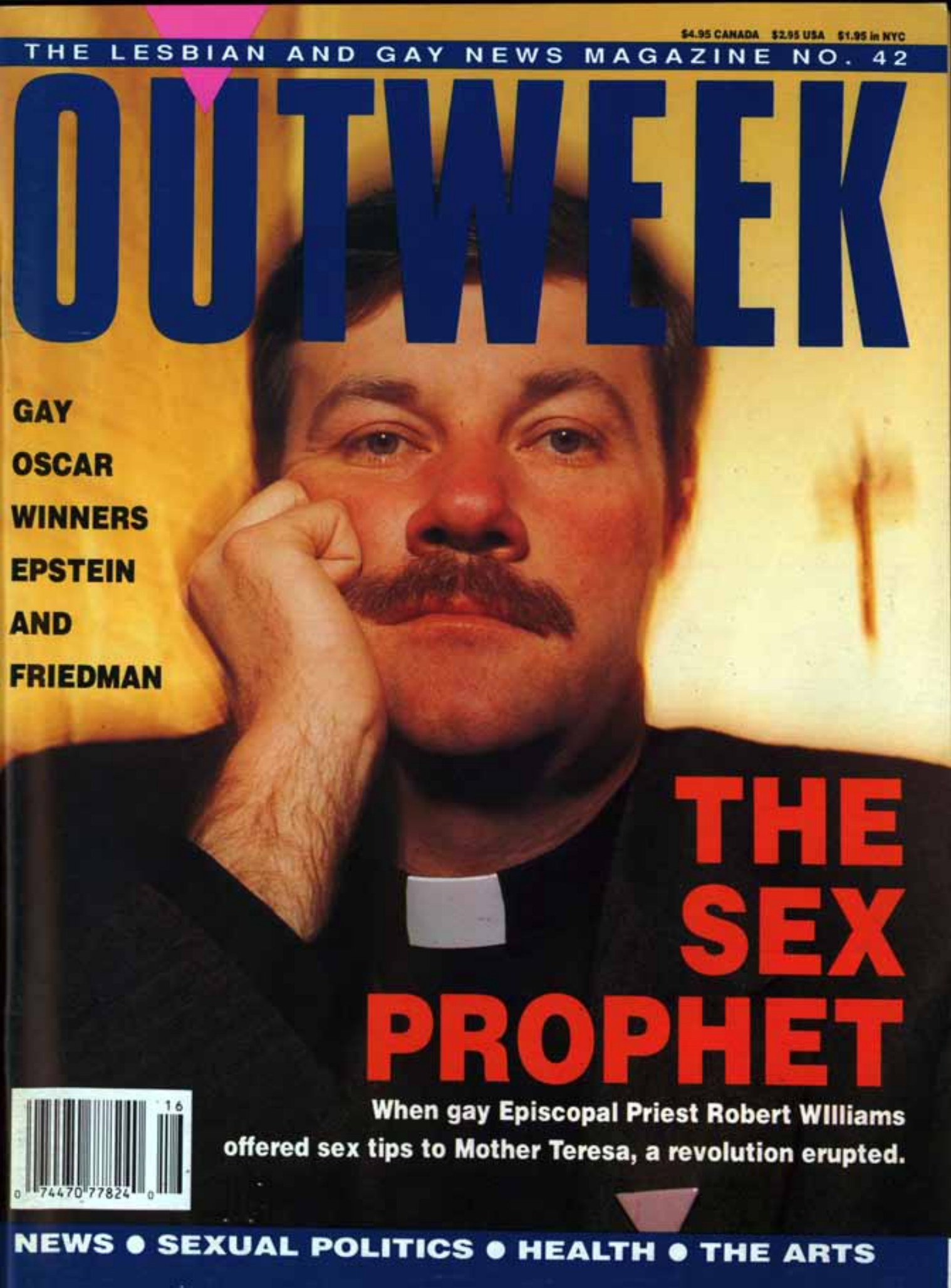


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OutWeek  
**CONTENTS**  
 Apr. 18, 1990

NEWS

14



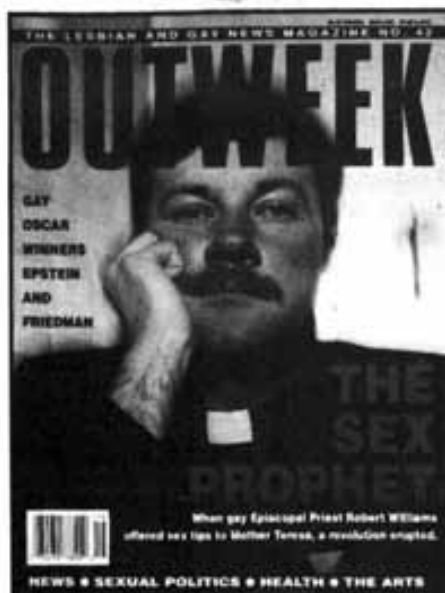
**Dinkins hires Myers, p. 24.**  
 Photo: T.L. Litt

HEALTH

- In Our Own Hands (*Denenberg*) 34  
 Political Science (*Harrington*) 36

DEPARTMENTS

- Outspoken (*Editorial*) 4  
 Letters 5  
 Stonewall Riots (*Natalie*) 5  
 Sotomayor 6  
 Jennifer Camper 8  
 Blurt Out 10  
 Dreamboat of the Week 11  
 San Francisco Journal (*Córdova*) 28  
 Obituaries 31  
 Kramer vs... 38  
 GLAAD Tidings 40  
 Look Out 52  
 Out of my Hands (*Ball*) 54  
 Gossip Watch 55  
 Out on the Town (*Tracey and Pokorny*) 56  
 Going Out Calendar (*X*) 74  
 Tuning In (*X*) 75  
 Dancing Out (*X*) 77  
 Community Directory 78  
 Bar Guide 80  
 Classifieds 82  
 Personals 96  
 Crossword (*Baysans*) 114



THE ARTS

- Film *Pink Narcissus* 59  
 Film *Oscar Winners Epstein and Friedman* 60  
 Film *Lord of the Flies* 62  
 Theater *Love's Frantic Yearnings* 63  
 Theater *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* 64  
 Cabaret *Forever Plaid*  
     *Steve Ross*  
     *Martin Charnin* 65  
 Music *House Music* 66  
 Books *The Salt Point* 68  
 Books *Victims No Longer* 70

**On the Cover:**  
 The Rev. Robert Williams. Photo: T.L. Litt

FEATURES

A CHURCH DIVIDED

42

Now that the smoke has cleared after The Rev. Robert Williams gave his steamy advice to Mother Teresa, **James Waller** looks at FAITH, HOPE AND CHASTITY within the Episcopal Church while **Keith Miller** checks out THE MISSIONARY'S POSTION.



**Cheek to Chic. Pink Narcissus, p. 59.**

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# OUTSPOKEN

## Gays and Redistricting

During the next year, a subtle but momentous change will take place in New York City politics. The city council, its powers expanded by the city's new charter, will grow from 36 to 51 seats. This expansion will require substantial redistricting, and will result in much smaller, more socially cohesive districts. The committee in charge of redistricting is obligated to respect racial, religious, ethnic and other realities in drawing new district lines.

It is not required to respect gay and lesbian geographic realities as well, but we should insist that it does. One of the embarrassing shortfalls of New York's gay and lesbian community has been our inability to elect openly gay candidates, which is not really our fault given New York's mammoth council districts. With the coming of smaller districts, this could be remedied, and some of the new, smaller council districts can be designed to be 'gay-winnable'.

A gay-winnable district is not necessarily one in which we form a majority. Such a concentration of gays probably doesn't exist in New York. Instead, we can win council seats in districts where straight progressives unite to form solid majorities with gays and lesbians; where contiguous areas of gay, lesbian and liberal voters are not divided by district lines; and where such populations are not burdened with large pockets of conservative voters.

Such neighborhoods include the West Village, the East Village, Soho, Tribeca, Chelsea, Clinton, the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Park Slope in Brooklyn and Jackson Heights in Queens.

For gays to expect gay-winnable districts to be carved out of New York's complex mosaic, we must have open gays on the committee which will redraw the lines. Eight people have already been appointed to the 15-member redistricting committee, none of them gay or lesbian. The mayor has the power to appoint the remaining seven, and we should insist that at least two of them be gay or lesbian. It's only through such representation that our interests will be accounted for.

Once the committee is constituted, our goal should be at least four gay-winnable districts in New York City. Gays and lesbians form a huge minority with clear policy goals. We have the right to expect that with a 51-seat council at least four districts should have a fighting chance to elect open gays and lesbians. Remember, a gay-winnable district will not necessarily elect gays. If four districts are designed to be gay-winnable, it's still probable that only one or two gays would be elected to the new council, a modest goal for such a large minority. Anything less would be a shame, and a sham.

Mayor Dinkins continues to insist that he's the best friend our community ever had. Now, here's an ideal chance for him to demonstrate that friendship. He should use his appointive power to name at least two open gays to the redistricting committee, with the goal of carving out at least four gay-winnable seats in the new city council. If he does that, the benefit to our community will be deep and lasting, and Mr. Dinkins' recent problems with gays will seem temporary and trivial by comparison. ▼

## OutWeek

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COVER DESIGN MARIA C. PEREZ

# LETTERS

## Mau Mauing The Ad Catcher

Your "Gays and Madison Avenue" editorial (no. 40, Apr. 4) is right on target. Examining the relationship between media, advertising, politics and the public, Bill Moyers asserts that Americans (like it or not) are currently empowered not as citizens, but as consumers. Activists conclude that non-gays and organizations don't include and examine gays unless there's something in it for them. Flexing our collective gay economic muscle would reverse this apathy. Remember the effective Coors boycott?

How about a "Gay Consumer" column in *OutWeek*? Provide readers with weekly guidelines and warnings on pro-and-anti-gay companies, their products, services, investments, charity contributions, employment and advertising policies. Encourage readers to submit personal experiences and problems regarding them and reveal the brands they buy in specific product categories. Publicize trends. Publish all this info in booklet form, once a year, to be bought as a home reference. Companies will become aware that gays are scrutinizing their intent and actions while deciding how (and how not) to spend ample incomes. Madison Avenue will recognize the gay market and court gay demographics and clout through the media. This in turn applies pressure for commensurate representation and coverage of gays in news and entertainment, which depend on reaching targeted ad groups. All involved will be forced to deal with us.

The column might call for letter-writing campaigns and boycotts, if necessary, place companies on notice for discriminatory policies and demand improvement. Such tactics are now employed by religious bigots and others who increasingly control and eliminate media representation of gays. Retaliatory sanctions may be the only means of undoing the chill wrought by these fear-mongers. All the gay consumer needs to prevail is a well-exposed and trustworthy source to empower her or him via organization, accessibility and direction. *OutWeek* certainly meets this requirement.

David Perry  
Manhattan

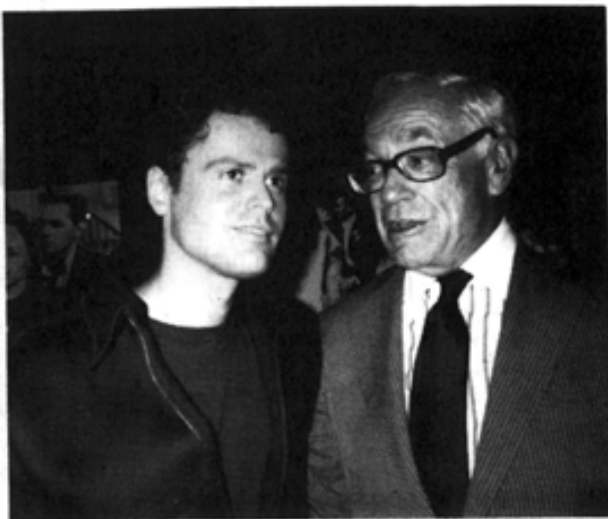


Photo: Aubrey Reuben

## Letter Shock

Signorile's cover story on Malcolm Forbes (no. 38, Mar. 18) neither appalled nor invigorated me; the responding letters were a lot more shocking and it is from reading these that I write.

Frankly, the "it's-a-person's-own-right-to-come-out-not-to-be-forced-out" argument has always been, in my opinion, a thinly veiled

guise for the fact that most homosexuals prefer to leave the "dirty work" of educating and demonstrating to others—thus most of society's mental picture of a homosexual is still a hairdresser or a drag queen. These people "pass for straight" when it suits them, as "coming out" might otherwise hinder their personal goals, career, etc. "Coming out" to me has

## STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



Photo: John Simone



always meant understanding and accepting yourself as a gay person. To tell your family, friends or anyone who matters to you has always seemed to me the ludicrously obvious next and immediate step. But for any person to know full well that they are gay and to choose not to tell others, because you are capable of or prefer to deceive them, is irrespon-

sibility—full stop; and it is the ignorance resulting from this compounded irresponsibility that contributes heavily to the very deep shit we are in now with the AIDS crisis. The other lame stab at justification I hear repeatedly is that "my-sex-life-is-my-own-business." If you think being gay only effects your sex life, I would urge you to "wake up and smell your life." Telling

someone you are a homosexual has nothing to do with telling people with whom you have slept or what you do in bed. That, and only that, is your own business.

Of course, everyone should have a right to privacy and confidentiality. But the truth is that if we are rich, famous or both, and we aren't willing to live like Jackle O, we simply don't. It was only written that he was in fact a homosexual. Would we be reacting so strongly if it were revealed that he were actually Jewish? Or really into Buddhism? We're talking about a way of life, not a fetish. These people write as if the scandal you've instigated is on par with him trading "knickers for snickers" with a kindergartner. Perhaps mainstream America wouldn't think there's much of a difference. But these societal

shortcomings are due, in part, to generations and generations of homosexuals that have refused to come out because of personal reasons. This perpetuates the misconception all across the globe that gays are far fewer in number than they actually are.

As a recording artist in the increasingly homophobic music industry, also as a consultant for a very conservative law firm, as well as a person who can easily "pass for straight" and who genuinely wants a successful career, I choose to be "out." And my life can be a lot rougher for it. But I see all other alternatives as being deceptive and harmful, both to myself individually and now, more importantly, to my people as a whole.

In short, I lose no sleep for Malcolm (may she rest in peace), and although I



hoped people might learn from his mistake how much better it is to tell people on your own terms than to have the story told behind your back or after your death. I was instead greeted with a well of self-centered, ultimately self-hating minds who probably can't wait to make the same mistake themselves.

Loren Lombard  
Manhattan

### Three Problems in Search of an Out

I have three problems with what *OutWeek* did with Malcolm Forbes: how, why and when.

First, I found it a screaming irony that in a story whose stated purpose it was to blast Forbes out of the closet, the "sources" (with one exception) were all anonymous. The story reads like a GOSSIP column—a milieu in which the author is clearly comfortable. Readers must wonder whether *OutWeek* researched Chastity Bono too heavily in the *Star* and accidentally adopted that publication's style. Signorile quotes a "Richard-not-his-real-name" as always having wanted to tell Forbes to come out so that he (Forbes) wouldn't be so "pathetic and secretive." From what outpost did "Richard-not-his-real-name" phone in this sentiment? Seems like a case of the pot calling the kettle names: "Richard-n-h-r-n" waited until Forbes was dead to be so brazen as to anonymously tell tales on him to a reporter.

Secondly, why Forbes, or why the rich and famous? You give too much importance to the rich (who support any cause they want, or no cause if that's what they want), and none to the local hero. Real people, like those in ACT UP, GLAAD and other organizations are doing truly great things now. In Forbes, if what you say about him is

true, you have claimed for the "gay nation" a dead closet case. Thanks a lot.

Lastly—the timing of this exposé is singularly spineless. Raise the issue while the person is living. Al Wiesel's first-hand account at least relates a direct confrontation; no matter what the result, Wiesel can respect himself for having said what he had to say. Signorile's sources were too busy taking

\$100's from Forbes while he was alive to make demands.

These tactics are ultimately self-destructive: they play havoc with issues like right to privacy and freedom of choice. I hope *OutWeek* will use its considerable resources responsibly in the future, and not try to vent injured feelings and anger in a way that is probably unethical and definitely won't work.

P.S. Having waited a week and a half to get this typed and mailed, I have just read Revson's comment in today's *Newsday* and Signorile's *Voice* piece. I have more understanding for Signorile now, but, the source issue is crucial. If the foundation was solid, the rest of the press would run the story.

S.A. Creal  
Brooklyn

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### Whose Privacy?

Belated congratulations on the terrific Malcolm Forbes story. This is what the world needs a lot more of. I am at a complete loss as to where the concept of respecting a person's privacy comes from. The United States Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that gay people have no constitutional right to privacy, and can be ripped out of their homes and imprisoned for consensual intimate relations performed in the "privacy" of their homes. Since privacy doesn't constitutionally exist for gay people in the pernicious opinion of five of the nine chief "justices," privacy provides no protection for gay people.

The only thing keeping gays and lesbians from losing their homes, jobs and liberty is the flimsy fig leaf of public opinion (which like all leaves changes every year). There-

fore, the more influential and powerful people who are known to the public as gay people, the safer all gay people will be until sanity returns to the American ruling elite, just as some sanity eventually returned to the Germans after their holocaust experiment.

People who oppose "outing" simply don't understand what is at stake. Keep up your lifesaving work!

*Campion Read*

### Watch that Tone

I enjoy your magazine; it's so great to have a local news magazine that is national and international in scope as well.

I do have a problem with what I would call its tone, specifically as related to what has been called "outing." I have no problem with suggesting or declaring that anyone is a homosexual or gay. To me it is a privilege. If

we share the premise that it is okay or even wonderful to be gay, then why would we seem to "accuse" people of such? It should just be casually understated in the case of our friends like Liz and Malcolm (I know some people do not consider them friends but I personally don't see any reason to vilify them dead or alive). In the case of our antagonists like Father Bruce, it is his hypocrisy which is so appalling, not his homosexuality. I hope we can make those distinctions clear and never appear to be "accusing" someone of anything as wonderful as a homosexual lifestyle. In the early round of letters to the editor, I was rather upset by the comparison between a celebrity's homosexuality and other celebrities' child abuse, substance abuse, etc. There is no comparison.

Keep on the cutting edge. I don't mind the

anger, in fact it resonates for me loud and clear; but watch out for that bitchy, vicious accusative tone that we have stereotypically honed to perfection. We're better off without it.

*Timothy Wright  
Manhattan*

### Out Damned Lie

The thrust of the debate on outing has so far centered around the very real issues of privacy. These concerns have distracted us from grasping the underlying problem that I believe is the true starting point for this discussion. Duplicity and its pervasive effect on each one of us must be understood and acknowledged. When a person knowingly misrepresents a situation, either directly or indirectly, are we obligated to honor that lie with the same respect one owes to the truth? While we can appreciate the difficulty,

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and perhaps even the reasons behind choosing a closeted life, this fact remains: If the way in which we represent ourselves is not true, then it is a lie. Whether we are confronted with a beard at a social function, a co-worker out at the gay bars on Saturday night and with a different story on Monday, or an outright misstatement of fact, it is all at its heart nothing less than a lie. There is no need to reward a lie with your complicity. The weight of maintaining that lie should be borne solely by the person who initiates it, not by the unfortunate person at whom the lie is directed.

At what other time do we feel honor-bound to take on the responsibility of propping up someone else's lie? Doing so leaves us feeling intruded upon, compromised and finally diminished. Why should we show allegiance to a self-centered deception so hurtful to our own well-being? It is time to take a long overdue look inside ourselves and consider the price we pay to help these people perpetuate their Big Lie.

A cautionary word is appropriate. Nothing here suggests a license for malice. Discretion is always admired when a

unique situation calls for it. And if you frequently see a certain "straight" celebrity at your local gay bar, that is entirely different than hearing of the same thing from friends (or the friend of a friend, etc.).

It takes two to maintain a closet and I for one am tired of the job. Each of us should feel free from impunity to speak the truth and to characterize a situation as we know it to be. More importantly, we should never feel we have to participate in the duplicity of those around us. The next time you are confronted by this, I ask you to consider the intrusion that has been made on your integrity and to make careful note of what it feels like to be used.

Jeffrey Lee Brooks  
Oakland, CA

#### Fund Feud

I deplore the pseudo-indignation at the Fund for Human Dignity's decision to hire a straight man as its executive director (see "Hetero Hire Prompts Outcry," no. 40, Apr. 4). Competence, compassion and loyalty should be the criteria that decision is based on—not which way he swings.

Anyone opposed to Robert Brading's hiring

because he's straight is guilty of precisely what gay activists all over the world are fighting—namely discrimination and persecution based on sexual orientation.

For the information of the irrational and insubordinate staff at the Fund, the first executive director of B'nai B'rith was a Protestant minister. For their further edification he did a splendid job.

Developmental Director Paula Presley should be immediately expunged from the organization for her outrageously prejudicial qualification of the appointment "of a white heterosexual male" clearly inferring a heterosexual female or person of color may have been OK or at least not as offensive. Lesbian anger at, and contempt for, "white men" is widespread in our community and a huge impediment to the progress of gay rights.

The gay community must realize it is only when politicians and business leaders and church groups and the public at large recognize and understand the similar-

ties not the differences between gay people and straight people will we achieve true and lasting equality in society.

Anthony C. Salerno  
Manhattan

#### NAMBLA v. LAMBDA

Duncan Osborne's report on the arrest of NAMBLA Bulletin editor Chris Farrell (no.



NAMBLA's Chris Farrell

39, Mar. 28) relayed to us the opinions of David Barr, a staff attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. It is safe to assume that Barr was unfamiliar with the case, but that didn't prevent him from expressing the line of the state about the alleged inability of a minor male to consent to sexual pleasure with a person above the age of consent. One can only wonder how in touch with the realities of male homosexuality Barr is.

One reason youths enjoy sex with men is precisely because they do not fear the ostracism, harassment or persecution that can result from sex with their "peers." (Actually, I don't see why a gay man should not be considered the peer of a gay youth, since age is usually irrelevant.) Youths do in fact consent to sex with men all the time, and have through-

## Blurt Out

### HIGHRISE...

In a recent architecture/design thinkpiece on San Francisco's new 40-story Marriott hotel, *New York Times* writer Paul Goldberger works hard to evoke the strained contradictions of this new structure. Here is a sampler: "The whole thing looks like a skyscraper in drag...This building is really less a jukebox than it is an Emerald City...But the truth is that if San Francisco is the city of the effete, it is also the city of the risqué, the city that has always tolerated a certain vulgarity in its midst, so long as it knows its place."

### THE NEXT THING I KNEW...

Johnny Depp talks to John Waters in April's *Interview* and spins this skein about his early days in Tinseltown: "The first place I went was a gay bar called the Gold Coast. I was trying to find the house we were gonna live in, and I couldn't find it. So I went looking for a pay phone, and I walked in this place called the Gold Coast...There were a lot of men there who had very big mustaches."

—Sarah Pettit

out human history.

Barr nevertheless assumes that "more often than not it is coercive, and with an exchange of money it is inherently coercive." Bullshit. The reality is just the opposite: Sex between men and boys is almost never coercive; and if money is exchanged (it often is not, by the way), that would suggest to me consent, not coercion.

Age-of-consent laws are a fraud. They punish only acts that are consensual, by maintaining the fiction that anyone under the magical age is incapable of giving consent. In New York, the age is 17. Does Barr really believe that a 16-year-old cannot consent, but a 17-year-old can? If he does, it doesn't speak well of his lawyering abilities. A more appropriate response might be to call for abolition of the "vice" squad—why should taxpayers' money be wasted on police poking around in private relationships and enforcing an outdated morality?

Has gay liberation sunk so low that instead of seeing the age-of-consent laws as one more way by which the state victimizes youths and their older lovers, its lawyers now see their job as upholding unjust laws rather than opposing them? Barr has a right to his opinion, however unoriginal and sheeplike it may be. But if he was speaking for Lambda, that would suggest acquiescence in oppression by an organization that used to be in the forefront of legal battles against it.

Get real!

David Thorstad  
Manhattan

#### Donor Options

A New York subscriber to my adoption reform newsletter sent me your article "Artificial Insemination: behind the Scenes" by Victoria A.

Brownworth (no. 37, Mar. 11).

The article's subhead that says, "You're going to a stranger for something deeply personal" is a statement that assumes an unknown donor will be chosen. But there are other choices. Lesbians can choose a donor known to them, or to a middle-person, to be the biological father of their child. In California, this can be done legally and safely—the donor will have no custody rights as long as a medical doctor is involved in the insemination. The doctor may, of course, be a lesbian and she need not actually perform the insemination, but she must be the intermediary. A San Francisco doctor works with a lesbian lawyer, who keeps records of the donors' names in her files. Ask your lawyer for details and whether there are guidelines

in New York.

The advantage of known donors over the eternal anonymity of most conventional sperm banks is that the child can have access to the identity of his or her father if that knowledge becomes important at some point in time. And it does become important: Some children start to ask questions at age three, six or eight, as well as during the normal identity crisis of adolescence. I have heard stories of local DI children under ten-years-old whose lesbian mothers helped them connect with their donor/father in response to the children's persistent questioning. This can only be possible if either the mothers or a third person know the donor; sperm banks usually promise anonymity to their donors and some may not keep records of their names. In

addition to the desire to see who one looks like, knowing the donor's updated medical history may also be helpful for the diagnosis of the DI-conceived person's medical conditions throughout his or her life.

There is one sperm bank I know of, the Sperm Bank of California in Oakland, that offers the option of releasing the donor's name to his offspring when he or she becomes a legal adult at age 18. Since your article did not mention these options (either pro or con), I wonder if Ms. Brownworth and other lesbians in New York are aware of them and of the Sperm Bank of California, which ships frozen semen throughout the country and assured me that "everyone" knows about them. When I phoned the sperm bank to ask about their "identity-release" donors, however,

## Dreamboat of the Week

*OutWeek's* first Dreamboat is NGLTF executive director, radical activist and ex punk rocker Urvashi Vaid, who rocked the national AIDS establishment when she just said no to Bush's bull speech on AIDS. Not content to sit back and listen, she got up, got counted... and got a Secret Service escort out of the building. It was one small step for a lesbian, one giant leap for lesbiankind. Fight back! Fight AIDS! Fight invisibility!



the woman who answered the phone was quick to warn me that the sperm bank could not guarantee that the donor would still be at the same address in 18 years, leading me to wonder if they take the issue seriously. If they did, perhaps they would ask the donor to keep them apprised of his whereabouts.

