with the National Association for Gays and Lesbians (LBL) had thought that 50 to 100 couples might marry Oct. 1, but as the historical significance of the day became more apparent, several couples backed out.

Only three of the 11 couples later attended a press conference, including the pair that had been trailed for eight days by a British Broadcasting Corporation documentary crew.

You Can Change the World

Asked if he had any words of encouragement for gay and lesbian couples in other countries who might someday hope to be married, Eigil Axlil said, "Be open. Come out. Keep fighting. This is the only way to move anything. If everyone comes out of the closet then this will happen everywhere."

LBL national president Else Slange agreed. "You must get involved with politicians," she said. "Make them learn about you, make them know what you are and how you think. You must also get people in mainstream politics to be open as gays and lesbians."

Despite her obvious joy at LBL's success, Slange added that she has a "personal ideological opposition to the ruler/ruled model of heterosexual



"IF EVERYONE CAME OUT, THIS WOULD HAPPEN EVERYWHERE." Photo: Rex Wockner
Newlyweds Axel and Eigil Axlil in Copenhagen

riage and this was the day the new law took effect. The grooms included a high school teacher, a Lutheran minister and a school psychologist.

As hoards of reporters from all over the world stampeded for interviews, the 11 marriages were compared with such watershed gay events as the 1969 Stonewall Revolt in New York City, the 650,000-strong 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and the 1988 mobilization in Great Britain against homophobic Clause 28.

74-year-old Axel Axlil and his 67-year-old partner of 40 years, Eigil Axlil, who combined syllables from their given names to form a common surname. Axel founded the Danish gay rights movement by coming out of the closet in 1948. He was fired from his job the very next day.

"I'm quite overwhelmed with all these people and the press," Axel said through a translator, "but it's overall very beautifully put together."

"We just never could have dreamed we would get this far,"



CHAPEL OF LOVE

Crowds at the Copenhagen Town Hall after the first gay weddings

Photo: Rex Wockner

marriage" and would never get married herself. "But now gays and lesbians can choose," she said, "and that is very, very important."

It All Happened So Fast

The weddings themselves were surprisingly brief. Copenhagen Vice-Mayor Tom Ahlberg addressed the group for two minutes, reminding the grooms of their duties of "joint love, helpfulness and tolerance."

Each couple then individually entered a small adjacent room to answer the single question, "Will you take...as a partner?" After both men said 'yes,' they signed the marriage certificate and made way for the next couple.

Photographers nearly got into fist fights jockeying for position in the cramped space.

After all vows had been exchanged, the couples descended the Town Hall steps into a hundreds-strong throng of well-wishers flinging rice and confetti. Champagne flowed freely as the Danes exclaimed "Skål."

The three activist couples then made a dramatic exit in horse-drawn carriages, winding through the narrow streets of Copenhagen to a grand reception at the stylish LBL offices.

Many observers expressed surprise that no lesbians were married on this first day. There was no clear explanation why, but some activists suggested that it was a matter of "media intimidation" or a "preference for privacy."

There are two remaining problems with Denmark's new gay marriage law. Homosexuals are not yet permitted to adopt children. And the new legislation does not require the state Lutheran church to offer gay marriage ceremonies. Activists are fighting both omissions and expect the issue of church weddings to be resolved first.

At least one partner in a Danish gay/lesbian marriage must be a Danish citizen currently living in Denmark. According to Tom Stoddard of New York's Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the marriages will not be recognized in the 50 U.S. states, but he said "it should make for fascinating test cases in the courts should a couple emigrate and demand their rights."

Copenhagen's four daily newspapers gave overwhelmingly positive coverage to the weddings, with large color photographs of the grooms kissing and carrying each other over the threshold. But both state television channels buried the story in their newscasts, with TV1 running only a three-minute report at the very end of an hour-long broadcast.

Some Danish activists, however, insisted that the sparse TV coverage was proof that homosexuality is "no big deal" in Denmark. They said they found it incredible that the BBC, *The New York Times* and the American gay press had come all the way to Copenhagen for their "little wedding." ▼

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News

Feds Nix Grant for Gay AIDS Drug Trial Group

18 Other Groups Funded; AIDS Advocates Shocked and Outraged

by Andrew Miller and Mark Chesnut

WASHINGTON — Community Research Initiative (CRI), a leading gay community-based research group which conducts clinical trials of potential AIDS treatments with people with AIDS in New York City, was left out of a list of 18 community programs that will receive a total of over \$9 million in grants from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The announcement was made at a press conference on October 5 in Washington D.C., and has met with outrage from many members of the lesbian, gay and AIDS activist communities.

"It's appalling," Dr. Mathilde Krim told the *New York Times*, "CRI is at the core of the epidemic. They will be left out of the program they created." Krim is a co-founder of the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

"I'm outraged," concurred Dr. Bernard Bihari, executive director of CRI. "CRI is the parent organization of many organizations they funded.

Many of them have been looking up to us as a role model." CRI is the oldest and largest organization that conducts trials of AIDS drugs in urban neighborhoods.

NIAID's decision has left many

asking why CRI received a low score by NIAID's peer review committee, which received 689 applications from community-based research initiatives throughout the country. "There has to be a political reason," said Bihari. "It's both a successful attempt to take control of the (community-based) network and punishment for CRI's role in creating alternative approaches to AIDS treatment research."

Even Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID, expressed surprise that CRI had

used to treat pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, the leading killer of people with AIDS.

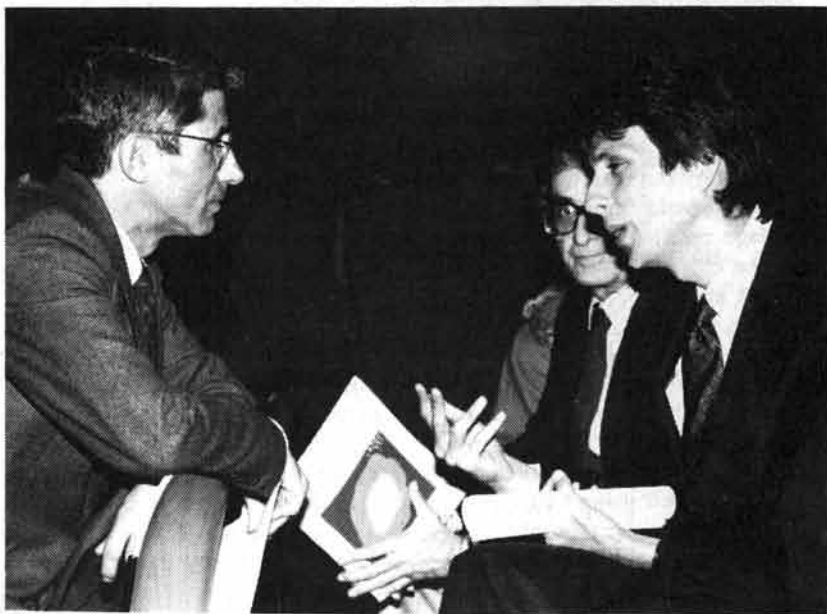
All of the organizations slated to receive funding will rely completely on NIAID for their existence, thus giving NIAID political and financial control, according to Bihari.

While the government maintains that funding was determined by a review panel of experts, Bihari claims that some people on the panel had no experience dealing with AIDS or with federal grants.

Two other gay-identified community-based programs, the Community Research Initiative of New England and the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington D.C., did not get past the first stage of approval by the panel. This is part of the argument by many who say that homophobia played a major role in the decision making process, although Lawrence "Bopper" Deyton, the assistant director for community research at NIAID

and the administrator of the program in question, is openly gay.

According to Deyton, NIAID employees, including himself, were invited to submit recommendations of outside experts for a peer review



NO DICE
NIAID's Anthony Fauci (l), with CRI's Bernard Bihari and Michael Callen after Thursday's announcement.

Photo: Jim Marks

not been selected, and reportedly called a special staff meeting to find out why, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

CRI was formed two years ago and received praise for their trials on aerosolized pentamidine, which is

board that is ultimately selected by a separate branch of the National Institutes of Health, of which NIAID is one division. "We administer the program but we don't decide who gets the money," he told *OutWeek*.

Deyton said that he submitted a list of 200 frontline doctors, nurses, AIDS activists, health care workers and advocates familiar with the needs and concerns of people of color and IV drug users, as well as more traditional medical researchers.

"The standard groups of people who we use for that purpose wouldn't do," Deyton said.

Ultimately, two committees were formed, "quite a few" of whose members, according to Deyton, were either gay or HIV positive. Deyton called the charges of homophobia "patently untrue. It's an unfortunate accusation. This is the least homophobic organization in Washington."

He added, "70 percent of the populations served by the groups that got grants are gay or bisexual," singling out the organizations in Oregon, San Francisco and Phoenix as ones with particularly large gay involvement.

Addressing the incipient controversy, he added, "I'm very concerned and upset by this. The community-based clinical trial movement is very important. And I don't want to see something as artificial as this small program divide an important positive movement that is rolling ahead. We all have the same goals."

Deyton blamed a \$24 million shortfall in expected funding from Congress for NIAID's inability to fund all of the qualified organizations that applied for contracts.

But in making the announcement of the contracts, Dr. Louis Sullivan, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), said, "These new programs are especially important because they will provide the opportunity to serve many people who, until now, have not been included in clinical trials of promising experimental AIDS therapies." Sullivan added, "The programs will reach out to Blacks, Hispanics, women and intravenous drug users infected by the AIDS virus." No mention of gay men with AIDS was made.

Elaine Baldwin, a spokeswoman for HHS, which administers NIAID, said of the charges of homophobia, "That's simply not true. That was not a factor. And it's not necessary to say anything more." She added, "We're not permitted by law to discuss the reasons why certain organizations did or did not receive a contract." Of the 18 organizations receiving government funding, most are affiliated with large universities or hospitals. CRI has no such affiliations.

Fred Mandel, a spokesperson for CRI, said that NIAID never made clear to them the reasons for the rejection. "If you don't know why someone rejects you, you can't remediate," he told *OutWeek*. They plan to reapply in the future, as well as file a petition requesting HHS's reasons for leaving CRI out. Deyton said he would be meeting with CRI's board to discuss his organization's decision.

CRI had planned on about 30 percent of its budget being supplied by NIAID, according to Bihari, and will now have to rely more on drug company sponsors, private donations and foundation grants. But others in the AIDS community told *OutWeek* that the absence of the federal contract had serious financial implications for CRI.

Seven of the contracts will fund

clinical trials by already established organizations: Bronx Lebanon Hospital; Denver Community Program for Clinical Research on AIDS; Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit; Oregon AIDS Task Force in Portland; Richmond AIDS Consortium in Virginia; San Francisco County Community Consortium; and Veterans Administration Center in Washington, D.C..

Eleven other contracts will help relatively new organizations prepare to conduct clinical trials. They are Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation in Brooklyn; Atlanta AIDS Research Consortium; Chicago Community Program for Clinical Research on AIDS; Clinical Directors Network of Region II in a group project involving the Bronx, Brooklyn and Newark, N.J.; Comprehensive AIDS Alliance of Detroit; Delaware Community Program for Clinical Research on AIDS in Dover; Harlem AIDS Treatment Group; Hill Health Center in New Haven; Louisiana Community Program for Clinical Research on AIDS in New Orleans and Baton Rouge; North Jersey AIDS Alliance in Newark; and the Phoenix Shanti Group. The grants ranged from \$307,130 to \$682,854.

— filed from New York

STONEWALL RIOTS

by ANDREA NATALIE



ALEXIS COULD NO LONGER DENY SHE WAS LOSING TO THE COMPETITION.

FDA Releases AIDS Drug on Parallel Track

Move Follows Intensive Pressure from Activists

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—DDI, an experimental anti-HIV drug, was released into a broad distribution program called a "parallel track," by the U.S. Public Health Service on Sept. 28, after months of intense pressure from AIDS activists.

The drug, a less toxic relative of AZT, which is the only federally approved anti-HIV drug, will now enter broad Phase II clinical trials in which its effectiveness will be tested. In an unprecedented move, the Food and Drug Administration will also allow the drug's manufacturer to distribute the drug to a wide array of people with AIDS and advanced ARC who cannot tolerate AZT or do not qualify for the ddi clinical trials for a variety of other reasons.

DDI has raised hope of AIDS researchers after initial Phase I toxicity trials on 200 people showed that it appeared to be as effective, and less toxic than, AZT. However, clinicians have found that several patients taking high doses of ddi reported bouts of pain and numbness. New clinical trials have found that risk substantially minimized when the drug is taken at lower doses.

"The epidemic of AIDS is extraordinary and it must be met with extraordinary measures," stated FDA

commissioner Frank Young on ddi's release. "Since ddi is still an experimental drug, it must be tested carefully and must demonstrate safety and efficacy before it can be approved. We believe, however, that it is important to offer the drug to people with

ddi if they don't have to.

"I believe people who are stable on AZT right now would be wisest staying on AZT, unless they've been on it so very long that they and their physicians are virtually certain it's not helping," stated Jim Eigo of ACT UP.

The Public Health Service's announcement comes after months of intense pressure from AIDS activists, which initially came up with the concept of making experimental drugs available to AIDS patients on a parallel track after toxicity levels are established but before its effectiveness is proven.

To implement the new distribution system, the FDA, working with AIDS activists, has broadened its definitions of two existing programs, called "Treatment IND [Investigational New Drug]" and "compassionate use" protocols, to allow for the drug's release as soon as it enters Phase II effectiveness studies.

"This plan offers some additional options for people with AIDS and particularly for the thousands of AIDS patients who cannot tolerate AZT," stated Secretary of Health and Human

Services Dr. Louis Sullivan, announcing the drug's release. "This plan for expanded testing and earlier availability of ddi, developed through the cooperation of several Public Health Service agencies and Bristol Myers, reaffirms our commitment to speeding both the development and the availability of



AZT OK, TOO
Jim Eigo

Photo: T.L. Litt

AIDS for whom the standard treatment of zidovudine [AZT] is not an option, even though there are some potentially serious side effects."

AIDS activists were quick to caution that patients currently benefiting from AZT not drop the proven, although limited, drug in favor of the

promising new drugs for patients with AIDS whenever possible."

A month after meeting with AIDS activists who targeted ddi as the most likely candidate for the parallel track last June, drug manufacturer Bristol Myers agreed to distribute the drug for free to as many as 25,000 AIDS patients. The clinical trials for ddi are expected to enroll approximately 2,600 participants.

And while the new program will allow a greater number of people to gain access to ddi, the protocol is by no means all inclusive. A concern AIDS activists still have is that it may still exclude people with high, but rapidly declining levels of T-4 cells, a key indicator of immune system function, as well as others who don't fit its specifications, according to Eigo.

As part of their discussions with Bristol Myers, AIDS activists have already begun looking at another Bristol Myers anti-HIV drug, D4T, as the next drug which could be placed on the "parallel track."

"I must say, at least this far, all the parties have acted pretty exceptionally, [particularly] Bristol Myers, in distinct contrast with some of the other pharmaceuticals we've had to deal with," added Eigo, "and I hope it continues."

Those wishing more information on AIDS-related clinical trials may call 1-800-TRIALS-A, a toll free hotline about AIDS clinical trials, from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Those wishing more information on ddi, its clinical trials or the "parallel track" can call Bristol Myers' toll-free hotline at 1-800-662-7999 daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time. Bristol Myers expects ddi clinical trials to begin in mid-October. ▼

Corrections

Doug Mendini's review of *An Invisible Spectator, A Biography of Paul Bowles* by Christopher Sawyer Laucanno inadvertently omitted a credit. The review originally appeared in *Lambda Rising Book Report*, issue 1.12.

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Gay Bash Survivor Files Civil Rights Suit

Neo-Nazi Skinheads Face \$20 M in Damages

by John Zeh

WASHINGTON—A gay survivor of a vicious attack by a gang of "skinheads" wants the District of Columbia Superior Court to invoke the 100-year-old Ku Klux Klan Act in an unprecedented \$20 million lawsuit against his alleged attackers.

The legal action is believed to be the first civil suit against members of the skinhead movement, who are identified generally by shaved heads, heavy boots, suspenders, bomber jackets, and neo-Nazi or other white supremacist rhetoric.

Rodney Johnson, 37, who was brutally beaten a year ago near "P Street Beach," a popular gay hangout along Rock Creek in the northwest section of the city, was flanked by seven representatives of groups working to combat violence against lesbians and gay men when he announced their joint case here Sept. 28.

"I'm grateful we're all getting together on this, bringing this out in the open, and making it known we're not going to tolerate this [violence] any longer," Johnson said.

"Across the country," said Paula Eitelbrick of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, "skinheads are to the lesbian and gay community what

the Ku Klux Klan was to the Black community. We ask the court to review the [KKK] Act, which prohibits two or more people from conspiring to violate the civil rights of another person."

"Die, Faggot, Die"

Johnson was walking home at 5 a.m. from a Georgetown restaurant where he worked through a well-lit school parking lot when he encountered a group of skinheads with baseball bats. One did a "martial arts movement" wielding a bat overhead and then struck him "with all his strength," according to Johnson's lawyers. Others allegedly joined in to beat and rob him, leaving Johnson bleeding profusely with a collapsed lung, a fractured skull, broken ribs and fingers, and a splintered shoulder.

During the assault, the skinheads yelled, "Die, faggot, die," according to the suit. Mark Hyder, one of the three named in the suit and indicted for assault with intent to kill while armed, told the *Washington Post*, "I have a hatred for gays." He said that if Johnson had died, "I don't think I would have felt any remorse about it."

According to Lambda, Hyder and two others named in the civil suit, David McCall and Richard Grimes, all

18, are set to stand criminal trial here Nov. 6 for assault with intent to kill and armed robbery.

Grimes, who was accused by a government prosecutor of being the ringleader in the attack on Johnson and two other gays the same weekend, is being sought as a fugitive from justice, Lambda said. He and McCall were convicted Aug. 29 of assault on another skinhead whom they claimed was a white supremacist, according to Eitelbrick.

Parents Named In Suit

The civil action is also novel in two other ways. It marks the first time a victim of anti-gay violence has sued members of an organized hate group for civil damages, said Eitelbrick, Lambda's legal director in New York City. And it names three parents of two skinhead defendants, charging they knew about the skinheads' violent activities and "encouraged or failed to discourage" their children's association with the group, she said.

Two parents of defendant Richard [Craig] Grimes helped him rent an apartment at 14th and T Streets N.W. as a "crash pad" for local skinheads, the suit says. To pay rent, Grimes suggested he and the other defendants go "fuck up some faggots," for cash and credit cards, according to Lambda. At a pre-trial hearing in pending criminal actions, an assistant U.S. attorney quoted Grimes as saying, "So if I'm going to get a fag, I'm going to kill him."

Seven of the eight defendants were minors at the time of the attack. "If it takes till these youngsters are in their thirties to recover damages, we will wait," said Linda Delaney, Johnson's chief counsel in Washington. "We're not afraid of their age, or their threats."

If I can't dance, it's not my revolution.

The Atlanta-based CDR, formerly the National Anti-Klan Network, "does not believe that effective measures (such as the federal bill) to curb bigoted violence can be adopted which do not include violence against gay people" said CDR board member Othello Poulard. "The bonds of human solidarity are very weak in our society" so CDR, a national clearinghouse for efforts to counter hate group activity, "wants to express our own solidarity with Mr. Johnson," Poulard said. "The attack on him is [not] just a matter of concern for gay men or lesbians. It is [one] for all justice-loving people."

—J.Z.

Anti-Gay Violence

Hyder disclaimed any association with supremacist groups, saying, "The whole Nazi deal is giving us a bad name." Responded Kevin Berrill, who directs the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's anti-violence project, "Although local skinheads claim to be non-racist, we believe that people who hate do not discriminate."

According to Berrill, "more than 7,000 anti-gay episodes ranging from harassment to homicides were reported from across the U.S. to NGLTF. "Skinhead attacks were by far the most numerous and brutal of all [anti-gay] hate group incidents documented," he added. "Organized hate groups pose an unprecedented and growing threat to our community."

A 1988 survey by the D.C. Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Task Force documented more than 600 incidents of homophobic violence in the Washington area. More than 70 percent of respondents had been attacked or knew someone who had.

The consortium supporting Johnson—Lambda, NGLTF, The Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance, the Center for Democratic Renewal and the B'nai Brith's Anti-Defamation League—lobby for local, state, and federal laws to require law enforcement authorities to collect data on hate-motivated offenses. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, passed overwhelmingly by the U.S. House of Representatives last session, has 54 sponsors in the Senate, where action is expected this fall.

"It is hard for someone not present at the attack to comprehend the incredible hatred these gang members felt—and still feel—toward me," said Johnson. "I am completely disgusted by this kind of group violence. As a society, we cannot allow hate-motivated violence by these gangs to continue."

"This complaint alleges that the skinheads paid their rent and purchased their possessions by ripping off 'faggots,'" said NGLTF's Berrill. "How fitting it is that Rod—and by extension the gay and lesbian community—seeks to reclaim not only what has been stolen, but also demands reparations for the suffering they have inflicted." ▼

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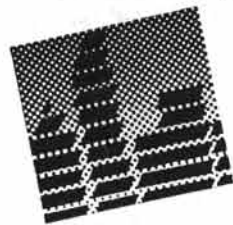
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News

The Bench or the Fence: Where the Supreme Court Sits

Conservative Majority Expected to Dominate Agenda as Sessions Begin

by Victoria A. Brownworth

WASHINGTON — The 1989-90 term of the United States Supreme Court opened October 2, beginning in earnest what promises to be the new wave of conservatism in the judiciary, the continuing, and perhaps furthest-reaching legacy of the presidency of Ronald Reagan.

His appointment of Justice Anthony Kennedy in his final year in office unsettled the fragile balance between liberal and conservative opinions on the Court, giving a solid 5-4 edge to the Right on most key civil liberties issues. With Kennedy's conservatism a confirmed entity, the current term may be the watershed for decisions on affirmative action,

discrimination, free speech, access to housing, and abortion.

Issues of impact before the Court this term once again include abortion,

structured over the years through Court decisions. Several years ago, that right for lesbians and gay men took a serious blow, when the Court upheld a

NEWS ANALYSIS

as well as the right to die and various discrimination cases. Although none of these cases relate directly to lesbians and gay men, their outcome could impact directly on our community, as their precedential effects filter into the national judicial system.

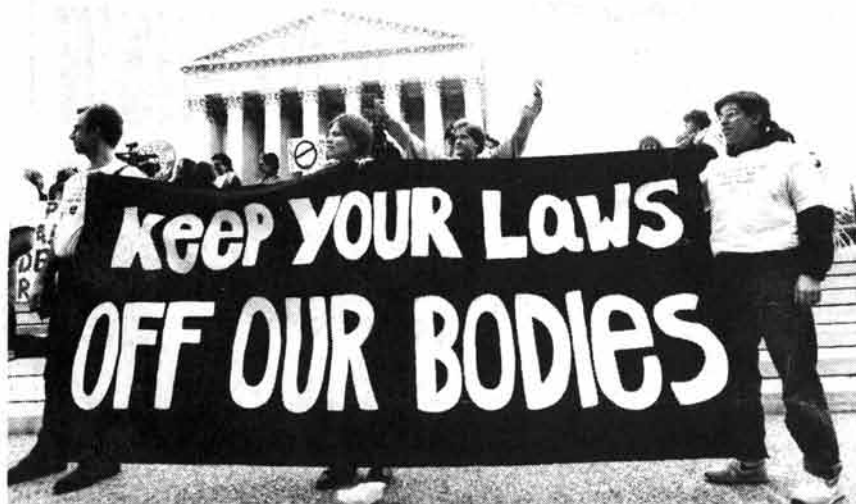
The critical focus this term will once again be the right to privacy—one which is not explicitly guaranteed by the Constitution, but has been con-

Georgia statute prohibiting private, consensual sex between two adults of the same gender, in the notorious *Bowers vs. Hardwick* decision.

This year's calendar includes three abortion cases—two involving the rights of minors to obtain abortions without parental consent, and one challenging an Illinois law requiring all abortions, including those in the first trimester, to be performed in hospital or surgical settings with a full medical staff in attendance.

It is thought by most Court watchers that these cases will not result in the actual overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*, the landmark 1973 decision legalizing abortion nationwide. But more foundation-smashing arguments, like those presented in last year's *Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services* decision which allowed states to limit access to abortion under certain circumstances, are sure to be issued.

The *Webster* case resulted in the state of Missouri prohibiting publicly-funded institutions from performing abortions, effectively cutting off access to abortions to low-income women in that state. This term, it is the rights of young women, the group which most utilizes abortion services, which are under attack. And the Illinois case,



WAITING FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP
Abortion-rights activists at the Supreme Court

Photo: T.L. Litt



COURTING DISASTER

Protesting at the federal court in Brooklyn

Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

should it be decided in favor of the state, would effectively bar women who could not afford hospital abortions from obtaining them at all.

Other cases on the calendar include a housing desegregation case in the city of Yonkers, and a Missouri right-to-die decision. The Court will also hear a arguments on capital punishment, and a case involving a prisoner who has been forced to take anti-psychotic drugs in a penal institution, which could have implications for the use of prison populations in the testing of experimental drugs for AIDS.

The specifics in these cases threaten to have an overriding impact on minority rights in general: the rights of women, the poor, people of color and prisoners. The effects may be lasting and perhaps irrevocable. And the way the Court is likely to vote on each issue is, to a justice, nearly a forgone conclusion. What is less certain is the actual breadth of the opinions themselves.