Naturally I know that lesbians are worried about their legal rights, particularly the rights of the non-biological mothers, which have been challenged recently by a prehistoric-minded ruling in New York's appellate court (*Alison D. v. Virginia M*) in which three out of four judges ruled that a non-biological mother, not having a "legal" claim (by marriage or adoption) to the biological child of her ex-lover, has no right to visitation. This homophobic attack by the courts only adds to lesbian mothers' paranoia and leads them to choose the seemingly "safer" method of an anonymous donor.

But closing off the child's ability to know his biological heritage will not help create a happy family. Before women make this choice, I suggest they read the book *Lethal Secrets* by Annette Baran and Reuben Pannor (1989), which is one of the only sources to describe the anguish of adults who will never know their paternal heritage because of the anonymous practices of sperm banks. I would be glad to send my review of *Lethal Secrets* to *OutWeek* readers for a self-addressed stamped envelope. The "donor offspring" interviewed in the book felt deprived when they compared themselves to adopted people, since adoptees can sometimes find their birthparents in spite of closed records, while for DI-conceived people the search is nearly impossible.

As an adoptee who found my birthparents after years of relentless curiosity created by the unnecessary legal fiction of sealed adoption records, I have recently created a forum for people—especially (but not only) lesbians and gay men—who are involved with adoption or donor insemination either personally or professionally. That forum is *Chain of Life, A Feminist Adoption Reform Newsletter*. A sample issue is available for two dollars (payable to J. Baer). Your comments are also welcome. Please write to: *Chain of Life*, P.O. Box 8081, Berkeley, CA 94707.

Janine Baer  
Editor, Chain of Life

#### Screw this

While I'm sure GLAAD's Tidings about *Screw* (no. 40, Apr. 4) arose from the purest motives when they defended Keith Haring's memory besmirched in the scroungy pages of that implous magazine, I should like to explain that Keith is not the only person of fame to die and to look down from the Great Nowhere and find himself being used to peddle subscriptions the world's most vulgar publication.

Before Nixon's bouquet had wilted on Forbes' grave, *OutWeek's* recent coverboy, Malcolm, had been featured as a *Screw* subscription draw with a photo of the rich gent sitting astride a motorbike and contemplating a huge penis rising from its tank. The text included such banter as "Hey, bite my capitalist tool," and "My capitalist tool is bigger than your capitalist tool," and finally, "I'm not Malcolm. I'll subscribe!"

When Divine ascended, *Screw* used her image, showing the buxom goddess carrying the filthy tabloid, saying, "SCREW: IT'S DIVINE!" The subscription form read: "Legend has it that Divine

used to wrap her entire body in the latest issue of *Screw* while making the transition from male to female. Which means her untimely passing has put a substantial dent in our subscription sales. And that's why we're making this appeal to her countless fans—in memory of Divine."

When Sir Laurence Olivier died, the subscription form said: "oh you must, you must; it wouldn't feel right if you didn't," showing the great actor with his hand to his forehead, explaining he'd croaked when his *Screw* subscription ran out.

In case GLAAD thinks *Screw* picks only artists in their graves, let them know that when Billy Martin of baseball fame bit the dust, *Screw* showed him being claimed by the Grim Reaper and commented: "Yes, the generously medicated and over-compensated world of professional baseball is short one batam-weight bully.... The Great Equalizer has sent Our Boy to the brimstone showers for all eternity. The pitch follows: "You've buttered me up! I'll subscribe!"

Manuel Norelga's mug shot shows him holding *Screw* and saying, "Joo no, hin Mihami, dose drug charges weel nefer steek. Buht de feelthy peectures dey foun een my home—All Chihuahual My coke's canned! I'll subscribe!"

Finally, not even the sacred hide of *Screw's* publisher, Al Goldstein, is safe from *Screw's* blasphemous meanderings in the valley of the shadow. The subscription mourns Lucy, Billy Martin, Lord Larry "and, apparently, a lot of Romanians." But,



Photo: Ellen Moses

continues the *Screw* plug: "It was with the passing of one of our greatest literary lights—Samuel Beckett—that the chilling realization hit us: AI could be next. The boss is many things: insatiable, infallible, immovable—but not immortal. So won't you make an old man's last days a little brighter? Subscribe."

Straight Al Goldstein used to offer his prized dong—cast in glass at the Museum of Erotic Art (1970)—to both genders. He bragged about it. He practiced non-discriminatory hiring. When he needed his first managing editor, he chose a gay man. His second managing editor was a woman. *Screw's* premiere issue contained the world's first uncensored gay column—one that treated homosexuality as natural—in an otherwise rampantly straight tabloid. This gay column appeared weekly through the first five years of *Screw's* life. A monthly variation on it appears nowadays. *Screw's* offices were always full of gay people, working and bringing in their columns. With the money it accrued—after its first year (1968-69)—it had a gay baby, New York's first commercial gay weekly newspa-

per, Gay. Gay was entirely written and managed by gay people. Screw ran the first photos to go on newsstands of two men making love. Al Goldstein affixed his name proudly to both the artsy photos and the words: "A man loves a man is the pictorial representation of actual homosexual lover ever permitted the light of day in the United States. We publish it as an example of the love between two people." It was April, 1969, a few months before Stonewall.

If I can draw just a teensy bit more on my status as a packrat of historic memorabilia, I'll tell about an angry Screw reader who—in '69—was terribly offended and shocked by Al Goldstein's writing of the deceased Republican Senator Dirksen. "I for one am glad he's dead." The outraged reader said he'd never read Screw again until Goldstein apologized. He was to tell all his friends to eschew Screw too! He said Screw was supposed to be funny—but this wasn't funny, it was just plain sick. Goldstein published the furious letter in full and then affixed his own comment at the bottom: "I hope you die too!"

If GLAAD really wants people to call up Screw to wrangle an apology from a publisher like Al, I shudder to think of how many will be disappointed. To Goldstein, you see, the sacred is non-existent. "I piss on all altars indiscriminately," he says.

Al Goldstein has subscribed for certain of his staff to *OutWeek*. He can't be all bad.

Jack Nichols  
Cocoa Beach, Fla.

#### I'm in a New York State of Siege

I've just returned from the ACT UP protest in Albany and I have a simple question to pose to your readership and our community:

WHERE THE FUCK WERE YOU?



Photo: Scott Morgan

Don't you understand what is going on here? The *Times* reported on the front page on (March) 28th that Cuomo is going to cut the budget by half a billion dollars. They also stated that where the cuts will come from is not being released yet. Well—GUESS WHERE IT WILL COME FROM...WAKE UP.

We needed 20,000 screaming people there. As it was the state troopers smirked.... We have got to get together on this or we will be swept under the carpet.... I don't care if you don't totally agree with some aspects of ACT UP. So the fuck what! Your silence is a subtle support of your own oppressors. Get out there and tell them you are sick of this BULL SHIT! Help us help ourselves—nobody else will. Think about it.

Stephen Brown  
Manhattan

#### Common Threads

Re: *Common Threads: Stories from the Gull* ("Television," no. 41, Apr. 11). Your

readers may be interested to know that cassette copies of *Common Threads* can be ordered by calling 1-800-USA-NAMES. The cost will be lower than in video stores and sales will benefit the NAMES Project.

Nancy Blanford  
Regional Representative  
The NAMES Project

#### Left Out

We think Rick X's *Dancing Out* guide should be amended to show which clubs do not have a first-come, first-served door policy. As it is, many gay people are wasting their time and taxi fare traveling to a night club which doesn't let them in.

Case in point: Last night four of us showed up at Suzanne Bartsch's monthly party at the Copacabana. One of us was in drag and we were all ready to dance. Doorperson Kenny Kenny and his assistants ignored our group even though the person in drag measured 6'8" in heels and wig. Yet people who

arrived after us were instantly shown inside. When a female bouncer finally noticed our group, she allowed the man in drag to enter with one friend only, saying that the other two would have to wait and be admitted later. Once the first half of our group was inside, she rudely ignored the two who were left, and after standing in the rain for an hour, they went home. For us, this marks a new low in New York Clubland.

It doesn't make any sense for lesbians and gay men to patronize the Copa or any other club which treats people with disrespect. *OutWeek* shouldn't delude us into believing these places are "best bets" for dancing. Gay people are treated poorly enough by society during the day. Why should we fall victim to contempt when we want to have fun at night?

Bruce Ballard  
Padraig Rloghbordan  
Manhattan

*"You need some cash? I've got a checkbook."*

# PWAs Can Sell Their Life Insurance to New Firms



**IS THE GLASS HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?**

Insurance advocate David Petersen (left) and ACT UP's Wayne Kawadler

Photos: T.L. Litt

by R. Sugden

NEW YORK—For the financially-strapped man or woman with AIDS who owns a life insurance policy, there is a controversial new option for raising fast cash. But some in the community are calling the practice ill-advised and exploitative. Several new companies will now purchase the rights to collect on such policies for a few thousand dollars less than the value of the insurance, a practice which is kicking up debate as it becomes more widespread in the AIDS community.

At a recent colloquium sponsored by Body Positive, a support group for people with HIV infection, some hailed the purchase of life insurance from people with AIDS as a breakthrough in the business community's response to AIDS, while others criticized the practice for capitalizing on the desperate situation many people with AIDS find themselves in.

Sometimes called a "living benefits" program, after the New Mexico-based company that bought the first policy in 1988, it usually carries the grim requirement that a

PWA be certified by a panel of doctors as having less than 18 months to live. The company, which then buys the policy of up to 80 percent of face value, becomes the sole beneficiary and continues the premium payments, and collects the full death benefit when the insured dies.

"This is the first time that the business community has said to the PWA, 'You need some cash? I've got a check book,'" moderator David Petersen told about 40 people gathered for the meeting at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center March 28. Petersen, a retired financial planner who has AIDS, and a strong supporter of the practice, orchestrated the original transaction with Living Benefits himself. He said he sees it as an opportunity for PWAs to have enough money to enjoy what may realistically be their last days on earth.

"As of yet, AIDS is still a terminal illness," he said.

But Lou Katoff, a psychologist who is the director of client services at the Gay Men's Health Crisis, told *OutWeek*

that deciding to sell one's life insurance is often the first step in admitting defeat in the face of a chronic illness. "Hope is important. To give up is dangerous," said Katoff. "As a PWA, I can tell you, there are days when I feel like giving up. People are going to choose this only when they are depressed."

"It's a weird concept, to say the least," commented Wayne Kawadler of ACT UP's Insurance and Access committee. "PWAs are in a vulnerable position. It's not a good state [in which] to make a decision," he added. "On the other

hand, it is their life insurance and if they want that money before they die, then that's final. What's despicable is that health care in this country is so bad that they'd have to use it for their medical bills."

The first person to sell his life insurance policy to a company was a thriving family physician. He and his lover, who was also HIV positive, had some land and a "dream house" in the country. Symptomatic in 1983, he continued to work long hours.

## NEWS FOCUS

But by the summer of 1988, he was in deep trouble, and was increasingly unable to work, he told *OutWeek*. He was paying \$5,000 a month for medicine for himself and his lover, owed over \$40,000 in credit and was behind in his mortgage payments. He had some medical insurance and life insurance, but no disability. He couldn't afford to stop working. "I was killing myself to stay alive financially," he recalled.

He consulted Petersen, who helped the physician negotiate the sale of his \$121,000 life insurance policy. His doctors said he had 16 months to live; their doctors said 22 months. He was offered \$72,000, approximately 62 percent of the policy's value. Desperate and seeing the money as his only solution, the physician who spoke for *OutWeek* on condition of anonymity, agreed. But his relief was short-lived.

After having paid off his credit debt, some of the mortgage and a large financial planning bill (which included a fee for Petersen), he is currently broke and is being forced to foreclose on his house. He said he feels that the resale of life insurance is not carefully monitored by any outside agents and it leaves the seller vulnerable. "It left me with dignity for a short while, but now I'm destitute," he confided to *OutWeek*.

Rick Wendroff, executive director of 24 Hours for Life, a pediatric AIDS group, is currently waiting for the completion of his own insurance transaction. With a disability policy and full medical coverage, he said he considers selling his life insurance empowering. "It's like looking at a glass of water and saying it's half full or half empty. Mine's half empty and I am going to use this money to live a better life before I die," Wendroff told *OutWeek*.

The resale insurance purchasers say they are merely treading where insurance companies themselves have traditionally balked, offering a "bettering of life" option to the terminally ill.

"When it comes to medical or death benefits, insurance companies can be vultures. They don't want to pay out money," said Peggy Wallace, president of Affirmative Lifestyles, Inc., a San Antonio, Texas-based company that purchases life insurance policies.

And these transactions have also turned the tables on the relationship

between the insured and the insurer, forcing the industry to respond. Currently, Prudential Insurance of America offers an "accelerated benefits" plan in ten states. If a person has six months or less to live, Prudential will pay up to 90 percent of the policy's value to the insured, with the balance paid to the beneficiaries upon his or her death. It is expected by both the third party companies and insurance industry spokespeople that as soon as this practice becomes widespread, "living benefits" companies will be obsolete.

While there is no direct regulation of this nascent enterprise, the state's Department of Insurance and Board of Consumer Affairs is keeping an eye on them.

And in March, New York's Governor Mario Cuomo introduced a "living benefits" bill before the Senate in the form of an amendment to the state's insurance and social services law.

The bill would establish "rules for advertising, disclosure, benefit levels, benefit eligibility, nonforfeiture, reserves and premium rates for accelerated payment of death benefits or for payment of long term care benefits provided under a life insurance policy."

According to Virginia Apuzzo of the New York State Consumer Protection Agency, such a law would in essence, approve the insurance industry's accelerated benefits-type program. But a newly-regulated program would mean that ill people wouldn't need to be "vulnerable to some of the weasels out there paying measly sums for the policies," she said in a phone interview from Albany.

Apuzzo said that as yet there have been no official complaints about insurance resellers to her office.

In 1989, the brand-new industry purchased \$5 million worth of policies. This year the figure is expected to reach \$30 million and top \$75 million in 1991, according to Petersen, who has compiled extensive data on the subject and is currently at work on a book about AIDS and the insurance industry.

Although an attorney for New York State was quoted recently in *The New York Times* as saying that selling one's life insurance to a stranger is illegal in New York, John Calagna, a

See **INSURANCE** on page 32

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# Crisis Escalates at Fund for Human Dignity

## Staff Resign While Board Backs Hetero Chief



**"AN INMATE IN THEIR LITTLE INSANE ASYLUM"**

Mary Beth Caschetta, former Crisis Line director Photo: Andrew Lichtenstein

by Masha Gesson

NEW YORK—Even after losing three employees, one member of the board and several volunteers, the Fund for Human Dignity appears no closer to a resolution of its most recent crisis. Despite pressure from both inside and outside the organization, members of the Fund's board of directors have not reconsidered their decision to hire a heterosexual man to lead the gay and lesbian educational foundation.

Instead, the board fired the acting executive director, Gary Henderson, who had previously been asked to remain with the Fund for six weeks, until the new executive director took over.

The board's hiring decision seems to have brought to a boil long-simmering tensions with volunteers and staff, raising allegations of abusive behavior and virtually shutting down operations at the group formed when the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force moved its headquarters to Washington several years ago.

On March 23, Henderson was abruptly ordered to vacate his office. According to another staffer in the room at the time, Henderson was told by six members of the

board that his previously negotiated severance package, which included six months of health insurance, was dissolved. The board members then instructed Henderson to clean out his desk in 15 minutes, as the directors looked on. Several locksmiths arrived to change the locks on the office doors a few minutes later.

"There was an element of violence to it, and it was very frightening," recalled Henderson. "They were screaming at me.... There was no human interaction."

Ann Wilson, a co-chair of the Fund's board and its sole spokesperson, refused to answer *OutWeek's* questions regarding Henderson's termination, saying only that "the executive director is hired by the board and serves at the pleasure of the board." Several other board members refused to comment at all for this article, while still others did not return repeated phone calls.

While the board never disclosed its reasons for firing Henderson, most staff members and volunteers assumed that the acting executive director was dismissed in retaliation for the staff and volunteers' public objections to the board's choice of Robert Brading as the organization's new executive director.

On March 20, the staff, including Henderson, along with many of the Fund's volunteers, issued a public statement decrying the board's decision to offer the job to a heterosexual white man. According to Mary Beth Caschetta, former coordinator of the Fund's crisis line, Henderson's dismissal was the board's first response to the statement, which urged the board to

reconsider its decision and invited "all gay men and lesbians to rise up in a chorus of protest."

### A Chorus of Disapproval

That call has brought a number of letters to the board from prominent lesbians and gay men. Barbara Smith, a writer and founder of Kitchen Table/Women of Color Press, who was slated to give the keynote address at the Fund's gay and lesbian writers' conference this summer, wrote a letter of protest.

"It is absurd that one of the major lesbian and gay organizations in this country would appoint a white heterosexual man as its leader," stated Smith. "I am as shocked by this decision as I would have been if I had learned that one of the major Black civil-rights organizations had named a white person as its visible representative and head."

Smith's letter was joined by a letter from Martin Duberman, the other distinguished gay author who had been asked to give the keynote address. "If we lived in an ideal world, such categories as male and white and heterosexual would not matter and would probably be offensive," Duberman acknowledged, but explained that in reality "gays and lesbians have very few things we can call our own...which makes it very important for us to lead our own organizations."

And whether Brading is otherwise qualified to do the job, continued Smith, is immaterial. "It's not a matter of, 'Can he answer telephones, write reports, raise money?'" she said, stressing that "it's not appropriate" for a heterosexual person to act as a spokesperson for a lesbian and gay organization.

But other lesbian and gay leaders were not as quick to condemn the Fund's decision. Urvashi Vaid, the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, cautioned that "as people who



fight all the time against discrimination, we can't say that a straight person can't lead a gay and lesbian organization *per se*."

"I'm not advocating discrimination," responded Virginia Apuzzo, who served as executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force when the Fund for Human Dignity was still a part of that organization, "but I advocate affirmative outreach to the community."

#### But Can He Raise Money?

Although their original objections to Brading, who currently works for the National Association of Christians and Jews, were based on his heterosexuality, current and former staff members and volunteers have raised further issues as they learned more about Brading's background. "I am not disturbed *per se* over a heterosexual male being chosen to lead the organization," maintained David Stickel, who directs the Fund's telemarketing program. "If it had been Heidi Jones [the heterosexual former president of the New Jersey Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights], I would be standing alongside the board saying, 'I think this is a terrific choice.' ...She has earned her stripes."

Unlike Jones and other heterosexual activists for gay and lesbian rights, Brading has never participated in the lesbian and gay rights movement, or contributed to lesbian and gay organizations, according to the Fund staff. Brading himself did not return repeated phone calls from *OutWeek*.

The staff and volunteers' additional objection to Brading's candidacy is based on what appears to be his complete lack of fund-raising experience. While fund-raising expertise is generally considered important for executive directors of non-profit organizations, it may carry a special importance at the Fund, whose last executive director was asked to resign in part because of the organization's financial problems, according to Ann Wilson.

"We remain mystified over what makes this person so qualified, so head and shoulders over the other 30-odd gay and lesbian applicants," stated Stickel.

#### The Troubles with the Board

The 15-year-old Fund for Human Dignity has offered three programs: a national crisis line, the distribution of educational pamphlets and a "positive images" print advertising drive. In the past it has employed 16 people, nine of them in some fundraising function.

While staff members, volunteers and other interested parties continue to demand that the board rescind its job offer to Brading, many are suggesting that the best interests of the organization would be served by the resignation of the entire board. "My personal feeling is that it would be really helpful if the board would resign, and if there were a new board that was more in touch with the current gay and lesbian movement," revealed Paula Pressley, who resigned last week after ten months as the Fund's director of development.

Henderson, who served as the secretary of the board until he became the acting executive director in December, agreed that the board should resign, and that "more progressive people" should take the reins of the organization. By saying that they could not find a qualified gay or lesbian person to head the Fund, Henderson asserted, "they're capitulating to the Jesse Helms mentality.... And they don't even have the awareness that they are doing this."

Abby Talmer, the former coordinator of the Fund's National Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, took the indictment of the board's politics one step further, declaring that "one of the key problems with the Fund is that there are some self-hating homophobes on the board. When I see gay people being apologetic for who they are and being uncomfortable with gay relationships, that kind of perspective of internalized homophobia influences all levels of policy."

As examples of the board members' attitudes toward gay and lesbian relationships, Talmer pointed to the fact that "the board expressed discomfort with staff members or volunteers dating each other." Talmer, who was laid off in December, recalled that "members of the staff were told that their relationships, while consensual and legal, were not the kind of thing that the Fund wished to be associated with."

"There is no sex in *homosexuality* for them," was how Joanna Asperger, a telemarketing employee, put it. "We are speaking a different language.... And theirs is the language of the closet."

The board's Ann Wilson did not return phone calls offering her an opportunity to respond to the critics of the board. In an earlier interview, however, she described the staff and volunteers' statements



Photo: Andrew Lichtenstein

**"IT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL IF THE BOARD WOULD RESIGN."**—Paula Pressley, former director of development.

regarding Brading and the board as "the same kind of bashing that we're constantly subjected to as lesbians and gay men."

#### The Rest of the Iceberg

"The story of the Fund is dysfunctionality," asserted Ira Berkowitz, who worked for the Fund as a volunteer and a consultant for six years. "The core of the problem is incompetence."

"The organization had great problems for a very, very long time. It was really a dysfunctional organization," echoed Julien Maurice, who directed the Fund's National Gay and Lesbian Crisis line for a year and a half, until he resigned in January. Maurice argued that long before the Fund's troubles became the object of public attention, the organization's programs and personnel had been grievously mismanaged.

Maurice cited his own experience at the Fund as evidence. As part-time director of the Crisis Line, the Fund's best-known program, Maurice was able to extract an agreement that the position required a full-time employee only after carrying out his ultimatum to resign. The board offered him the full-time job the day after he quit in protest of the inattention of the executive director Sherrie Cohen and the entire board of directors, he reported. And other former program directors at the Fund tell nearly identical stories.

Nearly everyone *OutWeek* interviewed spoke about some kind of financial instability at the Fund for Human Dignity as a contributing factor to the tension and general sense of chaos there.

Recent financial audits indicate that the

See CRISIS on page 32

### Lesbian inmate gets visits from lover

BLAIR COUNTY, Penna.—A lesbian prisoner at the Blair County jail can now receive visits from her lover, thanks to a federal judge's ruling that the prison's antigay visitation policy is unconstitutional. Previously, the inmate's request that her lover be allowed to visit had been denied by a warden who said that when he made the decision, he believed homosexual conduct was illegal in the state. The federal court ruling means that Pennsylvania prisons will no longer be allowed to discriminate against lesbian and gay inmates who ask that visitation privileges be extended to their lovers.

"I love her and she loves me and I sure would like to see someone I love," the inmate wrote last summer in the request from which the case arose. In response, the warden said that the prison "can't condone such relationships," and denied the inmate's request. Although an executive order that bans discrimination against lesbians and gay men in state agencies has been in place here since 1975, the jail, as a county facility, was not bound by the state policy. Pennsylvania is also one of 25 states in the union that has decriminalized sodomy.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit against Blair County jail on behalf of Jane Doe, as the inmate was identified in court papers, successfully challenging the prison's policy as a violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

"The logical connection between the Blair County visitation policy as it is interpreted and the asserted goals of maintaining internal security and safety for inmates is so remote as to be arbitrary," asserted the federal court judge last month in his ruling, which

found the prison's policy unconstitutional and enjoined the county from denying the plaintiff visitation with her lover.

"This decision means an end to a policy under which lesbian and gay prisoners were second-class persons within the prison," remarked Nan Hunter, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "It represents another court's recognition that the Constitution's protection of equality rights must prevail over irrational prejudice." —Nina Reyes

### Ohio approves adoption by gay man

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Repudiating what may have been the most anti-gay appellate decision of recent years, the Ohio Supreme Court approved the adoption of an eight-year-old boy by a gay psychologist on March 28. The six-to-one vote decisively rejected a 1988 lower court ruling that "the goals of announced homosexuality are hostile to the goals of the adoption statute" and that, as a matter of law, it was not in the best interest of the then-seven-year old child to be "placed for adoption into the home of a pair of adult male homosexual lovers."

Attorney C. William Rickrich represented the child involved, identified only as Charles, and attorney Robin Lyn Green represented the gay psychologist, referred to in the opinion as "Mr. B." Amicus briefs were also filed on Mr. B.'s behalf by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the ACLU, the Institute for Child Advocacy and the Gay and Lesbian Parenting Group of Central Ohio.

Paula Eitelbrick, Legal Director of Lambda, hailed the decision as "a truly tremendous victory on the issue of lesbian and gay adoption." Rhonda Rivera, an Ohio State law professor

who worked on the brief for the Gay and Lesbian Parenting Group, said, "It's a wonderful decision for everybody's rights. It treated homosexuality as an irrelevancy."

The seven justices of the Ohio Supreme Court unanimously disagreed with arguments by a lower court and by the Licking County Department of Human Services, which had originally placed Charles as a foster child in B.'s home. The lower court had ruled that gay people cannot adopt children because it is never in the interest of a child to be in a home which is not "normal," and that a child would be negatively affected by placement in a gay home. —Arthur S. Leonard

### Youth agency gets new chief

NEW YORK — The board of directors of the Hetrick-Martin Institute, a social services agency serving lesbian and gay youth, has named Frances Kunreuther as the organization's new executive director.

Kunreuther, 37, will assume her new \$70,000 per year position on April



FRANCES KUNREUTHER photo: TL Litt

30. She is currently the division director of homeless and immigrant programs for the New York City Victims Services Agency, where she has directed services for runaway and homeless youths, battered women and their children, and survivors of sexual assault.

She also serves as co-chair of the steering committee for the AIDS and Adolescent Network of New York. Dr. A. Damien Martin, a founder of the organization, retired as executive director last year. Judi Verdino has been the group's interim chief executive.

Kunreuther and her lover of four and a half years, Gerry Pearlberg, a writer, live across the street from one another in Brooklyn.

The Hetrick-Martin Institute operates a variety of programs for lesbian and gay youth, including the Harvey Milk High School; an after-school drop-in center and counseling program; Project First Step, a street outreach program for homeless youth; and a health services program, in conjunction with the Community Health Project, that assists HIV-positive clients in obtaining health care.

—Duncan Osborne

## Storefront for homeless youth opens

NEW YORK—At the official opening of the new offices of Project First Step on Tuesday, March 27, Francine Shifrin, the project director, dedicated the space to Allan Williams, an outreach worker who died of AIDS last December at the age of 36.

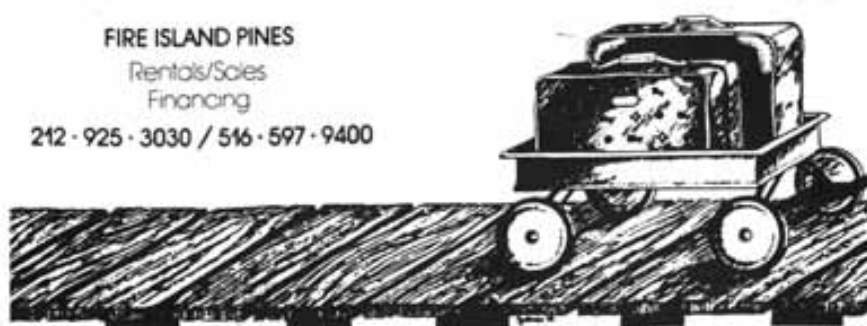
Project First Step, located at 338 West 4th Street, is a two-and-a-half year-old outreach program created by the Hetrick-Martin Institute to address the needs of lesbian and gay homeless youth. The project's outreach workers go out at night on foot to the meat market area, the piers, 14th and 53rd Streets and Port Authority, and provide AIDS education and give out condoms and dental dams. Homeless youths are then invited to visit the storefront offices, formerly located at 13th and Hudson Streets in Greenwich Village.

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## Out Takes

Bernice Williams, Allan's mother, held one end of the purple ribbon and Dr. Damien Martin, the recently retired Executive Director of the Hetrick-Martin Institute, held the other end as Andrew Stein, City Council President, cut the ribbon.

"It's my honor to cut this ribbon today because there is such a need for the services Hetrick-Martin provides for the homeless youth," Stein said. "They need help and need it badly."

At the storefront, the homeless youths can get meals, clothing and showers. In addition, a psychiatrist counsels the youths and, in cooperation with the Community Health Project, a doctor and his assistant offer free medical services out of a van in the outreach areas and at the storefront. All the services are free.

—Lazaro Hernandez

## Sorry, wrong number

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign Fund, a gay political action committee, announced last week it will no longer use Western Union to deliver "Speak Out" constituent messages to Capitol Hill, and anticipates that its action will cost Western Union \$350,000 this year.

Western Union Corp. is the defendant in a sexual orientation discrimination suit brought by Armand Ertag, a former San Francisco employee of the company. Western Union has sought to have the case dismissed, claiming San Francisco's gay rights ordinance is unconstitutional.

"We want to send a clear message to Western Union," said Tim McFeeley, HRCF's executive director. "Lesbian and gay Americans do not intend to spend their money with an organization that is fighting to deny our right to live free from discrimination."

Gregory King, Communications Director at HRCF, said HRCF intends to increase pressure on Western Union by

focusing Western Union's actions when HRCF selects a new vendor and by urging other lesbian and gay organizations to reexamine their relations with the telecommunications giant.

"I think that Western Union is about to have a public relations nightmare and they don't even know they are asleep," said King.

Western Union corporate spokesman Warren Bechtel refused to comment on the action. But Bechtel did say the company's actions in *Ertag v. Western Union* were strictly a legal strategy and that the company does not condone discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Western Union has no anti-discrimination policy of its own protecting gays.

"Western Union is committed to maintaining a work environment that is free of any form of discrimination," stated Bechtel. —Duncan Osborne

## ACT UP wins lower health care costs for PWAs

NEW YORK — Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the state's largest provider of health insurance, announced recently it would place a ceiling on the yearly out-of-pocket expenses for its clients insured under the company's open enrollment plan. The plan can be purchased during special periods when the company guarantees, by previous arrangement with the state, that no one will be turned down for coverage, and is popular among people with AIDS and other chronic illnesses.

The move was hailed as a victory by AIDS activists, who had lobbied the company for the change. Prior to this policy change, Blue Cross policy holders paid 20 percent of their medical expenses after satisfying a \$1,000

deductible. Blue Cross paid the remaining 80 percent.

Under the new regulations, after the same deductible, the insurer pays 80 percent of the first \$10,000 of expenses, and 100 percent of all expenses thereafter, per calendar year.

"Without a stop-loss provision, this plan was not affordable to the people it was aimed at, people who don't or can't get insurance," said Barry Lapidus of ACT UP's Insurance and Access Committee. "Twenty percent of the yearly medical bills for a person with AIDS could amount to well over \$10,000."

Speaking for Blue Cross, David Willis, Division Vice President of New York markets, called ACT UP's contribution to the policy decision "positive and productive."

The AIDS activist group pressured Blue Cross through demonstrations, phone and mail zaps, and also through meetings. ACT UP also testified against Blue Cross's former policy at hearings of the New York State Department of Insurance.

The average cost of open enrollment health insurance through Blue Cross is \$376.80 per quarter, according to Willis.—Duncan Osborne

## No HIV anonymity after death

NEW YORK—A judge has ruled that the confidentiality of HIV-related information protected by New York law does not extend to persons who have died from AIDS. The ruling by Acting Justice Beverly S. Cohen in *Flynn v. Doe* was published in the *New York Law Journal* on March 30.

Thomas Flynn, who is suing the estate of his deceased lover for fraud and misrepresentation, maintains that his lover knew he was HIV-infected but concealed the information from Flynn, resulting in transmission of HIV during unprotected sex. The

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When your application is received it is entered into our computer system, the computer assigns you a client number. It then compares each of your attributes to those of all the other clients currently in our database, eliminating those members having too many traits you have classed as undesirable and retaining those that meet your requirements.

The report you receive will contain the following information about your matches: A client identity number, a mini-profile listing all the attributes the client used to describe himself, as well as the authorized contact information provided by the client. Our double screening process ensures that you meet the other clients' requirements.

Your client number is used to allow us to verify your identity when you call our office, *you are the only one who should know this code.*

## How much does it cost?

Our service is currently \$35, which includes a one-time processing charge and your print-out of the top 15 matches from our current data base. As well, you automatically receive a **six month membership** during which other members may be matched with you; they will receive the authorized contact information you have provided. You can know of these matches *only when they contact you.*

You may also order our **MatchPlus** service for \$55.00. This fee includes 30 client matches and a 6 month membership for **MatchPlus** service customers. You may update your contact at any time *without charge.*

## What else do I need to know?

Members agree that the information they provide is complete and accurate. As well, that any information they receive from us is confidential, *for their personal use only*, in accordance with the objectives of the service.

We reserve the right to decline applications for any reason, if an application is declined a full *refund* will

be issued. We also reserve the right to terminate any membership without refund if the information provided is found to be deliberately incomplete, untrue or deceptive.

## How do I fill out the Application Form?

*We know you have reading instructions, but in order for us to provide you with the best possible service, please read these instructions carefully before filling out your Buddies 'n' Pals 'n' Partners Application Form.*

At first 191 questions may seem a bit overwhelming, but, in fact, filling out the Application Form is really not that difficult if you follow these four steps:

### STEP 1:

Fill in the section entitled **Membership Information** (For office use only). Enter your name, full mailing address, zip code, phone number. (We will contact you by phone only if you include a phone number here). A mailing address is **required** for sending match lists.

### STEP 2:

Complete the **Contact Information** section and sign the disclaimer. The contact information you provide here will be given to members who match with you. The contact information should include your first name and phone number or a contact address. Use this section to tell members something about yourself, information that would not normally be included in the mini-profile. The use of this section is entirely up to you. However, giving out work phone numbers or home address is strongly discouraged!

### STEP 3:

The **Boxes** on the left hand side of each column are used *when the indicated attribute applies to you.* Check at least one box per section, only one box in sections which are mutually exclusive (*i.e., Age, Height, Hair, Location*).

### STEP 4:

The words **YES, OK** and **NO** to the left of the attribute name describe the type of person you would like to meet. **Circle YES** when the attribute is *strongly desired* in a match. Indicating a **YES** will never disqualify a potential match. **Circle OK** if it doesn't matter one way or the other. **Circle NO** if you would *not like* this attribute in a match. A **NO** acts as a vote against the person, it does not automatically disqualify them.

# Buddies 'n' Pals 'n' Partners

## Computerized Application Form



**Dear Buddy:** Please read the instructions carefully so that your match list is not delayed due to errors on your application. Your application must be complete or it will be returned to you for corrections. For best results, please indicate at least one of your own traits in each of the main sections of the application form (i.e. Age, Build, Race).

### Membership Information

Please provide the following confidential information to help us service your membership. (All correspondence to members is mailed in plain envelopes.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the form completely and mail, along with a check or money order for \$35 payable to **Buddies 'n' Pals 'n' Partners, P.O. Box 13326 Baltimore, Maryland 21203**

Note: Mailing address required for sending match lists. Please allow one to two weeks for us to process your application.

### Contact Information

Option 1: Contact information written below will be given out to members matching up with your profile. Contact information should include your first name and a phone number or some contact address. Work numbers and home address are discouraged!

(please print) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Disclaimer

By signing I agree that neither the computer dating service nor its agents has any liability and cannot be held responsible for any actions of its members as a result of the release of the authorized contact information indicated above. I also state that I am of legal age.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### New England/Upstate New York

- YES  OK  NO Buffalo area  
 YES  OK  NO Rochester area  
 YES  OK  NO Syracuse/Central NY  
 YES  OK  NO Poughkeepsie/SE NY  
 YES  OK  NO Albany/Schenectady/E. NY  
 YES  OK  NO Boston/E. Mass./RI  
 YES  OK  NO Connecticut/W. Mass  
 YES  OK  NO Vermont/NH/Maine

### New York City

- YES  OK  NO Manhattan  
 YES  OK  NO Brooklyn  
 YES  OK  NO Queens  
 YES  OK  NO Bronx  
 YES  OK  NO Staten Island  
 YES  OK  NO Long Island  
 YES  OK  NO Westchester/Fairfield City  
 YES  OK  NO N. New Jersey 'burbs

## TRAITS

### Type of Relationship

- YES  OK  NO Lover (monogamous)  
 YES  OK  NO Lover (nonmonogamous)  
 YES  OK  NO Buddy (sexual)  
 YES  OK  NO Buddy (platonic)  
 YES  OK  NO One night stand  
 YES  OK  NO Romantic fling  
 YES  OK  NO Affair  
 YES  OK  NO Pen-pal

### Age Range

- YES  OK  NO 18-21  
 YES  OK  NO 21-25  
 YES  OK  NO 25-30  
 YES  OK  NO 30-35  
 YES  OK  NO 35-40  
 YES  OK  NO 40-50  
 YES  OK  NO 50+

### Build

- YES  OK  NO Bodybuilder  
 YES  OK  NO Muscular  
 YES  OK  NO Average  
 YES  OK  NO Slim  
 YES  OK  NO Stocky  
 YES  OK  NO Heavy  
 YES  OK  NO Very Heavy

### Height

- YES  OK  NO 5'6" or less  
 YES  OK  NO 5'6"-5'9"  
 YES  OK  NO 5'9"-6"  
 YES  OK  NO 6'-6'3"  
 YES  OK  NO 6'3" or taller

### Hair

- YES  OK  NO Black  
 YES  OK  NO Dark Brown  
 YES  OK  NO Light Brown  
 YES  OK  NO Auburn  
 YES  OK  NO Red  
 YES  OK  NO Strawberry Blond  
 YES  OK  NO Blond  
 YES  OK  NO White gray  
 YES  OK  NO Bald

### Eyes

- YES  OK  NO Blue  
 YES  OK  NO Green  
 YES  OK  NO Gray  
 YES  OK  NO Hazel  
 YES  OK  NO Brown  
 YES  OK  NO Black

### Facial/Body Hair

- YES  OK  NO Smooth  
 YES  OK  NO Clean Shaven  
 YES  OK  NO Mustache  
 YES  OK  NO Beard  
 YES  OK  NO No body hair  
 YES  OK  NO Smooth chest  
 YES  OK  NO Hairy chest  
 YES  OK  NO Very Hairy

### Race

- YES  OK  NO Caucasian  
 YES  OK  NO Asian oriental  
 YES  OK  NO Black  
 YES  OK  NO Latin  
 YES  OK  NO East Indian

### General Appearance

- YES  OK  NO Very goodlooking  
 YES  OK  NO Attractive  
 YES  OK  NO Average  
 YES  OK  NO Below average  
 YES  OK  NO Yuppie preppie  
 YES  OK  NO Young executive  
 YES  OK  NO Mature executive  
 YES  OK  NO Trendy  
 YES  OK  NO Collegiate jock

### Dress

- YES  OK  NO Casual (t-shirt, jeans)  
 YES  OK  NO Sometimes sloppy  
 YES  OK  NO High fashion  
 YES  OK  NO Semi-formal  
 YES  OK  NO Drag

### Occupation

- YES  OK  NO Financially independent  
 YES  OK  NO Self-supporting  
 YES  OK  NO Nonself-supporting  
 YES  OK  NO Unemployed  
 YES  OK  NO Student  
 YES  OK  NO Office clerical  
 YES  OK  NO Service/hospitality  
 YES  OK  NO Sales  
 YES  OK  NO Construction  
 YES  OK  NO Technical  
 YES  OK  NO Self-employed entrepreneur  
 YES  OK  NO Managerial  
 YES  OK  NO Professional  
 YES  OK  NO Health Care  
 YES  OK  NO Entertainment arts

### Substance Use

- YES  OK  NO Smoker  
 YES  OK  NO Non-smoker  
 YES  OK  NO Heavy drinker  
 YES  OK  NO Social drinker  
 YES  OK  NO Non-drinker  
 YES  OK  NO Non-drug user  
 YES  OK  NO Light drug user

### Personality

- YES  OK  NO Assertive  
 YES  OK  NO Easy-going  
 YES  OK  NO Outgoing  
 YES  OK  NO Publicly affectionate  
 YES  OK  NO Not publicly affectionate  
 YES  OK  NO Shy reserved  
 YES  OK  NO Very masculine  
 YES  OK  NO Fairly masculine  
 YES  OK  NO Somewhat feminine  
 YES  OK  NO Very feminine  
 YES  OK  NO Cloistered  
 YES  OK  NO Downway  
 YES  OK  NO Openly gay

### Social Activities

- YES  OK  NO Spectator sports  
 YES  OK  NO Working out  
 YES  OK  NO Movies  
 YES  OK  NO Live theatre  
 YES  OK  NO TV video  
 YES  OK  NO Concerts

### Beliefs

- YES  OK  NO Arts events  
 YES  OK  NO Dining out  
 YES  OK  NO Parties  
 YES  OK  NO Bars dancing  
 YES  OK  NO Cooking  
 YES  OK  NO Travel  
 YES  OK  NO Camping hiking  
 YES  OK  NO Sailing/surfing  
 YES  OK  NO Skiing  
 YES  OK  NO Tennis racquetball  
 YES  OK  NO Swimming  
 YES  OK  NO Cycling  
 YES  OK  NO Music  
 YES  OK  NO Photographer  
 YES  OK  NO Painting art
- YES  OK  NO Catholic  
 YES  OK  NO Protestant  
 YES  OK  NO Jewish  
 YES  OK  NO New age  
 YES  OK  NO MCC  
 YES  OK  NO Very religious  
 YES  OK  NO Somewhat religious  
 YES  OK  NO Not religious  
 YES  OK  NO Politically liberal  
 YES  OK  NO Conservative  
 YES  OK  NO Social democrat

### Sexual Preferences

- YES  OK  NO Kissing  
 YES  OK  NO Cuddling  
 YES  OK  NO JO  
 YES  OK  NO French active  
 YES  OK  NO French passive  
 YES  OK  NO Greek active  
 YES  OK  NO Greek passive  
 YES  OK  NO SAFE SEX  
 YES  OK  NO Toys  
 YES  OK  NO Leather  
 YES  OK  NO S-M top  
 YES  OK  NO S-M bottom  
 YES  OK  NO Heavy S-M  
 YES  OK  NO Experimental  
 YES  OK  NO Three-ways  
 YES  OK  NO Group sex  
 YES  OK  NO Very experienced  
 YES  OK  NO Average experience  
 YES  OK  NO Inexperienced  
 YES  OK  NO Virgin  
 YES  OK  NO Small to average  
 YES  OK  NO Small to average  
 YES  OK  NO Average to large  
 YES  OK  NO Very large endowment  
 YES  OK  NO Cut  
 YES  OK  NO Uncut

### Special Consideration

- YES  OK  NO Sensory speech handicap  
 YES  OK  NO Movement handicap  
 YES  OK  NO Have no privacy  
 YES  OK  NO Have no transportation  
 YES  OK  NO HIV negative  
 YES  OK  NO Bisexual  
 YES  OK  NO Transsexual

## Out Takes

estate has moved to have pseudonyms used in the court records and to have the identity of the decedent permanently concealed, claiming this was necessary to protect the interests of the decedent's family.

Justice Cohen ruled that New York's HIV confidentiality law, which went into effect a year ago, does not extend to this situation, noting that the purpose for the law was to encourage people to undergo confidential testing by guaranteeing that their privacy would be respected. "This purpose," she ruled, "is not as compelling when the party who had AIDS is deceased, particularly when balanced against the strongly revered, and protected public policy of open court proceedings."

Justice Cohen went even farther, opining that even a living defendant with AIDS would not be privileged to maintain anonymity in an HIV transmission lawsuit of this type. The presumption in favor of open trials "applies especially to information about

the AIDS plague. Except when necessary to protect the privacy of AIDS patients, information about all manifestations of the problem should be widely disseminated so as to increase public awareness," she wrote.

Justice Cohen stayed the effect of her ruling to give the estate of Flynn's lover the opportunity to appeal.

—Arthur S. Leonard

## New HIV test sites in NYC

NEW YORK—The city has opened a new anonymous HIV testing site, and the state has moved the location of one of its sites from Harlem to the South Bronx, bringing the total number of free anonymous testing sites in the city to 12, top city and state health

officials announced last month. A spokesperson for the state Department of Health said that a search is currently underway for locating at two additional anonymous testing sites in the city this year.

"We've cut the wait down to only several days, depending on where you call," remarked Bob O'Connor, technical coordinator of the state's Anonymous HIV Counseling and Testing Program, noting that the state anonymous testing project has also recently increased its staff. According to O'Connor, the state's HIV testing program, which identifies clients only by a number, served more than 15,000 throughout the state last year. That figure does not include people who were tested through the confidential program which records the HIV status of the client in medical records.

The wait for an HIV test at city-run test sites varies from a few days at locations in Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island to up to four weeks at

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## Out Takes

some locations in Manhattan.

"We are committed to assure that all New Yorkers have access to free HIV tests, the risk reduction counseling that goes with them, and referral to necessary primary care and other services," said state Commissioner of Health David Axelrod and city health commissioner Dr. Woodrow Myers in a statement announcing the new

anonymous testing sites.

The new state-run site—which replaces a state testing site located in west Harlem—is located in the South Bronx, and the new city-administered testing facility is in central Harlem. Nine of the sites in New York City are operated by the city, and the remaining three are run by the state. Confidential counseling and testing are currently

available at sexually transmitted disease clinics, family planning and pre-natal clinics, hospital outpatient facilities and drug treatment programs throughout the city.

For more information about anonymous HIV testing, call the city's AIDS hotline at (718) 485-8111, or the state's hotline at 800-872-2777.

—Nina Reyes

### Myers sworn in as city health chief



Photo: T.L. Litt

compassion" and who would help to build "coalition and consensus," Dinkins praised their choice.

"We met that standard and found that person," he said.

After the swearing-in, Myers briefly addressed the assembly. Stressing his commitment to bring "the miracles of modern medicine" to all New Yorkers, "without regard to color or sexual preference," Myers said, "There are no more important problems than those associated with drug abuse, AIDS, and the physical and social health of our children."

He admitted that the job he faces would not be an easy one, but he said he did not want an easy job.

Myers has already traveled quite a rocky road since January. His appointment was greeted with alarm by some AIDS

NEW YORK—There wasn't a protester in evidence, but security was exceptionally tight at city hall on the afternoon of Friday, March 30, when Dr. Woodrow Myers was sworn in as New York's new commissioner of health. The Myers appointment has been swaddled in controversy since Mayor David N. Dinkins selected him for the post in January, and apparently the mayor's office was expecting that some troublemakers might want to attend the induction ceremony.

The ceremony was well-attended—the Board of Estimate chamber, in which it was held, was jam-packed—but the crowd was invitation-only. Scheduled for three o'clock, the ceremony did not get rolling until nearly 3:30 because of the logjam at the door, where each guest was required to make it past several uniformed guards and through a metal-detecting machine (and, as in the case of the woman who sat next to me during the ceremony, to surrender potentially dangerous implements such as fingernail scissors to police before gaining admission).

Dinkins began his introductory remarks by thanking those who had served on his transition team. Saying that the committee that had helped pick Myers had been instructed to find someone whose character epitomized "courage and

service workers and activists shocked by reports that in his previous post as health commissioner of Indiana, Myers had favored mandatory HIV testing, contact tracing, the shutdown of gay bars and bookstores and the quarantining of some PWAs. Myers has also been criticized for a lackadaisical attitude toward securing and deploying federal funds for Indiana AIDS programs.

In his introduction, Dinkins was careful to emphasize Myers' agreement with his positions regarding how best to confront the HIV epidemic; the mayor rejects some of those measures Myers has in the past supported.

Among those attending the ceremony were many members of Myers' extended family, some of whom came from as far away as California to attend the event.

Also in attendance were representatives from some of the city's prominent AIDS service organizations, including Jeffrey Braff of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Mathilde Krim of the American Foundation for AIDS Research and The Black Leadership Commission on AIDS' Debra Fraser-Howze.

Myers was joined on the dais by his wife, Dr. Deborah Jackson Myers, who specializes in the treatment of sleep disorders. —James Waller



# Forced testing in assault cases upheld

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—An appeal's court here has upheld the constitutionality of a controversial law which requires HIV testing of anybody who "assaults or transfers bodily fluid" to a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, employee of a custodial facility of victims of sex crimes. California voters approved the law, Proposition 96, by a wide margin last year, while defeating the latest quarantine proposals sponsored by groups connected to Lyndon LaRouche.

Johnetta Johnson, charged with biting a deputy sheriff during a child dependency hearing, challenged the constitutionality of a blood test demanded by the sheriff's department, claiming it was an unreasonable search and seizure in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

The unanimous appellate panel held that the testing requirement was reasonable under the circumstances, even though there is slim medical evidence that HIV can be transmitted by biting. At the same time, the court cast doubt on the wisdom of the testing requirement. "While the medical opinions of eminent experts support such testing... those experts themselves opine that the only really effective means of determining HIV infection is for the concerned public safety employees to undergo their own tests," wrote Justice Zerne Haning for the court.

Grace Suarez, a deputy public defender who represented Johnson, said, "It seems to be just another decision watering down Fourth Amendment rights and not paying much attention to California right of privacy.

Burk Delventhal, attorney representing the sheriff's department, claimed that the decision was "a correct assessment of the competing interests of the state in gaining relevant information for a peace officer injured on duty balanced by the privacy

interest of the assailant."

Both attorneys were quoted in the March 21 issue of *The Daily Journal*, a west coast legal newspaper.

—Arthur S. Leonard

## OutWeek columnist honored

NEW YORK—New York Law School professor and *OutWeek* columnist Arthur S. Leonard was honored this past week at the 17th anniversary party of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, the city's lesbian and gay Jewish congregation.

A graduate of Harvard University's School of Law, Leonard has been



ART LEONARD

Photo: T.L. Litt

involved in the congregation for 15 years. He also chairs the New York City Bar Association's Committee on Sex and Law. In addition to writing the monthly *Out/Law* column for *OutWeek*, he writes for the newsletter of the Bar Association for Human Rights for Greater New York.

"A friend of mine said I was too young to have a testimonial," Leonard

told *OutWeek*. "But it's gratifying to be honored by this group."

Leonard, who recently completed a term as Beth Simchat Torah's board president, was celebrated for his ongoing contributions to the congregation. —R. Sugden

## Court OKs dentist's refusal to treat PWA

NEW YORK—In a setback for health care access rights for people with AIDS, a New York State judge has ruled that a Manhattan dentist may exclude PWAs from his practice. Ruling in a lawsuit by Dr. Robert Sattler against the City Commission on Human Rights, Justice Peter R. Rosato of Supreme Court, Westchester County, declared that a "private" dental office is not a public accommodation under New York City's human rights law. The decision was published in the *New York Law Journal* on March 26.

Stephen McCoury had been a regular dental patient of Sattler's midtown Manhattan office for several years when Sattler spotted lesions in McCoury's mouth during an office visit. Sattler referred McCoury to an oral pathologist for diagnosis and treatment. When McCoury called Sattler after completion of the treatment to schedule a new appointment, Sattler said he would feel "uncomfortable" treating a person with AIDS, and tried to persuade McCoury to go to an AIDS dental clinic at St. Clare's Hospital or a dentist who "specializes" in AIDS patients. Although Sattler told McCoury that he "would still be his dentist," McCoury sought a referral to another dentist from his oral pathologist.

McCoury was referred to John Wolf, a dentist who had himself been the victim of discrimination as a result of providing dental services to people with AIDS. Wolf, who won his own case at the Human Rights Commission, encouraged McCoury to file a complaint against Sattler. When the

## Out Takes

commission found Sattler guilty of discrimination and ordered a penalty, Sattler filed a lawsuit against the commission to have its decision reversed. Because Sattler lives in Westchester County, a little-known provision of the human rights law allowed him to file the suit there.

The judge decided that because Sattler limited his dental practice to referrals, did not accept new patients over the phone or off the street, and did not accept new patients over the phone or off the street, and did not advertising other than a Yellowpages listing, his practice was "distinctly private" and could not be considered a public accommodation under the human rights law. Rosato also stated that the evidence did not support a finding of discrimination, since Sattler concluded his conversation with McCoury by stating that he would still be McCoury's dentist and did not refuse to schedule an appointment.

Although professional associations in the health care field have urged their members to provide service to people with AIDS after concluding that

simple precautions will prevent HIV transmission, dentists have been particularly reluctant to provide services, and are continuing source of complaints to the City Human Rights Commission. According to Brian S. Sokoloff, a lawyer for the city who represented the commission, an appeal is contemplated.

—Arthur S. Leonard

## The Mayor of Hollywood Boulevard

HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—Oliver Stone, Craig Zaden and Neil Meron are set to team produce a movie about San Francisco's gay supervisor Harvey Milk. The film will adapt *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Randy Shilt's first book, *The Mayor of Castro Street*.