The agenda of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, whose privilege it is to assign the writing of the actual decisions, seems to be a subtle one. Rather than actually overturning *Roe* or invalidating civil rights statutes like those establishing affirmative action policies, the Court seems to prefer to undermine those decisions' foundations. The laws remain intact, while their scope and power are further and

further circumscribed.

That process is likely to be most obvious in the abortion cases. The scope of the Court's decision in the right to die case involving Nancy Cruzan will also be of importance.

The Court will decide whether to allow the parents of Cruzan to deny food and water to their daughter, who was brain injured in a car accident six years ago. Although Cruzan can see, hear, and breathe on her own, she is unable to swallow water or food, recognize people or objects, think, or speak. Missouri courts have ruled, in narrow decisions, that the state has an overwhelming interest in the right to life, despite her own

recorded wishes that she not be kept alive under such circumstances. Doctors have said that she might continue to live for 30 years in this "persistent vegetative state."

Because the right to die has become a major issue for people with AIDS, their lovers and their families, the case will have a tremendous bearing on the AIDS community. And the continuing battle over abortion rights is seen by abortion rights advocates as a struggle for each individual to maintain autonomy over her or his own body.

The influence of the Court's conservative majority on this panoply of privacy issues could potentially be devastating. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor remains the High Court's pivotal decision maker, because of her recorded tendency to "swing" in several areas of liberal interest. Despite her swing vote, however, the Court's record last year indicates that the conservative bloc has arrived.

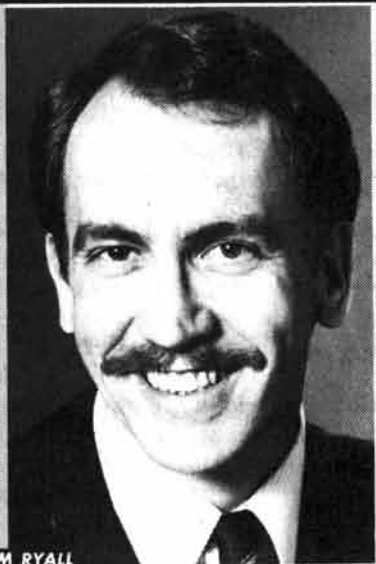
And if individuals have no right to choose to die, if women and prisoners have no rights over their own bodies, if minorities lose the gains made through affirmative action and other civil rights legislation, then what are the prospects for lesbians and gay men as cases involving them come before the Supreme Court, whose justices are appointed for life, in coming years?

— filed from Philadelphia

Obituary

Tom Ryall died September 30th at Roosevelt Hospital from complications due to AIDS. He was 42 and lived in Manhattan. An actor and part-time model, Tom's credits include the motion pictures *They All Laughed* and *Author Author*. Before becoming an actor, he served in the U.S. Army here and abroad. He is survived by his parents and seven brothers and sisters.

Memorial services will be held on Monday, October 9th, at 1pm, at the Calvary Baptist Church in Norwich, New York. Those wishing to make memorials in his name should contribute to The Stay Well Center, Manhattan Plaza, 484 West 43rd Street, New York, New York.



TOM RYALL

Congress Approves Some Restrictions on "Obscene" Art

Helms Extends Debate for Three Days

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—After three days of heated debate, technical motions and non-stop lobbying, a pivotal congressional committee Sept. 29 agreed to a diluted version of a Senate measure banning the funding of "obscene" art.

After a protracted struggle, the House/Senate conference committee finally approved the measure which would amend the budget of the

artistic, political or scientific merit."

The approved rider is a watered-down version of an amendment attached last July by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) to the 1990 Interior Department appropriations bill, which includes the NEA budget. The amendment, which was approved by voice vote by a handful of senators on the floor in the late evening session, also sought to ban funds to "indecent"

Alphonse D'Amato (R-NY) expressed extreme disapproval with two NEA-funded displays by artist Andres Serrano and late gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

On a technical maneuver earlier, the U.S. House turned back an attempt to instruct their members to the conference committee to retain the Helms language.

But during debate on the 1990 appropriations bill for the Department of Defense, Helms introduced a new "sense of the Senate" amendment insisting that the Senate's conferees press for his entire amendment with no changes.

Repeatedly calling Mapplethorpe a "homosexual who died of AIDS," Helms waved about selected photographs from the exhibit, which contained several depictions of naked children and sadomasochistic and homoerotic works.

"I'm going to ask that all the pages, all the ladies and maybe the staff leave the chamber so that senators can see exactly what they're voting on," stated an angry Helms, who accused

the media of distorting the issue. Despite his statement, Helms never asked that the chamber be cleared.

During the late-night debate, liberal Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) read several salacious excerpts from the Bible suggesting that it, and 700 years of Christian art, could fall under the amendment's broad provisions.

After debate on the amendment, which kept senators in until 1:30 a.m.



SPRINGTIME FOR JESSE?

Protesting Helms' amendment at the Met last summer

Photo: Tom McKitterick

National Endowment for the Arts to ban funding to "promote, disseminate or produce obscene materials, including, but not limited to depictions of sadomasochism, homo-eroticism, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts." In a key compromise move, the amendment borrows from a 1973 Supreme Court decision in defining "obscene" as that which is without "significant literary,

work and to material which "denigrates the objects of belief of a particular religion or non-religion; or which denigrates, debases, or reviles a person on a basis of race, creed, sex, handicap, age, or national origin."

The approval of the Helms amendment brought to a head a summer-long controversy into the federal funding of controversial art which began when Sens. Helms and



YOU SAY POTATO, AND I SAY D'AMATO
Zapping D'Amato over the Helms
Amendment Photo: Margot Kingon

the following morning, the body voted to table Helms' amendment by a vote of 62-35.

But 11 hours later, as the conference committee readied to meet yet again, Helms tried yet a third time to impose his amendment. In his final effort, Helms attached a similar "sense of the Senate" amendment to the 1990 appropriations bill for the Departments of State, Justice and Commerce. This time, however, the amendment was scaled down to only the first paragraph of the controversial rider.

Seeking to blunt the amendment's far reaching efforts further, Sen. Wyche Fowler (D-GA) introduced a "second degree" amendment to the Helms measure, deleting the word "indecent" from the funding ban. "We already have obscenity statutes," said Fowler, "We're just saying no funds to promote an illegal activity, which is obscenity."

After more debate, the Fowler attachment was approved by a vote of 65-31 and the Helms amendment was then approved by a voice vote.

That afternoon, the committee met a final time to approve the final compromise obscenity measure.

After the committee meeting, lobbyists on both sides of the issue expressed half-hearted satisfaction with the outcome.

"Do I like it?" American Arts Alliance director Anne G. Murphy responded to reporters' questions.

See "OBSCENE" ART on page 29

If you don't have health insurance, this may be your chance!

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This information is provided as a public service and does not constitute an endorsement.

GMHC

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

Out Takes

Am I blue?

NEW YORK — October 3 marked the beginning of an open enrollment period for three different Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance policies, including one poli-

cy not requiring a statement of current health status. A series of ads heralded this first period of open enrollment since 1987.

But the policy's annual deductible of \$1,000, and the monthly premiums of \$112, have drawn criticism from organizations such as the Gay Men's

Health Crisis. GMHC Acting Director Timothy Sweeney expressed concern about the policy's requirement that the patient must pay 20 percent of medical care with no limit on what he or she will have to pay.

The lack of a ceiling could result in a patient having to pay thousands

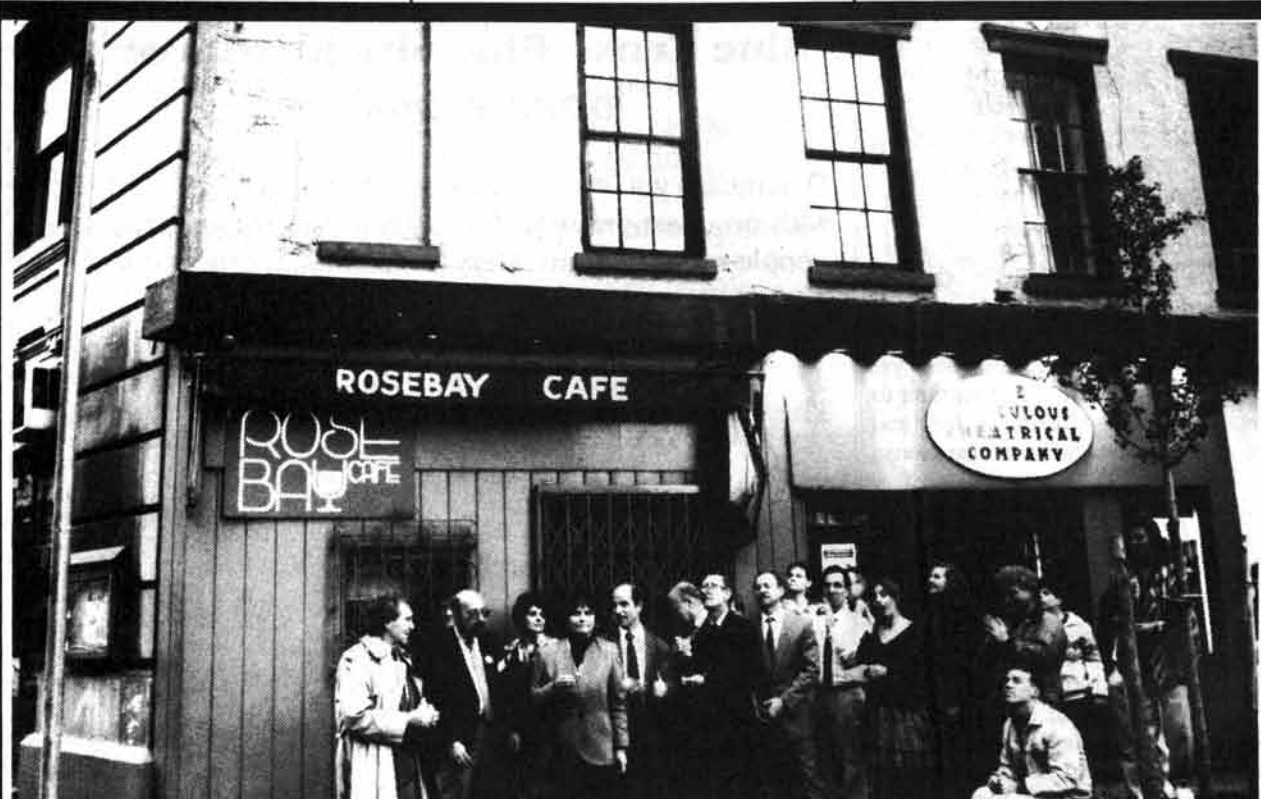


Photo: Roberta Raeburn/Fotographia

NEW YORK—The next time you are going to the Charles Ludlam Theater in Sheridan Square, ask the cabbie to take you to Charles Ludlam Corner, so-named in a ceremony held on Thursday evening, September 28, 1989, honoring the late founder and former Artistic Director of the Ridiculous Theatrical Company. The unveiling of the regulation green and white street sign was witnessed by over a hundred Company members, fans, dignitaries and curious Greenwich Village dog-walkers, who filled the northwest corner of the Square with laughter and applause; a fitting tribute to one of the Theater's greatest showmen.

The event marked the first time a New York City street was ever renamed for someone gay.

City Councilwoman Carol Greitzer, who introduced the motion before the Council to erect the sign, welcomed the crowd and noted that the ceremony coincided with the beginning of the theater company's fall season and the opening night of their newest production *Big Hotel*, written

by Ludlam. Greitzer introduced the roster of speakers, including Arthur Strickler, Chairperson of Manhattan's Community Board No. 2, Gigi Bolt and Al Beer, Associate and Deputy Directors of the New York State Council on the Arts, Jan Carl Parks of the Mayor's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community, and producer Joseph Papp of the New York Shakespeare Festival.

The final speaker was Everett Quinton, Ludlam's long-time lover and current guiding light of the theater company. He demurely noted that it was "an incredible feeling" when the city council voted to erect the sign. With the speeches completed, everyone joined in removing the cover from the small square atop the post. The crowd roared as "Charles Ludlam Corner" was revealed and Quinton stood, his hands clasped at his chest, his gaze skyward and a smile trembling on his face. When asked how he thought Ludlam might react to such a street sign, Quinton told *OutWeek*, "He'd think it was better than a new pair of high heels."

—by Keith Miller

of dollars for hospital stays, prescription drugs and doctor visits that would be necessary for a chronic illness like HIV infection, according to Sweeney. Though GMHC would like to see a limit on the individual's contribution and a "more reasonable deductible," the agency conceded that the plan "was better than no coverage at all" and urged all uninsured people with HIV to consider it.

Also problematic for GMHC is the scope of Blue Cross' advertising, which the organization criticized for not adequately outreaching to communities which could benefit from the new insurance policies. GMHC spokeswoman Carisa Cunningham said the ads "were low-key and hard to find for people who need this information." "But word is getting out, despite the best efforts of Blue Cross/Blue Shield," Cunningham told *OutWeek*.

That is due in part to GMHC itself. Castigating Blue Cross for not advertising in the lesbian and gay press, GMHC spokesman Geoffrey Knox commented that "We have to spend our money to do what they should be doing." GMHC will purchase ads itself in that medium, in order to get word out to the lesbian and gay community.

In response to the criticism, John Kelly, Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield's public relations manager said that media placement and market strategy were the responsibility of Brouillard Communications, a subsidiary of J. Walter Thompson, a large Madison Avenue advertising agency.

Some AIDS advocates have charged that Blue Cross is more interested in scoring points with the state legislature, which controls its fee schedule, than in providing health insurance to high-risk consumers.

According to Richard Conti, senior legislative associate with Assemblyman Richard Goufried (D-Manhattan), the open enrollment program gains Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield preferential treatment in hospital service payment. Blue Cross receives a 13 percent price break in its reimbursements to hospitals within New York State, Conti said.

The West Side Assemblyman,

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Out Takes

who is the chair of that legislative body's Health Committee, will investigate the details and monitor the implementation of the insurance carrier's open enrollment.

Gottfried's office estimates that there are currently 2.5 million New Yorkers without health coverage.

— Jon Nalley

Cuomo's gay "family"

NEW YORK — Taking "a significant step that recognizes that gay and lesbian members of the family of New York have special concerns that must be addressed," Governor Mario Cuomo announced the creation of the Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns on September 25. It is the first state government office of its kind in the United States.

Lance Ringel, who has overseen enforcement of Cuomo's Executive Order 28.1, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation by state agencies in employment and provision of services, was named the new office's director.

Ringel's old office, and his position as the governor's liaison to the lesbian and gay community, will now be merged with the responsibilities of the new office.

According to State Human Rights Commissioner Douglas White, the new gay office will "keep current with major issues, activities and trends in New York State's lesbian and gay community, and report them periodically to the governor."

In addition to serving as an informational resource and acting as ombudsman for individuals and organizations in the lesbian and gay community in its interactions with state agencies, the office will monitor incidents of anti-gay violence throughout New York State.

Ringel has previously been executive director of the Fund for Human Dignity, a lesbian and gay educational foundation. He was also the coordina-



LANCE RINGEL Photo: Peter LeVasseur

tor of political education and voter registration for the National Gay Task Force, president of Lambda Independent Democrats of Brooklyn and president of the Hetrick-Martin Institute, an advocacy and social service agency for gay and lesbian youth.

"There is now a state government that recognizes our special concerns," Ringel told *OutWeek*. "Given our history as a community at all levels of government, this happening at the state level is quite significant."

Cuomo's move was met with criticism from some conservative state lawmakers, including Dale Volker (R-Buffalo) and Serphin Maltese (R-Queens), who dubbed the move a waste of taxpayers' money.

Limited by the lack of statewide protections against discrimination, Ringel said his office will be logging discrimination complaints, as ammunition for a future offensive to pass anti-discrimination laws protecting lesbians and gay men at the state level. — Andrew Miller

MacAIDS, MacQueer

CUPERTINO, California —Replicating and spreading, an "AIDS" virus has done costly damage to Macintosh

computer systems. Someone familiar with the widely-used system has created a code which attaches itself to other programs — setting-off a chain of nuisance for "Mac" users. The "Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh" (SAM) system — which protects "Mac" programs from known and unknown viruses by detecting and eliminating them in files, disks and servers — has reported in a user handbook that "efforts are underway to fully identify the [computer] AIDS virus."

An employee of the the Cupertino, California-based firm producing the SAM system, who asked not to be identified, told *OutWeek* that "some warped individual [who created the virus] decided to call it AIDS."

"AIDS," a special version of the "nVir B strain" virus, causes the following common "Mac AIDS" symptoms according to the handbook: beeping when application is launched, mysterious file disappearance and frequent system crashes.

Because of the tremendous disruption caused by the virus, the SAM employee reported that, if caught, legal action would be taken against this user zero. When activated, the virus can cause the "shut-down" of hundreds of terminals. Bringing such a system up again would require an extensive "checking" and "reformatting" process.

Ironically, another Macintosh system, Microsoft Word recently came under attack by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. GLAAD, which uses this popular word-processing program, reported the protest of derogatory synonyms for the word gay — such as effeminate, effete, sissy, swishy, unmanly and wimpy — by the Microsoft Thesaurus in the advocacy group's recent newsletter. Claiming that it is supplied to Microsoft by another company, a Microsoft employee apologized to GLAAD's Assistant Director Karin Schwartz and assured her in a letter that Thesaurus will be amended in future versions of the software.

— Jon Nalley

Medical apartheid

WASHINGTON—The Whitman-Walker Clinic and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced the settlement of a lawsuit against Washington D.C.'s Howard University Hospital for discrimination against AIDS patients. As a result of the settlement, Howard has agreed to adopt a hospital-wide policy permitting persons with AIDS or HIV infection to be treated on all wards and in all rooms of the hospital. Previously, patients with AIDS and HIV disease were refused admission to certain wards of the hospital, including the psychiatric ward, and were treated only in isolation, in private rooms, or in rooms with other patients with HIV disease.

The lawsuit was brought in federal district court in Washington, D.C. on behalf of a 31-year-old Black woman with AIDS. In October, 1988, the woman, identified only as Jane Doe to protect her confidentiality, was denied appropriate treatment by Howard University because of the hospital's policy of isolating patients with HIV disease and denying them admission to the psychiatric ward.

The case was filed against Howard in November 1988 under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the D.C. Human Rights Act, both of which prohibit discrimination against the handicapped or those perceived to be handicapped.

I came, I saw, I conquered

BOLOGNA—Officers of *ArciGay*, Italy's 10,000-member national gay and lesbian political organization, say Italy will see the election of at least two openly gay members of parliament in the next elections, which will

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occur sometime between now and 1992.

Speaking by telephone from Bologna, *ArciGay* president Franco Grillini said, "We have the promises of the Greens and the Communists to put forth gay candidates. These are very important parties in Italy—the Communists got 27 percent of the vote in the last election—and they feel that electing gay people is an important part of their civil rights stances."

The last time Italians went to the polls, in 1987, ten openly gay candidates were on the ballot. Although none of them won, at least 20,000 Italian voters took the extra and unnecessary step of voting for the gay candidates individually—rather than simply casting a vote for a party in general.

Openly gay candidates are most likely to win election in Northern Italy, Grillini said, in Bologna, Milan, Venice or Florence. Gays are believed to be politically strongest in Bologna, because it is the *ArciGay* national seat. The largest number of openly gay and lesbian people live in Milan.

The gay rights struggle is complicated in Italy, Grillini said, by the presence of the Vatican and by the fact that the ruling Christian Democrat party "is strongly opposed to homosexuals and their rights... But," he added, "it is astonishing how far we have come in such a short time."

ArciGay is nine years old and has more than 10,000 members in 20 Italian cities, including Genova, Turin, Milan, Varese, Bolzano, Verona, Padova, Venice, Vicenza, Rimini, Ravenna, Bologna, Parma, Florence, Empoli, Rome, Naples, Foggia, Palermo and Messina.

There are at least five openly gay members of parliament or Congress in the world: Barney Frank and Gerry Studds in the United States, Svend Robinson in Canada, Chris Smith in England and David Norris in Ireland.

—Rex Wockner

Translation: David Eligator,
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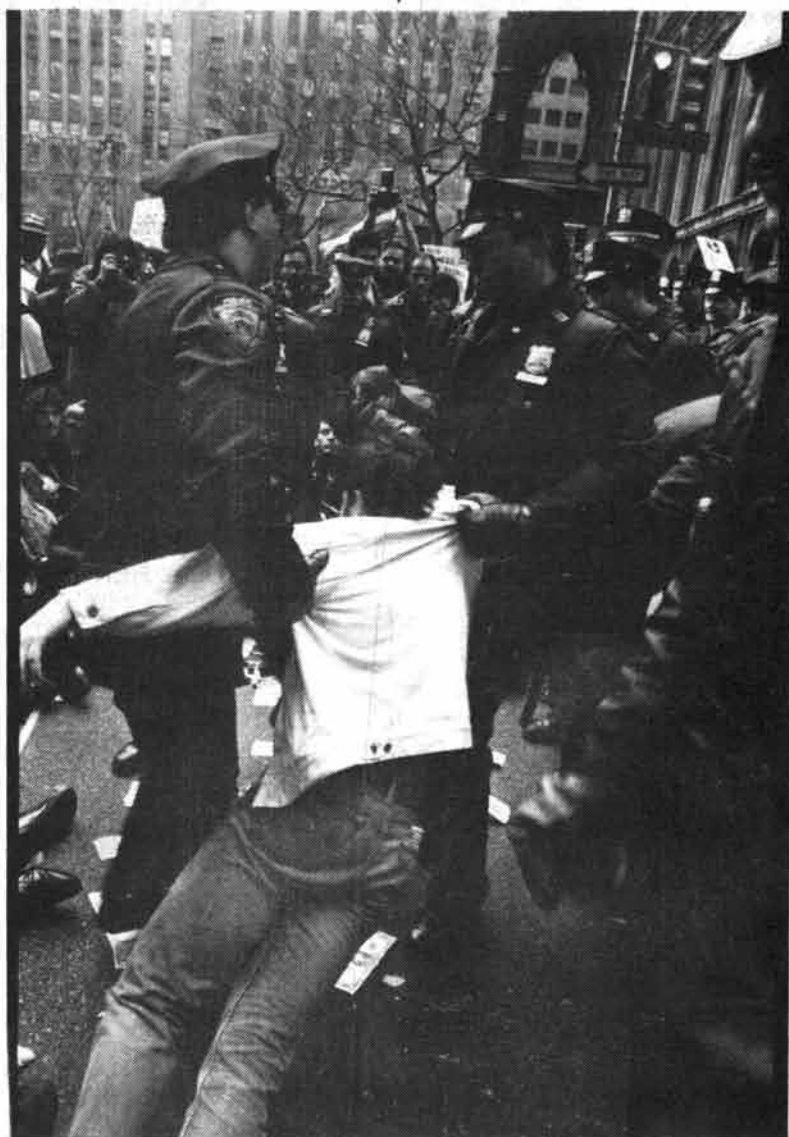
Police to ACT UP: no problem

NEW YORK—Almost 16 months after it was asked to investigate well-documented charges of police bigotry and violence during an ACT UP demonstration, the New York City Police Department's Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) found that there was "insufficient evidence" to document any of the complaints.

But a civilian member of the board told ACT UP that he felt the police investigation into the complaints was inadequate.

The board's response came to light Monday night, October 2, when David Wertheimer of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project read a letter from the CCRB to the weekly meeting of ACT UP. With him was Dan Johnston, the only openly gay member of the CCRB, and one of six civilian members of the 12-member board.

"It is clearly the case here that [the CCRB] did not work worth a



COPS HAUL 'EM OFF AT WALL ST. II

Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

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Out Takes

damn," Johnston told the crowd of 300 AIDS activists. Stressing that he spoke only for himself, Johnston apologized to ACT UP and the protesters, saying that once again it was obvious "you can't rely on the police department to investigate itself."

The protest occurred March 24, 1988, when several hundred AIDS activist held a sit-in on Wall Street to protest profiteering on AIDS drugs and a lack of government action to end the epidemic. During the action, known as "Wall Street II" to commemorate the first anniversary of ACT UP's very first demonstration (also held on Wall Street), 111 protesters were arrested.

The CCRB's letter, written by Sandra Marsh, who is both CCRB deputy commissioner and a uniformed police officer, said:

"After careful review of the evidence presented, the Board found that there was insufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations that an officer punched several victims, grabbed one victim by the back of the neck, twisted his arm behind his back, shoved him, grabbed another victim by his ears, lifted him up, threw him into a seat, pulled another victim by the hair, was discourteous to the victims, another officer threatened one victim, an officer was discourteous, and an officer threatened another victim.

"With regards to the allegations that three unidentified officers threw some of the victims onto the bus, the Board found that the officers in question were unidentified."

But Wertheimer noted that his May 31 letter included statements from 13 demonstrators and four witnesses who saw or experienced exactly these abusive behaviors. Included in several complaints were the names and badge numbers of specific police officers.

Board member Johnston told the activists that he would be willing to help interested parties reconstruct the investigation, to determine whether CCRB investigators had not pursued available evidence during their investigation. And he termed their inquiries "wholly inadequate."

All but a handful of CCRB investigators are police officers.

The Police Department has never set a standard as to what constitutes sufficient evidence to require an officer to stand trial on such charges.

—John Umlaut

CHP wants you

NEW YORK—A new program—designed to raise funds for people who can't afford medical treatment related to HIV/AIDS—is being launched by the Community Health Project.