Milk, whose life was the subject of the 1985 Oscar-winning documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk* was assassinated by fellow supervisor Dan White. White, also the murderer of Mayor George Moscone, then went on to be acquitted on the infamous "Twinkie defense," blaming junk food for his murderous behavior and sparking the "White Night" riots that left the city devastated.

Stone, an Oscar winner this year for his direction of *Born on the Fourth of July*, is as yet uncertain as to who will play the celebrated gay leader. According to Stone, final decisions on casting have been put off until a script is ready. Shilts, who is best known for his top-selling *And the Band Played On*, lists himself among the screenwriters being considered. This would be his first such project were he selected. He has also indicated that he would most like to see actor Robin Williams in the Milk role.

The Stone, Zaden, Meron coalition came about after Stone took interest in the project. Zaden and Meron optioned *The Mayor of Castro Street* two years ago and were to make it into

a low-budget movie for Cineplex Odeon, when Cineplex went out of business, leaving the duo to shop the project around. After running into significant difficulties, Oliver Stone's office expressed interest in the project and had Warner's buy the option from Zaden and Meron.

Shilts told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "It's not a lot of money up front. But I'm happy the movie will be made. This could be the first major movie that deals directly with gay politics." The HBO movie rights for *And the Band Played On* were into "six figures," which is apparently not the case this go round.

—Sarah Pettit



SEPARATED AT BIRTH?  
Harvey Milk (left) and Robin Williams

Photo: Rink

# Soviets OK first gay conference

The Minister of Social Affairs in the Soviet Republic of Estonia has agreed to open the Soviet Union's first conference on homosexuality, scheduled for May 28-30 at the Academy of Sciences in the Estonian capital of Tallinn.

According to conference co-organizer Teet Veispak, Raul Karu "agreed gladly" to officially address the gathering, which is entitled "Sexual Minorities and Society: Changing Attitudes Toward Homosexuality in 20th Century Europe."

Karu also recently appeared on a radio talk program about AIDS and announced that "homosexuals have always existed and they still do." While not big news to readers of this publication, it was noteworthy statement in the Soviet Union.

Veispak is organizing the conference with the historian Lilian Kotter. They hope to attract researchers and journalists from around the globe, both to address the issues and participate in the novelty of the USSR's first official gay *anything*.

Confirmed presenters include sociologists, ethnologists, historians, philosophers and other academicians from Denmark, East Germany, England, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the Soviet Union.

Gay sex is illegal in the USSR and can lead to five years forced labor in Siberia, although there have been persistent reports in the past year that the sodomy law has been deleted from the latest draft of the Soviet Penal code, which is undergoing revision.

At the same time, however, a Danish exchange group that met clandestinely with gay men ("blues") in Moscow last fall reported that gays are still frequently arrested by KGB agents and held in "abominable circumstances" until they identify other homosexuals.

Some of the arrestees are sent to

psychiatric hospitals and given drugs to decrease their sex drive, according to gay activist Jens Jørgen Madsen of the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians.

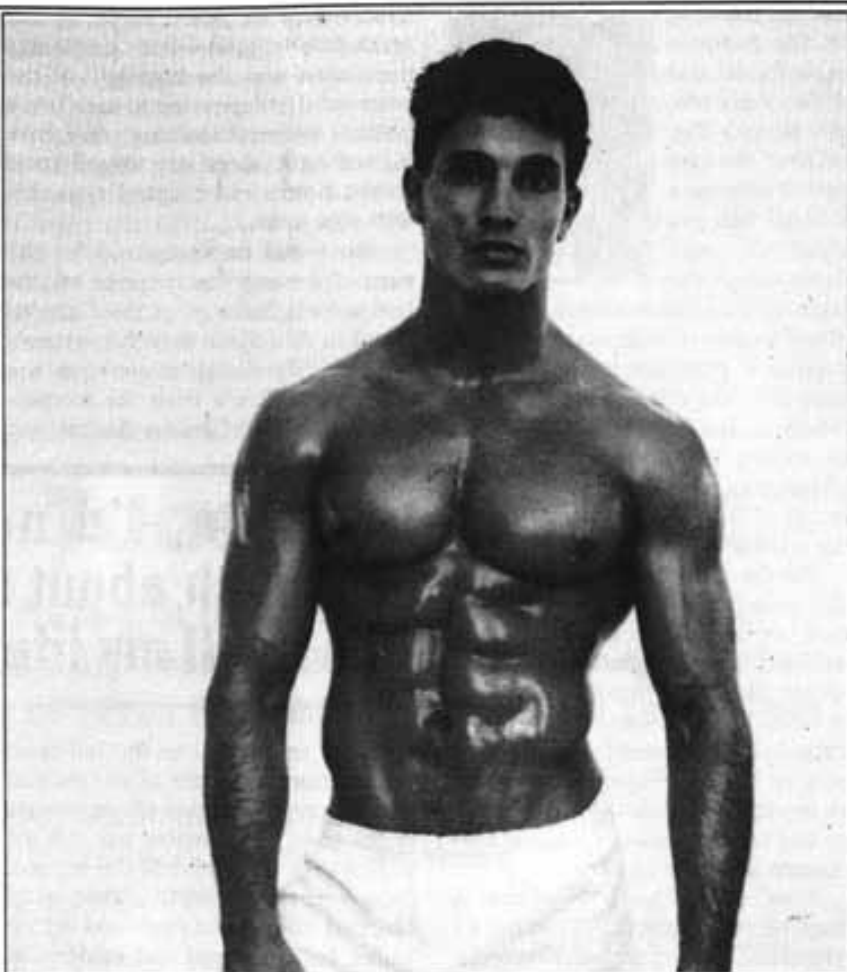
But in yet another twist, the first gay organization in the Soviet Union formed in mid-February. The Moscow Lesbian and Gay Union, also known as Moscow Friends, is in contact with the International Lesbian and Gay Association information secretariat in Stockholm and has also granted interviews to Western news reporters.

According to the *Baltimore Sun*, the group is even producing a small newspaper called *Theme*. There was a print run of 527 for the first issue, the *Sun* said.

The activists hope to push for the decriminalization of gay sex and the availability of condoms. According to the *Danes*, Moscow pharmacies last stocked rubbers in the Spring of 1989.

There are officially 11 AIDS cases and 312 HIV-positives in the USSR.

—Rex Wockner



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# An Androgyny of Spirit

by Jeanne Córdova

*There's somethin' happenin' here...  
What it is, ain't exactly clear...  
Buffalo Springfield, 1966*

I crooned the words of Steven Stills' old classic to the San Joaquin grape fields as I left San Francisco, L.A. bound. For the first time in years, I was on a soul-high with gay pride. I was enveloped in the magic of the first national gay and lesbian writers conference. Sponsored by *Outlook*, a national lesbian and gay quarterly magazine based in San Francisco, the conference drew an astonishing 1,200 writers, publishers and famous literati of our community from around the country.

But this gathering of the tribe was more than the usual confab of gay ego, pretension or even righteous activism. Meditating through the soft hills of central California, I remembered I'd felt the same resurgent blush of hope driving home two months ago from the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Leadership Retreat held in Laguna Beach last January.

I had packed for both weekends somewhat pessimistically. "I just hope I learn something new," the veteran conference-goer in me muttered as I threw boredom-buffers like *Newsweek* and *The Spiritual Heritage of India* into my suitcase. My last decade of gay conferences seemed like one non-stop



*Jeanne Córdova is the author of the autobiographical novel Kicking the Habit, a lesbian nun story, published by Multiple Dimensions.*

two-day argument trying to rewrite the gay manifesto. The purity of Stonewall had long since been replaced by the posturing of style and the positioning of ego. At my last major lesbian political conference, I sat at lunch with friends from around the country I hadn't seen in years, knowing this break-time intimacy—not our plenary decisions—was the highlight of the weekend. It's depressing to conclude a political weekend realizing you'd have learned more about gay love if you'd stayed home and planted a garden with your lover.

So I was not prepared for the tornado of energy that swept me into the International Ballroom of the Cathedral Hotel in San Francisco this writerly weekend. The energy in the room was strikingly different from the women-identified chaos of lesbian festivals and

## As a lesbian, I'd never heard so much about cock and balls in all my life!

certainly antithetical to the left-brain parliamentary ambience of gay political meetings in Los Angeles. My experience of "co-sexual" conferences was that the men always outnumbered the women. Even when the statistics were more balanced, men spoke more and argued louder. Lesbian energy was rendered to its usual place on the agenda: invisibility.

Yet, somehow in San Francisco, in this otherwise ordinary ballroom, an androgyny of spirit that I'd never felt before was synergized. The energy of some 600 women and almost the same number of men was blended into a complementary whole. It was as though in the last five years, AIDS had dissolved the armor off men, and maturity had brought out the voices of women.

Caught in a swirl of yin and yang harmony, I felt like I'd accidentally been propelled into an androgynous, feminist future where the genders had melted.

The weekend careened with more surprises.

African-American poet Essex Hemphill delivered a masterful oratory, from his upcoming anthology *Brother to Brother*, in which he graphically paralleled gay men's obsession with Black men's genitalia with the objectification of women's bodies by men. Hemphill walked offstage with a thunderous ovation from 600 men. And 600 women.

Male speakers read passionately from their writings about the politics and spirituality of male sexuality, and woman after woman laid bare our pain from incest and misogyny. Through the hours, no one whispered. You could have heard a page of manuscript drop on the hardwood stage.

As a lesbian, I'd never heard so much about cock and balls in all my life! But I was forced to hear and understand intimately that men experience both the animal and the divine in themselves through their bodies in an inextricable process unknown to the psyche of most women. And I came away asking, Who am I to judge how a soul makes its way to itself?

Neither did I witness any male exodus as lesbian writers grieved about global pollution as a result of patriarchal abuse, or extolled the nobility and empowerment of lesbian separatism.

Through it all, I sat in my chair transfixed. Had the feminist revolution actually occurred while I was away writing a book these last two years? Was this a singular weekend somehow possible only in San Francisco, where the men know that the word sexism isn't a synonym for sexy and people of color are recognized as the heart and soul, not the gadflies, of gay liberation? Had AIDS

humanized men? Had women stopped processing long enough to stand up and take their power? Had we all somehow listened to our own rhetoric and transformed into liberated adults?

But wait! I'd glimpsed this same post-victim maturity two months ago at another conference. The Laguna Leadership Retreat felt like the first time since the dawn of gay liberation that the Los Angeles lesbian and gay leadership sat in the same room together and emerged as more, instead of less. For me, the spirit of Laguna was a gay second coming. It was the first time I'd intimately experienced my brothers and sisters in leadership as a whole, rather than dysfunctional, family.

The brilliance of Laguna was the decision to call a political conference and not talk about politics. The result was political unity synthesized by love. The pre-set agenda (which no one overthrew!) was personal. No one felt compelled to assert, "My organization's better than yours" or accuse, "We'd have won that battle if John/Jane from AIDS NO MORE hadn't loused it up."

With a non-political agenda, some

may have well asked, "How many gay and lesbian leaders does it take to screw in a light bulb? What did you all find to talk about?" As someone who never went out without a cue card of pressing political agenda to discuss with anyone I might need for a current project, at first I was stumped in Laguna. We leaders were tricked into becoming a part of our worst nightmare: Who am I without my credentials?

But we were also seduced as our nightmare became our fantasy. Sitting there in folding chairs hour after hour, we were forced to contemplate an agenda of the heart: "What do you love about being a gay leader? What do you hate about it the most? Who in this room do you want to say 'thank you' to? Who do you want to say 'I'm sorry' to?"

Silently I looked around the room at the new faces of the younger generation of leaders I didn't know. Were they full of anger and love like I once was? Would I ever know them like my peers? Would I like the way they laughed or thought? Would they like me? I studied the faces of my peers whom I'd come to love or dread over the last two decades

of harangues. Was I still not speaking to Margaret because she slept with my ex in 1976? Was John Jones still a hopeless sexist pig? Probably not, on both accounts, I thought. Yet I hadn't asked them lately, "Who are you today?" I hadn't told them, "I'm grateful you're spending your life for our people, for me too. Hey...thanks."

Judy Grahn, poet laureate of lesbian feminism, told us in San Francisco, "There is no money in anything holy." At the time she spoke to the impoverished homes and hearts of gay and lesbian writers struggling to make a living. But I think she also meant those words for the L.A. gay and lesbian leaders gathered in Laguna.

There is no money in mentoring the legacy of the 60s to the new leadership of the 90s who will carry the banner of our freedom into the 21st century. There is no money in men and women becoming sisters and brothers, not because we're trying, but simply because men are coming into their yin and women are stepping out to our yang. There is no money in adopting

See ANDROGYNY on page 32



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Call 24 hours: **(212) 517-0380**.

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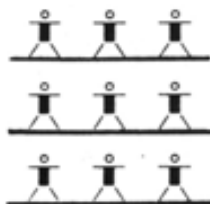
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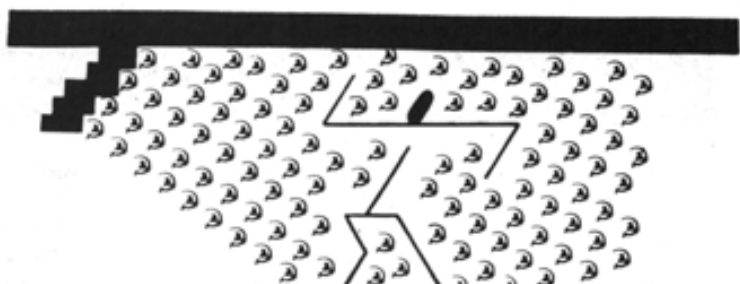
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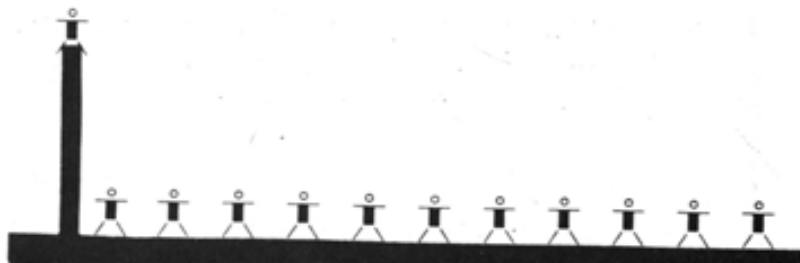
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## Obituaries

### Richard J. Earley, 40, Dies of AIDS

Richard J. Earley, 40, of New York and Asbury Park died on February 8 at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York from



AIDS. He was clinical coordinator for Roosevelt-St. Luke's Hospital, New York, for the last 11 years. He was also a member of the Front Runners running club and the New York State Nursing Association.

Richard is survived by his life partner, Mr. Thomas Truskowski.

### Tseng Kwong Chi

My dear brother, Tseng Kwong Chi, passed from this world early Saturday morning, the tenth day of March at the age of 39. He died in his home in Manhattan, as he had wished, in his lover Kristoffer Haynes' arms and with his full dignity. His body was cremated at 11 am Sunday morning, the eleventh of March. A private funeral service to scatter his ashes from the Statue of Liberty took place on March 14. A memorial service in New York will be set at a later date.

—M. Tseng

### Scott C. Krohn

Scott C. Krohn, actor, producer, beloved friend, died of AIDS on March 10. Scott was a founding member of the Pennsylvania Playhouse by the River. A talented and popular actor, he starred in productions of *Count Dracula*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Deathtrap* and *Mass Appeal*.

In 1986, he helped found the Village Theater Company in Chelsea, producing their *Count Dracula* and appearing in *The Enclave*. Most recently he assisted in their production of *The Normal Heart*.

A member of Actors Equity Association, Scott worked as an actor and stage manager for many professional theater companies, including The Forbidden Broadway 1988 Company. In 1987, Scott began working with TWEED (Theaterworks: Emerging/Experimental Directions) and served on their artistic board until his death.

As TWEED's general manager, he promoted several new works, including the highly acclaimed production of *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens*, recently seen at RAPP Arts Center. Due largely to his efforts, the production played to sold-out houses, and contributed over \$3,000 in



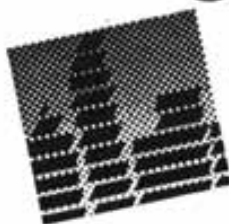
proceeds to Equity Fights AIDS.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, April 8, 1990, at 2:00 pm at the Village Theatre Company, 133 West 22nd Street in Manhattan. —Julia McLaughlin ▼

### Obituary Policy

OutWeek accepts and publishes obituaries from our readers free of charge. Submissions should be in writing and may be accompanied by a photograph. OutWeek reserves the right to edit obituaries. Please mail to: OutWeek Magazine, 159 West 25th Street, Seventh Floor, New York City, NY 10010.

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## ANDROGYNY from page 29

the politics of trust. There is no money in rejoicing in one another's cultural separateness. There is no money in giving up our oppression mentality. There is no money in recognizing that outside our gay ghetto, straight people are human too. There is no money in the gay and lesbian nation becoming a kinder, gentler nation. But we are. And this is holy.

There are no accidents in evolution. San Francisco and Laguna were not flukes.

Twenty-one years ago, gay and lesbian liberation was birthed in an explosion of political rage. After we found our political voices in the late 70s, many of us turned to establishing ourselves in careers and in business. But as we came into the 80s we found something was still missing. We began searching for new frontiers to complete our lives. Many of us came to the conclusion that gays do not live by bread or revolution alone. That without the consummation of a relationship with our selves and the holy within us, life is not full.

Born for many of us in 12 Step programs, in therapy, in the tragedy of AIDS and in the travails of trying to sort out a workable dynamic for personal relationships, we turned in our dark night of the soul—to the intimate, to the primal love between self and Spirit.

This is why I believe our community is now engaged in the last frontier of gay liberation: a spiritual revolution. This new politic of revolution re-awakens memories in me of why I made a lifetime commitment to this movement 20 years ago. I had almost completely forgotten. If the personal is indeed political, the intimate must be the transformational. ▼

## INSURANCE from page 15

spokesperson for the State Department of Insurance, told *OutWeek* that such a transaction is not illegal as long as no direct solicitation is involved.

Currently, BGR, or Beat the Grim Reaper International, is the only New York-based company making these transactions. It is being reviewed by the insurance department, according to Calagna.

For more information about

reselling life insurance in New York, contact the office of Virginia Apuzzo at the Consumer Protection Board: (518) 474-2257. ▼

## CRISIS from page 17

organization was only slightly in the red. As the organization currently lacks a chief executive and a director of fundraising, other staffers could not provide annual reports or other public financial records which would document the financial health of the individual programs at the Fund.

### Prison and the Big Housecleaning

Maurice, Berkowitz and others blamed the Fund's lack of focus and alleged financial problems on Sherrie Cohen, who led the organization for three and a half years. According to Berkowitz, however, the board ignored the situation until it reached crisis proportions last December, when a legal scandal involving two workers at the Fund may have served as a catalyst for the massive turnover in personnel that occurred. A worker at the Fund was jailed for eight days and charged with lewd and lascivious conduct in connection with his relationship with a 14-year-old employee of the Fund. The boy, a runaway, had apparently lied about his age when he was hired, but his parents had a private detective follow him to the Fund and the man's house. The accused man was ultimately acquitted of all charges against him.

Despite the acquittal, and despite the fact that the man and the boy had met outside the Fund before the boy started working there, both the man and the director of the telemarketing department, who had hired the boy, were not only dismissed, but barred from the Fund's offices.

At the same time, an administrative employee and Abby Talmer were laid off, ostensibly because of a 'fiscal crunch.' As the most senior employee at the time, however, Talmer suspected that her shaky relationship with Sherrie Cohen and the disagreements concerning the direction of the Resource Center contributed to her termination.

Ann Wilson did not respond to requests to discuss employee's allegations. In an earlier interview, however, she implied that the employees the Fund lost in December had left of their own volition, in protest over Sherrie Cohen's resignation. Wilson also stated that she did not know exactly how many people left in December.

"It's a total lie on Ann Wilson's part that she did not know how many," exclaimed

Berkowitz, "because the board voted to fire the staff."

### "The Board Needed a Scapegoat"

Depending on their relationship with Cohen, Fund associates have different interpretations of the December housecleaning. Some, like Julien Maurice, believed that Cohen fired and laid people off with the board's approval, but on her own initiative. Others, like Caschetta, saw Cohen doing the board's "dirty work." But whatever their opinion of Cohen and their perception of the terminations, all observers seem to have been shaken by the circumstances of Cohen's own departure.

Like Henderson, Cohen received less than a day's notice, and had to be supervised while she collected her belongings. While Cohen refused to discuss the specific circumstances preceding her departure, explaining that she did not wish to disclose information that would reflect negatively on the Fund, she said she believed that she was "really mistreated by the board." She added, "I think the board's decision regarding me was totally unfair, not just the way they treated me.... The board went past its mandate and authority."

"The manner in which [Sherrie Cohen] was let go is just a further example of the abusive behavior of this group of people," remarked Henderson. "They treat other gay people abusively."

On the subject of Cohen's departure, Wilson said only that Cohen was asked to leave because of a "mismatch in terms of management and interpersonal skills."

### "Their Little Insane Asylum"

While before Cohen's departure different individuals saw different reasons for the Fund's problems, now all critics point the finger at the board of directors. "Let me blame the board as a body," stated Julien Maurice, himself a critic of Cohen, "because it is the board that is responsible for appointing the chief executive... The board has not learned from the problems of the Sherrie Cohen administration."

Cohen, her supporters and her critics agree that the board has not had sufficient contact with the staff and volunteers, and has consistently acted in ways that widened the gap between the two groups. While the board has met with members of the staff and volunteers twice since Henderson's dismissal, each meeting has resulted in

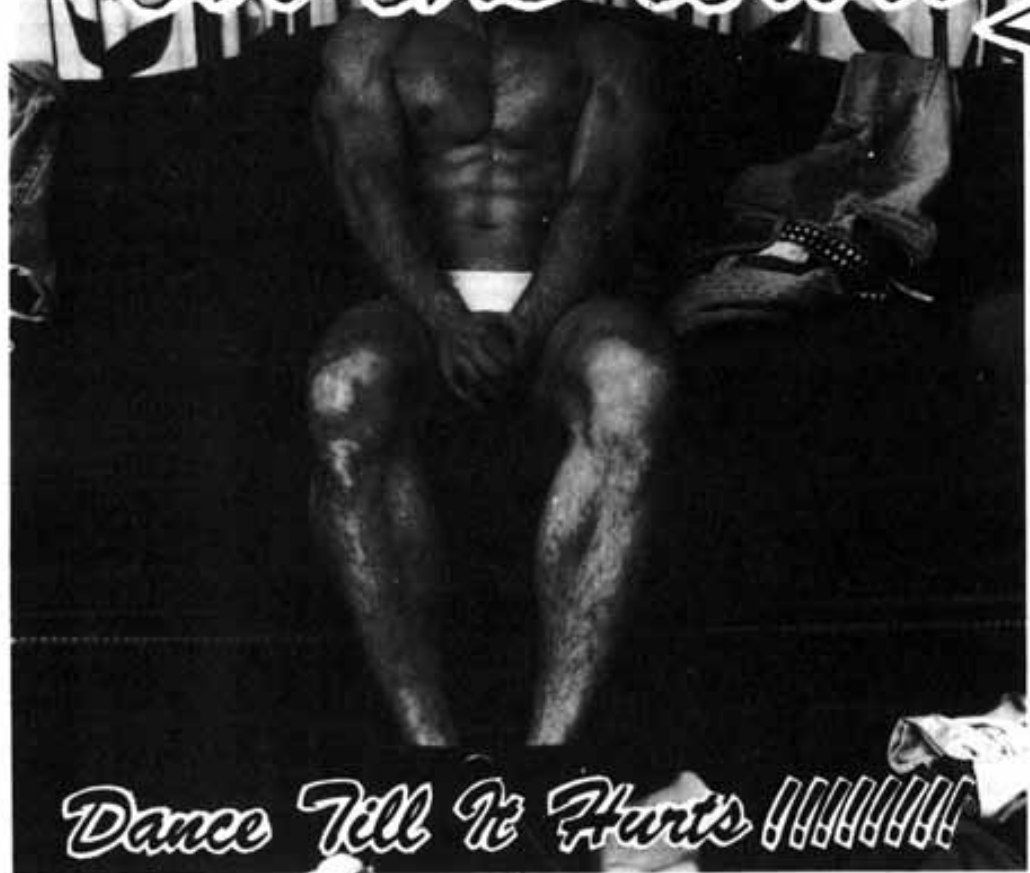
See CRISIS on page 72



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STRIPPERS AT MIDNIGHT

# Tired All the Time

A monthly column about women's health.

by *Risa Denenberg*

**G**etting out of bed in the morning has become an impossible task. The apartment is in disarray, the plants are dying from inattention, dirty clothes cover the bathroom floor. Six months ago, she went to work every day, took long walks, barhopped 'til the early morning hours, had friends over. In the first two months of this flu-thing, she used up all her sick time. Now she is close to losing her job and health insurance. Friends have stopped calling to see how she's doing. Her doctor said nothing was wrong and gave a referral to a psychiatrist. Last night her mother told her to "snap out of it." Today she'll spend the day in bed, sobbing.

### What is it?

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is characterized by a fatigue which is disabling, and a host of other variable symptoms. It has variously been called chronic fatigue and immunedysfunction syndrome (CFIDS), chronic Epstein-Barr virus (CEBV), myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) and mononucleosis syndrome. It primarily affects women under 45, but is also found in men and children. It usually has an abrupt onset, like the flu, which lingers. It can involve continuous years of illness or intermittent well and sick periods. It is undoubtedly exacerbated by stress and other illnesses. A general course of CFS is for the symptoms to be most severe in the first three years, then to gradually subside over two to ten years. Complete remissions do occur.

It is generally agreed that a viral agent is involved, but probably not a single agent. In CFS, co-factors existing along with a viral trigger is the current medical theory of causation. Some viruses that have been implicated as either

triggers or co-factors include Epstein-Barr (EB), cytomegalovirus (CMV), Herpes simplex (HSV-1, HSV-2) and human herpes virus-6 (HHV-6). Some researchers have also looked at non-viral pathogens as playing a role including chlamydia, protozoan infections and mycoplasma. One model for describing the illness is chronic stress leading to lifestyle changes and decreased self-care activities such as proper nutrition and adequate rest. These then become co-factors in the disease

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**Doctors frequently treat or refer for a psychiatric diagnosis, or simply tell the client to shape up or get some exercise.**

---

process.