Called "Health Buddies," the program is the CHP's first major private fund-raising drive. The short-term goal is to raise \$100,000 by the end of the year from concerned individuals, businesses and physicians who agree to sponsor patients at the CHP's HIV clinic, according to organizers.

"HIV disease is becoming an increasingly treatable condition, but only if patients receive proper medical attention," said CHP Executive Director Rona Affoumado. "Most people assume that people with HIV-related medical problems can afford private health care, but the reality is that many New Yorkers at risk for AIDS lack insurance and desperately need help."

The CHP is currently treating 1,500 people in its HIV/AIDS programs, with well over 100 New Yorkers on the waiting list at any given time. The "Health Buddies" program was started to make sure that everyone with HIV disease receives early diagnosis and treatment in a sensitive, caring and non-judgmental environment.

For information on the "Health Buddies" program contact Sandor Katz at the Community Health Project, 208 W. 13th Street, New York, NY 10011, (212) 675-3559. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Pride in "Prejudice and Pride"

STONY BROOK, NY—The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of SUNY at Stony Brook will show the photo exhibition "Prejudice and Pride: The New York City Lesbian and Gay Community, World War II-Present" during its October 10-24, 1989, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Awareness Week.

"Prejudice and Pride" was first shown as part of New York City's Lesbian and Gay Pride and History Month in June 1988. Lee Hudson, Director of the Mayor's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community, and guest speaker at the October 10th opening reception, said of the exhibition, "'Prejudice and Pride' profiles social and political developments in the gay and lesbian community in New York City over the last 40 years. Through its many photographs and documents it provides a glimpse of the diversity within the community and the spirit that empowers it."

"Prejudice and Pride" is produced and directed by the Office of the Mayor and is cosponsored by the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the International Gay History Archives, Senior Action in a Gay Environment History Project and the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

The exhibition will be shown in the Union Art Gallery at SUNY Stony Brook Student Union, with an opening reception to be held at the Non-Smokers Lounge (2nd floor) at 2 p.m., October 10th, 1989.

For further information about the showing of "Prejudice and Pride" at SUNY Stony Brook contact the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Student Union, Room 045B, SUNY at Stony Brook, NY, 11794 or call (516) 632-6469/6460.

"OBSCENE" ART from page 21

"Well, my name isn't Dorothy and I'm not in Oz," she said, adding that it was the best they could expect under the circumstances.

Likewise, McClure gave lukewarm support to the resolution of the contention, adding that he expects Helms could introduce his amendment yet again when the committee

report is brought before the Senate in coming weeks.

Other compromises on the \$171 million NEA budget bill included the allocation of \$250,000 to create the 12-member commission to examine NEA funding procedures, a \$45,000 cut in NEA funding (the exact amount spent on the Serrano and Mapplethorpe displays) and a requirement that

the NEA inform Congress as to whether the two agencies which funded the two controversial displays will receive any NEA funds this year. Gone is a five year ban on funding to the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA), which funded the Serrano display, and Philadelphia's Institute of Contemporary Art, which realized the Mapplethorpe display. ▼



NEW YORK—The police handcuffed and dragged away a gay man for praying at St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday, October 2. Security had been beefed up at the landmark house of worship thanks to Cardinal O'Connor's annual polemic on the sins of abortion, where he also proclaimed his intent to lay his body down with Operation Rescue.

Inside, members of The Cathedral Project, a group of lesbian and gay Catholics, were holding a prayer service when they were told by ushers that they were trespassing and were all under arrest. When police grabbed and handcuffed member Robert Stupay, Robert Pusilo, a leader of the group, cried out "You're arresting us for praying in our own church? Haven't you persecuted gays and lesbians long enough?" The cops seemed to repent and made no more arrests, later releasing Stupay without charges. The group is looking into legal action against the Church and the police.

The Cathedral Project has been holding silent vigils on the first Sunday of every month at St. Patrick's for the past two and a half years, and members want their church to renounce its teachings that homosexuality is sin. Pusilo has long been negotiating with Church trustees about the Project's open presence during the liturgy. In February, 1988, the Church got an injunction forbidding the activists from standing during the mass wearing t-shirts proclaiming "Another Gay Catholic." Since then, the group has held its own prayer services between masses, being shuffled from altar to altar in the grand sanctuary.

Following the arrest, Cathedral Project members conducted their own mass on the street, as is their custom on the first Sunday of each month. —Rachel Lurie

Photo: Lee Snider/Photo Images

In Our Own Hands

Lesbian AIDS Activists: What Are We Doing?

by Risa Denenberg

Each of us has asked ourselves the question. Many of us have been asked by others. Some of us have been accused of betraying our own interests, our sisters' interests. Why do lesbians work so hard within the gay AIDS activist movement?

It's an important question. An obvious question. A difficult question. We must each answer it. The facts are not the problem here. Women have AIDS and, as in all movements, unless women work on the woman-specific aspects of the crisis, men won't. Women are affected in many ways. We are the fastest growing group of PWAs. Women with AIDS take care of men and children who are living with AIDS. We comprise the vast majority of nurses, social workers and educators who provide direct services to PWAs and people at risk. In New York City, 13 percent of PWAs are women. 85 percent of these are women of color. Lesbians are part of each of these groups. Women with AIDS are affected by racism and sexism in many ways; excluded from drug trials, denied abortions, forced to abort, forced to be sterilized in order to receive treatment. A woman lives an average of six months following diagnosis of AIDS, compared to a white male PWA who lives an average of 39 months following diagnosis. The specific women's issues are broad and

deep enough to create our own movement.

It is clear that there are risks in doing this work. As Jackie Minow points out in her article "Is AIDS draining the Women's Community?" in the summer 1989 issue of *Outlook*, we must be concerned that our issues will be pushed aside again, that our efforts to work together and to support each other will be stretched thin. These are real and present concerns that we must begin to address with one another.



Photo: T.L. Litt

er. The question of why this work, why now, is so important to us that I feel we must actively consider it, and raise some controversy if necessary, in order to bring it out. There is a low incidence of AIDS reported in lesbians, and only a few documented cases of woman to woman transmission of HIV. This is the most concrete element

of the reaction we seem to get from other lesbians. Why do we feel like we're in a struggle over this?

There have always been difficult choices to make, impossible volumes of work to be done. We've always done a disproportionate amount of the work, often in total invisibility. Some believe there are no exclusively lesbian issues. I worked for reproductive rights for 15 years. I always knew that my interests as a woman could not be reduced by my lesbian identity. Yet I was often criticized by other lesbians for giving "all of my energy" to straight sisters who were, after all, sleeping with men. It's not until I began to do AIDS activist work that I learned how many lesbians also sleep with men and still identify personally and politically as lesbians. It's only the lack of information that suggests we are all at low risk. We have been accused of hysteria in promoting safer sex for lesbians. Of jealousy. Of feeling left out, or guilty. What do these accusations mean? The bottom line is that we are being held accountable for all the work that desperately cries out to be done, and our choice to work as AIDS activists is tangible evidence of all that has gone undone.

More women are dying of breast cancer each year than from AIDS, but we do not have a movement about breast cancer. Rape statistics are staggering. But it is not called a crisis. Women comprise the majority of mental health patients who are institutionalized for depression. But it is not named an epidemic.

So what are some of our perspectives? The most clear reason, the

most obvious one, is that as lesbians, we have had so few opportunities to work in an environment where our identity is affirmed. The lesbian/gay unity, often absent, seems evident here. It seems that many political lesbians are responding simply to our own interests as "gays." AIDS was once equated with being queer, and this image is persistent. The same government and public that is allowing PWAs to die certainly does not want lesbians to live. The bottom line here is that we understand that we are not in fact, immune. We are affected.

Some of it is simple. A gay friend, a family member dies of AIDS. We become involved. Our activism propels us to be where the action is.

And lesbians understand body politics/sexual politics from our own vantage point. The incredible broad intersection of issues has never been so clearly articulated. This is a unique opportunity to equate systematically bad health care with racism, sexism, homophobia, reproductive rights, urban economic and social collapse, repression of sexuality. As lesbians, with our women-centered view, we are capable of having a world-centered view. Of seeing connections. Of seeing our stake in things. Of looking for opportunities to broaden the movements for social change. Of building meaningful coalitions.

Of course, it's not as if all the lesbian AIDS activists have done is talk about woman-to-woman transmission and hold safe sex forums for lesbians. Naturally, we're concerned about woman-to-woman transmission. Of course we want all women, including all lesbians, to be adequately informed so that we can each make our own sexual decisions. We are quite aware of the stereotypes regarding lesbian sexual practice, e.g. lesbians are safe, monogamous, even asexual. But the truth lies elsewhere.

And no, we don't want to be left out of anything. But not because we're prone to hysteria or want to be victims. Without our woman-centered perspective, women's needs will never make it to the agenda. This crisis may be the one that will provoke

a deeper desire in all of us to change the conditions we are living under. Lesbians want to be in on it, to shape its form so we can get something out of it too.

We don't need fewer lesbian AIDS activists. We need more activists, on all fronts, period. We need to activate the reproductive rights struggle to an unprecedented level. We need to demonstrate with all the anger we possess against all forms of injustice and oppression, any one of which could kill us or our sisters. We need to come out as lesbians in all of the organizations and movements that we work in. We need to come out as activists in all of our lesbian-focused social activities. We need to make it

clear that we are doing the work we do because of our own interests. And we must prepare our own agendas and actions, support each other as lesbians in all the work we are doing.

Before 1973, thousands of women died in the U.S. every year of complications from illegal abortions. Pat Parked died in June this year of breast cancer. My Aunt Charlotte died of breast cancer when I was seven, leaving three young children. Today invisible women die of AIDS. The litany of our lives and losses is imprinted in each of our consciousnesses. We are compelled to do the work we must do to save ourselves. In my experience, it is lesbians who do it because of our love for one another.

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Commentary by Susie Day

Ms. Understanding Sensitive Advice for the Sexually Marginal Woman "No Question is Too Stupid"

Dear Ms. Understanding,

I am a creative writing instructor at a small, midwestern women's college. Last year, I fell desperately in love with the woman here who coaches basketball. Unfortunately, she did not return my ardor—until last month, when I invited her to my house, to practice lay-up shots in my driveway.

Suddenly, as I was bringing her the Gatorade that she had requested, Bobbie Jo threw herself on top of me like a sweaty gust of wind careening tumesciently down a lonely canyon. Her tongue was in my ear; her pelvis ground achingly into my kidneys. "I really like you," she moaned, "Let's go *steady*." I screamed in joy and pain. It was all I could do to heave her throbbing body onto the sunporch, where I fell longingly into her

outstretched lips. Our breasts intertwined, like four lost kittens mewling in the rain. I screamed again; this time in fear and ecstasy. Later, we made love.

Yet after a rousing night of passion, I awoke to find my adored Bobbie Jo pulling on her cleats, dusting off her ball and dribbling indifferently out my door. Now she barely speaks to me, preferring, I think, to be seen in the company of the male profes-

sors. Should I continue my abject attempts to rekindle our sapphic idyll? My driveway is so desperately empty. What, O what, shall I do?

—Bereft

Dear Bereft,

Cheer up. You may have a future in writing lesbian porn. And three lashes with a wet whip for your ersatz date. How rude. Just remember that society encourages many such lesbians and gay men to harbor the internalized homophobia that cuts them off from the love they seek. You will find someone else. Meanwhile, try to cultivate empathy for those whom society has wronged.

As an example of societal empathy, why not imagine yourself in Bobbie Jo's place? *Feel* her longing for heterosexual validation; her need for a "real stud" to accompany her to the beach and awards ceremonies. Then, using your writing expertise, dash off two or three sentences summarizing this longing, sign Bobbie Jo's name, and place this little composition in the Personals section of *Sports Illustrated*. Societal change will follow.

Dear Ms. Understanding,

Like, I am a high school senior who has just come out as a lesbian, OK? I want to explore all my sexual options, but I don't know how to start. For instance, phone sex. Like, how do you have it?

Those ads in the back of the gay magazines are like really confusing? Like, some of them just show hunky guys with telephones. Grody. But other ads are like really weird? Like, in this one ad, there's these two blond Tarzan-looking dudes in leopard under-

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pants, OK? They're talking on the phone—but they're only about a foot away from each other. Like, what could they be saying—"Is that an answering machine in your loincloth, or are you just happy to see me?" Grody. And in this other ad, this one guy in jeans is grabbing the crotch of this other guy in jeans who, for some reason, is holding a telephone receiver. Grody.

So my question is: what do these guys do with the phones? Like, would it work with my Princess model? And what if you have call-waiting? I don't want the kids at school to make fun of me, so like maybe I should wait until my touch-tone is in before I go all the way? Like what do you think? Is this like too grody for words?

—Baby Bell

Dear Baby,

Mind your own business, dear. Phone sex can be a beautiful, healthy way of expressing your love-starved libido through the telephonic equipment of your choice. The trouble is, since there isn't a great deal of phone sex aimed at the lesbian market, I don't know how it's done, either.

Some day, the telephone will avail itself equally to both sexes. Until that day, I suggest you find yourself a nice girlfriend with whom you can share your feelings, and practice with two tin cans and a string. You'll find that it will really cut down on your phone bill.

Stay in school, and remember to support the strike, dear.

Dear Ms. Understanding,

Kiii-ayaaaayyyy!!! C-r-a-a-a-ckk! WHUMP! That was the sound of me expressing my anger at the womyn's community by breaking a 6 x 10-inch pine board with my bare foot. Where the hell is the righteous concern that we showed ten years ago for social issues? What have lesbians done lately about toxic waste? Where is our outrage about that despicable new Brian De Palma movie? Why haven't we spoken out against George Bush and his racist drug war? All lesbians care about these days is having chic sex

and looking like Betty Boops in heat. Don't we realize that this kind of self-interested apathy can only hasten global destruction? Have we lost sight of our own oppression—our own suffering? Let's wake up, before it's too late!

—*La Lucha Continua!*

Dear Lucha,

Your points are well-taken, particularly those concerning Jorge Bush. But please try not to get your overalls in a knot about this thing, OK? It's not that lesbians are apathetic; rest assured we all suffer on a daily basis. It's just that some of us have learned to suffer more or less *painlessly*, through developing our ids and improving our appearance. Still, some of those icky socio-economic problems you mentioned do appear ominous. Why don't we work together to solve them? If we could unite the lesbian granola ghetto with the lesbian sexistie, we might just be able to pull off the Revolution! I have here a mod-

est strategy:

We start off slowly, with political tracts: "I Was a Call-Girl for the League of Women Voters" (incendiary exposé of reformists); "Sex Toys, Multiple Girlfriends, and the Bomb" (vital linkage of global issues); "Angela Davis on Susan Sontag" (oooh, baby; picture *that*). We then progress to buttons and bumper stickers: "Nuclear War? There Goes My G-Spot!"; "Boycott South Africa, Not My Dental Dam"; "Political Prisoners Make the Best Lovers," etc. Public awareness grows. Next, direct political action: Thousands of lumpen lesbians performing lascivious acts up, in, around and through the Capitol Building. The country ignites. Finally comes the radical underground insurgency, but that, of course, is too hot to print.

Get back to me on this, won't you? Our womyn's community is too spunky and too diverse not to be capable of everything. An army of Betty Boops might find it impossible to fail. ▼

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KI A I!

As Bias-related Violence Hits Record Levels, Brooklyn Women's Martial Arts Empowers a Community to Fight Back

by Kelly Kuwabara

A few weeks ago I found myself on a PATH train from Hoboken at one in the morning on a week night. To keep myself entertained I calculated whether I could afford to sleep through the next day's work. One of the women with me was functioning on an hour's sleep, the other had a 12 hour work day starting at 7:00 the next morning.

What brought us to Hoboken at that hour, and what drives many of the women we know to do similarly bizarre things, is a commitment to (or, you might say, obsession with) the martial arts. We were on our way home from teaching a self defense workshop for the Gay Activist's Alliance of Morris County New Jersey. We train together in Goju karate at Brooklyn Women's Martial Arts (BWMA).

BWMA is a non-profit organization founded 15 years ago by Annie Ellman and Nadia Telsey. The school offers ongoing classes in karate and self-defense for women and children, and workshops outside of the school.



**BWMA self-empowerment demonstration at Central Park
Pride Rally last June**

Photo: Laura Wetzler

Part of BWMA's perspective is in making training in karate and self-defense an empowering tool and survival skill, available to people most at risk in our society.

The appeals of karate—the “more than just a sport” sport—are diverse. We don't train just to watch our biceps grow, or to watch our girlfriends' biceps. (No, really we don't). Whatever a person is looking for—from self-defense to spiritual discipline—one key to getting what you want is finding a school that shares your priorities. I've heard horror stories of dykes in Birkenstocks strolling into a dojo (training space) looking for eastern philosophy and exercise, to find instead rows of blond men wheeling flying front kicks in their direction and shouting military commands. Many dojos are by nature difficult places for women, both straight and lesbian. One of my friends who trains at a fairly traditional school tells of advanced male students who go directly for women's breasts during sparring, the moment the head instructor isn't around. (We decided that a brass breastplate under the G.I. jacket would do the trick for that).

At Brooklyn Women's Martial Arts, political activists become a major addition to the list of people who are attracted to training. The school's political perspective on anti-violence work draws many politically active women and political organizations to train with the school.

Part of that perspective is in making training in karate and self-defense, an empowering tool and survival skill, available to people most at risk in our society. The school also places self-defense training in a context of political organizing, and in the past couple of years has placed an increasing priority on anti-racism work and coalition work.

When I began to train a couple of years ago, I was interested in karate as a formal martial art. Self-defense was a side effect—practical, fine as a fringe benefit, but not a primary goal. The formal aspects of karate, which encourage a high level of concentration and body awareness, are often far removed from fighting applications. The disturbing, sometimes gruesome techniques practiced in self-defense were not pleasant

to think about. It reminded me of schoolyard fights where the fair fighters didn't bite or pull hair. Now it seems to me that one of the most valuable lessons BWMA teaches is that those survival issues that are “unpleasant” to think about are precisely the ones that need to be addressed. What unpleasant things might we be willing to do to someone whose unpleasant intent towards ourselves or our loved ones is to rape, maim, or kill?

A commitment to issues of self-defense within karate training increases the ways in which training is meaningful. Self-defense presents its own challenges as an ongoing discipline—creating strategies for various situations, evaluating techniques in light of your own strengths and vulnerabilities and staying aware of the wide range of opportunities open to you are all as much a creative exercise and physical challenge as formal karate is.

Basic self-defense skills, though, are accessible to people who *aren't* interested in being ongoing martial artists. BWMA's self-defense workshop curriculum focuses on using the hard, strong parts of your own body against the vulnerable points of an attacker. As our teachers often point out, no attacker, no matter how big or strong, has muscles in his nose or knees.

In any self-defense class or workshop, one of the first techniques BWMA teaches is the kiai, or “yell of the spirit.” It sounds different depending on who's doing it. In many cases it sounds like a roar.

The yell can startle and disorient an attacker, and can be done along with another technique (like a kick or punch) or alone. Before actually hearing these yells, I've seen people giggle at the idea that they alone are a physical technique. But for anyone who doubts the effectiveness of the sound: I know someone who stopped a New York City subway car with a kiai. (I can tell you from experience that “stop, stop” just doesn't produce the same result). My friend saw a fellow passenger with his arm caught in

the door as the train was about to enter the tunnel. Her kiai alarmed the conductor into stopping and as a consequence the guy still has two (uninjured) arms.

A kiai also guarantees that you will start breathing in case panic has made you temporarily stop. Breathing is one of those things that make it a hell of a lot easier to think, and to move. As Brenda Jones, a teacher who led the New Jersey workshop points out, a kiai can change the dynamic of a situation from “oh, my god, what is he going to do to me?” to, “OK, I'm going to do this (palm heel strike), and this (strike to the throat) and this (kick to the knee).”

At workshops and demonstrations people always have stories of their own about defending themselves, avoiding attacks, or keeping potentially explosive situations under control. When a teacher is describing some of the options you have, there is often someone in the group who has an illustration from their own experience. A young man in the Gay Activists group described seeing a mugger, knife in hand, coming toward him at his door. He yelled in the man's face as loud as he could (the “pre-kiai” instinct), before the man had even raised his weapon, which surprised the would-be mugger so much that he ran away.

Hearing so many stories, and training at BWMA, has made me think about the range of responses we have in potentially dangerous situations. No one can guarantee safety, but the range of choices we have about how to maximize our chances seems infinitely expandable. It's amazing how many people (especially women's) parents, teachers, or preachers told them to “just ignore” anyone who's hassling you. This was the civilized and allegedly safe option. I think it was supposed to show how “superior” you were. While “ignoring” harassment and potential danger is one option, it certainly isn't the only one. And even if you pretend to look away, it's important to stay away from what the person is doing, and where he or she is.

Sometimes, depending on experi-

ence and temperament (and, perhaps, length of stay in New York) we have another favorite automatic mode of behavior—screaming “fuck you!”, snarling, maybe grabbing the attacker by

of the reasons an attacker is so startled and disoriented by a *kiai*—apart from its sheer physical suddenness—is that it disrupts *his or her* assumption about what’s going to happen and about who

well. The more false assumptions an attacker is working with, the less prepared he’ll be for reality. Before I even started training in karate, I sometimes saw a certain look pass people’s faces



Photos: Scott Morgan

the collar. One can certainly argue that this response breaks out of a “passive” role, but any automatic response isn’t wise. If you can stay aware of your actual situation, you can evaluate what’s effective and make an informed decision about what to do.

The more you get out of “automatic” mode in tense situations, the more you also become aware of the assumptions that make it harder for us to fight back effectively. Some of these may be our own assumptions (about what it’s “OK” for us to do, and about who might endanger us), others are the assumptions of an attacker. For example, one

you are. An attacker is looking to stay in one dynamic—*he’s* acting *on* you and, for whatever warped reasons of his own, is probably hoping you’re an “easy” target. The more ingrained the attacker’s assumptions are about what it means for someone to be female, or gay, or small, or whatever—the more it can be to turn those assumptions against him with active, or aggressive, behavior. I remember a “Barney Miller” episode about a “little old lady” who was a black belt. She kept decoying muggers and then beating them up. If she hadn’t been so little, or old, or a lady, it wouldn’t have worked nearly as

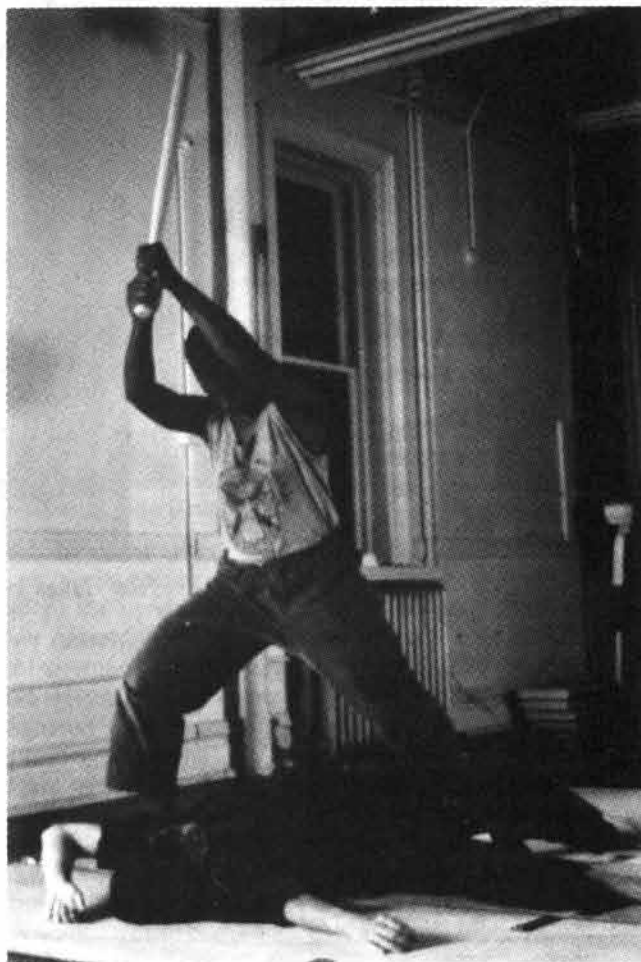
during physical confrontations that I’ve since identified as the “she’s Oriental—must know karate” look. Once a man who had been “casually” harassing me looked suddenly wary and asked, “what, do you know kung fu or something cause you’re Chinese?” In his confusion he let his gender stereotypes take a temporary back seat to his racial stereotypes, which turned out to be pretty convenient for me (he left). These days I am still neither a kung fu practitioner nor Chinese, but I’d still let his ignorance work against him.

In BWMA workshops, our own assumptions get shaken up too. During

demonstrations, it's more unnerving to play the attacker than the "victim". As attacker you always know that you're going to get your attack back with interest. A flurry of techniques is direct-

bians and gay men learn to protect ourselves physically. In the current climate of bias-related violence lesbians and gay men of color are doubly targeted. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

people's hands raised in palm heel strikes (named after the surface you use—the hard heel of your palm—to strike an attacker's vulnerable point, such as the nose) was one of the most



ed as potentially lethal points on your body, and then, for the benefit of the people watching, you are fool enough to try to attack again. Being placed in this role makes one acutely aware of how many vulnerable spots an attacker has, and of the fact that every move the attacker makes to cause injury leaves some part of his own body exposed for counter-attacks.

On the most direct level, fighting back physically for women and gay people is an act of empowerment against individual attacks. On the heels of the defeat of the Bias-Related Violence bill, it is more important than ever that les-

reported that hate crimes against gay people rose 53 percent last year.