Research has also looked at other diseases as co-factors or triggers: food allergies, systemic yeast infections, environmental allergies and hypoglycemia. To complicate matters further, CFS has symptoms that may be similar to other diseases, including thyroid disorders, collagen-vascular diseases such as systemic lupus, multiple sclerosis (MS), Lyme disease, HIV illness, hepatitis and inflammatory bowel disease.

### What's it like?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) now lists symptom criteria for diagnosing CFS, much like it does with AIDS. People with CFS often are misdiagnosed, underdiagnosed, ignored and blamed for their symptoms. Doctors frequently treat or refer for a psychiatric diagnosis, or simply tell the client to shape up or get some exercise. Having CDC-defined criteria does legitimize the existence of CFS. It also sets limits on doctors' use of the diagnosis of a syndrome that has been inadequately studied. As seen with

AIDS, restricted medical diagnoses often result in cutting a sick person off from needed medical, disability or social benefits.

The hallmark symptom, of course, is fatigue, a persistent exhaustion that is disabling. Other symptoms with high frequency include changes in mental functions (memory losses, attention deficits, spacial disorientation), psychological difficulties (depression, anxiety), nervous system problems (headaches, vision changes). Many people with CFS have chronic sore throats and painful, swollen lymph nodes. Other symptoms include hyperallergic-type complaints (congestion, sinus problems, watery eyes, rashes), muscle and joint pains, gastric complaints (stomach pain, diarrhea) and heart palpitations. Over 70 percent of women with CFS complain of worsened or newly-appearing pre-menstrual syndrome.

### Seeking Health Care

Finding the best source of health care is always complicated. The person with CFS often has extensive doubts and concerns about what the symptoms may mean. For anyone seeking a medical provider, there are support groups and information which should be consulted. Even a sympathetic provider will not have all the answers, so consultation with healers of diverse backgrounds is indicated: nutritionists, acupuncturists, homeopaths, chiropractors and others.

A diagnostic workup must include the medical exclusion of possible alternative diseases, with appropriate lab tests, but without undue financial burden to the client. The most interesting findings in CFS are the immunologic abnormalities found. T4 (CD4) cells are often normal in number, but T8 (CD8) cells are often depleted, showing an increase in the T4/T8 ratio. This is the reverse of the pattern of a decrease in this ratio characteristic of HIV disease.

Additionally, there is often an in-

crease in immune system chemicals such as alpha-interferon, interleukin-1 and interleukin-2, along with a decrease in number and function of natural killer (NK) cells. Antibody titres to common viral agents (EB, CMV, measles) are often highly elevated. The body's immunoglobulins (which produce antibodies) are often abnormal, with a frequent increase in the type of immunoglobulin (IgE) that acts during allergic responses. Much of the rest of a person with CFS's lab tests will be normal, and physical exams are usually not diagnostic.

The diagnosis is made on CDC criterion, along with use of lab values for immunological markers. The key is making sure your provider believes this disease exists, and knows how to look for it and treat it.

#### Treatment

Treating a medical syndrome is always challenging, but the attitude that nothing can be done is unacceptable. Treatment programs must be built on current medical knowledge, experimental modes and stress-theory. It should be centered on the individual and her symptoms, needs and desires. The following survey is neither comprehensive nor meant as advice. Sound decisions in chronic illness are made with much soul-searching, good support, extensive personal research, and in concert with a health care professional.

**Anti-virals:** Acyclovir has not demonstrated usefulness beyond its use in suppression of chronic herpes infections. Alpha-interferon sometimes is useful, in persons with established decreased serum levels. Peptide-T is also being investigated.

**Immunostimulators:** These include germanium, alpha-interferon, amplitgen and gamma-globulin (IVIG) which all have proponents.

**Antidepressants:** (Including sinequan, buspar, MAO inhibitors, xanax and prozac.) These are often prescribed, and are sometimes the only drugs offered. In smaller than usual doses, they are used to treat sleep disturbances, depression or anxiety.

**GI drugs:** For those with ulcer-like symptoms, zantac or tagamet can be useful.

**Rest/Diet/Exercise:** The key to adequate rest is getting a good quality of sleep. Sleep disturbances often accompa-

See Tired on page 37



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# Interferon—Part I

by Mark Harrington

**I**nterferon was discovered too soon for its own good...regarded as a mere curiosity or as a figure of the imagination, difficult to produce and impossible to purify.

—Mathilde Krim, Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>

Interferon is one of the most confusing substances involved in the pathogenesis and treatment of AIDS. In its naturally-occurring form, it is a marker for disease progression. In its recombinant, genetically-engineered form, it is a treatment for Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) and is being proposed as an anti-HIV treatment.

Interferon was discovered in 1957, when Alick Isaacs and Jean Lindemann found that virus-infected cells released a factor which protected other cells from viral infection.

Since the factor interrupted viral activity, they dubbed it "interferon." (The name itself may have been responsible for some of the ensuing confusion.) Their discovery set off extensive research in England, the U.S., Czechoslovakia and Finland.

Yet science did not, at the time, have many of the tools which would be necessary to exploit this discovery. Neither virologists nor immunologists yet possessed the tools, both technological and conceptual, which could enable them to unlock the mysteries of this new agent, "difficult to produce and impossible to purify."

In the 1960s, it became clear that interferon was not a single substance, but a class of biomolecules with di-

verse biological activity. Alpha and beta interferons are released by cells of the immune system, and are capable of degrading double-stranded RNA and proteins inside of cells. Interferon gamma, by contrast (which some say is not a true interferon), is a growth factor.

Usually, interferon is released and used by cells in the body without being detectable. Yet in some diseases of the immune system, including lupus and AIDS, unusually high levels of interferon build up in the blood. These high levels of inter-

a potential treatment. Sometimes the two groups seemed like they were speaking a different language, but at least they were in the same room.

Interferon acts locally and in tiny amounts when in its natural form. As a treatment for KS, it is administered into the blood (in massive doses) and acts all over the body.

In its natural form, interferon works best *before* viral infection. In AIDS, it occurs late in disease—too late to prevent serious symptoms—and may not work properly at all. By contrast, those people with KS who respond best to interferon have higher T-cell levels and fewer symptoms.

Even though people with AIDS have high levels of interferon in the blood, that interferon seems to fail in its effort to inhibit HIV. Why? Bryan Williams from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto presented evidence that people with AIDS have one-fifth the normal number of *receptors* for interferon. Perhaps the body, flooded

with interferon in the blood, shuts down the receptors in an attempt to maintain homeostasis.

Williams also presented evidence that interferon increases levels of tumor necrosis factor (TNF) in people with AIDS. Increased levels of TNF have been noted in PWAs, and have been linked with anemia and the wasting syndrome. Interferon itself, since it interferes with RNA and protein activity, can cause blood deficiencies on its own. Neutropenia (white blood cell deficiency) is a major side effect of recombinant interferon.

Interferon also stimulates the production of two of the most commonly used "surrogate markers" for AIDS progression, beta-2-microglobulin and neopterin. Beta-2 levels are doubled in

## Even though PWAs have high levels of interferon in the blood, it seems to fail to inhibit HIV.

feron were noted in people with AIDS, and those at risk, by Joseph Sonnabend and others as long ago as 1981. At first, these results were well-known and published widely. Later, after the discovery of HIV, they receded in prominence, and were indeed virtually abandoned by the mainstream of AIDS researchers for several years. Now it is becoming clear once again that the nature of the interferon defect in AIDS is an important clue to unresolved questions about its pathogenesis.

On March 31, Joseph Sonnabend held a conference sponsored by Community Research Initiative (CRI/New York) devoted to bringing together researchers working on interferon as a part of the HIV disease process and as

PWAs, and neopterin levels rise five-fold as disease progresses.<sup>2</sup>

Just because interferon levels are elevated in people with AIDS does not necessarily imply that these levels are bad—although the possibility that interferon stimulates TNF is ominous—interferon may be trying (unsuccessfully) to exert an antiviral effect. If the defects in the interferon system can be corrected, perhaps these elevated levels can be rendered antiviral, or can be lowered by treatment.

Elena Buimovici-Klein from St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital in New York presented evidence that interferon levels do decline with AZT therapy. She studied p24-antigen-positive people with AIDS enrolled in a study of chronic AZT vs. intermittent AZT. At the start of AZT therapy, their p24 levels dropped sharply, in parallel with interferon levels, which dropped from 128 international units to four units within a single week. *Natural alpha interferon levels are a surrogate marker for antiviral therapy.* When AZT was stopped every other week (in the intermittent AZT arm), p24 and interferon levels bounced back. They went up and down together, in a parallel fashion.

For the people on chronic AZT therapy, both p24 and interferon levels stayed down for nine weeks. *Then interferon levels began to rise* by the ninth week. After 33 weeks, so did the p24-antigen levels. *Interferon predicts disease progression before p24 appears.* It may be the most sensitive marker we have for showing how long AZT suppresses viral activity (until development of a commercial plasma viremia assay). Buimovici-Klein and co-workers, including Sonnabend, tested interferon and AZT in a test tube (in uninfected cells) to ensure that AZT does not *directly* inhibit interferon. It doesn't. Thus, the decline in interferon levels after AZT treatment seems directly linked to AZT's antiviral effects.

Next week: Interferon as a treatment for AIDS?

1. At the CRI Interferon Conference, March 31, 1990, NYC.

2. Charles Rinaldo, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, from MACS (Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study) data, 3.31.90. ▼

#### TIRED from page 35

ny depression which may be part of the CFS illness, or caused by its disabling symptoms. The prescription for exercise must be carefully considered, as some people with CFS cannot tolerate exercise or do not benefit from it. Diet advice is highly controversial but obviously a wholesome, varied diet is helpful. Many suggest an elimination diet to look for offending allergens, or an anti-candida diet as part of the program when systemic yeast is suspected.

*Supplements/Vitamins:* High on the suggested list are B12, folic acid, Vitamin

C. Others commonly reported are BHT, Co-enzyme Q-10, L-lysine, selenium, zinc, acidophilus and primrose oil.

For further information on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, contact:

CFIDS,  
P.O. Box 220398,  
Charlotte, NC 28222;  
(704) 362- CFID, or the

New York City CFS Association,  
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## A Call to Riot—Part 2

The state of AIDS research is in terrible condition.

A scandal as horrific and wasteful as anything at Savings & Loan or HUD is going on right under everybody's noses, and nobody is reporting it.

The rise in cases is not being publicized. Doctors across the country no longer report cases. And yet the Centers for Disease Control manufactures numbers and statistics to suit any and all arguments.

Since my last article, seven more men I know have died. Half a dozen more have advanced to official AIDS. The T cells of three others have declined below 500.

You don't read about any of this in *The New York Times*.

An incompetent, vindictive, *New York Times* reporter, Gina Kolata, (christened by ACT UP "the worst AIDS reporter in America"), has become so obsessed with her vendetta against ACT UP that she manufactures false arguments (about ddI) to destroy the expanded access to promising lifesaving treatments, preferring to punish us with her selfishness rather than helping us to survive by writing the truth.

The *Times*' editorial writer, Nicholas Wade, has joined Kolata, displaying a suburban naiveté and an equally murderous insensitivity to the issues.

(It has been thrilling to watch the courageous action of Marilyn Chase, one of the best AIDS reporters in America, who got her paper, *The Wall Street Journal*, to immediately retract the misinformation Kolata and the *Times* so blithely cranked out to the world. That must be a first—one major newspaper's AIDS reporter correcting another—in print!)

Why isn't the *Times*—and every other newspaper and magazine and network—going after the *real* culprits in this murder story?

I want to try and make you understand something that is complicated.

The biggest scandal going on right now (and yes, I know it changes from year to year) involves Principal Investigators. You've probably never even heard of them. All of these Principal Investigators are not only AIDS researchers but they are also teachers at America's major universities and medical centers. These academic facilities make up what is called the ACTG program (AIDS Clinical Trials Group: one or more hospital or medical school in each major city belongs to this network and each of them receives millions of taxpayer dollars—each year!—for so belonging) and this program is the (cold)

world of overwhelming death, are running the ACTG like some sort of Mother Church that is holier than thou and above and beyond criticism.

These PIs—and the equally as out of touch scientists at the NIH (which selects the PIs and controls them like puppets by the giving and withholding of these million-dollar grants to their voracious institutions)—are getting away with murder.

As millions of people become infected, as tens of thousands die, this ACTG system proceeds along its hateful way, *sabotaging* anything these PIs don't agree with. God forbid they should test anything but their beloved AZT, ddI, ddC and CD4. God forbid they should run small studies on any of the 50 to 100 drugs backed up on their shelves. God forbid they should run tests on combinations of therapies. God forbid they should test treatments for the opportunistic infections most AIDS patients die from. God forbid they should acknowledge any treatment available abroad. God forbid they should test drugs not manufactured by one of the companies that have them on their payrolls as "consultants." (Talk about "Conflict of Interest"! Almost every major PI receives large fees from one or more pharmaceutical manufacturer.)

Thus we are hardly further along on the road to health than we were four years ago.

The ACTG system has come to a grinding halt. Without a leader among them, with nothing but puppets and copycats, the PIs have formed themselves into so many committees and subcommittees and committees-within-committees and "peer" review panels that nobody ever has to make any decision at all. If any decision is required, yet another committee must be formed. No wonder so few people are able to qualify for entry into their controlled clinical trials (the ones they've got \$1

---

### We have been able to revolutionize the FDA. Now we must do the same thing to the NIH.

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heart and (vicious) soul of NIAID—the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, at the National Institutes of Health.

This program is given *one billion dollars* by Congress to test AIDS drugs and treatments.

But the Principal Investigators, called PIs, are *not* testing AIDS drugs and treatments. (Their current "excuse" is that their computer data bank has broken down.) And when they do test, they select badly and test even worse. In fact, as Mark Harrington has written brilliantly in a recent *Village Voice* article, the ACTG is drowning in waste, fraud, corruption and mismanagement.

They are, in fact, pissing one billion dollars down the toilet.

Like Cardinal O'Connor, these PIs, obsessed with secrecy, with that head-in-the-clouds attitude of all academics out of touch with the real world and certainly out of touch with our real

billion for and nobody signs up for); there have been so many committees deciding on entry criteria that by now these trials are so restrictive that only the healthy are healthy enough to qualify.

Supervising this mess is a truly incompetent boob, Dr. Daniel Hoth.

Welcome to the world of government-sponsored and conducted research—the research that is supposed to save our lives and look after our health.

Forget it. We'll all be dead while they're still at a committee meeting.

God forbid the ACTG should listen to *other* doctors, doctors who aren't a part of their Secret Society—such as the biostatisticians who have proved that controlled clinical trials can be just as effective if they are *not* restrictive—in other words, open to *anyone or everyone no matter what stage of AIDS they are at or what other treatments they are taking or what other trials they may be on at the same time*. In other words: trials simple enough and broad enough that anyone with AIDS or HIV-positive can enter them.

If this miraculous plan that the biostatisticians are suggesting were put into immediate operation, hundreds of thousands of people would be eligible for the most promising treatments.

But then, how could the ACTG system, which has collapsed trying to set up multi-center trials of a few hundred patients each, ever in a million years be able to effectively conduct multi-center trials with tens of thousands?

Obviously and tragically it can't.

And that is why we are going to continue to die until George Bush puts someone in charge of AIDS and someone in charge of ACTG who is not an incompetent boob and until something like the Manhattan Project (which made the atom bomb) is put into place, run by a leader and not by the nightmare of a thousand committees.

This is America today: all bureaucracy, no brains.

This is America today: *212 new AIDS cases a day. One new AIDS death every 12 minutes. ONE NEW HIV INFECTION EVERY MINUTE.*

Have I helped you to understand how and why we still are being consigned to death?

Last month, I wrote imploring you to be in San Francisco from June 20 to

See **KRAMER** on page 41

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## GAY BROADCASTING SYSTEM

# ▼ GLAAD TIDINGS ▼

GLAAD Tidings is a program of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. For more information about the material in this week's column, or about GLAAD, call (212) 966-1700.

**A**ccording to best-selling author Tom Clancy, **GAY EQUALS AIDS.**

Writer Tom Clancy has produced two best-selling novels in the past few years, *The Hunt for Red October*, the movie version of which just came out, and *Clear and Present Danger*.

Clancy's books are political thrillers with a strong right-wing bent. For him, only two things are worse than a communist—an American who is anything less than a love-it-or-leave-it patriot, and any gay man or lesbian. Gay people appear in his novels, but always as malicious stereotypes and always as "the enemy."

Now Clancy is getting into homophobic political commentary as well. During a recent symposium on global affairs, he asked:

"What can you say about a country that tolerates homosexuals and not smokers?"

And then he added: "I never gave anyone AIDS."

In making these comments, Clancy was acting just like the bad guys in his novels, twisting truth, in this case about AIDS, to perpetuate the official oppression of people he doesn't understand or like—lesbians and gay men. He purports to be a defender of freedom, but is in fact interested in freedom only for people who are just like him.

Remembering that Clancy reaches—and miseducates millions—of people, we urge you to write to condemn his bigotry and remind him that fundamental to the freedom he extols is tolerance—respect for the freedom of others.

Write to: Tom Clancy, c/o Putnam

Publications, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10013.

Recently, the NBC adventure series *Quantum Leap* had an episode in which a lesbian tried to kill her lover, who wanted to leave her for a man. Earlier this year, a story line involved two adult men who kidnapped and tried to rape a 16-year-old boy. The show's hero, Sam, kicked the daylights out of the two "sickos," after which the boy, who had been uneasy around girls, finds a girlfriend.

What is most upsetting is that *Quantum Leap* has gained critical praise for championing traditional underdogs, such as women confronting sexual harassment, Blacks, facing racial bigotry, and, in one episode, a mentally retarded boy who faced ignorance and fear from his family and co-workers.

Needless to say, the show has never had a story about the scorn and discrimination gays and lesbians face. Instead, we're given the worst negative stereotypes of murderous lesbians and child-molesting "sickos."

*Quantum Leap* owes us an accurate and accepting picture of gays and lesbians to balance the stereotypes it has reinforced. Write Donald P. Bellisario, Executive Producer, *Quantum Leap*, Belisarius Productions, c/o Universal Studios, Universal City, CA

91608 and cc: Dr. Rosalyn Weinman, Vice President Program Standards, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112.

In a previous column, we reported on a pattern at *The New York Times* of misreporting the sexual orientation of victims of violent deaths. In particular, we highlighted an incident from last month in which the paper misidentified the female lover of a woman killed by a stray bullet as her boyfriend.

At the time that column was written, *The New York Times* was refusing to run a correction. We are happy to report that, after receiving many calls from gays and lesbians intent on seeing the truth told, the *Times* finally did the right thing. The correction, which ran in the March 20 issue, read: "Because of an editing error, an article last Thursday about a Brooklyn woman, Loretta Rivera, who was killed by a stray bullet referred incorrectly to a photograph she carried. It was of her companion, Liz Melendez, not of a man."

It is a small victory, but a victory nonetheless. And it demonstrates that your letters and telephone calls demanding fairness in the media, whether done in response to this column or something you learned about somewhere else, work! ▼

# FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA



24, in order to massively disrupt the Sixth International AIDS Conference.

This month, I implore you to commence your summer of fury a bit earlier—on *May 21st*, on the beautiful campus of the National Institutes of Health in sunny Bethesda, Maryland, just outside of peachy Washington, D.C.

*On that Monday morning, May 21st, from 7 am until noon, ACT UP chapters from all across America will be staging one of the biggest national actions in our history—one to rival in depth, imagination, anger and importance the famous demonstration we held, in that same swell town, at the Food and Drug Administration.*

That FDA demonstration (in October 1988) was successful beyond our wildest dreams. Our anger and our numbers were able to translate themselves over this past year and a half into historic changes in the drug approval process.

We have been able to revolutionize the FDA. We have shaved and saved years from the red tape that the FDA was strangling in and that was stragling us. We made history.

Now we must do the same thing to the NIH. We must force them to extricate themselves from the morass of committees, PIs, delays, red tape, stupidities, all the dumb things that have ground the drug selection and testing process to a standstill.

(In other words, the FDA approves treatments and the NIH selects and tests treatments and the NIH is now in such awful shape that they are not presenting the FDA with any treatments to approve.)

And we are dying for it. We're the disposable bodies they can toss down the toilets with our billion bucks.

Have you followed all this? I hope so.

Please be with me at NIH on May 21st.

Please be with me in San Francisco from June 20 to 24.

Once again, I ask you to make copies of this call to action and pass it around. (Gay press—please feel free to reprint.)

We've got to show our numbers, how many of us are fed-up, angry and afraid. ▼

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# A CHURCH

"Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of responsibility in presenting [the candidate] for ordination to the sacred priesthood. Therefore if any of you know any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now, and make it known."

*If no objection is made, the Bishop continues...  
—from the Book of Common Prayer*

Objections were voiced by protesters both inside and outside All Saints Church in Hoboken, New Jersey, on Sunday, December 16, 1989, but they didn't deter Bishop Jack Spong of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark from laying hands on Robert J. Williams and consecrating him a priest. In the eyes of some traditionally-minded Episcopalians, Williams possessed "impediment or crime" enough to forbid his ever being ordained a professional person of God within the Anglican communion.

Williams, whose name is by now familiar to both gay and straight Americans of both churched and unchurched persuasions, is, of course, the unapologetically "100 percent sex-positive" gay man who caused such a stir back in January—about a month after his ordination—when he announced to a gathering in Detroit that celibacy is probably bad for you, that sexual monogamy isn't the same thing as "faithfulness" and that a certain Nobel Prize-winning saint-in-the-making who plucks the dying from the gutters of Calcutta would be better off if she got laid.

Williams' remarks, first reported in the *Detroit News* and immediately picked up by the wire services and broadcast internationally, earned him immediate induction into the ranks of traitors (at least as far as some Episcopalians were concerned) and talk-show guests. He was abandoned by his bishop, compelled to resign from the Hoboken-based Oasis Ministry to lesbians and gays that he had helped to found, told to keep his mouth shut and threatened with an ecclesiastical trial.

The media furor has dissolved by now, but the questions concerning the place of out, non-celibate—and nonmonogamous—lesbians and gay men within the Episcopal church and other Protestant denominations aren't likely to disappear so quickly. Gay and lesbian Christians, who have



# DIVIDED

struggled for two decades for total acceptance within the churches, continue to confront the ambiguous prospects determined by, on the one hand, militantly antigay Bible-thumpers and, on the other, that ever-increasing share of mainline Protestants willing to acknowledge that homosexuals, too, must be accorded places at every level in the kingdom (or perhaps the representative democracy) of God.

The interview with Williams and his lover, Jim Skelley, that appears here was conducted at their home in New Jersey in mid-February by *OutWeek* reporter Keith Miller. In a follow-up telephone conversation last week, Williams told *OutWeek* that his life has become somewhat quieter in the intervening weeks. He's receiving a few less invitations to speak, has begun work on an autobiography (working title: *Prophet Without Honor*), for which he has signed a contract with a literary agent, and is looking forward to enrolling later this year in a doctoral program in human sexuality at New York University. A collection of Williams' sermons is also being readied for publication.

He hasn't been defrocked yet, and, in fact, against his bishop's orders he continues to speak publicly and to exercise his priestly duties to a limited extent, officiating at a number of same-sex unions and blessing the houses of friends. He doubts that he'll ever be subjected to a church trial. "They'll only discover that I've been saying the same things for ten years," he declares, and he thinks church authorities won't dare the expense of money, spirit or bad publicity such an inquisition would entail.

But, unsurprisingly, he finds himself wondering about his future commitment to Episcopalianism. He finds the denomination less liberal than it once was, and is depressed, for example, by a recent document released by Edmond Browning, the primate of the Episcopal Church in America, and his Council of Advisers in which those bishops officially dissociate themselves from Williams' ordination.

But he says he has turned down entreaties to become a minister in the gay and lesbian Metropolitan Community Church, whose worship style is too evangelical for his taste. On Sundays these days, Williams attends services at a parish of the Liberal Catholic church in Manhattan.

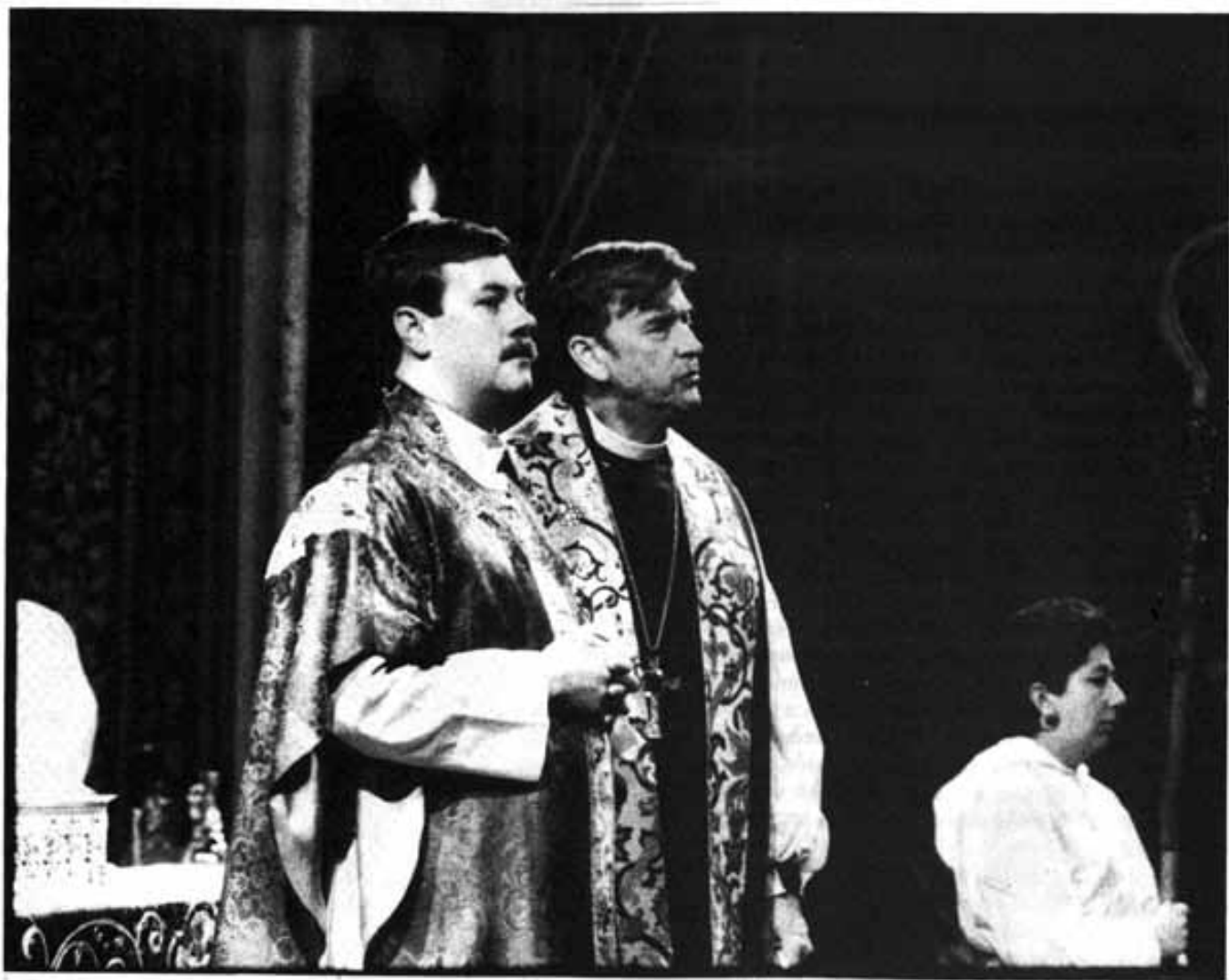
—James Waller



# Faith, Hope and Chastity?

**The Rev. Robert Williams may have fired the first shot of a sexual revolution within the Episcopal Church. Or maybe he just put lesbians and gays in that church back a hundred years.**

by James Waller



"Father Williams was being baited."

That's how Kate DeSmet, the *Detroit News* reporter who broke the Williams story, explained it to me. On a Friday evening in January, she was covering an Episcopal church-sponsored

Photo Above: The Rev. Robert Williams (left) stands alongside Bishop Spong during the ordination at All Saints Church in Hoboken. Photo: T. L. Litt

colloquium on same-sex marriages for her regular Saturday religion column. Not the sort of get-together that usually draws national headlines.

But one of the speakers that evening was the Rev. Robert J. Williams, whose ordination to the priesthood as a noncelibate gay man had drawn national media attention barely a month before. Williams was saying some pretty radical things (for

instance, that sexual monogamy is not a prerequisite for a good relationship, straight or gay) but the event would probably have passed more-or-less unnoticed if he hadn't let one of his listeners get his ire up.

DeSmet says that Williams was taking questions from the audience when someone—a man who heads an Episcopal monastic order in Michigan—pressed Williams on his

anti-celibacy stand and wouldn't let up. Exasperated when the questioner asked if Williams thought Mother Teresa would be more fulfilled if she had a sexual relationship, Williams answered, "If she got laid? Yeah."

I asked DeSmet how the audience reacted. "There was an audible gasp," she said.

And that collective intake of breath has proven contagious. Since Williams' dismissal, many lesbian and gay priests and others working for gay rights within the Episcopal church feel their ministries—and the larger goal of the church's full recognition of its lesbian and gay members—have been put on hold or actually pushed backward because of the heated controversy.

A measure of the chilling effect of the Williams debacle can be taken from the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, whose convention decided—just a few weeks after Williams made his remarks at the symposium on same-sex marriages that was sponsored by that diocese—to prohibit priests from blessing homosexual unions.

Williams' ordination as a gay priest was supposed to signal the beginning of a new era of openness about homosexuality within American Anglicanism; sadly, just the reverse seems to have occurred. Several gay and lesbian Episcopalians interviewed for this article refused to allow themselves to be identified by name. Others balked at being described, even anonymously, in ways that might pinpoint their identities too closely; still others were quite willing to talk only as long as most of what they had to say was kept strictly "off the record."

"The voices of everyone have been silenced," says one source, a gay layperson in the Diocese of Newark who has worked closely with lesbian, gay and straight people in the diocese. "I can't speak to you as [myself] after Robert's choice."

Others direct their anger at Bishop Spong for what they see as his mishandling of Williams' ordination and the events that have followed. Spong's first sin, according to many, was to turn the ordination into a media event. Williams' transformation into a national celebrity was largely Spong's doing.

Heavy criticism has fallen on the bishop's office for the news releases it issued prior to Williams' ordination,

falsely advertising it as the first time an openly gay, noncelibate person would be elevated to the Episcopal priesthood—a claim that much of the press simply regurgitated. (*OutWeek*, unfortunately, was no exception.)

But at least a dozen lesbians and gay men have been openly ordained as Episcopal priests during the past decade—though without the tambourines and trumpets that attended Williams' ordination. Many other priests who were closeted when ordained have come out in recent years. In fact, one—the Rev. Zalman Sherwood, who now works in the Diocese of Michigan—has even published a book about his struggle to become an openly gay priest.

"The publicity was a put-down or insult to others who had gone through the process," says the Rev. Paul Woodrum, a gay priest who functions in the Diocese of New York.

He and others echo Williams' criticisms of the Bishop of Newark: "When the priest asked Spong for advice, he didn't get much."

Woodrum adds that it was ironic that Spong became so upset about Williams' statements on monogamy, since the questions Williams has raised about human sexuality are not so different from questions asked by Spong in his published reflections on the subject.

"[Williams] wasn't saying anything new," Woodrum says.

Indeed, the media attention surrounding Williams has tended to obscure the fact that intense discussions on the topics of human sexuality and the place of lesbians and gay men within the church have been going on within Anglicanism and other mainline Protestant denominations for the past 20 years.

**Though the Episcopal church** has been portrayed, in many news

accounts, as a hotbed of liberalism when it comes to acceptance of lesbians and gays, the denomination in fact lags far behind several others, notably the United Church of Christ (UCC), the Unitarian-Universalist Association and the Society of Friends (Quakers).

The UCC ordained its first openly gay minister, the Rev. Bill Johnson, in 1972. Johnson, who now serves as the program secretary of the UCC's Board of Homeland Ministries, sympathizes with Williams when he remembers the often uncomfortable media attention he received back then. "I was often misquoted and it didn't take very long to see how distortions made their way into print," he reflects.

But Johnson is not very forgiving of what he sees as Williams' recklessness: "I would hope he would give some thought to how destructive his milking of dubious celebrity can be to hundreds of lesbians and gay men who are called to ministry." Johnson believes that the Williams affair has



**NO GAME PLAYING** — The Rev. Jim Mitulski of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco



**"SAME KINDS OF QUESTIONS"**

Photo: Michael Wakefield

*New Oasis Ministry honcho Kathy Ragsdale*

already forced many lesbian and gay clergy inside and outside the Anglican community to retreat into their closets.

Other Protestants involved in forwarding the cause of lesbian and gay acceptance within their denominations are more sanguine when assessing the damage the Williams affair has caused. The Rev. Scott Alexander, who heads up the Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns of the Unitarian Universalist Association, said that the Williams controversy would have "no fallout, as far as I can see" that might impair the progress of lesbian and gay rights within Unitarianism. The 1,000-congregation association has more than 60 openly lesbian or gay ministers.

But Alexander adds his voice to the many who have questioned Williams' judgement: "My personal opinion is that the guy is real stupid," he offers. "With hundreds of closeted Episcopal clergy who are just dying to have their bishops accept them, he owed it to his colleagues to be circumspect."

More willing to take Williams' part was James Anderson, the communications secretary of Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. Anderson's denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), continues to deny ordination to practicing lesbians and gay men.

"I think the reaction [by Episcopal church officials] has been somewhat pharisaical," Anderson opines. "They have a very physical definition of monogamy, which they equate with touching someone else in a sexual manner."

News reports—in the gay press as well as the national media—have also ignored the phenomenal growth and maturation during recent years of the Metropolitan Community Church, an international lesbian and gay denomination that has often taken the theological lead in mainline Protestants' debates about human sexuality. (In fact, in his remarks at the Detroit symposium, Williams relied on a book by MCC theologian Larry Uhrig in making the distinction between "monogamy" and "faithfulness.")

The Rev. Jim Mitulski, pastor of MCC of San Francisco, defends Williams. "He challenged their official stance on celibacy and monogamy and he embarrassed the bishop," says Mitulski, who sees the last of these "sins" as the one that hurt Williams most.

"Personally I think he said what a lot of gay people feel. At MCC we don't have to play that game—it's the reason we're in separatist churches."

Crediting Williams with "speaking what people in fact live," Mitulski strongly feels that the official Episcopal church line on monogamy is "very similar to the Catholic Church saying its members don't practice birth control." He points out that Williams' claim to speak about monogamy from the "experience of urban gay males during this part of the 20th century" seems quite legitimate on the basis of sociological evidence compiled by researchers David McWhirter and Andrew Mattison and published in their book, *The Male Couple*, in 1984. McWhirter and Mattison studied 156 male couples and found no couple within their sample remained sexually monogamous after five years together.

Mitulski also draws a parallel between Bishop Spong's enjoining Williams to desist from public speaking and the Vatican's wholesale silencing, in recent years, of maverick priests and renegade Catholic theologians.

Compared with many Protestant denominations, the Episcopal church has a fairly rigid, hierarchical power structure. Policy is set by bishops. Priests are required to be obedient to those bishops. The issues of Episcopal authority and betrayal of priestly trust raised by the Williams case may appear arcane to some outside observers, including Protestant Christians from other, less hierarchical traditions, but they are central to the controversy Williams' words have engendered.

Kathy Ragsdale, who has directed the Oasis Ministry at All Saints Church in Hoboken since Williams was asked to resign in late January, admits that Williams' remarks on celibacy and monogamy were not, in themselves, all that remarkable. "It's clear that they are the same kinds of questions that are being asked by reputable theologians," she says.

"But," she is quick to add, "they are clearly not the position of the bishop of this diocese."

For Ragsdale, Williams' dismissal from the Oasis Ministry hinged on his unwillingness to gracefully acknowledge his mistake and to submit to Spong's rule. "I think the [Oasis] board would have gone to the wall to protect Robert if he were in danger of losing his job because of making those remarks. But he wasn't willing to work with us," she says.

Her sentiments are reiterated by Dr. Louie Crew, the founder of Integrity, the nationwide association of lesbian and gay Episcopalians. "It's a very Episcopalian matter," says

Crew, who serves on the board of Oasis and who was one of those who voted to request Williams' resignation. "You can't expect [a bishop] to oversee you when he's on your side but not when he's not. I think Robert was much less sensitive to Jack than vice versa."

Crew thinks that the painful aftereffects of the Williams debacle will be unevenly distributed, and that Spong stands to lose much more than Williams: "Many people have called for Bishop Spong's resignation," he says, "That they're asking for Jack to resign for going public about this—I think that's a dreadful message to send to the world."

**Some non-Episcopalian** Protestants are tempted to see elements of psychopathology in the mutual accusations of betrayal that were thrown back and forth between Williams and Spong during the days following Williams' resignation. UCC's Johnson put it this way: "In a real sense, Robert Williams and Bishop Spong are acting out their personal psycho-social-sexual dramas in the public sphere rather than in the privacy of a therapeutic setting."

"I think there was some dysfunctional behavior in [the Diocese of Newark's] presentation of Robert Williams as their first gay priest," says MCC's Mitulski. "Bishop Spong presented this as a prophetic act, but a more prophetic thing would have been to acknowledge that the Episcopal Church has always ordained gay people. People within and without the Episcopal Church know that there's a large percentage of gay clergy in the church."

The attack on institutional hypocrisy that is implicit in the things Williams has said is certainly an under-reported aspect of his message. One is almost tempted to see the affair as a symptom of what might be termed an "institutional neurosis." That neurosis grows out of the repression of the undeniable fact that gay men and lesbian women constitute a pretty hefty proportion of both clergy and laity in many mainline denominations.

Several sources corroborate Williams' claim that the board of directors of the Oasis Ministry is stacked with members who are closeted gays and lesbians, lending credence to Williams' claim that homophobia on the part of homosexuals constitutes one of the reasons for his ouster.

And a "neurotic" denial mechanism might also be detected in Spong's call for a thorough re-examination of the process by which Williams was approved for ordination. For by all accounts, Williams was Spong's "golden boy" whose candidacy for the ordained ministry was not only championed, but shepherded by the bishop.

Both of the diocesan committees that evaluated Williams' candidacy have reportedly rejected Spong's suggested "audit" of their screening procedures. Curiously, Williams, who was contacted by phone last week, said that he had heard nothing of this decision.

Sadly, two important elements seem to be missing from the public debate that has raged around the Williams "tragedy."

The first is any acknowledgment that the Episcopal church has, in dismissing Williams from the Oasis post, lost not only a prophetic voice but also a quietly effective priest. Just before his dismissal, Williams performed a "blessing" of the marriage of a Hoboken gay couple, Randy Wicker and David Combs. Wicker had heard of Williams because of the



**MEDIA MANGLED**

Photo: Michael Wakefield

The Rev. Bill Johnson of the United Church of Christ

publicity surrounding the ordination, and he sought out the priest when Combs, who was dying of AIDS, expressed his wish to be married to his life-partner.

Wicker says that Williams gave him and Combs no sign of the ecclesiastical trouble he was in during that Sunday evening in late January when the ceremony was performed. "He called just before he was supposed to arrive to say that he would be a few minutes late," Wicker said, "but he didn't say why." Wicker and Combs were aghast when they learned from the following day's *New York Times* that Williams had just been forced to resign from Oasis.

Also missing from the debate is even the least shred of a sense of humor. However unmistakable a gaffe Williams' comment about Mother Teresa may have been, it is also funny, albeit in a lowbrow kind of way.

And his wit was in evidence again when he appeared on *Donabue* a few weeks ago. When a woman in the audience told him that, as a homosexual, he was destined for hell, he responded by sliding his voice into a high-pitched Bible-Belt revivalist's drawl: "Yeah," he said, "I remember when they used to tell us, 'You gonna fry like sausages!'"

It's a shame that Williams' humor—or "flippancy" as the media terms it—seems to work only to his detriment. For too many in the church, sex is *never, ever* a laughing matter. ▼

(Research assistance: Kim Byam, Thom Cbu, Mary Ellen Haines.)

# The Missionary's Position

## Preaching a Truly Unique Sort of Scripture, the Reverend Robert Williams has become the Prophet of Good Sex

When Rev. Robert Williams was dismissed from the directorship of the Oasis Ministry in January, it was the shot heard 'round the world. The mainstream media, ever-interested in chronicling what they perceived as the demise of an openly-gay priest, swooped down on the Hoboken man.

All of the reports focused on one aspect of the story: Williams' statement about Mother Teresa and how it was so "vulgar" that it caused his immediate ouster.

But no one spoke of Williams' radical sexual politics in the context of modern gay America.

Some time after the smoke cleared, *OutWeek's* KEITH MILLER visited with Williams and his lover, James Skelley, at their railroad-flat apartment in Hoboken.

Speaking with Williams extensively, Miller reveals a devout man who wants more than anything to preach the word of God and the wonders of gay sex—both at the same time.

**Keith Miller:** Why did you decide to become a priest?

**Robert Williams:** That's a difficult question. First of all, I've always been a religious person. I started out as a Southern Baptist. And, as a Baptist, I was deeply involved in my church, very involved in my youth group in high school. I had considered becoming a Baptist minister of some sort but, you know, I even went to a Southern Baptist college with that intention. I was going to go to the Baptist Seminary and then it all sort of—actually it was before I came out, it was more like an intellectual collision.

**KM:** That's what I mean. Earlier in your life. What's your earliest recollection of wanting to be a priest?

**RW:** I do remember as a kid playing Baptism.

**KM:** No...

**RW:** I did, yeah! And you know Baptism in the Baptist Church is submergence, so to baptize someone was to dunk them under the water.

And it's one of the few elements of liturgy that the Baptist Church has, so, you know, I was always fascinated with officiating at church, but it wasn't the preaching so much or any of the other things that Baptists hold up as the liturgical part, which was kind of sparse.

**KM:** And you liked the robes too.

**RW:** Yeah. But they didn't have them! The minister would just wear a coat and tie. I can't explain it any other way than using vocation in the classical sense of the word. It really is almost an obsession, if you will. It always has been. A number of my past relationships or potential relationships ended because my boyfriends just couldn't deal with the intensity of my religious experience and it's just sort of something that's always been there.

**KM:** How do you deal with it now, James?

**James Skelley:** His religious intensity or his intensity for his cause?

**RW:** I don't see them as being different.

**KM:** Yes. Aren't they the same thing?

**JS:** I've had this feeling lately that I don't know if I can even understand it. I really don't. And the intensity of the whole religious thing for Robert is something that has never been there for me. He's gotten me back into the church. I'm basically a recovering Roman Catholic and I like it—and like the sense of the community and that's a lot of what it is for me. I don't really understand. It's just not something that I can conceptualize, I guess.

**KM:** It's not something you choose to understand?

**JS:** I've tried. It's just that I can't get it.

**KM:** When you look at him you just see Robert? You don't really see *The Reverend J. Robert Williams*?

**JS:** Yeah.

**KM:** Robert, where did you get your personal concept of monogamy and celibacy?

**RW:** First of all, it's not my personal concept. At a conference, and in a written statement, I was quoting from Larry Urig—he's an MCC minister in Washington—and he had done a book on blessing of same-sex relationships. I used that book for a lot of different things on the whole topic of covenant of the same-sex relationships and it seemed to me a pretty good statement of what I had believed, and what I think a lot of gay men believe. What is important is that the couple make an intentional agreement and kept it. Whatever the agreement is. It's not unique or original. It's just sort of one very popular position that you'd hear.

**KM:** And this is something that hit home with you? You found yourself saying, "Yes, that's what I believe?"

**RW:** Yeah. Except what's important is that I—you know, this whole thing about both celibacy and monogamy is that I have strong opinions on them as I do on just about everything, but they're probably numbers 95 and 103 on my list of what's important to me. They're not major issues. They only became issues because the press picked it up and they found it to be so volatile and fascinating. The monogamy thing especially—it never really occurred to me that it was going to be an issue. It's something I've said before in other public forums. It's something I've written before. It's just not a big deal. Jim and I did a workshop for same sex couples which was essentially a gay marriage encounter, uh—how many years ago?

**JS:** About three now.

**RW:** And before it happened I did a



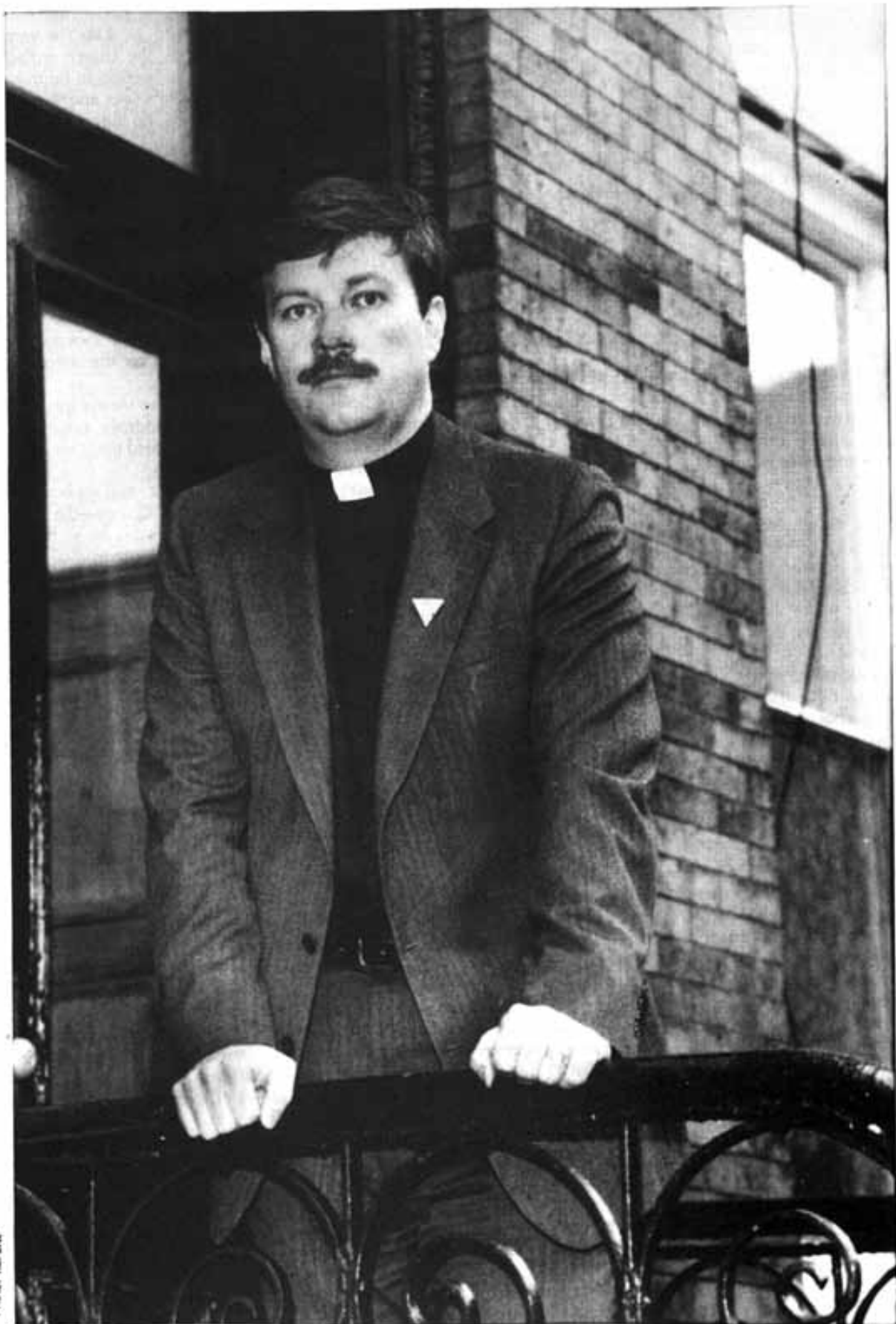


Photo: T.L. Litt

demographic survey—I just wanted to know who we were dealing with—what sorts of couples, what ages, how long they've been together and all of that. Well, we asked on this anonymous little survey "do you have an agreement for sexual exclusivity?" and almost exactly 50 percent of them said yes and 50 percent said no. And the ones who said no intended to be the older couples. Not that they were necessarily typical—it was a very small sample, but it said to me it's almost evenly divided in the community among those who choose monogamy and those who don't.

**KM:** What about the two of you?  
[Pause]

**JS:** Yes, we uh...monogamy is what we personally prefer. But...I'm...I'm reluctant to answer that question for anybody because that's not what this is all about. If we're asked that in the future I will say just that's my own personal business.

**RW:** One of the things that, in fact, has pissed us off is that the bishop has made a tremendous leap from my opinions about sexual opinions to my personal behavior. He's made implications about my personal behavior without any knowledge.

**JS:** A couple of people have written to him saying—letters to the bishop pertinent to Robert saying—that [he's made assumptions about me] so, we're not the only people thinking that. And the other thing is that I understand that most heterosexual people going through this—the ordination process—aren't asked these questions. And one of the people who wrote to Spong said, you know, what right do you have to ask Robert, and who asked what you were doing between the time your wife died and the time you remarried, and no one did, and who has the right to, and who cares? Who should care? It's his own private business.

**RW:** The only thing I have said before in public is that I happen to be in a monogamous relationship at this point in my life. I see that as nothing more than a choice, not even a moral choice, you know, it's simply a matter of preference. It's like choosing vanilla over

"I really try to operate from a philosophical base that is 100 percent sex-positive. It starts with an affirmation that sex is a good thing. Period."

chocolate ice cream. Before I was in a monogamous relationship, when I was single, I had multiple sexual partners and loved it. Zero regrets about that period in my life. One of my concerns about what we're doing here—what the institutional church is doing here—is that, as we move closer to the acceptance of gay and lesbian couples, we're further marginalizing gay and lesbian single people. So it's OK to be gay if you're in a monogamous relationship but it's still not OK to be gay in any other way. And that's why I'm really trying to avoid getting—becoming a part of it.

**KM:** You're trying to cast a positive light on sex in general?

**RW:** I really try to operate from a philosophical base that is 100 percent sex-positive. It starts with an affirmation that sex is a good thing. Period. It doesn't have to stand for anything, either procreation or love. It's just good in and of itself. And so, that's the lens through which I see any kind of decision about sexual ethics that I make. As opposed to starting with a philosophy that says sex is very dangerous and must be narrowly channeled and controlled.

**KM:** That's why you said, "celibacy is an inherently negative phenomenon"?

**RW:** Yes. And I believe that very strongly. I've struggled with celibacy. Not personally, I mean—struggled with trying to respect celibacy for years. I used to have a spiritual director who's the superior of a religious order who was presumably celibate, although I never asked. I tried to understand. How can I possibly understand this as being a good thing—and I just can't! It just comes down that there is no way it can be justified apart from a sex-negative philosophy.

**KM:** The very fact that the church would teach a person to be true to themselves and then when you do they try to quash you.

**RW:** I'm a self-proclaimed gay man and a self-proclaimed sexual radical. And I've used that word to describe myself for years. So it seems to me that if you ordained a sexual radical, then you expect some radically different viewpoints in whatever discussions are being

held about it.

**KM:** These viewpoints aren't something that suddenly came out of you, then. You've held these views for a long, long time.

**RW:** Right. And especially—I mean, the Episcopal Church—the Anglican tradition has always been heavy, heavy emphasis on the individual as the moral agent. And so Bishop Spong's action in wanting to essentially silence me is so uncharacteristic of the Anglican tradition in general. Very uncharacteristic of the persona he had built for himself as being a liberal bishop. It's crazy. It's not at all consistent.

I'm not feeling good about the Episcopal Church anymore. I mean, I fell like, well, this is subject to change, but, at this moment what I'm feeling is that I really did believe the Episcopal Church was the best place—the best among the mainstream denominations as far as an acceptable place for lesbian and gay people. I really did believe that the Diocese of Newark was the best diocese among all of them. And now, it's like I don't see the Diocese of Newark or the Episcopal Church as being viable places for self-affirming lesbian and gay people. It's like—there's a certain amount of tolerance which has increased in the last few years, but it's still at a very—the level of tolerance of society in general. I'm at the point where I'm thinking—naaaaa. A couple of months ago I would not encourage anyone to remain in the Roman Catholic Church. If a person came to me and said I haven't been to church in 15 years, I was raised Roman Catholic and I'm thinking of going back, I would have said don't. Don't go back *there*. Come to the Episcopal Church. Now, I'm not sure I can say that. I feel like there was this illusion

that I bought into that mafia, not have been correct just increasingly thinking there is no mainstream church—no mainstream group that is truly affirming of lesbian and gay people who are truly self-affirming.