BWMA is currently teaching a series of workshops for lesbian and gay organizations. The curriculum addresses self-defense issues of particular concern to lesbians and gay men, such as verbal harassment and walking with a lover. Learning to protect ourselves physically can be an important aspect of fighting back and protecting our rights.

BWMA makes the principles of self-defense available to a wide range of people—not just those with an athletic self image. During our gay pride demonstration this year, seeing hundreds of gay

convincing arguments I've seen for our potential power.

And these rugged activities aren't *only* for girls. I've seen people of varying sizes, ages, physical abilities and genders looking pretty effective behind a kick to the knee. BWMA's work extends beyond our walls. If you've seen rows of women in black at street fairs, meetings and parades, demonstrating karate, talking politics and teaching on the spot self-defense techniques, that was us. And if you haven't seen us, be prepared—we may very well be at one of your meetings next, asking you to raise your fist and yell. ▼

LOOKING KINDA

Taking a Look at How Do I Look?

by Ray Navarro

QUEER



"Out" Takes by John Gofs

Haven't you ever wished that you could just come home, sit down, turn on the TV and watch a little something about lesbian inter-racial coupling? Or the history of high energy music? If you've instead settled for re-runs of *The Courtship of Eddie's Father*, hoping to catch a glimpse of Jodie Foster, then *Out On Tuesday* was made for you. This British TV show is produced by Channel Four in London and comes complete with graphics a la *The Face* magazine along with consistently challenging subject matter; topics such as *Disco's Revenge*, a history of gay disco, from its roots in the Tamara/Motown sound to the darkly homophobic days of "disco sucks" rallies during the Age of High Polyester.

If this stuff seems like decent fare for your TV tray, then you'll appreciate the many complex issues which *How Do I Look?* attempts to address. Presented by the Collective for Living Cinema and curated by Martha Gever (critic and editor of *The Independent Film and Video Monthly*) and Bill Horrigan (co-curator of Video Data Bank's *Video Against AIDS* compilation), this series of queer films and tapes is accompanied by a weekend of theoretical discussion organized by Bad Object Choices, an informal study group of lesbians and gay men. (The discussions will avoid the belabored panel format and instead individual presenters will lecture on topics ranging from Kobena Mercer's *Skin Head Sex Thing: Racial Difference in the Homoerotic Imaginary* to Teresa de Lauretis' exploration of lesbianism and cinema, *Film and the Invisible*).

While *Out On Tuesday* assumes the mass media style, Sheila McLaughlin's feature-length *She Must Be Seeing Things* blatantly declares the economic constraints involved in making an independent film, while the white filmmaker deals with her Brazilian lover's preoccupation (obsession) with promiscuity and fidelity. McLaughlin's characters are very non-PC, are consumed by desire and wear business suits and negligees. They sell their grandmother's heirlooms to buy booze and make art, all while managing to remain "good feminists."

Conceptual intersections run throughout the series' programming, such that cinematic practice can never be presumed to have to stray too far from actual lesbian/gay experience (unless it's into the realm of fantasy). Toronto-based videomaker Richard Fung's *Chinese Characters* intercuts autobiographical information with some pretty hot

porn in order to explore the effects of gay white male porn upon Asian male sexuality. GWM cameraman John Greyson's signature style persists throughout this hilarious, insightful videotape, pushing Fung's experience of assimilation over the top and into the realm where testimony meets testosterone. If Fung seems preoccupied with porn that speaks with an Anglo accent in this tape, he will be on hand to go deeper into the representation of Asian male sexuality when he presents *Looking for my Penis: The Eroticized Asian in Gay Video Porn* during the first day of lectures. This will hopefully be an examination of the image of Asian men in porn, not only of the dominating effects of white culture upon Asians.

The common ground shared by most of the works seems to be their preoccupation with mass media representations of lesbians and gays. Further, they do not merely replicate the concerns of other L/G media events. Martha Gever explains "Some of the work is experimental (small e)—none of it is conventional, but some of it is mass media." Gever continues, "The series is not premised on the notion of avant-garde production in the tradition of Modern Art, the avant-garde as transgressive, the cult of the new, etc. Most of the work contains a mixture of high culture and low culture which the avant-garde is not necessarily committed to."

Case in point is Cecilia Dougherty's videotape, *Grapefruit*. This aggressive, quirky piece couldn't be less like TV, but hits home with its parody of real-life rituals that imitate the stars. Dealing with a lesbian sub-cultural response to John Lennon and Yoko Ono, the Beatles' break-up etc., a young (presumably) lesbian dressed in Paul McCartney drag nervously performs *Hey Jude* while John Lennon (a.k.a. Susie Bright, editor of *On Our Backs*) stands around naked with a very blond Yoko Ono. Protesting what, right? Maybe nostalgia for an idealized left-liberal heterosexual pop society. A thousand guitar teachers swoon when this Yoko roars, unleashing absolutely feminine rage. This tape asks the question, would you sleep with the man who wrote *Imagine*?

Canadian Marilyn Burgess' *A Woman in my Platoon* seizes upon archival footage from the wartime National Film Board production *Women Are Warriors* and transfigures it into a commentary upon anti-lesbian discrimination within the Canadian navy. Aline Blais' personal recollections of her own and other women's experiences of prejudice present painful examples of isolation and anger, while the sound of waves offers



She Must Be Seeing Things by Sheila McLaughlin

quiet consolation.

My own favorite tape in the show is Indian filmmaker Pratibha Parmar's *Memory Pictures*, a brave evocation of recent memories and colonial history. Sensitive shot, this tape encapsulates many of the concerns that *How Do I Look?* may never be able to hash out, given the lecture format. The perception of racial difference under post-colonial society, the importance of collaboration in lesbian and gay productions (demonstrated here by Parmar's installation, *Wall of Images*,



Grapefruit by Cecilia Dougherty

created with photographer Shaheen Huq). Miera Syal is convincing as the Storyteller, but these are stories of the pain of immigration, the uprooting of families, traditional obligations in the face of sexual preferences. When the Storyteller gazes at a bank of images, we realize that audiovisual culture can serve people of color quite well as a means of interrogating our own pasts, for resisting the colonial melting pot as well as the nuclear melt-down family.

If all of this isn't enough, then Stuart Marshall's presentation *The Contemporary Uses of Gay History: Nazi Germany* should provide engaging counterpoint to Jean Carlomusto's and Gregg Bordowitz's brilliant *Seize Control of the FDA*. *Seize Control* documents a national coalition of AIDS activists descending upon the Food and Drug Administration, replete with visually powerful depictions of collective direct action in the face of inhumane experimental drug trial policies. Activists are interviewed about the planning of the demonstration and their feelings about government inaction, CD as a strategy, etc. Marshall's thesis, however, will point out that appropriating the pink triangle as a symbol of lesbian/gay power is to fall into a trap of misidentifying the historical problem of stigmatizing labels. To quote Marshall's abstract here is impossible, but any ACT UP member who has chanted "We'll never be silent again!" at a mass civil disobedience action may be dismayed to know that they might be involved in an act of self-victimization that could be more "affirmative." Hmmm. Are they expecting a large turnout?

How Do I Look? will be presented by the Collective for Living Cinema at Anthology Film Archives, 32-34 2nd Avenue from October 14-25 (except for programs on Oct. 16 and 18 which will be shown at Segue Performance Space at 303 East 8th St.), and *Looking for Langston*, which will be shown on Oct. 20 at Bleecker Street Cinema, 144 Bleecker St. For more info call: 925-2111. ▼

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Roseanne
Delighted as
Her Lesbian
Sister
'Marries'
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Madonna's Hot New
Romance With Rocker
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Michael




Of course our eyes popped out when we read the headline **ROSEANNE DELIGHTED AS HER LESBIAN SISTER 'MARRIES' ANOTHER WOMAN**. The story explains how Roseanne Barr's dyke sister got hitched, how Roseanne threw the reception and how she's now "urging 'em to have a baby." But the *Enquirer* story we found more shocking, astonishing and outrageous, more incredible, unbelievable and maniacal, more scandalous, horrifying, appalling, twisted and just downright sick, was the one with the headline in the lower right: **MADONNA'S HOT NEW ROMANCE WITH ROCKER GEORGE MICHAEL**.

—M.S.

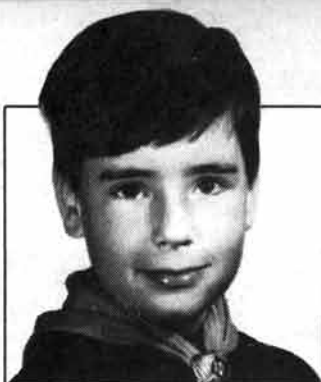


About a year and half ago, ACT UP decided to go down to Washington and teach the Civil Rights Commission, which was holding some hearings, a thing or two about AIDS. The activists wore clown masks ("This is a mockery!"), held up watches ("Time is running out!") and drove commission chief Clarence Pendleton crazy (he died of a heart attack only a couple of weeks later).

A year and half later, the group lands themselves smack on the cover of *American Theatre* in a photo from the aforementioned demo. And, even more interestingly, they're inside the pages of the glossy mag, saying things like: "I felt guilty that I wasn't doing theatre anymore, but I felt satisfied that I was reaching a large, diverse audience with an intrinsic message of universalism—and my guilt resolved itself. I realized theater *was* what I was doing."

And of course there are directors, producers, rehearsals and—Goddess knows!—more than enough stars in the organization. But what's next? Activante understudies? Demo moms? Auditions?

—M.S.



OUT OF MY HANDS

BY BRADLEY BALL

Dear Brad:

My old college friend, Mark, had to come to town on business for a couple of days and since I hadn't seen him in three years I suggested that he stay with Roger and me. Roger works out of the apartment and doesn't like to have houseguests around but I assured him that Mark would be in meetings most of the time and I'd keep him busy at night showing him the city and all so he reluctantly agreed as long as we didn't include him in any of our plans.

The first night Mark was in town I took him to dinner which was a double treat for me not only because it was good to see Mark again but also because Roger and I seldom go out to eat. I was having such a good time, in fact, that when Mark said he'd like to go dancing somewhere I said it sounded like a great idea even though I haven't been dancing in years. We didn't get home until almost two o'clock but even then we stayed up and killed off a bottle of brandy and talked until dawn about the old days and the people we'd known back in Chicago and how differently life had turned out from what we expected. We were both struck by the irony that I had been the wild one back in college and now I was in a comfortable long-term relationship

while he was still looking for someone. I told him that since he'd lost all that weight and really worked on his body he probably wouldn't be looking too much longer. Then we ran out of things to say and I went to bed. Tired as I was, though, I just couldn't get to sleep for some reason. I don't think I had ever been aware of Roger's snoring before.

As fate would have it, a crisis came up at work the next day and I had to stay late to fix it. I phoned home to tell Mark that I was stuck at the office and couldn't go out with him but he said he was exhausted from the night before anyway and would hang out at the apartment. I hoped Roger wouldn't get ugly at having Mark around all evening but I figured Mark was more capable of handling himself. When I finally did get home, Mark informed me that he and Roger had actually spent a pleasant evening together once Mark expressed an interest, undoubtedly feigned, in Roger's poetry. It didn't surprise me to hear that Roger had therefore made the effort to be almost sociable since anyone who'll sit still for one of his tedious villanelles is a friend for life. I couldn't help but admire Mark's uncanny instinct for managing people and it suddenly hit me how much I missed being around him. In

bed that night, with Roger snoring loudly away, I felt unbearably trapped in a life I hadn't really planned for or even wanted and I wondered if there wasn't some way out.

The crisis at work continued well into the next day and I couldn't get away to take Mark to the airport which was frustrating because I felt there was something I needed to tell him before he left. Roger, undyingly grateful for a new fan, volunteered to take Mark which, of course, only made me feel guilty but I reasoned that guilt wasn't sufficient grounds to hold somebody to an unhappy relationship. I decided that the only thing to do was to follow Mark back to Chicago and see if something was there for me. I walked, no, ran away from my job and hurried to the nearest cash machine only to discover that our joint accounts had been almost completely liquidated. A free verse note Roger had stuck to the refrigerator at home explained that he and Mark had fallen swiftly and desperately in love and had gone away together. So now I'm unemployed and the landlord won't let me take over the lease because it is in Roger's name. Tell me, what do I do now?

—Perplexed

Dear Perplexed:

And people accuse me of making up these letters! It's too late for you but I'm printing your letter in the hope that my younger readers can learn an important lesson from it. Kids, this is *invariably* what happens to people who make friends in college. If you don't want to end up like this poor son-of-a-bitch, you just go to your classes, stay out of the student union and avoid talking to your fellow students. Real life's going to be miserable enough without these bad pennies turning up later on to complicate things. Good luck on mid-terms! ▼

I was just wondering . . .

How come condoms don't come with those little tabs that band-aid wrappers have, so you know which way to start unrolling them, because when you start unrolling them the wrong way, especially if you're into leather and you're a top, it's embarrassing because it looks like you don't really know what you're doing. Is it because if you start unrolling them the wrong way, you have to throw it out and get another one, and that way the company makes more money?

How come everyone thinks the East Village is such a hot place to live when there are no parks and no public transportation and the housing stock is ugly and falling apart, even yuppies seem to like it, and below Houston Street you can't even tell where you're going because the streets run out of numbers, but I have a perfectly nice apartment on the Upper West Side and I can't find a roommate?

How did being "into leather" start?

—Andrew Miller



By Michelangelo Signorile

I don't really know why millions of people read such trash as *Cosmopolitan*. But they do. *Cosmo* is translated into over a dozen languages and is distributed around the world. Which is why dangerous and demented *Cosmo* editor Helen Gurley Brown sits in a seat of power, a prophet and sex guru for women of the world, telling them what's right and what's not when it comes to their bodies. Two years ago this maniac told women that they were not at risk of contracting AIDS and should therefore not practice safer sex. She was soon severely pelted with condoms by hundreds of angry AIDS activists outside her office on 57th Street.

Now she's on a new kick full of hate and homophobia. In the current issue of *Cosmo*, Brown has published a piece dubiously titled *The Risky Business of Bisexual Love*. In this unresearched and ridiculous piece of shit written by Susan Gerrard and James Halpin, the reader is asked, "Why would an apparently normal man, one you love and trust, with whom you have good sex, do such a thing?" Such a thing as being gay, perhaps? As opposed to being normal?

But this is nothing. We learn later that "it is astonishing that so few bisexual men are found out, because, in general, they are highly sexed and often promiscuous. Research shows that they have more sex with their wives than the average heterosexual—and more sex with men than the average homosexual[!]"

Of course, we are never told where this research comes from, or who conducted it. The article goes on to quote obscure sociologists and

individuals whose last names are withheld. The piece paints a picture of the "bisexual" as a dangerous, frightening human being; someone to stay away from and someone who carries disease: "Wives who know their husbands are bisexual can at least take steps to protect themselves from venereal [sic] diseases; wives who don't know are in mortal danger. More women have contracted the AIDS virus from bisexuals than in any other way, except sharing needles or having sex with IV drug users."

It becomes clear that the authors' motive is to portray homosexuality as deadly. While lesbians or "bisexual" women are deemed totally invisible in this piece, gay men are made into monsters who should be avoided at all costs. Telling us about "a San Jose attorney" who "recalls a bisexual client who brought trouble to an entire community," the article goes on to give some tips on how to spot bisexuals: "If a man's eyes follow other men, be very cautious...Be suspicious if he seems intensely interested in how other men dress. (Occasionally, heterosexual men are really interested in this, but it is not common)...If he looks into another man's eyes for even a microsecond longer than it takes to make socially acceptable eye contact, beware. Heterosexual men do not do it... Be on the lookout for any signs that your man is flirting with another man. The boy-boy signals are the same as boy-girl signals: lingering glances, the second look, moving closer to one another, increased animation in each other's presence."

Straight women are then cautioned about men in careers where "bisexuals are prevalent." The industries include: theater, fashion, art, design, fitness, medicine, social work, counseling, travel, import/export, hotels and restaurants. It doesn't seem conceivable that someone even wrote this shit. BUT THEY DID! And the person responsible for printing it is the creepy, social-climbing Helen

Gurley Brown, a woman who spends her days lunching with the power elite while spewing dangerous misinformation to millions of unsuspecting women.

It is articles like this which only bolster the sort of editorial decisions that go on at places like *Vanity Fair*. The magazine which has done zip about AIDS (except for one extensive, thorough piece about the epidemic—on a different continent!), and which very rarely gives us glimpses of gay life, this month has a story titled, *The Murder Hustle*. It's all about—what else!—crazed and confused gay and bisexual men whose mayhem and destruction ultimately lead to murder, drug abuse and insurance fraud (and the writer, who I presume to be a heterosexual woman, uses expressions like "the queen tank"

when discussing the section of the Los Angeles county jail reserved for gay men). I don't question that the story took place, but what I ask *Vanity Fair* is: Why is it that you don't cover anything else pertinent to the gay and lesbian community? Why is it that most of the stories you cover regarding gays are those with seedy, slimy circumstances surrounding

them? Why don't we ever see openly gay heroes applauded in your magazine? Why the fuck don't we see more about AIDS in a magazine where so many fags work—fags who claim they're so openly gay? Why instead do we just see the murderers praised time and time again—like when Nancy and Ron graced the cover in another nightmarish ass-kiss story in the middle of an epidemic in which the president did NOTHING? Why instead do you just assign stories that portray homosexuality as bad and paint AIDS as an ultimate punishment for gays, such as the highly moralistic piece about Robert Mapplethorpe (which even got you complaints from AmFar's Mathilde Krim)? Why don't you have your writers question or comment on dangerous remarks made by interview

See GOSSIP WATCH on page 74



Social Terrorism

Photos by *Erich Conrad*

WHAT I DID ON MY SPANISH VACATION



QUEEN OF SPAIN
*Monica "The Opera Whore"
at the Barcelona Opera House*



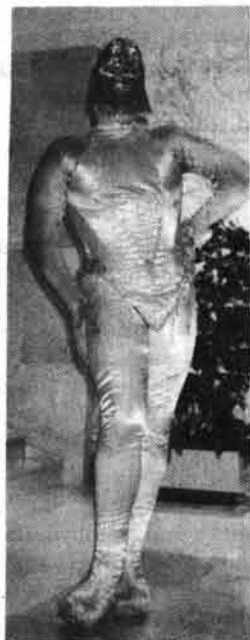
TWO FACES OF EVE
*Festive fashion at the
Ramblas, Barcelona*



THE LADY IS A CHAMP
*Spanish lesbian activist Maria Valdez
at Club Nairobi, Madrid*



SAINT DICK
Club Nairobi, Madrid



WHITE KNIGHT
*Leigh Bowery
at Hotel Gravina, Barcelona*



WANNA LICK MY SUCKA?
*Actor Nicolas Supancic at
Distrito Distinto, Barcelona*

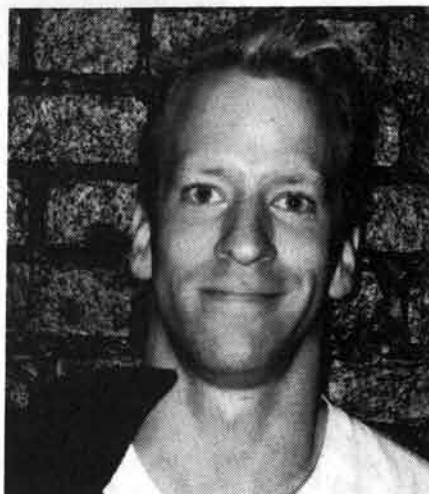


GRAB BAG
Spain's national pastime at the Ramblas, Barcelona

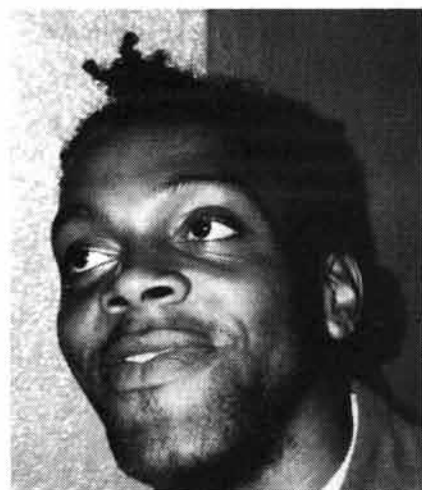
MEANWHILE, BACK IN NEW YORK, ROCK & ROLL FAG BAR RESUMED...



LIP-O-SUCK-TION
Michael T at R&R Fag Bar



THE POPE OF GREENWICH VILLAGE?
Guitarist Howard Pope at R&R Fag Bar



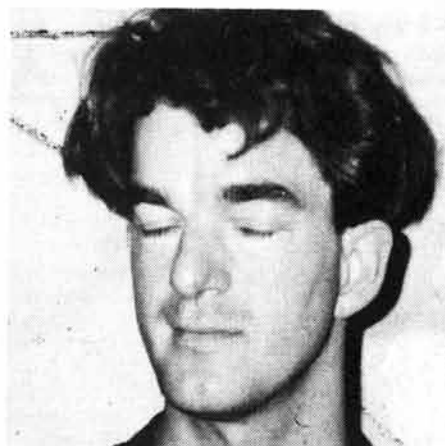
IF YOU KNEW WHAT I KNOW
Andre Walker at Love Machine



PSSSSST?
Tom and Peter at R&R Fag Bar



STRANGE BEDFELLOWS?
The fabulous Joey Arias and straight man at R&R Fag Bar



SEE NO EVIL
DJ Michael Connolly at R&R Fag Bar



Photo: Lizzard Souffle



Photo: T.L. Litt

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DOWNTOWN

You know you're spending too much time downtown when:

1) You only know half the people at a party, but you recognize 90 percent of the haircuts.

2) Your SILENCE=DEATH t-shirt seems like the perfect thing to wear to a funeral—your grandmother's.

3) People at work are SHOCKED when you tell them that a famous billionaire is a fag—and that you see him all the time with his boyfriend.

4) You kiss your date goodbye in front of the Hell's Angels headquarters without even thinking about it.

5) You can't get arrested this time because your A.C.D. still has six weeks to go.

6) You know three different delis on Avenue A on the way to the subway where you can get coffee after spending the night.

7) Every piece of clothing in your

closet is black, white or has a slogan on it.

8) You know two of the boys in *My Comrade*.

9) You turn down free Broadway tickets to go to an ATR benefit at Dixon Place.

10) You met this gorgeous, smart, friendly, new, hot number, but you've been putting off having a date because he or she wears a suit to work so you don't trust 'em.

11) You want BIGGER earrings, and MORE of them.

12) You get annoyed with your best friend when she doesn't know that OF COURSE Essex Street is just the continuation of Avenue A below Houston.

13) During dinner at Benny's, you say "hi" to three separate tricks you slept with—and a fourth one you just fooled around with last week whose name you can't remember.

14) It starts to become an *appealing* idea to perhaps rent a seventh-floor walk-up six blocks east of Tompkins

Square that your grandparents probably turned down right after they got off the boat, which costs twice as much as your current apartment for maybe a third the space, on a corner where the crack dealers use cellular phones.

15) You can't wait until it's cold enough for everyone to wear leather again.

16) You suddenly realize that the straight women at work don't necessarily *want* to hear all about lesbian safer sex practices.

17) You haven't been to any entertainment that costs more than \$8 at the door since your parents took you to see *Plenty* the last time they were in New York. Except for comps, of course.

18) Quentin Crisp waves back.

19) It's actually a good thing your favorite pair of jeans ripped at the crotch.

20) You rarely have to buy a copy of *OutWeek* because you're in the office at least once a week. ▼



Photo: T.L. Litt

WARNINGS

by John Umlaut



HOMOSCOPE

October 9-15

by Esoterica Porcelana de Zodiaca



ARIES 3/20-4/19 With your popularity booming it's very easy to get distracted at work. A new love affair will present questions of strong pertinence on the 13th-14th. You may be frightened of intimacy when presented with an emotionally available person. This week is dedicated to kicking ass on personal limitations, and to realize you *can* have it all!



TAURUS 4/20-5/19 Whenever a Taurus feels insecure and untrusting s/he compensates by accumulating material credibility. Face it honey, the only thing you truly own is your soul. This week you should use the wonderful transits to go out and have a blast. You should also do something nice for someone else. The 11th-12th brings pleasant surprises, while the 15th brings a new sense of purpose to your work.



GEMINI 5/20-6/20 Rumors are flying all around that office and you may be the catalyst. Dishing and trashing somebody else is really low, especially if it's a sister. We in the gay community must stick by each other. Try to get your mind in proper synch with that tongue of yours. Say something nice or nothing at all on the 11th-12th. A fun party on the 13th-14th is guaranteed to spark some flirtation with an affairite.



CANCER 6/21-7/22 Stop being paranoid about your health on the 11-12th. The 13th can be a significant day in your career. A romantic evening for one, such as dinner, wine, candlelight and masturbation, can ease sexual frustrations on the 10th. The date night, on the 14th, is a perfect occasion to bring out the ready whip, the edible underwear, the vibrators, zucchini and the videos for a real romantic tryst with someone special.



LEO 7/23-8/22 The 9th and 10th are important days in your career. It is possible that there are some homophobia vibes around you. Just hold your head up, look that fool straight (pardon me) in the eye and say the following words, "GIVE ME NO SHIT, AND THERE WILL BE NO SHIT!" Remember, as Mae West (a Leo who loves my column, I had her channeled) said, "any kind of a reputation is a good one!"



VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Negative attention from the aspects of Venus and the Moon make the 11th-12th a bit irritable. Girls will have annoying altercations with derelicts and horny sexist mother jumpers on the streets. Boys are going to get cruised by the over-testosteroned equivalent, bar-room derelicts. The full moon on the 14th will bring out many bizarre people.



LIBRA 9/23-10/22 All my little Libras out there should make this "equality for all" week. Having the full moon on the 14th will make the week slowly build up emotion. With the planets Uranus, Neptune, Saturn and Jupiter hitting your sun sign it's clearly time you come to terms with how you have a mind of your own.



SCORPIO 10/23-11/22 This is a very harmonious week for you socially. The shit really hits the fan on the full moon (14th). Your friends are bouncing off the walls. There will be many incidents of violence this week because the planets are making the public attitude self-righteous and extremely subjective. Everyone seems to be single-sighted. Your intellect and intuition will help you read into any situation that you need to.



SAGITTARIUS 11/23-12/20 Venus hits your sign on the 9th. This makes you popular and irresistible. You will receive some bizarre obscene telephone calls, especially with the full moon coming Saturday. Remember one thing, being a masturbatory fantasy is the most sincere form of flattery. Sex is beautiful for all those brave enough to safely experience its wonders. The 13th will prove my statement to be true.



CAPRICORN 12/21-1/19 This week you are on edge. Domestic situations will be in an uproar on the 12th. Lovers' quarrels will erupt because you feel your word is God. Capricorn drag queens will face money disputes with sleazy employers trying to exploit their talents cheaply. Capricorn lesbians will face domestic drama; boys will have boyfriend communication troubles.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/19 Your career issues take center stage on the 9th-10th. People around you are on edge due to the lunar cycle. Get what you have to get done early in the week before the bizarre onslaught of events later on. Use common sense when a fleeting romantic dalliance comes your way on the 13th. This will be a time of heightened sensuality where fetishism is definitely a girl's best friend.



PISCES 2/20-3/19 Wild and heated sensuality hits the bigtime on the 11th-13th. You may find yourself delightfully skipping jumprope in high-heeled boots for a new sin-sational lover. Fetishism is definitely a big part of your nature; you really love to please your lover by totally surrendering. That is why you are one of the most sexy signs. I recommend high heels, garter belts and lots of red lipstick even if you're a boy, or an ultra butch number. It will help everyone realize how life really is one giant drag show of often mistaken identities.

For personal astrology and tarot card readings mail your name and telephone number to Esoterica Porcelana de Zodiaca, c/o OutWeek Magazine, 77 Lexington Ave., Suite 200, New York, New York 10010.

Theater

Grand, Big Hotel

Big Hotel. A play by Charles Ludlam, directed by Everett Quinton, presented by the Ridiculous Theatrical Company, One Sheridan Square, 691-2271.

by Joe E. Jeffreys

Imagine the line at TKTS on Broadway and 49th Street. The available show board lists *Big Hotel* and another show called *Grand Hotel*.

"Which one's the one with all the singing and dancing?" asks the unsuspecting tourist.

"Both," replies the ever so patient TKTS agent.

"Well, which one is big?"

"Both are big. *Big Hotel* is big not only in title..."

"I didn't know Tom Hanks was in the show. Hey honey, the man said Tom Hanks is in the show."

"No, no. Tom Hanks has nothing to do with this. *Big Hotel* is big both in title and cast. *Grand Hotel* is big in cast but certainly not in title. *Grand Hotel* is the Broadway show. *Big Hotel* is the off-Broadway show by the Ridiculous Theatrical Company."

Having heard the magic work Broadway and assuming that meant big (which we all know is not necessarily better), little will the befuddled tourist suspect that he actually purchased tickets for the ridiculous production and passed by a once in a lifetime sublime treat at Sheridan Square.

The Ridiculous Theatrical Company has had its ups and downs since the death of Charles Ludlam. *Big Hotel*, following fast on the high heels of *Salome* and *A Tale of Two Cities*, leaves no doubt that they are back in step. The production is a revival of Ludlam's first play written in 1967. Yet unlike their earlier revival of *Turd's in Hell*, the material here does not seem dated in the least.

The play began as a random piece comprised of cut-outs from literature filling a school composition book, and was never meant to be performed. (John Vaccaro persuaded Ludlam to stage it.) The result is an episodic hodge-podge structure. The allusions come quick and fast, as if seen by lightning. Ludlam himself acknowledged no fewer than 40 sources having inspired the work. Everything from the film *Grand Hotel* as a major source of inspiration to the more obscure: a cartoon from *Playboy* with the caption "You dance divinely, Miss Montez," a Wonder Woman comic book, an introduction to a yoga book and a Phillip Morris cigarette ad.

Yet what is it all about you ask? Hard to say. A bell boy rushes the stage during act two screaming that even he has lost the narrative line. It has something to do with the passions, machinations and madness of numerous eccentric guests at a really big hotel and to further complicate matters, the presence of a Cobra Cunt cult which damns its initiates to a fate far worse than ritual sacrifice—becoming dishwashers for the hotel's restaurant.

The current production is a true delight. The cast has no weak points. A true ensemble has been achieved. Each actor has taken his or her role and made it into something quite remarkable. Noteworthy are: Eureka as a drunken Mr. X and villainous Martok, H.M. Koutoukas as a wild-eyed Svengali and a gypsy; Christine Weiss as Trilby, ever-so-artfully warbling off-key and a Blondine Blondell that does Marilyn Monroe in *Niagara* proud; and Sophie Maletsky as a graceful fallen and falling Birdshitskaya. Everett Quinton wraps it all up neatly with a mad Norma Desmond and a wicked Mafonga.

Mark Beard's set
See **BIG HOTEL** on page 55



EPISODIC HODGE-PODGE

Gary Mink, James R. Lamb and Everett Quinton

Photo: Anita and Steve Shevett

Theater

Clarity of Fire

Orpheus Descending. A play by Tennessee Williams. Directed by Peter Hall. Presented at the Neil Simon Theater, 250 W. 52nd Street.

by Michael Paller

Has there ever been another playwright like Tennessee Williams, a writer for whom writing was so natural that words seemed to rush from him in a torrent, even when the conditions of his life were nearly intolerable? Has there ever been an American playwright so abused by the straight press? In the 50's, the late Louis Kronenberger of *Time* magazine regularly referred to his plays as "fetid swamps." The tradition was carried on into the 80's and didn't cease until he was dead, and *New York's* leading cultural homophobe John Simon decided to say he was sorry after years of treating Williams and his plays like some disgusting thing the cat dragged in. In time, the bigotted words will be forgotten; the plays live on.

Overall, the production of *Orpheus Descending* which stars Vanessa Redgrave and is directed by Peter Hall is the kind of production Williams deserved while he was alive but rarely got. While many words of praise—perhaps too many—have been aimed at Redgrave's bravura performance, much of the credit belongs to Hall and the design team who carried out his ideas.

Hall isn't afraid to believe Williams, who repeatedly said that he was not a realistic playwright: So this is not a realistic production. There is an electronic score by Stephen Edwards rumbling ominously beneath the dialogue; dramatic light changes underscore transitions from intensely personal moments to public scenes; hungry dogs bay and

howl, and out on the road, cars and trucks pass Lady's mercantile shop with the noise of big guns, throwing searchlight beams through the windows. In our relentlessly realistic theater, expressionism takes getting used to; it's the kind of approach one must give oneself to, although not everyone will. Nevertheless, it creates just the kind of world Williams had in mind, where the fugitive kind suffocate in the conventional atmosphere they must breathe.

As Lady, the Italian-born shopkeeper married to the man who led the gang which burned her father alive in his wine arbor for selling alcohol to Blacks, Vanessa Redgrave dominates the action—too much so. Lady is a worn-out woman transfigured when love suddenly comes into her life in the form of the wandering musician Val Xavier (Kevin Anderson). But Redgrave's Lady has been transformed before the play begins; she is too strong to need anyone. When in no uncertain terms she says that she will not be defeated by the forces her husband represents, one doesn't dare disagree: the woman is a consort battleship—which is not exactly what Williams had in mind. Anderson, on the other hand, could use some of

Redgrave's starch: Were there not a fire already blazing beneath this lady, his boyish Val would be hard-pressed to start one.

As Vee Talbot, the sheriff's church-going wife, Tammy Grimes is less affected, and more affecting, than she often is. Ann Twomey plays the wild girl, Carol Cutrere, with a desperation that speaks of a great need for love and a fear it will never be found. Among the rest of the cast there is not a weak link, and Hall consistently deploys his



BURNING THROUGH IMPERFECTIONS
Vanessa Redgrave and Kevin Anderson

forces in ways that make clear the play's conflict. There are ghosts in the cemetery, Carol tells Val, and they chatter like birds: "Live, live, live, live, live. It's all they've learned, it's the only advice they can give.—Just live." That's the message of the play, and it burns through the imperfections of this production with the hot clarity of fire. ▼

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Video

Girls at Play

Hungry Hearts. Produced by Debi Sundahl and Nan Kinney. 30 min.

by **Wickie Stamps**

Lesbian lust on celluloid, by and for lesbians, is a breakthrough in woman-to-woman sexuality. Before its emergence, we lived in a visual desert. But, when erotic videos flickered onto our VCR's, we drank in not mere milk toast lesbian affection but dyke passion.

Only baby steps away from home movies, dyke video makers have the gargantuan task of guiding this tottering genre. There is the "never enough monies;" our images are often blurred and muffled from

our lack of technical expertise (an arena only recently accessed by women—much less out lesbians); once produced, distribution drains the dregs of our labor power and our purses. Sexual oppression touches our lesbian starlets in a deeper place, as in the privacy of their own spirit, they do battle with a crushing moralism that screams aspersions while they unveil their lesbianism, their bodies, and their lust to dyke cameras and communities. As virgin viewers, we are right there with the crew, producers, and script makers. We are often embarrassed by their amateurish products and fight shame as they fumble and we experience our own lust. With rare exception, we are all learning by the seat of our garter belts.

The erotic price tag has been

high. There is a dearth of lesbian porn, and what's out there often sucks or barely scratches our diverse sexual itches. But we are unflappable (and ravenous for our cinematic selves). We keep skulking into video stores (or bullying our lovers into the dirty deed!) and slipping out with some visual morsel.

Hungry Hearts is our newest dish of lesbian erotica. Produced by San Francisco-based Fatale Video, one of a smattering of lesbian video makers, it is a veritable sexual pu pu platter. Wasting little on formalities, two executive-type fems dash away to an opulent hideaway. Barely in the door, they hop right into exhibitionism, sucking, spanking and pinching; they dabble in light bondage and butch up some of the action; there's even a smidgen of dominance/submission. This sexual medley is ladled from a variety of settings. They strip in foyers, romp on beds, play in tubs and fuck near crackling fires.

There are spicy delicacies in *Hungry Hearts*. The opening strip (both actresses are real life lesbian strippers) is damn good. Easily undulating to "I Want to be Your Sex Machine," the blond (with a body that won't quit) plays beautifully to the camera. Her pouty lips, bedroom eyes and serpentine grind are fucking dynamite. She's hot. The couple's subsequent frolic in bed, with its sweet pleas of "ooh, spank me," the obliging swats (and other knotted naughties) adds a nice non-vanilla twist. Then, on to some bathtub play, where wine is poured onto hardening nipples, tongues flick at strawberries and sponges scrub sweet bottoms. The "I want to serve you..suck me" repartee is tasty as is the eager-as-a-puppy cunt

See **GIRLS AT PLAY** on page 55



SPICEY DELICACIES

Pepper and Reeva in Hungry Hearts

Television

Patchwork Politics

Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt. Directed and edited by Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Produced by Bill Couturie, Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Televised on HBO on Sunday, October 15 at 10pm. Additional playdates: October 18, 21, 24, 27 and 30.

by Peter Bowen

Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt seems at first to tell a fairly familiar story. A series of black and white photo montages chronicle the lives of different individuals from happy childhood snapshots to vibrant adulthood to those all-too-familiar pictures of the bedridden and diminished bodies of people with AIDS. A voice-over tells us that these individuals have followed "different roads to the same fate." Disease, death and finality seem all too quickly to loom above this patchwork tapestry of the AIDS crisis. But soon it becomes obvious that this "fate" involves something grander and more monumental than the cemetery which too many documentaries have turned the quilt into. Through the interlocking stories of various individuals who have died from AIDS and the contemporaneous testaments of those who stood by them, *Common Threads* pieces together a history of the people affected and united by the AIDS crisis. More than simply an AIDS elegy, this video documents the construction of a community, a community composed not only of those who have died, but also of those who continue to live and fight against government indifference and public fear.

Directed by Rob Epstein (*The Times of Harvey Milk*) and Jeffrey Friedman (*Faces of the Enemy*),

Common Threads pays tribute to the lives of five different individuals who have died of AIDS (three gay men, a hemophiliac and an IV drug user) and the lives of the people who cared about and for them. Sara Lewinstien, a lesbian, recounts how she met and had a child with Dr. Tom Waddell, a gay man who was not only an Olympic decathlon athlete, but was also one of the founders of the Gay Olympics. The care and love each showed for the other when Tom developed AIDS illustrates the

poignancy and power not only of the gay family, but of a specific family which happened to be gay. Two other families recount their lives. Sallie Perryman, a Black woman, details the struggle of her husband, Robert, to get off drugs and then the mutual struggle they faced as he developed AIDS. The Mandells mourn the life of their hemophiliac son, David Jr., as he lived a childhood with AIDS. And finally two gay men, Vito Russo and Tracey Torrey, trace

See COMMON THREADS on page 55



DOCUMENTING GOVERNMENT INACTION
Common Threads producer Bill Couturie and co-directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman.

Photo: Janet Vanham/HBO

Video

Problematic Parameters

The Lesbian and Gay Video Festival. DCTV, 87 Lafayette St. Info: 212-966-4510.

by Catherine Saalfeld

The very simple title, "Lesbian and Gay Video Festival," begs the question more immediately than do other, more subtle, categorizations for queer media. What constitutes lesbian and/or gay media?

For the most part, these festivals concern themselves with the question of identity and subjectivity, challenging outright the parameters of sexual orientation and self-determination. Some programmers base their criterion for showing a given work on the fact that a producer sleeps with peo-

ple of the same gender. Others look to tapes or films for sex, the kind only dykes and fags can do, and then the work qualifies. Still others seek to represent the most far-out, the most lesbo, the campies, the weirdest, the superlative queer thing around. In the case of the Lesbian and Gay Video Festival at Downtown Community Television (DCTV) this fall, the parameters have been stretched in a unique, but, I believe, problematic, way.

Survival of the Delirious, by Andy Fabo and Michael Balser, is a layering of paint box sketches over hand-held camera moving through an AIDS clinic intercut with bits of the Cree legend of the "Windigo," called *Where the Chill Came From*. In a staid party scene, the narrator speaks of a friend who died of AIDS; "He was the first in our lives... the one who made the delirium a reality." One high point

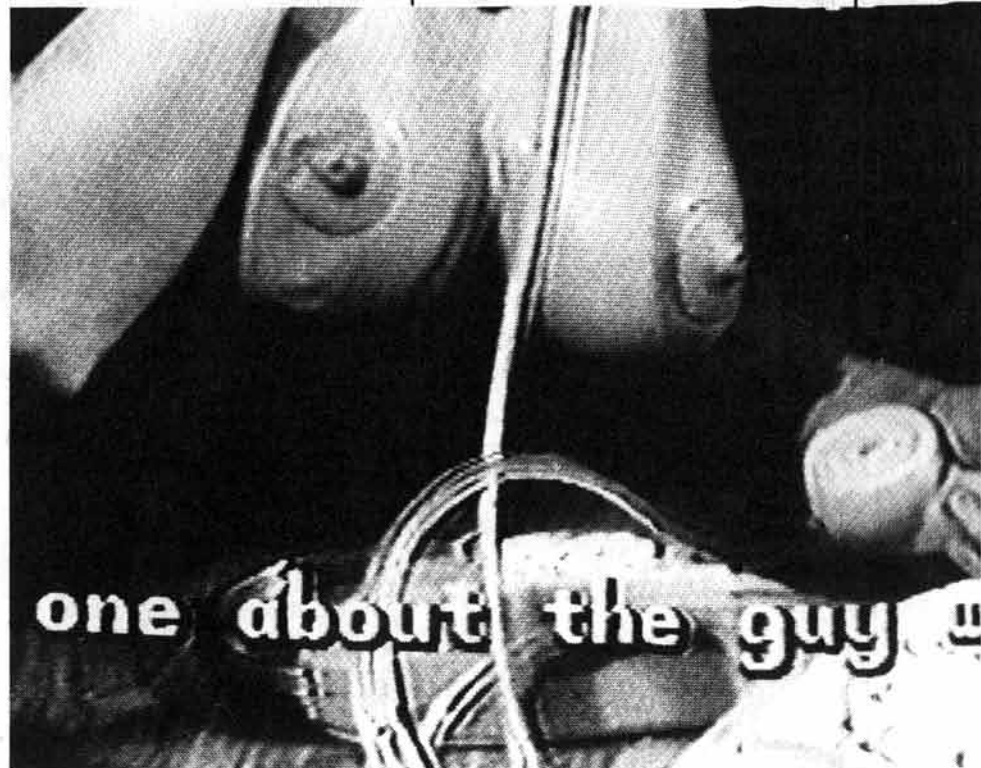
occurs when two actors (a male doctor and a recently diagnosed man) stop their scripted lines to debate the politics of suggesting AZT as the first and foremost option. As they rework their lines together, on camera, the necessity for accuracy and care, in the presentation of HIV treatments and coping strategies, emerges.

That strategy, of engaging the medium in a self-conscious way and making it work for oneself, is a common approach to the "handy camera." Tommie Saeli and Joe Westmoreland do just that when they take the hetero haven of the 70's goofy "Dating Game," and make it over in their own image, literally. *The Gay Dating Game*—cult material from the get go—airs on public access TV, (Channel J, Fridays at 7:30), and Beatty included one of her favorites in the series. The tape is just what it says it is. Of course they try

to get a date for one dyke and one fag every-time, but they can't always find enough unsuspecting women to fill the bachelorette side of the screen, so sometimes both contestants are men. I'm thinking the scarcity problem would be reversed if the boys had chosen the *Newlywed Game* to parody instead.

The festival continues in October with two nights programed by Carol Meyers. Here you can see some of your soon-to-be old favorites, like Tom Kalin's *They are lost to vision altogether*, and Stashu Kybartas' *Danny*. Both of these tapes turn the expectation of mourning and disempowerment on its head.

See FESTIVAL on page 74



Belladonna Poisoning, Masculinization of the Clitoris & Other Complaints
by Chris Hill and Barbara Lattanzi

Art

Call To Arms

The Quilt: Response to a National Crisis. Exhibition Center, 2 West 13th Street. Through October 13.

by Jon Nalley

The Quilt. This vast, incongruous patchwork of over 10,000 handmade panels weighs 13 tons. Seeing this monument made of stuffed animals, vinyl, leather, corduroy, shirts, jeans and shower curtains has been wrenching for many thousands of Americans. Yet, many more will experience this emotional endeavor—in the finest American folk tradition—with Home Box Office's *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* later this month (see Television, Page 51).

In New York we can preview this documentary at the Parsons' School of Design where HBO has funded an exhibition called *The Quilt: Response to a National Crisis*. Surprisingly political and militant in tone, this presentation exposes one to "The Quilt experience." While not replacing the overwhelming impact of viewing a large expanse of names, the response makes most evident the human tragedy of the AIDS epidemic.

After removing your shoes, one enters the chamber containing panels and photographs of the five people dead from AIDS who are, along with

perspectives of the loved ones who came to terms with their loss through participation in *The Quilt*, featured in Epstein's *Common Threads*. (Ironically, I entered the exhibit but an hour after having made arrangements to meet in Washington, D.C. at *The Quilt* with the parents of my college fraternity brother Scott who died of AIDS in 1987.)

There's a panel for Rob Perryman, an African-American building maintenance worker whose AIDS death at 34 was related to IV drug use. He'd kicked the habit through Narcotics Anonymous upon the birth of his daughter. A hemophiliac who died of AIDS at 11, David Lee Mandell, Jr.'s panel bears the love, sorrow and, yes, happiness of his family. Making the panel finally enabled this mourning family to laugh



again...to smile.

The meaning of *The Quilt* is aptly expressed by Vito Russo: "What we want to see, eventually, is an end. A day when we can stop adding panels to this Quilt and put it away as a symbol of a terrible thing that happened that's now over." This com-

ment appears by the panel of Jeffrey Sevcik who died in 1986 at 31. Artistic, sensitive and the companion of *Celluloid Closet* author Russo, Jeffrey worked at San Francisco's famed Castro Theater.

With this "terrible thing" expected to reach at least 365,000 diagnosed cases and 263,000 deaths by the end of 1992—over four times the U.S. death toll in the Vietnam War—one can only hope that Names Project executive director Cleve Jones was able to "impress the dreadful toll of the epidemic and the urgency of finding solutions" on the American consciousness.

As breaking speakers' voices superimposed over the collected voices of the next continually read names in the background—with Harvey Fierstein's instantly recognizable—one can read the moving love of Commander Tracey E. Torrey for his lover David Campbell. Most instructive of all is the panel, and memories of, Gay Games founder Dr. Tom Waddell who died in 1987. That this man, who placed sixth in the 1968 Olympic decathlon should be so utterly abandoned by his country in illness and death speaks to the terrible vulnerability behind each and every quilt. For Waddell, that this abandonment included the highest court in the land—which ruled against him in ruling on behalf of the U.S. Olympic Committee regarding the naming of the Gay Olympics—adds bitter irony.

Leaving the chamber and continuing to hear the barrage of names, one finds oneself in a corridor with a flashing slides-montage of volunteers, emotions, panels, affirmation, sites, mourning, tears and compassion. At the end of the corridor, the viewer is confronted with the aforementioned Centers for Disease Control projections.

See *QUILT* on page 74

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See *QUILT* on page 74

Books

How to Succeed in Nightlife Without Even Trying

Manhattan on the Rocks,
by Michael Musto, Henry Holt And
Company, 298 pages, \$18.95

by Gabriel Rotello

Ever since he took over the late Arthur Bell's 'gay lib' gossip column in the *Village Voice*, Michael Musto has dazzled downtown New York with the wicked weirdness of his wit. A piercing sense of the absurd has led him to become the premier

observer of one of the city's premier absurdities: downtown nightlife. Wherever idiocy reigns supreme, there Musto will be, in a corner, smirking, planning the revenge of the literary nerd. And what a breathtaking revenge it is.

Musto, after all, like Bell before him, is gay; rather militantly, certainly openly. This places him on a peculiar moral high ground from which to judge the hypocrisy inherent in a high life that teeters schizophrenically from Ecstasy to AIDS. It's a high ground that reveals some breathtaking satirical vistas, even when the viewer is lying in the gutter. And judging from his first novel, *Manhattan On The*

Rocks, satirical vistas are Musto's thing. Rambling like a genius drunk, he isn't big on plot: he takes us nowhere, signifies nothing, but you could die laughing just finding that out.

Manhattan On The Rocks is the story of Vinnie DiBlasio, a kid from Queens who carves a tenuous niche for himself in the slimy wall of "downtown" by publishing a trendy magazine. His ups and downs are chronicled by Musto in the same cryptic, droll manner he uses in his column. One-liners teem and gurgle

and spill from his pen like the blood of black-lipped vampire fashion victims slashed by their own accessories.

It's not just that Musto is hard on everyone, he's evil. But in a nice way, of course. Trendies will crane their limited imaginations trying to find themselves in these pages and then plan elaborate revenge when they do. It's probably Musto's highest form of compliment to smear downtown types: he knows they'd rather have the mention than be ignored, and a mention in a novel is a kind of immortality, even if it's the immortality of the damned.

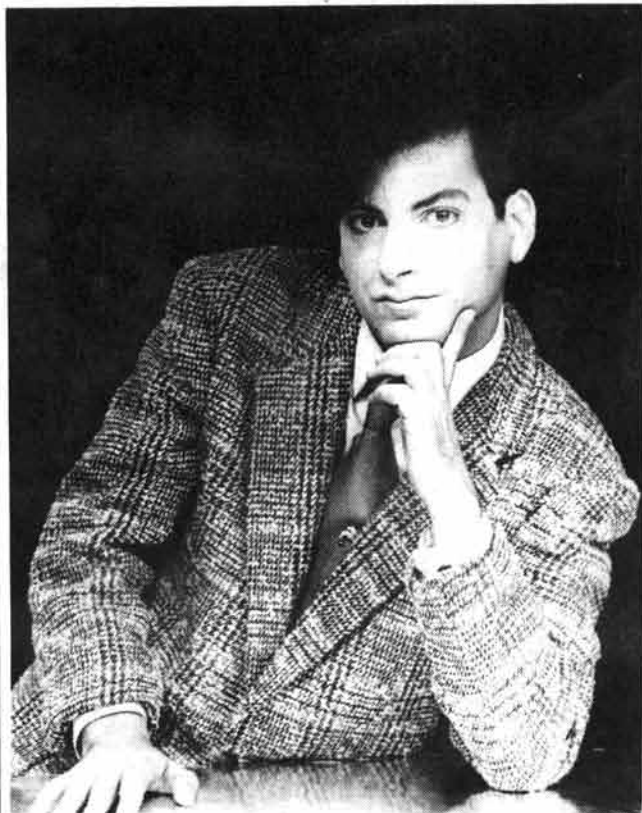
No one is spared when the Musto axe begins to swing.