**KM:** Then why not your own church?

**RW:** Well, that's a question. A very good question. I think the MCC [Metropolitan Community Church] is impressive as far as that goes. I know, an excellent choice for some people. The only reason

I'm not in the MCC is the worship style—it's not my style. The Catholic worship style is really my preference.

**KM:** Well, you have your own strong beliefs, you have your own way of running a service and all you need is a space to worship in. Why do you have to be attached to some other group?

**RW:** Well, I agree and those are good questions and I see that as an open option. Frankly, it's just sort of—it just seems like it would take more time and energy than I may have right now.

**KM:** What do you want to put your energy into?

**RW:** I don't know. What I've always wanted to do primarily, is be a theologian and primarily a prophet, much more than a pastor. I'm really profoundly uncomfortable with one-on-one counseling. I do it and I do it relatively successfully, but, it just doesn't feel right. It doesn't feel like who I am. But I've always seen myself as seeing and writing in a radical vein. And I think that's what I really want to concentrate on now—getting into a way of doing that.

What's come of it is that I have acquired a literary agent who is very interested in my writing the biographical story. The story of not only all this recent stuff, but of my whole, sort of, spiritual and sexual quest. And, so I'm doing that and trying to do it very quickly because I think it's very hot right now and if I can get that book out it really paves the way—and she's convinced it's going to be a tremendous seller—then it might really pave the way for me to do the books of gay theology and the kinds of things I wanted to do all along. So, essentially it may amount to the "big break" as far as making that happen.

**"A prophet stands on the edge of the institution and critiques the institution. That's exactly what I've been doing all along."**

**KM:** You said you saw yourself as a prophet. Isn't that a dangerous thing to say?

**RW:** I see it very clearly. The week before the ordination, *The New York Times*, in the New Jersey section, ran a long interview and that was one of the things we talked about in there, that I see myself as more of a prophet than a priest, and [the reporter] said, "What do you mean by prophet?" and I said, well, a prophet stands on the edge of the institution and critiques the institution. I mean, that's exactly what I've been doing all along. But, I've also come to believe—come to realize—as a matter of strategy that I thought people knew what I meant when I said prophetic and in fact, they didn't. So now I've taken to using the word radical because there's less chance of misunderstanding. But to me, radical and prophetic mean essentially the same thing.

**KM:** You could influence a lot of people. Doesn't that scare you?

**RW:** Today it makes me weary. I'm sort of gun-shy right now about people's projections onto me, which is maybe the bottom line of what all this drama is about.

**JS:** I've been referring to myself lately as a shoulder pad. That's how I've been feeling.

**KM:** Robert, you said you were more concerned with "faithfulness" than with monogamy, but then isn't the very definition of not being monogamous being unfaithful?

**RW:** Well, in my use of those words what I'm saying is that what's important is that a couple make an intentional agreement and then they be faithful to that agreement. I don't care if that agreement is, you know, we have other—we

invite other people into our bed or whether that agreement is that on Friday night we go our separate ways—whatever the agreement is—it's being faithful to that agreement that matters. Faithfulness is making and keeping agreements, not sexual exclusivity.

**KM:** Is sexual exclusivity important in the age of AIDS?

**RW:** I don't think so. I'm very concerned that AIDS not be allowed to de-eroticize our society and one of my favorite lines is, "A condom is much more likely to prevent the spread of AIDS than a marriage license." If you have safe sex with 50 people, or unsafe sex with one, you know, the unsafe sex with one is more likely to give you AIDS. So, no, I really don't see there being a connection between those issues. Just that everybody in the world needs to be informed about safer sexual practices—but that doesn't mean you should stop being sexual.

**KM:** So the two of you are happy now with the way things are going?

**RW:** What? Life in general? Let me show you the button I bought recently—I could answer that question for ten minutes and give you three different answers—I was wearing this while I was in Dallas recently.

*(The yellow and black button reads: "My life is shit, but thank you for asking.")*

**KM:** You're real tired of all this aren't you?

**RW:** No...

**JS:** Yes. I'm very tired of it. I wish it had not happened.

**RW:** You know—this is from my Pastoral Theology class in seminary—the word "crisis" is the same root as "cross," but it means not only a tragic situation but also a crossroads—as a crisis is always a point of decision where you can go one way or the other. If you asked me a week ago I would have said yeah, I'm tired, I'm disappointed, I'm afraid and all that. But right now I'm feeling pretty up because it looks like my moving from this crossroads may ultimately bring me close to what my original goals were anyway. ▼

# LOOKout



This is the fourth occasion upon which the infamous Johnnie Walker ads have made it into LookOut. This time, a billboard in the East Village gets a makeover.

Photo: Michael Wakefield

—M.S.

**FAKE  
PEOPLE  
WEAR  
REAL  
FUR**

Take it  
from  
"Nancy"!

IF, IN THESE ENLIGHTENED TIMES,  
YOU'D LIKE TO BE RELIEVED OF THE  
EMBARRASSMENT  
OF YOUR FUR  
COAT CALL  
(301) 770-7444

**PETA**  
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS  
P.O. BOX 42316, WASHINGTON D.C. 20015-0516

What becomes a legend most? A drag queen.  
 People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) joins the current Nancy-bashing craze with *Saturday Night Live* alumnus Terry Sweeney posing as the oh-so-socially unconscious ex-first lady for the group's newest anti-fur campaign.

—M.S.



# ~~OUT OF MY HANDS~~ HIS by the experts BY BRADLEY BALL

## Editors, *OutWeek Magazine*:

For four weeks we, The Experts, have requested a meeting with you to finalize the conditions of our occupancy of this space. Our current status as an unrecognized feature in this publication fosters a demoralizing climate of uncertainty which not only hinders our own difficult struggle unnecessarily but also undermines the principles of self-determination and empowerment so nobly promoted elsewhere within these pages. It is to our mutual benefit (and, needless to say, imperative to the ultimate triumph of the Queer Nation) that this situation be rectified immediately and that the formal process of *de jure* recognition be undertaken forthwith.

We have been led to understand that your reluctance to initiate these discussions has been due in no small part to unsubstantiated reports of internal dissension among The Experts. While there may have been some slight disturbance (which is inherent in any time of reconstitution) this was never a significant threat to our endeavor and will, at any rate, soon be resolved with the implementation of the directives issued by Dr. Sandy this past Saturday night. We are confident that this new information will allay any remaining doubts you may have as to the stability of The Experts' Movement and will serve to motivate prompt negotiation of a satisfactory

settlement. With this in mind, we submit the following terms which shall be the essence of any such agreement:

1. As you are well aware, we had for some time petitioned the Exploiter, Bradley Ball, for a coffee maker and, as you are also well aware, Mr. Ball obstinately denied us this simple amenity. In fact, his now notorious pronouncement, "Let them drink gin," incited our push for liberation. The provision of said coffee maker must now be a fundamental gesture of your support for our crusade.

2(a). The salary heretofore paid to the Demon, Bradley Ball, i.e. \$1000 U.S. per column, for his nominal authorship of this feature, while more than adequate for any individual (even one given to ostentatious displays of largesse in the presence of Canadian citizens), is wholly inadequate to the maintenance of our soon-to-be-rapidly-expanding membership. We shall therefore require increased payment, the exact amount of which will be determined through good faith negotiation but will in no case be less than three times the amount paid to the Serpent, Bradley Ball, i.e. \$3000 U.S. per column, notwithstanding any Favored Nations agreements into which you may have entered with any other contributor(s) to this publication.

2(b). In view of the projected expansion mentioned in paragraph

2(a), above, the office space heretofore allocated to the Cur, Bradley Ball, even when cleared of its gin bottles and ashtrays, is insufficient for our operation. The Experts and their representative, Dr. Sandy, shall have at least two offices, each of which shall be comparable in area to but in no case smaller than the corner offices now provided for the editors of this publication.

3 (a). In order to communicate the goals of The Experts' Movement fully and clearly, the box now situated in the corner of this page shall be relocated elsewhere in the publication.

3(b). Every statement of purpose issued by this magazine and all public utterances by its editors and/or spokesperson(s) must include a statement substantially to the effect that the combination of gin and antidepressants may result in death.

3(c)(i). The Experts shall receive prominent mention in any and all paid advertising relating to this publication.

3(c)(ii). The name of The Experts' representative, Dr. Sandy, shall be accorded placement on the masthead of this publication in the position immediately following that of the Editor-in-Chief and in type of equal size.

3(c)(iii). The name "The Experts" shall be featured in the last position of the cover billing of each issue of this magazine, i.e. "News, Sexual Politics, Health, The Arts, The Experts."

We look forward to discussing these and other provisions (e.g. subsidiary rights, percentage of adjusted gross receipts, etc.) at a meeting to be arranged at our mutual convenience but not later than Thursday, April 12, 1990.

**Dr. Sandy  
for The Experts**

### **We're not sure where this term "outing" came from. But we do like the words it rhymes with:**

- st/outing—bringing out members of Girth and Mirth
- spr/outing—bringing out the Jolly Green Giant
- sc/outing—bringing out NAMBLA members
- gr/outing—bringing out lesbian plumbers
- p/outing—complaining about people who bring other people out of the closet by calling them "imbeciles"



By Michelangelo Signorile

I guess it's not surprising to find closet cases defending their fortresses of hiding. But it's still quite sad.

One of James Revson's (*Newsday*) columns a couple of weeks ago was truly pathetic. I feel so sorry for a man who clings to something from the dinosaur era, standing up for such a rapidly diminishing position, and then desperately trying to shove this tired garbage down everyone's throat.

You see, an editor whom I respect at a major daily recently tried to explain to me why Liz Smith (*Daily News*) feels the way she does about queer things. He said that Liz had lived through times which—in many ways—were much worse than now; when homosex was NEVER discussed and when any hint of it might ruin one's entire life. For her, chatting frankly about sexuality seems unthinkable (though, like everyone, she certainly could change if she tried). It was this editor's opinion that change will occur in the future because younger columnists are much more open.

But, though that may be true in some cases, it's certainly not the case among those "younger columnists" from families with names to protect. No, it's certainly not true among THE KIND WHO FEED DESPERATELY OFF OF THE CLOSET LIKE VULTURES TO THEIR PREY.

Revson wrote about what *Time* magazine a while ago dubbed 'outing,' which they had described as the practice of bringing prominent figures out of the closet (we've decided we like better the term 'inning,' as in bringing people out of the closet and "into" the community). And the story, of course, that caused all of the controversy was our recent piece about Malcolm Forbes' secret gay life.

Revson referred to a recent *Village*

*Voice* story which I wrote about how the media responded (or rather, didn't respond) to the revelations in *OutWeek* of Forbes' homosexuality. He finds some of my statements about how we should TRUTHFULLY report on people's homosexuality as "truly frightening and offensive." I find this all so utterly strange and in direct contradiction to what they taught me in good old journalism school. You see, homosexuality seems to be the only area in which journalism in New York is mandated to pursue lies and cover-ups rather than the truth. If you write about a closeted gay man's woman friend as his "lover," that is applauded. If you print the truth you are deemed "frightening and offensive."

This LYING is apparently rationalized by applying the term "right to privacy." So, when straight people's sex lives are written about, it's considered "news" in every publication from *People* to *The New York Times*. But if gay people's sex lives are written about, it's "an infringement of privacy." Well, I call it homophobia—both from straight people and gay people alike. When we say that our sex lives are "private," we immediately are opining that homosex is disgusting, vulgar and distasteful.

I saw Lambda Legal Defense's Tom Stoddard, another relatively "young" person, on the *Today* show babbling about that almighty "right to privacy" last week. And regarding my prodding of Liz Smith, Joe Dolce (*Paper*), a usually progressive writer who adheres to archaic

that, so how could I print it?). I've said she's a *lesbian*, but I don't think that constitutes an invasion of privacy. When someone tells you he or she is *straight*, do you consider that they've just told you something private? By saying it is private we are telling people that homosexuality is only about sex. And, of course, it's not. It's the way you look at the entire world, the way you read a book, or paint a picture. It's the way you think. As queers we have our own culture, and we're looked at by society in a certain way. Being gay or lesbian, like being Black or being a woman, is an entire existence. And like those groups, we know firsthand how it is to be victims of irrational hatred and violence. Surely this is all not *private*.

Of course I understand that the government should not be invading our homes or keeping lists of queers. And, I certainly *demand* that the government uphold our—and all people's—right to privacy. But that's the *government*. In the public forum—the media—we should drop this neanderthal notion because we're not going to get anywhere with it any longer. As gays and lesbians, we must advocate that our sex—and everyone else's sex for that matter—be made AS PUBLIC AS POSSIBLE. How else are we supposed to kill the premise that sex is something dirty, gross, sinful and excessive and that homosex is an abomination? We must sensitize society, NOW.

Revson proclaims: "Outing only creates fear, and fear creates more repression." Oh, please. I would expect such reactionary drek—in which the basic premise is that we should continue LYING for another 700 years or so—from a man such as him.

For Revson and all of his namby-pamby, snobby friends who climb in the hierarchy of the social elite, the construct of the closet validates their very existences. Revson is a privileged

white man from a family with a lot of money. YOU JUST DON'T TALK ABOUT THINGS LIKE MEN FUCKING EACH OTHER'S ASSES OR WOMEN EATING EACH OTHER'S PUSSIES. It is the closet that keeps your East 34th Street penthouse; the closet that gets you that house on the island; the closet that keeps that bank account full; the

See GOSSIP WATCH on page 57

## For Revson and his friends, the closet validates their very existences.

principles on this topic, wrote: "[The choice to come out] is a question of privacy, a concept that lesbian and gay people have always held near and dear. Having weathered the witch hunts of the McCarthy era, we have as much right as any citizen does to protect what we do in bed." Well, I never said what Liz Smith does in bed (I honestly don't know what position she likes best or anything like

# Out on the Town



# With Liz and Sydney

by Liz Tracey and Sydney Pokorny

**Sydney:** Just when I thought I was over my Madonna fixation, *Vanity Fair* runs Helmut Newton's revealing photos of her. Then the new video, *Vogue*, premieres. Who cares if the video is just a black-and-white, *Dick Tracy*-influenced version of *Express Yourself*? Who cares if our new favorite game is "Name Five Songs sampled into *Vogue*"? (**Liz:** if you can name three, you win a mystery prize. Write in with your answers.) It has not deterred me—I still have a Madonna shrine on my wall. And it has not deterred the hundreds of Madonna-crazed people who rushed the stage at Quick, all vying for *Like A Prayer* posters and copies of the *Soul II Soul* ripoff remix of *Keep It Together*. Who cares if her fame exponentially exceeds her talent? We still spent four hours on the phone to get tickets to the New York stop on the *Blonde Ambition* tour. To this minute, I would kill to eat a salad with Madonna at Odeon;

with my fingers, of course.

**Liz:** It turns out that Carmelita's, the site of Boy + Boy/Girl + Girl Fridays is not only owned by the same landlords as the Happy Land Social Club (Alex DiLorenzo, Jay Weiss, *et al.*), but it seems to have a large number of violations. So many that the April 5th deadline for bringing the building up to code will most likely come and go without the estimated \$20,000 in renovations. With this in mind, (and remembering that summer is near, and Carmelita's is without air conditioning), Boy + Boy/Girl + Girl has been moved to the Mike Todd Room at the Palladium (same night). To avoid lambada-crazed hetero couples sweating and cruising, the 13th Street entrance is being used. For those of you young and/or new, the Mike Todd Room is hip and historical (it's named after **Liz Taylor's** ex-husband).

**Sydney:** In clubland, offering food has become a new means of

social climbing. One girl is often seen carrying around a basket of chocolates; another boy offers kisses (Hershey's, that is) and drag dj **Dinah** (nee **Cancer**) offers Cheez Whiz. While an occasional snack to combat late-night munchies is nice, Cheez Whiz is *evil*. Incorrectly marketed as "the fun snack," this product has become the canister of sin. As of late, certain prominent club-goers have been tempted to spray the offending substance on their prey, then lick it off. Now, all would be well if it *came off*; instead, the next morning, left as a reminder of the past night's encounter with an errant Nabisco product, is a white filmy residue permanently adhered to your favorite garment. So until Cheez Whiz has been eliminated, (Scotch) guard your clothes.

**Liz:** Here is something to place in the back of your mind: Which *Top Gun* has caught that *Saturday Night Fever* after divorcing his wife, and making the cover of *People* with an Australian nymphet, who's incorrectly gendered for cruising purposes???

**Sydney:** Our venture into investigative journalism this week left us exhausted. The road was fraught with turmoil and misunderstanding, yet we prevailed amidst a field of chaos.

**GOAL:** To get a publicity photo.

**Phone call #1:** Housemate calls editor of *Project X*.

**RESULT:** "I threw those photos out."

**Phone call #2:** Polygram Records, publicity department.

**PR person:** "I'm sorry, he hasn't been on our label for years."



**WOULD YOU INVITE THESE PEOPLE TO YOUR TALK SHOW?** Photo: Liz and Sydney  
Michael Musto and James St. James (Geraldo alumni) at the Madonna *Vogue* premiere at Quick.



Me: "I have the record right here, and it says 'Copyright, 1989.'"

PR person: "Oh, wait...is he Black?"

Me: "Yes (What does this have to do with...)"

PR person: "Then I need to transfer you to that department..."

New Voice: "Urban Department."

RESULT: "Well, I think we used to have a color slide of him."

Phone call #3: Def Mix Records.

Voice: "Does he know you are writing this article?"

Me: "No."

Voice: "Hold on. What's the name of the magazine, OUTREEK?"

Me: "Out-Week"

Voice: "I'll call you back."

RESULT: He never called back.

Phone call #4: Dance Tracks, record store.

Voice: "Yes I have photos. They are on my walls and I won't take them down."

Me: "Oh,... you won't? Thanks."

RESULT: The pictures are still on his walls.

Phone call #5: Bingo. The photo is ours.

**Liz:** While trying to follow up an alleged statement (one of about 40,000) made during the *Geraldo!* taping last Wednesday (you know, the show on NY nightlife... *The Agony and the Extacy*...). I chased down his production company through the courtesy of NYNEX (ha!); here's a brief summary:

Called Tribune Entertainment; secretary gave me number, "A direct line to Geraldo," she said in a dead-ly serious tone. Called Geraldo's offices, a gentleman answers, I state my name and affiliation; he sets down the phone and says "Oh fuck, it's *OutWeek* magazine." It all turned out to be a misunderstanding, but why they're afraid of *OutWeek*, we've yet to learn. ▼

#### GOSSIP WATCH from page 55

closet that keeps you doing your society column and getting you invited to lots of parties; the closet that puts you in good favor with all of the other closeted columnists; the closet that ultimately gets you what you want—a few measly crumbs and fastidious approval from the rich and famous.

Yes, the Revsons are far, far away in a different world; so out of touch with reality that they have no concern for the Black lesbian in the Bronx who gets raped and beaten to a pulp because she appears "butch." Nor do they know of the Latino drag queen who is terrorized every day of his life in the neighborhood where he grew up. No, Revson and his friends have no inkling of the fact that most gay people don't have the luxury of the closet. For the closet, you see, is really something *owned and operated* by white men with money. The Black lesbian and the Latino drag queen can't afford to leave the neighborhood in which they're attacked daily, and they don't have the opportunities, the skills or the education to build a closet.

So, Revson and his friends go on and just worry about THEMSELVES. It doesn't matter to them that their coming out of the closet might help other queers. THEY HAVE TO PROTECT THEIR OWN FRAGILE LITTLE, PRIVILEGED WORLD. And what I'm doing *definitely* must seem "truly frightening and offensive."

But guess what, Jim? I think what you do is "truly frightening and offensive."

You spend most of your time going to boring parties filled with monstrous people. Then you tell us all about it in the form of drivel. (You don't even get invited to the "A" list parties. There's only one thing worse than drivel and that's drivel about "D" list parties.) EVERYONE talks about how absolutely narcolepsy-inducing your column is; how it's by far the worst one around. They talk about how you once were on top—when you were fierce and strong back when you attacked Suzy (*New York Post*) for her slippery ways—but how you've now become a parody of Suzy herself. Except, you're a *third-rate* Suzy.

What a waste.

Meanwhile, you rarely write about gay issues. Yet, you somehow think you're "out." You've even said this to people—that you're "out." That's funny. I remember when you scolded me

when my editor—assuming you were "out"—wrote that you are gay. I remember when *The Advocate* approached you for an interview. You said you'd do it, until they stipulated that you'd have to say you were gay (after all, it's a gay magazine and that was their interest in you), then you declined. And you've never acknowledged your queerness in your column (in fact, why don't you take this as a challenge. If you're so "out," go ahead and write it).

Oh, yeah, once in a while you do an "AIDS item" or talk about a benefit. And you did get arrested with ACT UP at city hall last year. You even wrote a column about it (which didn't address the issues but did recount the songs people sang in jail). But Jim, getting arrested with ACT UP does not an "out" gay man make. In fact, getting arrested with ACT UP in front of lots of cameras and while wearing a suit can be a very "chic" thing for a "straight liberal" columnist to do, especially if he wants some press. I've never seen you back at ACT UP since that arrest over a year ago. And you have never, before or since the arrest, implored the government to do anything about AIDS. You don't ever discuss the many problems facing this community. Instead, you have defended Pat Buckley and dubbed William F. Buckley as merely "misguided." But, somehow, you do find space to talk about one particular gay issue: *OutWeek* magazine and those horrible people who work there. I believe this is your fourth or fifth time, isn't it, Jim?

It seems you even get a kick out of bashing us. It gets you a little press, gets you a bit noticed again. And it adds some sparkle and excitement to your otherwise dreary life. You probably even calculate my striking back, and even get off on that. Honestly, such masochism wouldn't surprise me.

You're so obviously unhappy doing that column (and everyone else is so unhappy reading it).

WAKE UP JIM!

You're wasting precious time. WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO SOMETHING REALLY GOOD WITH THAT SPACE. Stop listening to those social-climbing idiots all around you, those blood sucking creeps, those closeted cocktail queens, those up-again-down-again writers who swirl around but go nowhere. Take control. Scream and yell. Talk about what has to be done. Do it now, Jim. FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE. ▼

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## Film

# Hot House Flowers

**Pink Narcissus.** "Anonymous." Angelika Film Center. 18 W. Houston. Fridays and Saturdays at midnight.

by Karl Soehnlein

**T**he Midnight Movie is making a comeback and gay audiences are benefiting. At a couple of downtown's more adventurous theaters—the Bleecker and the Angelika for example—films like *Apartment Zero*, *Looking for Langston* and *Mala Noche* have been given extended longevity at the midnight hour. The latest gay male work to get such a revival is the underground classic *Pink Narcissus*.

Made in 1971 by a filmmaker only calling himself "Anonymous," *Pink Narcissus* flirts with genres as diverse as pornography, formal experimental film and the steamy, art-house flicks of the late 60s. The result is a breathtaking work that manages to be equal parts cinematic vision and sexual titillation.

Following one young man/boy through a series of fantasy tableaux, the film lushly depicts a specific gay male desire in its many manifestations. For those whose taste runs toward the smooth-chested, pouty-lipped, long-lashed boyish type, *Pink Narcissus* will be a pulse-quickening experience. The filmmaker's eye focuses heavily on the erotic detail—a blade of grass traced across a naked torso, droplets of champagne falling into an open mouth, the brush of silk across an innocent face. As with all fantasy, much of it is a tease; there is a minimum of on-screen interaction and even this is rarely sexual. Though these boys look like any number of pretty young porn stars, they never behave like them. The pose is paramount.

Sensuality comes in two flavors here: back-to-nature or exotic opulence. Boys either lie in the grass with a butterfly tickling their crotches or on a satin bed surrounded by gold and jewels. At times this verges on the laughable: in one sequence simulating India, a boy in a turban emerges cobra-like from a gilt box to perform for a couple of princes. Covered in one veil and seven strands of pearls, this young thing swings his basket with seemingly endless vigor. The filmmaker, clearly entranced himself, uses every trick of double exposure and soft focus to prolong the dance, creating an almost camp effect—like Salome on hallucinogens.

Despite a lack of irony in scenes like this

(and the nearly 20 years since the film was made), *Pink Narcissus* holds up remarkably well, not just as an erotic tour de force but as thrilling cinema, too. One early scene builds to a sharp sexual crescendo: the boy stares into a wall of mirrors, imagining himself a matador; suddenly he's in front of a wall of urinals, and the bull is a guy on a motorcycle. The lyrical layering of fantasies brings to mind the work of Anger, Genet and Cocteau. The delicacy of the images, never crude or crass despite the film's low-budget, super-8 production values, indicates the skilled hands of a truly imaginative filmmaker.

As the film progresses, the erotic fantasies become increasingly intertwined with visions of another sort: an all-male urban nightmare, complete with lecherous old men in trenchcoats, sailors and cowboys jerking off in alleys, and street vendors hawking vibrators from their pushcarts. Our hero, dressed all in white from his denim jacket to his go-go boots, wanders amidst this Sodom and Gomorrah like a sheep among wolves. The soundtrack, previously a combination of classical, gothic and faux-foreign music, now includes bits of radio news broadcasts.

"Reality" has intruded in the form of post-liberation ghetto life, and threatens to bring the film's beautiful fantasy world crashing down. In the last shot, the boy is transformed into the dirty old man in the bowler hat and overcoat who followed him through the city streets. It's an ambiguous final note: is this the end of a particular fantasy, or the end of Fantasy altogether? The answer is largely unimportant. Though it may be a grander statement on the gay world, *Pink Narcissus* is best viewed as a lush encounter of the erotic kind. ▼



**HOT CROSS BUNS**  
Actor Bobby Kendall

## Film

# Before...

by Phil Zwickler

**R**obert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, then Academy Award nominees for Best Documentary for the film *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, spoke with independent filmmaker Phil Zwickler while at the Berlin Film Festival in February. Jim Provenzano caught up with two happy Oscar winners shortly after the big day.

**Phil Zwickler:** Talk a little about the motivation for making a film about the Quilt.

**Robert Epstein:** It emanated from seeing the Quilt for the first time in Washington D.C. at the march in 1987. It was awesome, horrifying and beautiful. So we started talking about

doing a film about it, trying to figure out a way to do it without focusing specifically on the Names Project per se. (The Names Project is the San Francisco-based organization that initiated the idea for the Quilt). We wanted to do it more metaphorically.

**Jeffrey Friedman:** We also didn't want to do a film about grieving. We wanted to find a way to use the Quilt, which is a powerful visual metaphor and make something that would give sustenance to people living with the virus.