On uninvited guests: "The party was so undreadful that people were getting on the public phone and urging their friends to 'crash like a Delta pilot.'"

On a pesky AIDS benefit promoter: "Without AIDS, after all, she'd be a nobody. If they ever found the cure Diane Plewge was supposedly looking for, it would also be the cure for Diane Plewge."

And so on. There are those who might argue that a talent such as Musto's might be better served lampooning activities a little more earth-shaking than compulsive party-going, social climbing and hanging out, and that he's a lazy, cheap, worthless social parasite feeding off the meager crumbs of pathetic, dressed-up losers and fakers. But that would be quibbling. The reality is that both in his column and in this book, Musto has raised an inherently pointless milieu into a high art, one worth reading about simply because he's writing about it.

For those seeking entree into the world of New York nightlife, *Manhattan* offers countless pointers on how to succeed, if not a reason



WEIRD AND WICKED WIT
Author Michael Musto

Photo: Lizzerd Souffle

why anyone would want to. What it doesn't offer is advice on how to survive success, as many of its characters careen off dance floors or slide from VIP-room couches into that most feared, detested fate-worse-than-death, "overness."

If the social death of being "over," with all its little vanities, is the text of this tome, AIDS is the subtext. Despite the narrator's best efforts to ignore it, it keeps cropping up, threatening to piss on everybody's good time. But like a true satirist, Musto can't resist any ripe target, even a deadly one. Thus the excesses of AIDS activists and their ACT UP-like organization, SCREAM, are as much grist for his mill as the vapid pleasure-seeking of lesser lights, the "mangia" mania of Italian mothers in Queens, and the-Jack-and-the-beanstalk social climbing of "newies" on the scene.

Manhattan On The Rocks is a rarity among books about New York nightlife, a genuine satire. Whether any satire can succeed when so few people are acquainted with the reality it lampoons is usually an open question, but in this case Musto needn't worry. His book is so screamingly, side-splittingly, brilliantly funny that even if you've never been downtown, you'll feel like you've been dragged through it by your platinum extensions after reading this romp. And don't bother bringing your own Ecstasy. It comes on almost every page. ▼

BIG HOTEL from page 48

deserves a review all its own. It is intricate in detail, highly functional, beautifully painted and imaginatively conceived. Quinton's direction highlights the set's many mutabilities and keeps the action moving fast and furious peppering generously with clever visual gags.

Big Hotel permits a rare and fresh look at the earliest Ludlam play. The production does not fall into the trap of an archival reconstruction production. The play itself does not disappoint and clearly reveals the genius for detail and collage that Ludlam became noted for. The show is a delight and should never have to bear the fate of the TKT board. *Big Hotel*—why no confusion about it, it's grand! ▼

COMMON THREADS from page 51

out their different experiences both in being gay and experiencing AIDS. Tracey Torrey—now also dead from AIDS—reaffirms his love for another man, David Campbell, even though his career as Naval Officer refused to permit him either the recognition of this love or the right to mourn his lover's death. Perhaps the most poignant and powerful figure in the video, Vito Russo not only celebrates his love for and life with Jeffrey Sevcik, but reaffirms his right as a person with AIDS for more accessible drugs and more efficient government action to end the AIDS crisis.

As Vito's presence makes clear, *Common Threads* does not simply bury the AIDS crisis by burying the people who have died. In addition to chronicling the individual histories of people who have died of AIDS, this video documents the larger history of government inaction, of the dominant media's indifference and of the public fear of AIDS and subsequent violence against gay people. To be sure, certain criticisms could be leveled against this video. Why is the one person of color an IV drug user? Why are all the people represented in seemingly monogamous and long-term relationships? While such criticisms are relevant, it is also empowering finally to see a work that recognizes without apology the lives of gay people affected by AIDS connected to others who have experienced firsthand the AIDS crisis.

At a recent ACT UP meeting, someone recognized that activism alone will not keep activists from developing AIDS. As much as it is necessary to fight for a better health system and for a government which is more responsive to those communities affected by the AIDS crisis, it is also important—as this documentary clearly argues—to recognize and mourn the lives of those individuals who have most immediately brought us all together. Only through acknowledging the relationship between sadness and anger can we achieve that dream which Vito Russo so passionately envisioned in this video—a time when we can finally roll up the quilt and put it away as testimony to a terrible tragedy we have all lived through. ▼

GIRLS AT PLAY from page 50

lapping. The final fireside fuck, where the butch brunette rolls over and the blond switches up (adroitly wielding a dildo) is pretty steamy.

The close up camera work, particularly during the strip and tub segments, shores up *Hungry Heart's* erotic impact. Credited to Ricki Crawford, her later slow motion and double exposure technique intensifies the sexual aggression of the fireside fuck.

But, some flaws decrease *Hungry Heart's* eroticism. The very monied and Anglo-looking actresses may fetter many viewers' identification. Instead of focussing on the sex you may find yourself nursing a resentment against their fancy smancy car and ritzy love nest. Their *Playboy* bunny look lends the piece to co-viewer bickers as to "are the actresses 'really' lesbians?" The actresses' performances, especially the brunettes, are choppy. Although over time she warms to the camera during the strip, the brunette seems ill at ease as a voyeur and, later segments, mechanical with her partner. In bed, the blond's timing is off—she moans out of sync and apparently gets hot with zip titillation.

Hungry Hearts has also sacrificed in-depth sexual exploration for multiplicity of sexual acts. They jam a lot of sexual diversity (bondage, blindfolding, fucking) into a 30-minute clip. This cramming sacrifices the fundamental erotic process—gradual arousal, increasing enticement and actual physical exchange—that usually envelops such power erotic rituals. Giving the clamor for lesbian erotic, *Hungry Hearts'* grab bag approach is understandable. But collapsing pornographic form for pornographic content is self defeating. Specifically, in *Hungry Hearts*, we are left with some stubbed-toed sex. Either the actresses or the directors couldn't seem to figure where to draw the line or what to flow into where.

Yet, in spite of some rough spots, *Hungry Hearts* is a hot dish of lesbian sexuality. You may find snatches of it livening up your threadbare fantasies. Which, in my opinion, means *Patale's* most recent production is a take! ▼

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230 W. 75th St.
874-9014

Candle Bar
309 Amsterdam Avenue.
874-9155

Cat's
730 8th Ave.
221-7559

Don't Tell Mama
343 West 46th St.
757-0788
Piano Bar

Jason's
23 W. 73rd St.
874-8091

Sally's Hideaway
264 W. 43rd St.
221-9152

Town and Country
9th Ave at 46th St.
307-1503

Trix
246 W. 48th St.
(bet. Broadway & 8th Ave.)
664-8331

The Works
428 Columbus Ave (at 81st)
799-7365

Johnny's Pub
123 E. 47th St.
355-8714

Regent East
204 E. 58th St.
355-9465

Rounds
303 E. 53rd St.
593-0807

South Dakota
405 3rd Ave.
684-8376

Star Sapphire
400 E. 59th St.
688-4710

EAST VILLAGE

The Bar
68 2nd Ave. (at 4th St.)
674-9714

Boy Bar
15 St. Mark's Place
674-7959
Dancing / Drag

The Pyramid
101 Avenue A
420-1590
Dancing / Drag

Tunnel Bar
116 1st Ave (7th St.)
777-9232

Badlands
Christopher & West St.
741-9236

Boots & Saddle
76 Christopher Street
929-9684

Cellblock 28
28 9th Ave
733-3144
j/o

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243-9079
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281 W. 12th St.
243-9041
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Duchess II
70 Grove St (7th Ave.)
242-1408
Women

J's
675 Hudson St.
242-9292
j/o

Julius
159 W. 10th St.
929-9672
Serving Coors, Coors Lite, &
Coors Draft.

Keller's
384 West St. (at Christopher)
243-1907

Kelly's Village West
46 Bedford St.
929-9322
Piano Bar

The Locker Room
400 W. 14th St. (9th Ave)
459-4299
j/o

Marie's Crisis
59 Grove St. (7th Ave)
243-9323
Piano Bar

The Monster
80 Grove St. (7th Ave.)
924-3558
Piano Bar / Dancing

Nimbus 22
22 7th Ave. South
691-4826
Dancing, pinball, pool,
lounge

Ninth Circle
139 W. 10th St.
243-9204

Ramrod
185 Christopher St.

Sneakers
392 West St.
242-9830

Two Potato
145 Christopher St.
242-9340

Ty's
114 Christopher St.
741-9641

Uncle Charlie's
56 Greenwich Ave.
255-8787
Video Bar

EAST SIDE

Brandy's Piano Bar
235 E. 84th St.
650-1944

G.H. Club
353 E. 53rd St.
223-9752

WEST VILLAGE

The Annex (to Cellblock 28)
673 Hudson St.
(bet. 13th & 14th)
627-1140
j/o

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Barbary Coast
64 7th Ave. (14th St.)
675-0385

The Break
232 8th Ave. (22nd St.)
627-0072

Chelsea Transfer
131 8th Ave. (bet. 16th &
17th)
929-7183

Eagle's Nest
142 11th Ave (21st St.)
691-8451
Leather / Levi's

Private Eyes
12 W. 21st St. (bet. 5th & 6th)
206-7770
Dancing, Video Club

Rawhide
212 8th Ave
(21st St.)
Leather / Levi's

Spike
120 11th Ave.
243-9688
Leather & Uniforms

Tracks
19th St. & 11th Ave.
Dancing

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THE GAY AFRICAN AMERICANS OF WESTCHESTER(The G.A.A.)

is a community based support group formed in Westchester County. Various activities are planned for the coming months.
Please call 914-376-0727 for more info.

GLAAD

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
80 Varick Street, NYC 10013 (212) 966-1700
GLAAD combats homophobia in the media and elsewhere by promoting visibility of the lesbian and gay community and organizing grassroots response to anti-gay bigotry.

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS

Dedicated to safe and responsible S/M since 1981. Open meetings w/programs on S/M techniques, lifestyle issues, political and social concerns. Also special events, speakers bureau, workshops, demos, affinity groups, newsletter, more. GMSMA - Dept. O, 496A Hudson Street, Suite D23, NYC 10014.
(212) 727-9878.

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE
FOR INFORMATION ON SAFER SEX AND HIV-RELATED HEALTH SERVICES, AND FOR INFORMATION ON ONE-TIME, WALK-IN AIDS COUNSELING SERVICES
212-807-6655

212-645-7470 TDD (For the Hearing Impaired)
Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sat 12:00 to 3:00

HEAL (Health Education AIDS Liaison)

Weekly info. and support group for treatments for AIDS which do not compromise the immune system further, including alternative and holistic approaches.
Wed 8pm. 208 W. 13th St. (212) 674-HOPE.

HETRICK-MARTIN INSTITUTE

for lesbian and gay youth. Counseling, drop-in center (M-F, 3-6pm), rap groups, Harvey Milk High School, AIDS and safer sex information, referrals, professional education.
(212) 633-8920(voice)
(212) 633-8926 TTY for deaf

HISPANIC UNITED GAYS & LESBIANS

Educational services, political action, counseling and social activities in Spanish and English by and for the Latino Lesbian and Gay Community. General meetings 8:00 p.m. 4th Thursday of every month at 208 West 13th Street.
Call (212) 691-4181
or write H.U.G.L., P.O. Box 226 Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10019.

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND

Precedent-setting litigation nationwide for lesbians, gay men and people with AIDS. Membership (\$35 and up) includes newsletter and invitations to special events. Volunteer night on Thursdays. Intake calls: 2-4pm Mon thru Fri
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P.O. Box 106, Midwood Station
Brooklyn, NY 11230
(718) 859-9437

LONG ISLAND ACT-UP

P.O. Box 291, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
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(516) 338-4662 (516) 997-5238 Nassau
(516) 928-5530 Suffolk

NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

is the national grassroots political organization for lesbians and gay men. Membership is \$30/year. Issue-oriented projects address violence, sodomy laws, AIDS, gay rights ordinances, families, media, etc. through lobbying, education, organizing and direct action.
NGLTF 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202) 332-6483.

NORTHERN LIGHTS ALTERNATIVES

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THE AIDS MASTERY WORKSHOP: Exploring the possibilities of a powerful and creative life in the face of AIDS. Call Jack Godby (212) 337-8747

NYC GAY & LESBIAN ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

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PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION

(212) 532-0290 / Hotline (212) 532-0568

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PEOPLE WITH AIDS HEALTH GROUP

Underground buyer's club importing not-yet-approved medications and nutritional supplements. 31 West 26th St. 4th Floor (212) 532-0280

SAGE: (Senior Action in a Gay Environment)

Social Service Agency providing care, activities, and educational services for gay & lesbian senior citizens. Also serving over 160 homebound seniors and older PWA's. 208 West 13th St. NYC 10011 (212) 741-2247

ULSTER COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

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For information, call (914) 626-3203.

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ATT: Mr. Scott (EOE)

The News Department at *OutWeek* has several positions open for steady, freelance local news reporters. Applicants should be excellent writers, deadline-oriented, and knowledgeable about New York's lesbian and gay community. Previous journalism experience is not essential, but candidates should be familiar with standard, AP-news story format. Please send resumes and clips to:

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Attention: Andrew Miller
OutWeek is an equal opportunity employer, and encourages people of color and women to apply.

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Reception, office services, staff support and development work for community based lesbian and gay social service organization serving survivors of violent crime. College degree and office experience preferred. Familiarity with database management a plus. Salary: low to mid-20's plus benefits. Send cover letter and resume to: Executive Director, New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project 208 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011

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PERSONALS

BUILD A NEST?
GWM, 43, 5'10", 160 lbs., generally considered intelligent and humorous with wide range of skills and interests, reasonably successful, lots of good friends but currently without the capstone, that special someone. Seeking a partner interested in the slow explorations, joys and agonies of building a nest. Let's start communicating and see where it leads. Outweek Box 1145

S + M ROMANCE
Handsome G/B/M, 34, seeks GM 25-50, for safe healthy s&m romance. All serious replies. Ans. right now! Photo/phone to: P.O. Box 314, New York City 10009.

HNDISM HUNG GBM
Top, seeks affectionate bottom, preferably Hispanic or Italian for friendship. Goodlooking intelligent, clean and honest a must, 40-60 years. Photo, if possible, will return. Outweek Box 1187

DO YOU SPEAK
softly and carry a big stick? Me/ GWM, handsome, 28, Br/Grn, gym body, 5'9", 150 and tired of bars. You young, hunky and hung into movies, dinners and great healthy sex (maybe more). Write to "CD" and send photo to Outweek Box 1195

GWF-SEEKING TO
form friendship, network/social group. All boroughs welcome. 2x monthly meetings. Butches/femmes particularly welcome. Let's have good,

clean, womanly fun. Join in time for the holidays. (718) 961-8236.

GWF 31,
seeks friends to share interests that include country living, gardening, R&B music, old movies and most important, polishing the inner soul. I'm gregarious, interesting and creative. I have 55

winter seeks stimulation. I am 29, B/Bl, 6', 160 lbs. of lean, hard muscle. Spiritual, sensual smart and fun. Open to anything from phone sex to serious relationship. Send me your thoughts, hopes, dreams, fantasies-I will respond in kind. Outweek Box 1237

FRAT SCENES

trust, lust, love! Write OutWeek Box 1241

FLOWER OF THE MOUNTAIN
Yes, when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls used to or shall I wear a red. Yes, and how he kissed me under the Moorish Wall and I thought, "Well, as well it's him as another..."

ASIAN STUDS
Chubby GWM, baby-faced, 39, 5'5", 200, clean-shaven, hairy chest and belly, br/br, u/c, seeks w/blt., masculine GOM, "South Asians" 4 safe, hot action! Midtown, day/night. Ph/ph 2 TJ, Box 112, Executive Suite, 330 West 42nd Street, NYC, NY 10036.

CONNECTICUT
GWM, 28, seeks friends for my occasional business trips to New York or yours to Hartford. 5'8", 135 lbs., light brown hair, attractive. Race unimportant. Photo appreciated. P.O. Box 31434, Old State House Station, Hartford, CT 06103.

TALL TOPMAN-NYC
GWM, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40's, hunk, butch, smooth, sensitive, discreet, easy-going, into the arts. Safe sex only. Seeks caring relationship with bottom, tall, hunk. "NO" to smoking, drugs, drinking. "YES" to romance, sense of humor, fun times, sincere, good-looking, up attitude, hot safe muscle action, dancing, theatre, cinema, travel, art shows, mutual nurturing, and loving environment. Write: "W", P.O. Box 325, Wall Street Station, NYC, 10268. Photo a help if possible. Thanks.

TRUST TRAINING
GWM, 39, 6', 180, attractive, masculine, seeks similar professional to help unwind in 9 1/2 Weeks-type games of control. Discipline, teasing and trust. Safe, hot, erotic scenes involving fantasy, bondage, blindfolds, toys, but mainly my very creative mind (and yours?). I'm usually dominant, can be submissive depending on my partner. Let's explore and expand our limits of sensuality: letter, phone, photo (if possible) to: P.O. Box B20386, Columbus Circle Station NYC, NY 10023.

PERSONALS OF THE WEEK

PEACH OF A GUY
Looking for someone intelligent, affectionate, loyal, employed, adorable, fuckable? This GWM, 32, 5'11", 155#, brown/blue w/stache, HIV- (safe sex only), likes keeping his man happy, horny, satisfied, and coming back for more. If you're a tall GWM, 33-44, serious, who can envision shacking up with another

guy for a couple of decades, send me a letter. OutWeek Box 1333

HEY DYANI!
Happy Birthday to you Hope your dreams call come true. May this year find you happy, and all the years to come too. (did you sing?) (sometimes corny is the only way) Love ya, KATHIE

acres upstate I wish to start a business on. I need people with ideas and strong arms. Outweek Box 1233

GAY ASIAN MANHATTANITE
5'10", 160#, athletic tanned body, attractive Calif-born Ivy League investment professional seeks intelligent, fun-loving men for friendship, companionship and possibly more. Likes: Tennis, skiing, theatre, all types of music, good food, intelligent conversation, travel, honesty, maturity and sincerity. Dislikes: cigarettes, drugs, apathy, pretension and ignorance. Please send letter, photo and phone # to: Outweek Box 1235

P-TOWN WINTER
Hot blond facing lonely

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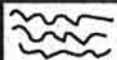
GWF TOGETHER
30 something, smart, easygoing, Italian /Scorpio, feminist, healthy, happy, cool/warm/hot, old fashioned values mixed w/ wide streak of bohemianism seeks emot. healthy, soft-hearted, hot-blooded woman for life partnership spiced with beaches, brunches, friends, media (books/mags/films/eve n t.v.), all performing arts (I'm a prof. stage manager), changes, choices, hysterical laughter, wild sex, etc.--i.e., the right stuff! The real thing:

and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again and then he asked me would I say yes, my Mountain Flower...GWM, 28, mystical, smart, has ideals, open heart, sure voice. Photo /phone to PO Box 401157, Brooklyn, NY 11240.

GWF, 30, VERY PRETTY
funny, faithful, complex, moody, mature, sarcastic, selective. I'm semi-normal, not into gay scene, clubs, roles, or men. Searching for a goodlooking, unpretentious, older (30-42) woman with values and an off the wall sense of humour, who isn't dykey, tall, bi, easy, or a funloving partier. Redheads, dark-eyed brunettes, accents, kids, and big breasts are a plus. Recent photo and letter if you're for real, 'cause I am. P.O. Box 3092, Clifton, NJ 07012. Manhattan or Jersey preferred.

HEY DYANI!
Happy Birthday to you Hope your dreams call come true. May this year find you happy, and all the years to come too. (did you sing?) (sometimes corny is the only way) Love ya, KATHIE

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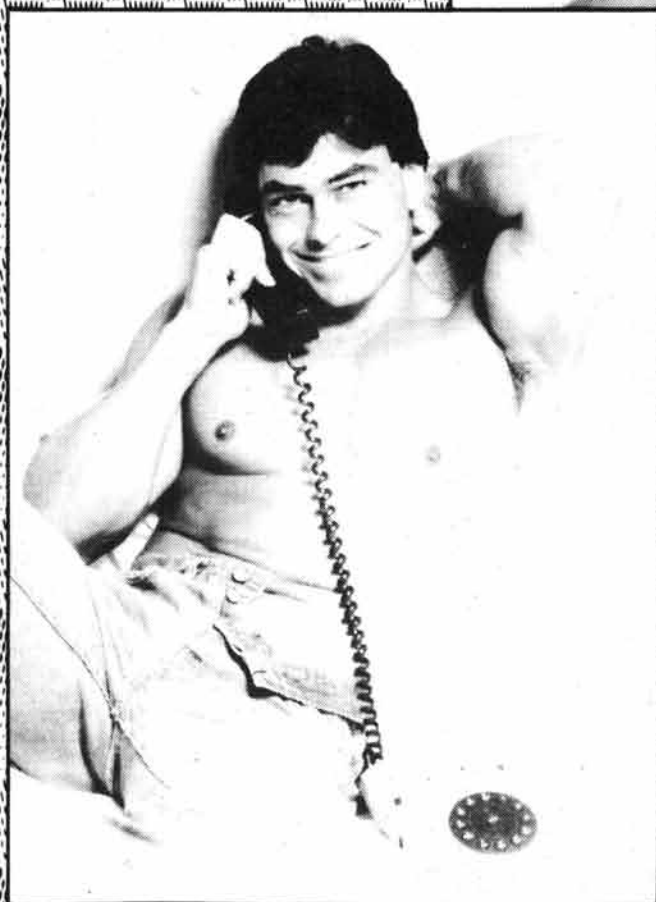


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PERSONALS CONTINUE ON PAGE 68

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GWM, 27, BANKER,

5'10", 155 lbs., brn/grn, friendly, handsome, intelligent, healthy, interested in friends and/or relationship with someone 5'11" or over with similar qualities. For fun with friends I like restaurants, movies, theatre, clubs, beach, travelling overseas, etc. I am fairly career-oriented and serious but into having fun

whenever possible, and most of the time my job doesn't get in the way of my personal life. I would describe myself as caring, supportive and fun. Please write and tell me about yourself. PK, Box 1622, NYC 10025.

INTIMACY

Always need to be working on it. At 32, 5'5", 115 lbs., br. h & e, I am firmly established in my appearance, yet not set in my ways. Intermittent ACT-UPer, wholikes to sing and when on my own watches late-night & Sunday morning t.v., seeks guy who also enjoys the arts and politics. Want to meet, go out, and-only if we're both into it-have sex. Greater commitment desirable, but not with anyone and only with some time. Reply to P.O. Box 20079, NYC, 10009.

PEACH OF A GUY

Looking for someone

intelligent, affectionate, loyal, employed, adorable, fuckable? This GWM, 32, 5'11", 155#, brown/blue w/stache, HIV- (safe sex only), likes keeping his man happy, horny, satisfied, and coming back for more. If you're a tall GWM, 33-44, serious, who can envision shacking up with another guy for a couple of decades, send me a letter. OutWeek Box 1333

BI WHITE MALE

Good-looking, very well-built, muscular, straight-acting/appearing guy, 36, 6', 170 lbs. Professional, healthy and discreet seeks similar professional well-built masculine guy for friendship and safe good times. Can be free weekdays. Box 2479, NY, NY 10185.

COCKSUCKER

Hot, horny handsome GWM, 37, 5'7", 165 lbs., brn/brn brd wants to suck men, 18-40.

Let me wet your dick. 496-A Hudson St. F-48, NY, NY 10014.

SEEKS FRIENDS

White male couple, early 40's, healthy non-smokers looking to expand social circles, seeks other couples. Enjoy theatre, restaurants, day trips, home entertaining. Please write to: P.O. Box 1636, New York, NY 10185-0014.

KRAZY KAT SEZ:

Oi, yoi, yoi, what a unheppy ket I am these "brickliss" dazell Monogamous hermaphrodite has lost her Ignatz end iz done cryin' about it. I'm seekin' en attractive, caring gesbian who can love an unusual girlfriend. Thrill-seekers, genderists, lust monsters and wierdos need not apply... I get enuff uh that shit on thuh street. Send yer resumaze en pix to: P.O. Box 20801, NYC 10009. Attn: K.U.A.

CAT WANTS A DOG

Beautiful boyish GWM-30/looks 20. 5'7"/120/brn/hzl-sleek, sensual, sensuous cat, seeks extra handsome champion pedigree dog-GWM, 25-35. Muscles, sideburns, sexy eyes hidden behind glasses, and hairy and/or bow legs a plus. Must have shots, no worms. Send photo/ phone/papers to OutWeek Box 1258. Boxers, Bull Terriers, German Shepherds, and Great Danes welcome. No Huskies or Poodles, please. Outweek Box 1258

HIV+

Attractive Med Student, 30 yo, 5'9", 155, seeks masc M to share quality time. I love the Mets, walks in the park, cuddling, cats, quiet eyes at home, walking across the Brooklyn Bridge, theatre, cooking and good books. You should be content with quality over quantity. Romantic and supportive. Bklyn res. or Italian/Latin a plus. T.P. Box 7047, FDR Station, NYC, 10150. Will

answer all so please include photo if you have one. I will reciprocate.

RSVP

I'm a successful, secure, admittedly shy, GWM, 42, 5'8", 144, and fit. Born with good looks, acquired tenderness, self-awareness and a romantic outlook; request the response of attractive monogamy-oriented guys for a quality life of playfulness and sensuality. Will exchange photos. P.O. Box 20141, NYC 10028-9991.

1 TO 1

relationship desired. WM, bl/bl, 29, 5'4", 135, good-looking, warm, sensitive, caring, reall Looking for someone special, 25-35, who is honest, energetic, intelligent, romantic, etc. to build meaningful monogamous relationship. Please send a letter and photo (if possible) to P.O. Box 7166, FDR Station, NYC, NY 10150.

GBM, 20, NYU

Attractive, earthy student seeks similar masculine, witty guy for warmth and special friendship. Latins, Europeans (French), Caribbeans a big +. Genuine replies only. Box 996, New Rochelle, NY 10801.

FRIEND/LOVER

GWM, 29, 5'4", 135, Bl/bl, good-looking, intelligent, shy, healthy-not into bar scene because I'm shy-I find it hard meeting people. My tastes are varied-music, film, theatre, parties, dancing, reading, country drives, antiques, quiet evenings. I seek a long term friendship/relationship w/someone I can count on to be there. If U R 28-36, trim, good-looking, intelligent, masculine, sensitive and easy-going, please respond w/photo and phone and detailed letter to P.O. Box 7166, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150. Thanks.

CHEAP DATE

OutWeek Personals — Now just five bucks for up to seven lines, and we'll run it for three weeks! Meet Mr. or Ms. Right—or maybe a sexy stud or studette for a safe and sultry one night romp. Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in *OutWeek Personals*. And for five smackers, you can't go wrong. Just use the order form on page 76 — and remember, this offer doesn't include mail forwarding charges, and extra lines are a buck each per week.

I NEED A MAN
 who'll take a chance... on being open, aware, close, safely intimate, a friend. Possible relationship/love can develop w/time-work. Sure, we all have preferences; but, life's too short to get hung up on absolutes/attitudes that are unrealistic. I'm a non-perfect, non-cretin, nice bottom GWM, 45, 5'7", 210 who seeks a basically top similar male. Write: P.O. Box 4547, L.I. City, NY 11104.

PEACH OF A GUY
 Looking for someone intelligent, affectionate, loyal, employed, adorable, fuckable? This GWM, 32, 5'11, 155#, brown/blue/stache, HIV- (safe sex only), likes keeping his man happy, horny, satisfied, and coming back for more. If you're a tall GWM, 33-44, serious, who can envision shacking up with another guy for a couple of decades. Send me a letter. Outweek Box 1268

HANDSOME GWM,
 24
 6', 150, br/br, swimmer's build. Do you like dancing and Dvorak; the Met and the Mets; moonlight & stagelights; working out & sleeping in? Are your tastes eclectic? If you are tired of bars and looking for new friends or more, write with photo and phone to: Outweek Box 1270

PART 1 OF 3
 GWF, 22, seeks mates for self and best friend (also roomie), GWM, 24: Both Taurus (and stubborn), "out" since early teens, long time friends. Frequently lazy, sometimes bitchy, and always lots of fun. Looking especially for other pairs like us, but singles okay. No bi's, bores, or "confused". Must be politically aware if not active. Photos a must! We may already know you! (Phones optional). All replies answered. See part 2 and 3. Outweek Box 1271

PART TWO OF THREE
 GWF, 22, 5'6", dark hair/eyes, butch/fem depending on attire and situation. Hate sports, eat red meat and smoke, but don't do drugs; quiet except when complaining but friendly, compassionate and cute. Needs: Outgoing GF, 5'2"-5'6", 21-35, who can laugh and cry with me, likes music and dancing. Must be modern and N.Y. oriented. See also parts one and three. OutWeek Box 1271.

PART 3 OF 3
 GWM, 24, 5'7", blue-eyed, bleach blonde closet Romantic with an unequalled sense of humor. Very popular and used to being the center of attention but very giving and caring. Happy with flowers and a phone call. Needs: Strong, silent type, long dark hair, 5'4"-5'10", 18-25 (30?). Must have patience, pretty eyes, and a steady job. See also parts one and two. OutWeek Box 1271.

GWM 36, 5'10", 150 LBS.,
 handsome, green eyes, moustache seeks attractive, in-shape guys into music, movies and hanging out for friendship and/or relationship. NYC/AREA-BKLYN PREFERRED. Ph/Ph please. David, P.O. Box 30221, NYC, NY 10011.

BARE BUTT SPANK
 by small guy, 5'5", 115 #, 32. Bend over the back of my couch. Roll around on my carpet. Straddle across my knee. Beg for more. Now tell me why you need it. Box 20079, NYC 10009. E. Village.
LONDON ENGLAND
 Handsome Irishman just returned from vacation in New York City. Would like very much to keep in touch with some friendly New Yorkers interested in long distance correspondence. Who

**PERSONALS
 CONTINUE
 ON PAGE 70**

Q: Confused about partylines?

A: ⁵⁵⁰⁻⁸⁸⁸

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October 15, 1989

OUTWEEK

69

knows what may develop! An uncomplicated, fun friendship is all I ask. Write with photo to: Joe Kelly, Flat 24, Grosvenor Court, 75 Christchurch Avenue, London England, N.W.6. 7NX

SEEK LIFEMATE
WM, 31, attr, 155, br. hr., hazel eyes, seeks husky, bulky, possessive guy for old-fashioned romantic 1 to 1 sex only. I crave humping and erotic talk, my interests include photog., video, sci-fi films and t.v. (avid trekker). DCH, P.O. Box 1401 Cooper Station, NY, NY 10276.

HOT ITAL BB BTM
Just learning to take it and I love to give it. How about you? Help me teach him how much he can take. We're mid-30's-hot. If you're hung, attr and under 40, send photo/phone to P.O. Box 150, Prince Street Station, NYC 10012.

FUN/BRIGHT/PAS-SIONATE,

GWM, 42, handsome and fit looking to meet similar attractive guys who understand that tenderness and laughter are the keys to love and sex. You are playful and stable for the long run. Ph/ph to P.O. Box 20141, NYC, 10028-9991.

HISPANIC GWM
Goodlooking 22, 5'5", 135 lbs, lean, youthful, carefree, mature. Healthy outlook on life. Love to dance, bike, skate, touch, learn. Am artist, masculine, non-smoker. Looking for others with similar interests and more. Outweek Box 1286

VINTAGE 1948
Handsome GWM, hlt prof, 5'8", 150 #, Bl/br, native NY sks mate to give quality loving when I'm home from a hard day at the hospital. I love Aretha, Bach, theatre and film. I do have wonderful friends and family but lack a husband.

What's life without caring for someone special and letting them care for you? Left politics and sense of humor essential... Please send photo (if possible), phone. Write Outweek Box 1287

BEASTMASTER
Feel like an animal during sex? Hypnosis may let you feel as if you are really transforming. I am good looking or better. Send letter and photo(face) to DH, P.O. Box 350-148, Brooklyn, NY 11235-0003.

S + M ROMANCE
Handsome G/B/M, 34, seeks GM 25-50, for safe healthy s&m romance. All serious replies. Ans. right now! Photo/phone to: P.O. Box 314, New York City 10009.

BEYOND THE STARS
GWM, 34, 5'9", 150, brn/brn, muscled, seeks partner interested in relationship/

friendship. Our interests include gym, sports, theatre, art, movies, reading, travel, skiing and beach. We compliment each other as winners, are both professionals, successful, very good-looking, masculine, smart, secure, know who we are and into personal growth. If you are 26-40 and meet my criteria, please send phone # and photo and written response for a reply. Outweek Box 1291

DO U SKATE-BOARD?
GWM, blonde, blue, 29. My religion is Industrial Design. Weaknesses for: steel blue eyes, music of the Simple Minds, air-walking on ramps or streets, and systems using MS-DOS as the keys. User friendly from downtown arts to Uptown stars. Gentlemen: VGA Display & 640 K (goodlooks and smarts) recommended; modem input w/ postscript output

(phone with photo) desired; Macintosh support (different interests) welcomed; copy protected (no moustached clones). Joystick required. Outweek Box 1298

LOOKING FORWARD
to Romantic nights in front of fire, candlelight dinners and special friendships GWM, 32, 6'2", 200, blue/blonde seeks similar nsmkr., prof, to share life, love and especially laughter. Ph/ph to Outweek Box 1299

NATURAL BODIES
WM, 27 y.o., 6', 170 lb., slim build, ruddy complexion, pleasant face, very long red hair. Long time celibate interested in dating. Prefer WM, dark hair (balding fine), paunchy or chunky build. Good attitude and easy-going. Kindly direct replies to: Outweek Box 1300

FALL ROMANCE
GWM, 32, 6'3", hndsm, prof and athl

swimmer's build seeks similar GWM, clean-cut for fall Romance, fun and exploration of the physical and spiritual. Hot times are waiting, so send your ph/ph ASAP. Outweek Box 1301

TEN G/BIWM'S SEEK
like, trim, masculine, health-conscious, gregarious for monthly meetings midtown hotel suite. Send note & SASE: P.O. Box 6653 FDR, NY, NY 10150.

HANDSOME AND HUSKY
Latin, 31 years old, 5'9", perf. artist, mat., educ'd, HIV+, healthy, sensual. U R: mat., masc., hung top w/ varied interests into big guys for fun and rom. Serious + loving men 30-45 a plus. Phone and photo please OutWeek Box 1304

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LOVE GLADIATORS

Got a wrestling/combat fantasy? Chubby GWM, 39, 5'5", 200, br/br, c/n shv, hry chst, w/c, seeks masc., w/blt studs 2 sweat out our hot-test darkest scenes inmy midtown apt. Day/nite. No "real" rasslin' but our "match" can be as fun, erotic and/or "brutal" as you want! Costumes, nude, oil, tits, hot talk, "dirty" holds, SS, j/o. Ph/Ph 2 T.J., box 112, executive Suite 330 W. 42 Street, New York, ny 10036. Ethnic, BB a +.

FASHION CHIC

GWM, 29, 185 attractive, healthy, non-prmiscuous. I like movies theater, brunch, holding hands, streisand, N.Y., Seeks GWM 25-35 for friend to share good time together. And looking for that all important man to share my life and love. Send letter, phone number and photo a must. Outweek Box 1314

GAY ACTIVIST

PWA, 6', 155#, brwn brd, trim defined build, lng hair & legs + bdrm bl eyes seeks a man +6' + beefy, HIV+, who shares qualities of rough enough for safe sleeze, touch enough to fight on the front lines for ourselves and our people men of such soul only need send letter + photo to get same form this equal opportunity kind

of guy. Outweek Box 1315

INTERESTING AND FUN

Perhaps we've seen each other at the gym, the beach, the ballet, theater, gay community events, and occasional demos. We're both nonsmokers; professional men who are in shape and who enjoy a wide variety of interests like good food, good books, film, travel, spirituality, provocative discussions, romance. We both are sensuous and very sex positive and either are currently in or have been in therapy. So why haven't we met? That's the purpose of this ad. I'm 38, GWM, 6 feet tall, brown hair just beginning to grey who lives in Chelsea. You are at least in your late twenties but could be in your mid forties. Perhaps you are an AIDS widower, but you are single and are hoping for that to change. No matter what your age you know how to have fun and are looking to meet someone special to date and see what might develop. HIV status isn't important. Letter w/photo and phone no. please. Outweek Box 1316

NICE GUY WANTED

GWM, 5'9" 47 150lbs Br/Br average looks, enjoys, arts, theatre, nature plants and flowers looking for friendship/relationship P.O. Box 1248 Union, NJ 07083-9998

SUBMISSIVE WM

40, 5'9", 145, Dancer's body, will wear

panties, nylons, high heels, etc. for masc hung men. Discreet, kinky dates at your place, NYC only. Lee, POB 146, Prince St Station, NYC 10012.

MISS TOP HALF

Nice bottom incomplete more ways than one. Bit lonely and disappointed knowing you're out there and don't look beyond fantasy. I'm real and waiting for you-maybe winter will be warm after all. Write:POB 4547, LIC, NY 11104.

BROOKLYN BEER/BICYCLE SHORTS

You were buying it/wearing them Wed. 9/20 on Upper West Side. We had a brief chat. Care to share a beer together? P.O. Box 149 Cathedral Station, NY 10025.

DESPERATELY SEEKING SYBIL?

GWM with split personality seeks date who looks good in leather jacket and earring. HALF playful, silly, good time boy, half serious, political, professional, appreciates

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green things and solitude. You: 25-35/brains/sexy/good kisser/like Jukebox at The Bar. No Yuppy scum please. Me: 30/tall/handsome/muscles/big feet. Tell me which half you want to meet, photo/phone. Outweek Box 1321

ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

for this x-tra handsome WM 25, 5'-11", 160, hot body, I seek only the hottest, best looking, in shape, G, Bi, Married men for steamy, creative, 2somes, 3somes, 4(?) into role playing, locker room scenes, other hot fantasies. Send photo (a must), phone and turn ons to Box 1298, NYC 10185. Don't be disappointed again-write now.

SLAVE WANTED!

Masc, muscular, hot dominant, very well hung top wants sexy kinky slave with a great ass. Me: 40's great body you: any race, good body and interesting mind! This is honest! Outweek Box 1323

OCTOBER ECSTASY

Two hot GWM buddies, 30-15H with gym bodies, seek same for uninhibited, exclusive safe sex party. Great pecs, arms, smiles a plus-couples welcome. Foto/fone to PO Box 149, Cathedral Station, 10025.

ETHNIC CHASERS

Chubby, GWM, 39, 5'5", 200, hr/br, hry chest & belly, dln, shy, uls, seeks well-built, masculine chasers, any race, for hot,sweaty, safe times. Midtown, day/nite. Photo xchg, pls, T.J., Box 112, Executive Suite, 330 West 42 Street, NYC 10036. BB a +.

BRIGHT INTENSE

Decent physical/occupational package. I'm 48, 6', 170, looking for guy who likes back-rubs, bubble baths and Chinese Food. OutWeek box 1326

SENSUAL INTELLECTUAL

With charm, GWM, 42, 5'11" BR/BR 165 HIV+ witty, warm, loving, attractive sexy, politically conscious and

working in the Seeking Mr. Right even Mr. Wrong long as he's attractive loving Seeking a buddy well as that you know what and phone pls. box 774 Times Station, New York, NY 10108.

HUNG TOP

GWM 33 5'10" bald/beard seek race younger snatched bodied bottom joyous times--w/condoms. I long lovemaking noons not just and-see-ya-ing (shaving is a reason.) Perhaps I'm much of a work for a relationship. I'm looking for thing loose and taneous now. But never know. Send ter and photo to Box 326, New NY 10040.

HEFTY MENS

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PERSONAL CONTINUE ON PAGE 72

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GWM, 38, 5-6, #2 lot. I've enjoyed bulking up both at the gym & dinner table and would like to meet others with similar interests for one or both of us. Besides food, I'm interested in architecture, film, theater, travel, and big city life. Please be GWM to age 44, phone a must. Photo a plus. Chasers and chubs also welcome. Reply: POB 788 Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021.

OPEN CALL GWM
28 5'6" 145lbs Brown/Moustache into movies, music, books and just having a good safe time seeks similar GM 25-35 to Co-Star in life; letter/photo phone to JP POB 2522 West NY, NJ 07093.

BLACK MAN WANT-ED BY GWM
5'8", chubby, 200, BR/Hazel 40yrs very oral into safe sex + hot times send PH/PH to POB 20446 London Terrace Station, New York, NY 10011. Let me lick you all over, I'll treat you right.

FAT AND SASSY GWM
37, 5'11", 190#, interested in meeting a very fat GM for fun, sex and possible relationship! Replies with photo answered first. No weight limit, the larger the better, the more to love. LTS 20053 New York, NY 10011.

P-TOWN WINTER
Hot blond facing lonely winter seeks stimulation. I am 29, Bl/Bl, 6', 160 lbs. of lean, hard muscle. Spiritual, sensual smart and fun. Open to anything from phone sex to serious relationship. Send me your thoughts, hopes, dreams, fantasies-I will respond in kind. Outweek Box 1237

FRAT SCENES
Butch little blonde seeks other hot young top guys into initiations and other fun group scenes. Make your fantasy into reality. Photo/phone to Box 478, 496 LaGuardia Place, NYC 10012.

GWF TOGETHER
30 something, smart, easygoing, Italian /Scorpio, feminist, healthy, happy, cool/warm/hot, old fashioned values mixed w/ wide streak of bohemianism seeks emot. healthy, soft-hearted, hot-blooded woman for life partnership spiced with beaches, brunches, friends, media (books/mags/films/evn t.v.), all performing arts (I'm a prof. stage manager), changes, choices, hysterical laughter, wild sex, etc.-i.e., the right stuff! The real thing: trust, lust, love! Write OutWeek Box 1241

FLOWER OF THE MOUNTAIN
Yes, when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls used to or shall I wear a red. Yes, and how he kissed me under the Moorish Wall and I thought, "Well, as well it's him as another..." and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again and then he asked me would I say yes, my Mountain Flower...GWM, 28, mystical, smart, has ideals, open heart, sure voice. Photo/phone to PO Box 401157, Brooklyn, NY 11240.

GWF, 30, VERY PRETTY
funny, faithful, complex, moody, mature, sarcastic, selective. I'm semi-normal, not into gay scene, clubs, roles, or men. Searching for a goodlooking, unpretentious, older (30-42) woman with values and an off the wall sense of humour, who isn't dykey, tall, bi, easy, or a funloving partier. Redheads, dark-eyed brunettes, accents, kids, and big breasts are a plus. Recent photo and letter if you're for real, 'cause I am. P.O. Box 3092, Clifton, NJ 07012. Manhattan or Jersey preferred.

HEY DYANI!
Happy Birthday to you Hope your dreams call come true. May this year find you happy, and all the years to

come too. (did you sing?) (sometimes corny is the only way) Love ya, KATHIE

ASIAN STUDS
Chubby GWM, babyfaced, 39, 5'5", 200, clean-shaven, hairy chest and belly, br/br, u/c, seeks w.bit., masculine GOM, "South Asians" 4 safe, hot action! Midtown, day/night. Ph/ph 2 TJ, Box 112, Executive Suite, 330 West 42nd Street, NYC NY 10036.

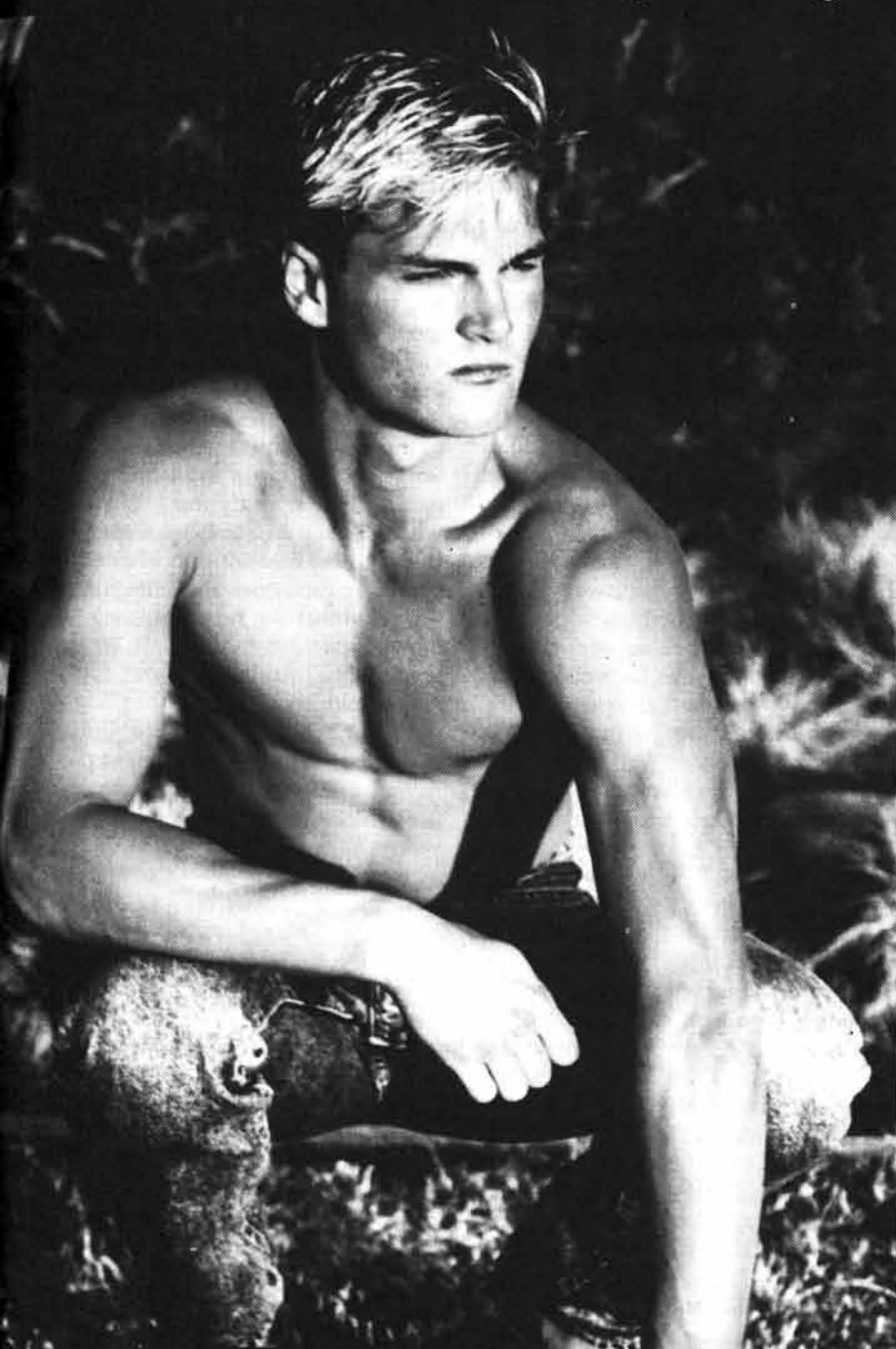
CONNECTICUT
GWM, 28, seeks friends for my occasional business trips to New York or yours to Hartford. 5'8", 135 lbs., light brown hair, attractive. Race unimportant. Photo appreciated. P.O. Box 31434, Old State House Station, Hartford, CT 06103.

TALL TOPMAN-NYC
GWM, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40's, hunk, butch, smooth, sensitive, discreet, easy-going, into the arts. Safe sex only. Seeks caring relationship with bottom, tall, hunk. "NO" to smoking, drugs, drinking. "YES" to romance, sense of humor, fun times, sincere, good-looking, up attitude, hot safe muscle action, dancing, theatre, cinema, travel, art shows, mutual nurturing, and loving environment. Write: "W", P.O. Box 325, Wall Street Station, NYC, 10268. Photo a help if possible. Thanks.

TRUST TRAINING
GWM, 39, 6', 180, attractive, masculine, seeks similar professional to help unwind in 9 1/2 Weeks-type games of control. Discipline, teasing and trust. Safe, hot, erotic scenes involving fantasy, bondage, blindfolds, toys, but mainly my very creative mind (and yours?). I'm usually dominant, can be submissive depending on my partner. Let's explore and expand our limits of sensuality: letter, phone, photo (if possible) to: P.O. Box B20386, Columbus Circle Station NYC, NY 10023.

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QUILT continued from page 53

Importantly, there is a call to arms. Noting the understated "delays and disappointments," it calls attention to the new federal AIDS commission mandated to push for research, treatment and vaccine development, public education and care for people with AIDS. Attempting to involve directly, it asks that the viewer join the mobilization to keep pressure on Congress and the Administration to carry out the commission's mandate—and also to support the work of AIDS organizations. Leaving, the viewer passes this comment by HBO chair and chief executive Michael Fuchs: "The AIDS epidemic will be conquered. But an America that rallies to the cause with understanding, concern and compassion will speed the end to this crisis. And save precious lives." Along the wall are yahrtzeit candles—with which Jews memorialize the dead.

For me The Quilt is akin to a college reunion. People close to me in my undergraduate years at Michigan State University—Rick Rapaport, Jim Dawson, John Mathieson, Ben Lowery, Jim O'Connell and Scott Evan Flack—have panels in the patchwork. And though MSU friends Wade Keas, Michael McDonald, Roy Reinholtz, Steve Franklin and Michael Bennett don't have panels at this writing, I think of them as well.

After viewing The Quilt four times, I didn't feel that I had tears left. Yet going through the Parson's Exhibit of *Response*, seeing the panels of Jeffrey Sevcik and Dr. Waddell, and hearing the names I couldn't help but cry. I cried because I would never again be able to sit with Wade over vodka tonics and sing to Cookie Monster's *I Left My Cookie at the Disco* on *Disco Sesame Street*; I'd never hear the Republicans losing the White House on NPR's "All Things Considered" with O'Connell over a big pot of Earl Grey the way we listened to reports of them taking it in 1980; and never would Scott introduce me to new music the way he introduced me to Bob Marley and Jane Olivor while living at the Sigma Alpha Mu house. I cried because The Quilt reminds me of beautiful things lost forever. ▼

VIDEO FESTIVAL from page 52

Danny grapples with the filmmaker's unapologetic desire and a longing brought about by the AIDS crisis. Kalin's tape revises compulsory heterosexuality and the AIDS crisis against a homo-romantic and homo-sexual retaliation with appropriated and original footage cut together.

Tom Rubnitz's *Made For TV* makes a good pair with *Barbaranana* by Kapra Fleming. In the former, Ann Magnuson satirizes a multitude of women characters (all of them white). In *Barbaranana*, the media coverage of AIDS and condom etiquette is satirized in a public service announcement about bananas called "Food for Thought." Suggestions for how to approach your banana, how to choose it, how to peel it, how to eat it, and so on, ends with a woman posing in a banana dress.

Julie Zando's tape, *I Like Girls For Friends*, stands out as the narrator's masochistic desire takes her on a quest for love. In a seductive whisper Zando explains why she would choose to go to a movie with a woman before a man, as well as why she still wants her girlfriend, even though she beat her for three of their four years together. (I'm sorry there aren't more "lesbian" tapes—ones made by and for lesbians—in this festival. I'm sorry the rest of the tapes leave me feeling like boy's are getting the one over on us again.)

Other work includes *Suburban Queen*, by Mindy Faber, which images a daughter (the filmmaker) wanting her mother to be a heroine, an amazon, maybe someone more like herself, a Suburban Queen. Instead, her mother asks, "If you wear only one earring does that mean you're a homosexual?" "Does everyone in Chicago dress like that?" Faber tells us in the voice-over, "She takes a pill to start the day and one to end it..." *The Mom Tapes*, by Ilene Segalove, is a brief off-screen dialogue between an impatient mother and a whinny daughter; what should I do today if I don't want to sit down and have a conversation with you? *Joan Does Dynasty*, by Joan Braderman and Paper Tiger Television Collective, is one of the

collectives favorites as Joan questions why "100 million people in 78 countries welcome this department store of dressed-to-kill aliens into their homes every week?"

These three tapes are prime examples of my confusion over the definition of gay and lesbian video, which doesn't mean the work isn't good or that queers shouldn't try to see this stuff... But why only boy films? Why am I almost done with this review before I find a girl tape hidden in the midst of so much male glory? My problem with Meyers' programming is not only that there are so few tapes by women, but fully half of those programmed aren't by lesbians and/or don't really seem to be involved in "lesbian issues." Is this indicative of the response by lesbians to the call for tapes? Are there really fewer lesbian tapes available, being made? That is partly true. But also, when I discussed this with Meyers, she said that she not only wanted to provide educational and entertaining work, but that she was organizing her thoughts around the idea of a "Gay and Lesbian Audience," and "what they would like to see."

Sure, these tapes are good, should be seen, and for the most part, haven't been seen. Low-budget video productions need as many screening venues as possible and DCTV remains in the forefront of places to do just that. However, why not just call her two days "a cool video festival," where most of the tapes just happen to be made by queers and the rest by "feminists?" ▼

The next two screenings are on Oct. 10 and 13. For more information, call Maria Beatty at DCTV, 966-4510

GOSSIP WATCH from page 43

subjects, such as when Mark Kostabi spewed his murderous venom to Anthony Hayden-Guest? In the middle of an epidemic in which hundreds of thousands have died and millions more (many within your own ranks) are infected with a virus, WHY CAN'T YOU JUST FORGET ABOUT STUPID GAYFRYD STEINBERG'S MILLION DOLLAR PARTY FOR ONE FUCKING MINUTE AND DO SOMETHING FAST? ▼

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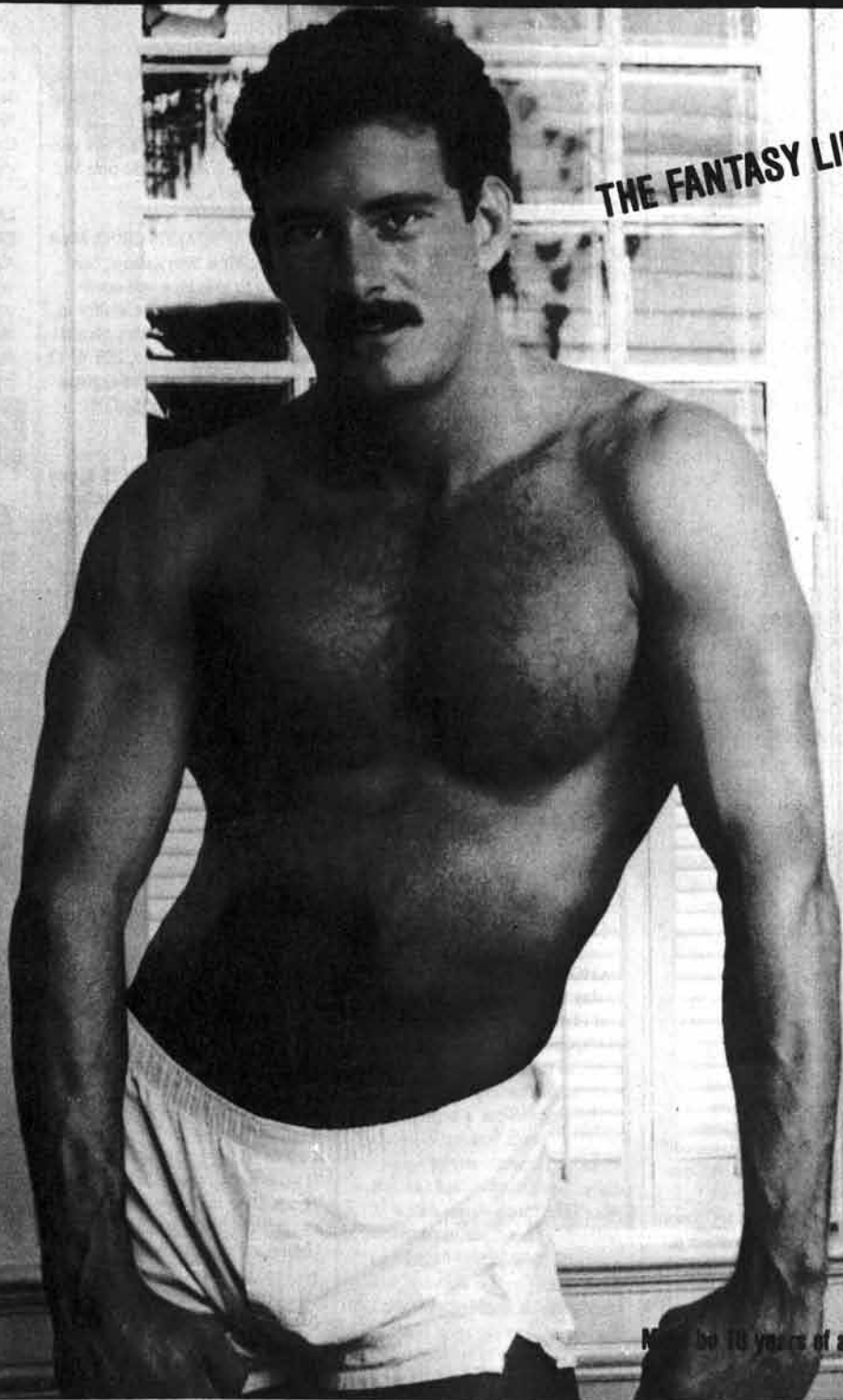
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970-3425

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GOING OUT

AN EVENTS CALENDAR

prepared by Rick X
with information from
The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of
New York

For more information or referrals, to
rap, or to volunteer, call the GLSB
daily, noon to midnight, 212-777-1800

Send calendar items to:
Rick X, Going Out
Box 790
New York, NY 10108

Items must be received by Mon-
day to be included in the follow-
ing week's issue.

MONDAY

OCTOBER 9

COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

Washington, DC
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
FUND and NATIONAL GAY AND
LESBIAN TASK FORCE "Con-
gressional Update: The Status
of Federal AIDS Legislation";
202/332-6483

New York
CONGREGATION BETH SIM-
CHAT TORAH Yom Kippur Day
Service, at 9 am; and Mincha
(Yom Kippur Afternoon) Ser-
vice, at 4:30 pm, concluding just
after sunset; 57 Bethune St (near
West St), 929-9498

THE NAMES PROJECT and
LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE &
EDUCATION FUND NY Pre-
miere of the HBO Film: *Com-
mon Threads, Stories from the
Quilt*, directed by Rob Epstein
and Jeffrey Friedman and narrat-
ed by Dustin Hoffman; a benefit
for both organizations; at Florence
Gould Hall, Alliance Francaise, 55
E 59 St (btwn Park & Madison); 7
pm reception, 8 pm screening;
\$35; reservations with Lambda,
995-8585

GAY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
present *Frankie's Boys in Con-
cert*, performing Gershwin,
Sondheim and Porter at a Cabaret
Monday; 415 7th St (btwn 6th &
7th Aves), Park Slope, Brooklyn;
8 pm; 718/789-2513

TUESDAY

OCTOBER 10

WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off date
for Flat Rock Brook Nature
Sanctuary trip; 201/481-0440

POSITIVE ACTION OF NEW
YORK Forum: **Slowing the Pro-
gression of HIV Infection**, dis-
cussion on medical treatment
strategies with Drs. Jonathan
Gold, Jeffrey Laurence, Barbara
Starrett, Fred Valentine, Daniel
William, moderated by Dr.
Bernard Bihari, Medical Director
of the Community Research Ini-
tiative; at St. Joseph's School, 111
Washington Place (off 6th Ave,
near Waverly Pl); 7:30 pm; \$3;
727-7768

SECOND TUESDAYS AT THE
CENTER presents **Brad Gooch**,
author of *Jail Bait and Other Sto-
ries*, reading with actors Carlos
Jimenez, Michael Milan, Will
Robinson and Afton Smith from
his new novel, *Scary Kisses*, 208
W 13 St, 8 pm, \$3, 620-7310

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 11

WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off date
for Night Barbeque and
Hayride in NJ; 201/481-0440

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY-
"a day to be truthful, powerful
and liberated. It is a day for each
of us, and each of our organiza-
tions, to take our next step in the
process of coming out." (Editor's
suggestions: Wear a button. Come
out to a friend, enemy or relative.
Write an honest entry in your
diary. Design a gay/lesbian histo-
ry or literature course. Ask a
politician about partnership
rights. Fly a rainbow flag. Read
OUTWEEK on the subway. Kiss
your lover at the airport. Display
his/her picture on your desk at
work. Tell your 6th-grade teacher
to stop saying, "When you get
married...") Info: 505/982-2558,

National Coming Out Day, Box
15524, Santa Fe, NM 87506

KATHEXIS COVEN **Open Circle
Meditation and Ritual marking
the Full Moon** and in praise of
the God/dess; in the Center's gar-
den, 208 W 13 St; 7-7:30 pm; \$1;
620-7310

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS **Men
Meeting Men Workshop**, "an
evening to enhance self-confi-
dence and increase the ability to
negotiate safer sex with potential
partners," at the Center, 208 W 13
St; 8-10 pm; free, no pre-registra-
tion required; 807-6655, TDD
645-7470

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS **Meet-
ing: Exquisitely Excruciating
Experiences**, with Bob Buckley
of Australia discussing sensuous
"abrasion trips"; at the Center, 3rd
Floor, 208 W 13 St; 8:30 pm; \$5;
727-9878

EAGLE BAR **Movie Night: *The
Naked Gun***; 142 11th Ave (at 21
St); 11 pm; 691-8451

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 12

Washington, DC
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR
WOMEN **March on Washington**

New York
WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off date for
Millbrook Mt. Hike; 874-2104

SIECUS **Training Workshop for
Health Professionals on
HIV/AIDS and Sexuality**,
through Saturday; HIV/AIDS
update, sexual concerns/attitudes,
homophobia, cross-cultural con-
cerns, IV drug users and safer
sex, counseling, pregnancy
issues, safer sex education tech-
niques, sexual issues for hospi-
tals/hospices, taking a sexual
history; at NYU Loeb Center,
LaGuardia Place and Wash. Sq.
South; 9 am - 4 pm TH & F, 9 am
- 1 pm SA; \$15; 673-3850

JUDITH'S ROOM BOOKSTORE
presents **Carmen de Monteflo-
res** presenting *Singing
Softly/Cantando Bajito*, 681
Washington St (btwn W 10 &
Charles St); 7 pm; free, but seat-
ing is limited; 727-7330

LAMBDA INDEPENDENT
DEMOCRATS presents **NYS
Assembly Speaker Mel Miller**,
who will discuss David Dinkins'
mayoral race; at Park Slope
Methodist Church, 6th Ave & 8th
St, Park Slope, Brooklyn; 7:30
pm; 718/768-6187

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 13

WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off date
for **Beginning Kyack Clinic**;
201/481-0440

SIECUS **Training Workshop for
Health Professionals on
HIV/AIDS and Sexuality**, see
Thursday, October 12

THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE pre-
sents **Fantasia Fair** through Oct.
22; in Provincetown, esp. for
those of alternative gender
lifestyles; including seminars on
legal, health, sociological,
lifestyle, and partner issues; Town
and Gown supper, Fantasy Ball,
Awards Banquet, Fashion Show;
workshops for couples, personal
development, beauty, fashion,
color imaging, speech improve-
ment; activities including whale
watch, kite flying picnic; house
parties, church, video party,
brunches; write Fantasia Fair, Lin-
colnia Stn., POB 11254; Alexan-
dria, VA 22312

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETH-
ER **General Membership Meet-
ing and Board of Directors
Elections**; at the Center, 208 W
13 St; 7:45 pm; 222-9794, 245-
6366 (Note: bring membership
cards to vote)

See GOING OUT on page 80



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BROOKLYN LESBIANS TOGETHER **Video Night**, BYO munchies; in Park Slope, Brooklyn; 8 pm; Andrete, 718/499-8675

CONGREGATION BETH SIM-CHAT TORAH **Sukkot Evening Service**, at 8:30 pm, 57 Bethune St (near West St), 929-9498

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 14

WOMEN ABOUT **Cut-off date for Jamaica Bay Beginning Canoe Trip and Taconic Range Hike and Campout**; 874-2104

SIECUS **Training Workshop for Health Professionals on HIV/AIDS and Sexuality**, see Thursday, October 12

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER **Annual Fall Membership Retreat in Tuxedo, NY**; at Arrow Park Inn, through Sunday; info 245-6366, 222-9794

PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN **Last Day of "The Quilt: Response to a National Crisis"**, a multi-media exhibition documenting the lives of five people with AIDS and the making of The AIDS Memorial Quilt; at the Exhibition Center, 2 W 13 St; 10 am - 6 pm; free

CONGREGATION BETH SIM-CHAT TORAH **Sukkot Day Service**, at 10 am, 57 Bethune St (near West St), 929-9498

MARANATHA: RIVERSIDERS FOR LESBIAN/GAY CONCERNS **Brooklyn Botanic Garden Excursion**, meeting at the entrance closest to the Brooklyn Museum to enjoy the beautiful fall flora, including the new glass conservatory; bring lunch for dining among the dahlias; 11 am; 2,3,5 Train to Bklyn Museum stop; info 212/866-4043

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN BUSINESS **Workshop: Market Your Business**, "for lesbians with their own businesses, ideas or dreams"; materials and refreshments provided; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 1-4 pm; \$5 more/less if; 718/237-2399, 718/499-6984

PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION **Singles' Tea**, for PWAs, PWArCs, HIV+s; 222 W 11 St, 3-5:30 pm; 532-0568

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS **Dungeon Demo Night**, with "instructive demonstrations of abrasion, bondage, flogging and other s/m techniques"; at Paddles (Zone DK), 540 W 21 St (near 11th Ave); 6-10 pm; 727-9878

CENTER SPORTS sees **Champions on Ice**, with Torvill and Dean; at Madison Square Garden, 33rd St & 7th Ave; 7:30 pm; members \$35/non-members \$45; 620-7310

CENTERSHOWS at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 620-7310

WOMEN ABOUT **Night of Change: Social Dance Raffle**, at Tracks; with food from 8-9 pm, raffle from 9-10 pm, disco from 10 to midnight; 531 W 19 St; \$10; prize donations solicited; 779-0269

BRONX LESBIANS UNITED IN SISTERHOOD and THE CENTER co-sponsor the **2nd Saturday Dance**, DJ Jerry Armstrong, cash bar, juice bar, snacks; 208 W 13 St; 9 pm - 1 am; \$8/\$6 members, students and seniors; 620-7310 (one free drink before 10 pm)

SPECTRUM DISCO presents **Seduction**, singing *Seduction and You're My One and Only*; 802 64th St, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn (N Train to 8th Ave stop); 718/238-8213

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 15

PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION **Fall Fundraising Event**, 532-0568

IDENTITY HOUSE **History Day and Reunion**, where founding members discuss their philosophy and vision of Identity House for its participants and the community in the 1990s; all past and current members invited; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 11 am - 6 pm; 243-8181

LAVENDER HEIGHTS **Pot Luck, Book Sale & Flea Market**, at the Cornerstone Center, 178 Bennett

Ave (at 189 St, Mnhtn); 6:30 pm; all welcome; call Barbara Ray for info and directions, 567-4033

HERITAGE OF PRIDE **Awards Ceremony** for floats, contingents and people in the Pride Day Parade last June; recipients include Cave Canem's Glamour Dykes, Imperial Court of New York, the Center, ACT UP/NY, Brooklyn Women's Martial Arts, L&G Big Apple Corps Marching Band, Gay Dating Game, Gay Swimmers, Greater Gotham Business Council, Sober Together (the largest contingent), Arthur Strickler, Red Mahoney, many others; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7 pm; 620-7310

HAPI'S BACKDOOR CABARET presents **Mrs. Fashion and David Illku as Carol Channing**; at the Pyramid, 101 Avenue A (btwn 6th & 7th Aves); midnight and 1 am shows, dancing till 4 am; \$5; 420-1590

MONDAY

OCTOBER 16

LAVENDER LIGHT GOSPEL **Choir Concert** at Delta 88; 332 8th Ave at 26 St; 9:30 pm; 924-3499

THE CLOSET CASE SHOW presents *Jeffrey's Drug and Lie Detector Test*, in which our young hero interviews for a job working with the Kweerz Beer Company; on Manhattan Cable TV Channel 16/C (if it's not censored); midnight (Editor's note: the producer encourages you to tape and share this show, for educational and charitable purposes only)

TUESDAY

OCTOBER 17

PROFESSIONALS IN FILM/VIDEO present **Lou Maletta, President of Gay Cable Network**, who will discuss the growth of GCN and show excerpts from new shows; light refreshments; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 6:30 pm; \$5; RSVP required at 718/353-3006

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 18

NEW YORK AIDS COALITION **Two-Day Conference: The Community Based Service System: An Answer to AIDS**, highlighting the key role of community-based efforts in the struggle against HIV/AIDS; to be held in Albany; write Susan Stampler, NYS AIDS Coalition, 132 Nassau St, 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10038

INSIGHT SEMINARS *Gift of the Heart*, a five-day seminar for people with any stage of HIV infection or other life-threatening illness, to encourage "positive personal growth in the face of life's many challenges and circumstances"; significant others, family and friends also invited; through October 22; \$50; register 431-7777

SCRABBLE-PLAYERS CLUB **Game Night**, newcomers should bring a board; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8-11 pm; 570-9369

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS **Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshop**, to learn the how-to's of playing more safely while meeting other men; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8-10:30 pm; free, no registration required; 807-6655, TDD 645-7470

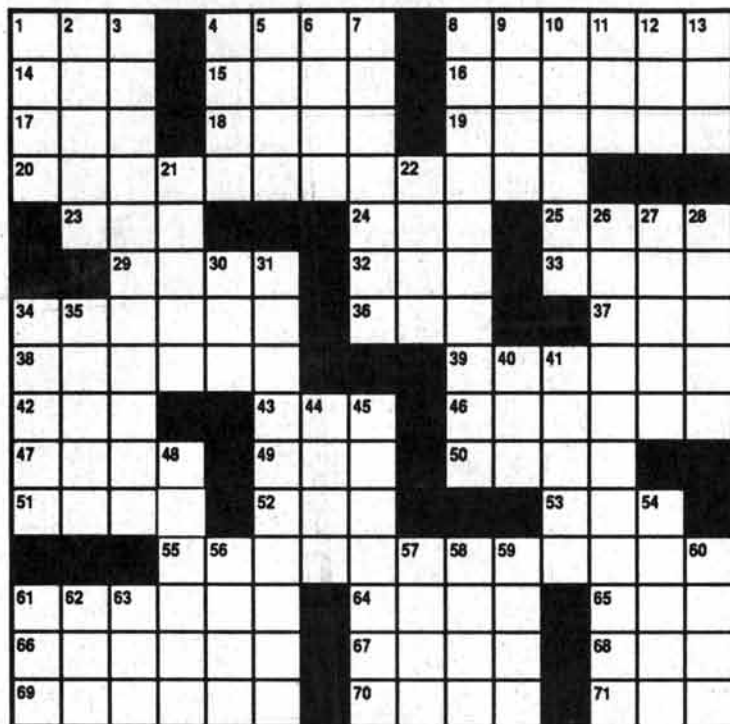
CENTER STAGE sees *The Lady in Question*, at the Orpheum Theatre, 2nd Ave & 8th St; 8 pm; \$35; 620-7310

PERFORMANCE SPACE 122 REEL TIME presents **Six Films to Disgust and Outrage Jesse Helms**, with Jerry Tartaglia's *Ecce Homo*, Robert Hilferty's *Cirque du SIDA*, Carl George's *DHPG Mon Amour*, Lisa Laquier's *Muell*, Jennifer Montgomery's *Home Avenue*, and Phillip B. Roth's *Boys/Life*; at 1st Ave & 9th St; 9 pm; \$6 or TDF + 1; reservations at 477-5288

OutWeek
on your
newsstand
Mondays

OutWeek Crossword

by Phil Greco
 Edited by Gabriel Rotello



5. ____ sex
6. Juno, to Plato
7. Gay economist John ____
Keynes
8. US writer who was a lesbian in
her youth
9. ____ *Under The Sun*
10. Add another layer
11. Poem
12. My, to Genet
13. Compass dir.
21. African mammal
22. ____ club
26. Gay film director
27. Afterwards
28. Got up
30. Matter: law
31. Gay scholar Erasmus
34. Bright
35. Anc. Gr. district
40. "____ Man"
41. Norton's captain
44. ____ Guinness
45. Bisexual French novelist
48. ____ : *Omen II*
54. Ivan the Terrible, et.al.
56. Mast tree
57. ____ Byron
58. Spur
59. Actress Shaw
60. Neophyte
61. Qty.
62. Hog's spouse
63. Title of respect

SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S OUTWEEK ON SALE MONDAY

ACROSS

1. Knew, Biblically
4. Gay Nazi Ernst
8. Sculptor Duquesnoy, burned
for sodomy
14. Gay poet ____ Nuwas
15. Defunct nightclub
16. Photographer Richard
17. ____ Howard
18. Elwes of *Another Country*
19. From ancient Nice
20. Gay genius
23. "Trick"
24. Priestly garment
25. Award-giving gay org.
29. Helms or Dannemeyer
32. ____ Speedwagon
33. Rip
34. Signatory
36. Morning moisture
37. Indian tribe
38. Swamp
39. Books, to Gide
42. Anecdote collection

43. Ind. Adv. Com.
46. Exodist
47. Peel
49. Dead Ltr. Ofc.
50. Marquis de ____
51. Cheerio
52. Electric ____
53. Outside; comb. form.
55. Gay literary giant
61. St. Francis of ____
64. Raced
65. ____ Francis
66. Actress Jeanne
67. Hot to ____
68. Hockey's Bobby
69. Male Monroes
70. Norse saga
71. Railway Sorting Ofc.

DOWN

1. Hurt
2. Very hot
3. Gay painter
4. Contest

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

ISSUE 16 SOLUTION
 TO BE PRINTED IN ISSUE 17



GCN

Gay Cable Network

Thursdays

10:30 pm

Pride & Progress

- Gay Week in Review
- Act-Up
- GCN Close-Up
- Sports
- Lavender Health

October 12

National Coming Out Day
New Yorkers speak out about coming out
with Andy Humm

11:00 pm

The Right Stuff

- Naming Names
- All About Women
- Media Watch
- Staying Out
- Around the Country

From Cincinnati—
The Mr. Gay Ohio Contest

Sundays

11:30 pm

Men & Films

Reviews of male erotica along with
interviews behind the scenes with film stars

October 15

Jack Laughton returns with a hot new look
The Buckshot Men show us where the beef is

Mondays

10:00 pm

Be My Guest

Sybil Bruncheon hosts a panel game
show with surprise guests.
Frankie Loves Johnny An original gay
soap opera.

October 16

Sybil does her thing from the
piers of New York
Episode #3
Tea & Sympathy—Our First Date

Gay Cable Network
32 Union Square East, Suite 1217
New York, NY 10003
Phone 212/477-4220

Celebrating our 7th year.

Cleve Jones • Robin Tyler • Sally Fisher, Creator the AIDS Mastery • River City Democratic Club, Sacramento • Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Assembly at Microsoft • MECLA •
 The Experience Seattle • Morris Kight • National Gay & Lesbian Spirituality Conference, Oct. 6, 7, 8, Washington DC • The Experience San Francisco • Harvey Fierstein •
 Rev. Toy Perry, Founder Metropolitan Community Churches • Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. • The Advocate • Gays and Lesbians in Unity •
 David Miskner • Eric Rolfe • Virginia Apuzzo • Harry Hay • Jim Hornel • Torie Osborn • Mobilization Against AIDS • Human Rights Campaign Fund • Urushi Vaid •
 Robin Tyler • Rita Mae Brown • Vic Basile • Tim McEeley • Paul Froman, Ph.D. • Pioneer Pride Festival, Oct. 7, 8, RTD Park and Ride Lot, Studio City •
 ORGANIZATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS: • The Experience Washington DC • The Pride Foundation • The Experience Los Angeles • Councillor David Scordiras •
 National Gay Rights Advocates • Flamingo Freedom Bank (Florida) • Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center of Los Angeles • National Gay and Lesbian Task Force •
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