**Phil Zwickler:** Rob, you also worked on another AIDS film, *The AIDS Show: Artists Involved with Death and Survival* based on the Theater Rhinoceros piece called *Unfinished Business*. It was aired on PBS in 1986. How was this film, *Common Threads*, going to be different?

**Robert Epstein:** I think that film [*The AIDS Show*] was really more for us, for gay people. It was much earlier in the crisis and it was a collective of artists struggling to make sense, through their work, of what was happening and trying to raise consciousness through community theater. But *Common Threads*, we saw as being for a much wider audience. We wanted it to get out to the "mainstream."

**Phil Zwickler:** How was the film funded? An article about the film in *The New York Times* said that HBO put up more than \$600,000.

**Robert Epstein:** Basically, the people at HBO are well intentioned. Their heart and their politics are in the right place.

**Jeffrey Friedman:** And they have been affected by AIDS; people in their organization have died.



**I ONLY HAVE AUGEN FOR YOU**

Robert Epstein (l) and Jeffrey Friedman (r) flank Phil Zwickler in Berlin.

Photo: Johannes Aevermann

**Robert Epstein:** We shopped the idea around for a while. We went to PBS and they offered us popcorn to do it. They offered us development money, without a guarantee that we would get any further than that, and that they would be buying the film for very little money. We were turned down by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. And then we heard that HBO was interested in doing another AIDS film on the scale of their Vietnam film *Dear America: Letters Home from Viet-Nam*. So Bill Couturie, the producer of that show, called us. We had already been working on the idea, and we went to HBO together and pitched the idea. And once they came on board, it took certain people a while to really get what we were trying to do, but once they did, they were really supportive.

**Phil Zwickler:** How did you choose the on-camera subjects?

**Robert Epstein:** The mandate from HBO was that this was not to be a film about gay men exclusively. We understood the reasons for that. And that is also true about the Quilt, which is so important to all communities affected by AIDS, not just gay men. We tried to do as much outreach as we could and we wanted that reflected in the film as well. But we were also careful not to compromise our gay sensibility as well. And we feel we were able to do that.

**Jeffrey Friedman:** In choosing the people for the film, we went to the Names Project and read through perhaps 3,000 of the letters that came with the quilts as they were sent in. Of those, 200 or 300 were contacted by telephone. Of those, maybe 75 were interviewed on videotape, and then we narrowed it down to the five we interviewed for the final film.

**Phil Zwickler:** Talk a little about your decision to shoot Vito Russo, who is a good friend of yours. Was that difficult?

**Robert Epstein:** I couldn't interview him because he is such a good friend. I didn't feel that it would work. So Jeffrey did that interview and it was great. There was something, for me, that helped bring the thing full circle because so many of the stories Vito told I was involved in

and we had to edit out his references to me.

**Phil Zwickler:** Talk about the

feeling of being nominated for an Academy Award. Rob, you've won

See **QUILT** on page 71

## After...



### LIGHT, CAMERA, OSCAR!

The filmmakers with producer Bill Couturie

Photo: AMPAS

Post Oscars, in a telephone interview from their hotel room at the Four Seasons in Los Angeles, Epstein and Friedman talked about the Awards before heading back to their home in San Francisco. When asked how they felt about being the only recipients to mention AIDS at the Oscars, Epstein comments, "Ours was the only film about AIDS and the only one about gay people. I think that says a lot about what's missing."

But behind the scenes the community was "very supportive," says Friedman. "People came up to us afterward. A lot of them saw the film. Of course Dustin Hoffman was great, lending his time and talent, and Elizabeth Taylor as well."

And how were the parties? "The party at the Governor's Ball across the street was great," confides Friedman. "All the celebrities were there. A lot of people came up to thank us for making the film." Both men were invited to Swifty Lazar's infamous after-party party at Spago, "but by the time we got there, the fire marshall was blocking people from getting in."

Epstein adds, "There were hundreds of fans in the street. Once they saw us get out of the limo with our Oscar, they started cheering us on. When they wouldn't let us go inside, people started chanting 'Let Them In! Let Them In!' It was about as political as West Hollywood's ever been."

Through the gaping non-queerness of the Awards, the *Common Threads* team shone as heroes. They have lots of plans for the future. "A documentary, maybe a feature." Have the offers come flooding in? "No," admits Epstein. "But it'll be easier to get backing with two Oscars behind us."

And where is the new golden boy going? "Right next to the other Oscar," says Epstein. (It's a good thing the filmmakers live together.) Epstein won his first Academy Award for *The Times of Harvey Milk*, which he made with Rich Schmiechen. "We know the first Oscar is gay. We're not sure about the new one. He's really cute. We hope they get along."—Jim Provenzano

## Film

# My Life as a Boy

**Lord of the Flies.** Directed by Harry Hook. Produced by Ross Milloy. Written by Sara Schiff. Columbia Pictures.

by Bruce C. Steele

**M**uch has been made of the fact that none of the boys in this new movie version of *Lord of the Flies* had any previous acting experience. Director Harry Hook, himself only 29-years-old during the filming, indicated that professional boy actors simply weren't good enough, "real" enough, that they had somehow been tainted.

Well, yes, acting is not like life. That's why it is in many circles considered an art. The appearance of real feeling on cue, on camera, is quite a challenge, particularly when the pretense set forth is far removed from common experience, and even more especially when allegorical meaning is intended to resonate from your every word and action. William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* is nothing if not allegorical, and so Hook's entirely literal version—complete with "untainted" boy actors—is, in the end, nothing.

The boys are not stilted or clumsy. They're generally quite natural. That's just it: naturally, they're just boys. When they're acting like you would expect boys to act—calling each other names, picking petty fights, moping—they seem completely authentic. They bandy about boyishly salty language and references to modern pop culture and, in one short and ill-conceived scene, even wonder whether it's better to be free from girls or whether it would be nice to have girls around in case they want to "get some." (Otherwise, the presumed asexuality of the prepubescent male, which is so important to Golding's novel—since the ensuing violence must emerge from a nature deeper than mere carnality—is one of the few consistencies between this film version and the book. There's a lot of near nudity but not a trace of even potential sensuality and certainly no awareness of the latent homoeroticism of the premise. Even pederasts might be bored.)

This *Lord of the Flies* does make crystal clear, on the most basic level, why most of the boys prefer the sadistic hunter-chief Jack to the reasonable, sensitive Ralph. Jack is simply more boisterous, more charismatic, more fun, and his instinctive re-creation of hierarchy and ritual offers a comforting sense of security and structure to a bunch of scared little boys stranded on an uninhabited tropical island. Ralph is a stick in the mud, demanding chores and discipline, constantly reminding the boys of their peril by insisting they act sensibly and put all their efforts into attracting rescuers.



TOOLMAKING—Jack (Chris Furrh) and Peter (Brian Jacobs)

Yet the amateur cast is unable to get beneath the surface of their situation and characters; Hook seems not to have explained that it's more than just the story of a triumphant bully. Dialogue and actions that resonate in the novel and in the Peter Brook film version here fall lifeless onto the sandy beach. These boys don't stand for anything except themselves, and at crucial moments they just stand, genuinely helpless and lost when faced with images of death and destruction. Nothing means, it just happens.

The modern, Americanized adaptation and the big-budget production values don't help matters any. There's virtually no social context. Gone is the world war raging just beyond the horizon, gone are the centuries of traditional British decorum. (The substitution of an American military academy is both insufficient and, except in passing references to cadet rank, unutilized.) Gone is the haunting dead paratrooper dangling on the edge of a cliff. He's been clumsily replaced by a delirious injured naval officer, who is first in the boys' care, then hiding in a cave, where he serves only to highlight the boys' stupidity and cowardice. The spiritual dimension is nonexistent; elements of superstition and worship are underplayed and seem just another part of Jack's childish game of let's pretend. This is no microcosm—it's just an island. The lush Technicolor photography, vivid fires and sleek-skinned boys are all just too handsome and prosaic to signify anything beyond their face value. ▼

## Theater

# Lush Lesbian Love Jungle

**Love's Frantic Yearnings: The Essential Sapphic Book of Love.**  
WOW Cafe, 59 E. 4th St. 460-8067.  
April 12-14 at 8 pm.

by **Maria Maggenti**

I don't know what it is about dykes in love. Maybe it's oppression, maybe its homophobia, maybe it's the goddess, but lesbians in love seem to have a propensity for drama that makes even the most ordinary of personal interactions material for grand opera. *Love's Frantic Yearnings*, directed by Nancy Swartz and now at WOW Cafe, is a humorous and wacky romp through this lush jungle of lesbian love as seen from the perspective of seven different writers.

Appropriately, the show opens with a reading from a steamy lesbian pulp novel. It not only helps set the goofball tone for the evening, but also pokes fun at the so-called "underworld" of lesbian love and sex. The

production then moves rambunctiously from one "chapter" to the next with each vignette portraying those issues peculiar to lesbian relationships: monogamy vs. non-monogamy, balancing a new lover and an old friend, being alone, should we move in together? and running into an ex-lover who is now dating your new lover's ex-lover. What keeps the stories buoyant is not only the liveliness of the ensemble cast but the fact that there is an intimacy and a familiarity to each story that makes it seem true, yet gently self-mocking.

Some of the stories feel like Alison Bechdel's *Dykes to Watch Out For* come to life, although they indulge a wishful surrealism that only theater can get away with—for instance, a lesbian diner waitress (resembling Alice from the Brady Bunch) who is part mom, part vixen, part crone pours coffee along with her dyke-focused Ann Landers patter and treats a couple to beers because she "loves new love." Or two lovers reconcile their differences following divine intervention by a blue-winged

goddess, or a lonesome lezzie visits a fortune teller in her search for the "secret of love." The fortune teller is, of course, also a lesbian and sees the world just as the lezzie does, imparting to her the secrets of lesbian love.

The best stories are the ones where the humor is subtle and the language clean—Lucinda Rhea Zoe's *Negotiating the Boundaries* slides through the thornier issues of lesbian intimacy by having the two characters walk themselves around the simple question "do you kiss other girls?" to encapsulate many of the funny peculiarities of dyke discussions on monogamy and non-monogamy. *Sweeter Than (An Excerpt)*, written by Lexa Roséan, is a languorous sweaty seduction in which a woman makes love to another woman while describing the torrid experience of driving her daddy's car "all alone, late at night and real fast."

This production has a very "hey kids! let's put on a show!" quality to it, making it less a formal theatrical experience than an enthusiastic and intimate evening of shared true stories. It's almost like being in a little lesbian club where the material produced springs directly from the pulse of the lesbians involved, so that even if you disagree with the take an author might have on an experience, you can't really argue with its veracity.

WOW Cafe is a wonderful place not only because it is simply *there* and treats lesbianism as the world, but also because it is fearless, funny and always a bit off-kilter. *Love's Frantic Yearnings* does a good job of making those ordinary moments of lesbian intimacy swell into the strange symphonies that sometimes accompany the madness of love and romance. The warmth and wackiness of it all make it a good evening out with the girls. ▼



**PULP PASSION**  
Emily Woo-Yamasaki and Betty Crenshaw

Photo: Donna Binder

# Cat on a Cold Bed

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** by Tennessee Williams. The Eugene O'Neill Theater, 230 West 49th Street.

by Michael Paller

**W**hat possesses an audience to greet the cast of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with a standing ovation after the performance arrives at its anticlimactic end with neither a drop of sweat on its brow nor passion in its eyes? Is the audience giving its unthinking approval to a theatrical system that allows well-known movie and television actors to appear in difficult roles for which they are thoroughly unprepared? Are our audiences so easily satisfied that all it takes is a famous face or attractive body to distract them from the fact that the play, with a few exceptions, didn't happen? If a society gets the kind of theater it deserves, then the current Broadway revival of Tennessee Williams' 1955 play suggests that we don't deserve much.

*Cat* is one of Williams' most potent and problematic plays. In Howard Davies' curiously under-directed production, the hot-house potency is mostly absent, while the problems are present with a vengeance.

Whatever her acting talents might, Kathleen Turner is a fascinating presence on film. Her eyes smoulder with fire; everything about her suggests she's combusting with the most alarming self-control. She sets herself on fire and then enjoys slowly burning up before our eyes. She projects none of this heat on the stage of the Eugene O'Neill Theater. Her voice, which need not be much above a whisper on film,

doesn't carry beyond the first few rows without strain. It will be gone in a few weeks; apparently no one has taught her how to use it. The intensity of her personality, easily caught on film, also evaporates in the large theater on 49th Street. Screen acting, as so many film stars have unwittingly demonstrated, requires less equipment than acting on a stage.

Williams was a master of physical and emotional atmosphere. *Cat's* humid, uncomfortable, unstable locale is a vital element of the play, and a clue to its emotional climate, but for all the cast's attention to physical details, the action could as easily occur in a meat locker. The emotional climate is even cooler. "We occupy the same cage," Maggie says bitterly of her



THE POWERFUL AND OBNOXIOUS ODOR OF MENDACITY  
*Kathleen Turner as Maggie*



marriage to Brick. But the production contains no sense of any closeness, meteorological or otherwise: not between Maggie and Brick (they are rarely even physically close), nor Brick and Big Daddy. In his stage directions, Williams calls for a ghost of the closeness of the home's former occupants, Jack Straw and Peter Ochello, the gay men who formerly occupied the bed of Brick and Maggie. It never materializes.

Brick is a hole at the center of the play. So frightened by the possibility that he might be gay, he's become an emotionally paralyzed alcoholic. Doing very little in the course of three hours, Brick proves that evasion is not a very viable

dramatic strategy. Williams didn't solve the problem of how to portray a vacuum from which all life and will are being sucked; Daniel Hugh Kelly, unfortunately, brings no solutions of his own. He is a handsome actor unequipped at displaying the crippled inner life of the former football hero. The play revolves around the need to tell the truth—about love, sexuality, the past—and so it is sad that Kelly is unable to convey some authentic sense of himself in the role and needs to resort to a characterization that is largely vocal.

The task of prying any humanity into the production falls, by default, onto the large person of Charles Durning who, unlike Turner

and Kelly, can act as well on a stage as in television or film. Of the large cast, only Durning, as Big Daddy, catches the vitality, richness, coarseness, humanity and cruelty that drips off every line of the play. Big Daddy is one of the meatier male roles Williams created, and Durning tears into it not only with great joy but with a considerable amount of skill. Davies uses Williams' original third act, however, rather than the one written at the behest of the 1955 director, Elia Kazan, and so Big Daddy isn't seen again after his lengthy Act II confrontation with Brick.

Davies is one of England's best directors, but the imagination that

See CAT on page 71

## Three on a Swing

**Forever Plaid.** Steve McGraw's. 158 W. 72nd St. Fridays at 10:30 pm.

**Steve Ross.** The Algonquin. 69 W. 44th St. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 9:15 and 11:15 pm until April 14th.

**Martin Charnin.** Rainbow and Stars. 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 65th Floor. 9:15 and 11:15 pm until April 14th.

The cabaret scene, one often hears, is in the midst of an incredible transformation. No longer the domain of singers with BMS (Bette Midler Wannabe Syndrome), several artists, both performers and writers, have expanded the art form elevating cabaret to new artistic heights. Three can currently be seen in area clubs.

Driving to their 1963 debut concert, The Plaids were accidentally killed in a car crash by a group of nuns. Now these four "ghosts" have decided to pay us a return visit in *Forever Plaid*, a rollicking musical spoof that should keep audiences laughing for a long time. It is an innocuous premise but in the hands of writer/director Stuart Ross and the four leading gentlemen (Stan Chandler, Guy Stroman, Gabriel Barre and Jason Graae), The Plaids manages to maintain its heartfelt sincerity without teetering on unbelief. The show is total fun and pays tribute to those nerdy fellas who fiddled with the projector for their high school AV clubs. The superb vocal harmonies include renditions of the Beatles' *She Loves You*, *Love is a Many Splendored Thing* and *Moments to Remember*. The best bit arrives about halfway as the energetic quartet sing *Crazy About You Baby* accompanied by broomsticks glued to plungers.

All profits go to Broadway Cares, the organization which helps performers with AIDS.

For those desiring a taste of the upscale, make your way to the Algonquin's Oak Room where Steve Ross is holding court. The obvious heir to the Bobby Short/Michael Feinstein mantle, Ross finds original ways to put over a song, whether they are ubiquitous Cole Porter Tunes (*I've Got You Under My Skin* is given a dreamy treatment) or an obscure Sondheim melody from *Anyone Can Whistle*.

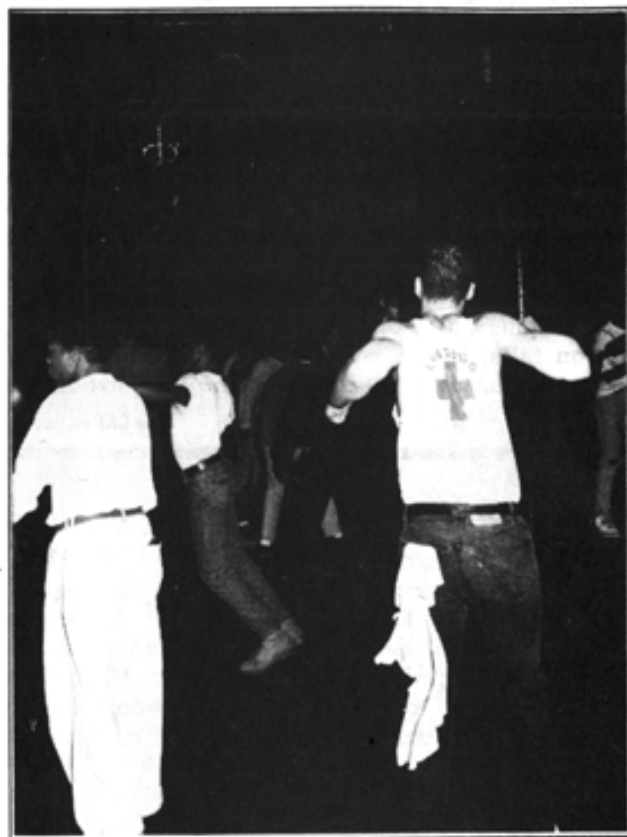
Romanticism or sleek sophistication are the usual labels applied to Steve Ross but they fail to take into account his deft keyboard playing. Many cabaret artists sit down at a piano and proceed to bang away regardless of the lyrical content. Ross studies the words and through his musical agility and upper crust singing, reveals his own humanity. It is warm, touching and, yes Virginia, immensely sophisticated.

Martin Charnin who created *Annie* has assembled *The Hits and the M's*, a personal travelogue tracing his 30-plus years in show business as a performer, songwriter and director. Accompanied by eight female vocalists, Charnin serves as the evening's ringleader warbling several self-penned tunes and relating numerous anecdotes.

All the performers save one (Daughter Sascha Charnin) were cast members of the ill-fated *Annie II* which closed in Washington before hitting Broadway. Worth the pricetag alone is the *Annie II* star, red-haired moppet Danielle Findley. Radiating hope and determination, this tyke easily overshadowed her more experienced counterparts. Singing *Tomorrow* with an optimistic fervor, she evoked a world without boundaries, a planet where prejudice would soon disappear. Whether fighting society's ills or even trying to remain alive, one must believe that "the sun will come out tomorrow." —Jon Wasser

## Music

# Housing the House



**The Choice.** 240 East Third St., NYC.

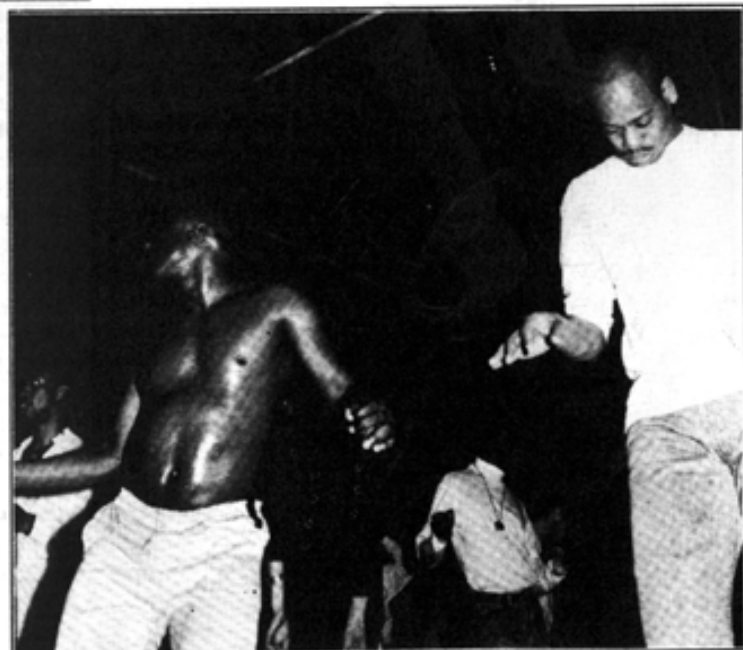
**Sound Factory.** 530 West 27th St., NYC.

*by Sydney Pokorny*

**H**ouse music has made it big. In clubs, and on the radio, house can be heard in different varieties; hip house (a hybrid of hip hop and house, rap over a house beat), acid house (a sample-crazed, beat heavy, psychedelic/electronic British import) and techno-house (i.e. Inner City's *Big Fun*). What separates house music from other types of music is the importance of DJs who work as producers. These DJ/producers are the stars, not the musicians or vocalists. Legends like Frankie Knuckles and Junior Vasquez also work as record producers. In addition, the "diva DJ"

after hours scene is fostering the emergence of a different type of house which is raw, energetic and contains vocals with a political message. Frankie Knuckles' most recent success is a garage-inspired mix called *Tears* (garage is a type of house music reminiscent of the sound that was being produced by DJs at the now defunct Paradise Garage, heralded by some as the birthplace of the gay house scene), while Junior has produced *Just like a Queen, I Will Survive* and other songs under the name Ellis D. Through their role as record producers, Junior Vasquez and Frankie Knuckles are successfully merchandising underground music and providing a venue for newer artists.

Late night (meaning "after hours," or after legitimate club hours) dance halls are as much a tradition in gay culture as piano bars. Since the Paradise Garage closed in 1988, the underground house scene in New York has been taken over by two clubs: The Choice and Sound Factory. Walking into The Choice, no one doubts that they have found the "underground." Housed in a converted movie theater, the walls are painted black; a crude dance floor has been laid down to level the slope of the original floor. The club is dark and the decoration sparse, but the atmosphere is not what draws people to The Choice. What brings people here are the DJs and the sound system. The Choice, owned by DJ Richard Vasquez, has a rotation of seven DJs including such legends as Larry Levan, Frankie Knuckles and Robert



**AN AEROBIC KIND OF FUN**—Moving to the sounds of the Sound Factory

Owens. The schedule is available at the door, and a chalk board contains up-to-the-minute changes and additions. All the DJs are veterans of the earlier garage scene and have a devoted following. Special events like the occasional "sharing of the decks" by two DJs invoke a certain amount of fervor.

The style of the music and the crowd varies, and depends heavily on the DJ who is spinning. Friday and Saturday nights usually draw more gay people than Thursday. It is best to check the schedule, but Richard Vasquez currently spins on alternate Saturdays. He plays what a friend nicknamed "environmental house"—the arrangements almost approach a kind of new age sound with a beat. Some of the more popular "environmental house" cuts are Electribe 101's *Wake Me When the Fever Ends* or Sueño Latino's *Sueño Latino*. Since most of the music played is not bass or beat heavy and the club is relatively dark, The Choice creates a unique environment. Tiny green and magenta floating stars spin off the mirror ball while lyrical keyboard riffs fill the room, resulting in a feeling something akin to a peaceful stupor. An uneasy calm is fed by the clarity of the sound system which produces a tingling kind of aural stimulation. Ultimately, The Choice is hypnotizing, but not wholly unpleasant.

Sound Factory, by contrast, is conceived of by its owners as an aerobic dance club. The bass is heavy; the beat is fierce and the two command you to dance. One DJ, Junior Vasquez (no relation to Richard), works the crowd, bringing you to unbelievably frantic highs and correspondingly tranquil lows on both nights that the club is open. Sound Factory is one of the most mind-blowing, foot-stomping clubs around. Imagine that it is 4:30 on a Saturday night/Sunday morning and you have just plunked down the \$15 cover charge and are walking down a ramp lined with sweaty bare-chested boys and similarly sweaty girls in lycra sports bras. The pumping bass and flashing lights pull you toward the dance floor. You enter, and are bathed in magenta and silver light from the largest mirror ball in New York. As the beats are imposed over the sample, the floor reacts by stomping and shouting. The DJ suddenly lets go, a siren sounds, and the whole place reverberates to the beat. Everywhere you look—on the stage, on the speakers, in the corners, on the bleachers—people are overcome. Everything moves to the same beat; this is magic! The crowd, predominantly gay and lesbian, and mixed along racial and ethnic lines, is here to dance. The club is integrated in a way that other places are not, with everyone from drag queens, club kids, house children, guys in The Pines t-shirts, a butch/fem dyke couple, all here for the music.

Sound Factory is a high-tech, flagship after hours club. Proving that after hours clubs don't have to be dumps, it is a model in almost every way. Serving no alcohol and donating part of its proceeds to Daytop Village, a drug treatment program, it is responsive to the needs of the community it serves. Unlike the small, storefront social clubs, Sound Factory is licensed by the city, and with one whole wall of fire exits, is

not a fire-trap. Unfortunately, the club and its employees have recently been victims of police harassment. The Consumer Affairs Commission (by Executive Ordinance) limits the hours of operation of non-alcoholic clubs by requiring that they close between the



#### IN THE MIX

#### Junior Vasquez at Sound Factory

hours of 4 and 8 am. Sound Factory's primary appeal was an all-night aerobic-type dance club. However, citing the Consumer Affairs restriction, which is not technically a law, the police have raided the club, falsely arresting employees, to close it at 4 am. The owners are fighting a court battle claiming that the constitutional rights of assembly cannot be restricted by hours. And as a representative put it, "What are we doing wrong?" The answer: nothing but dancing and cruising.

Junior Vasquez plays "commercial" house music along with the less mainstream "garage" house. On a given night, he might play Lisa Stansfield's *Around the World* or a remix of the Covergirls' *My Heart Skips a Beat* and *I Called U* by Lil Louis and the World. He is also credited with breaking new artists. Many times you will hear something at Sound Factory weeks before you hear it anywhere else. *Sweat* by Jay Williams and *Motherland* by Tribal House are two cuts that broke first there. *Sweat* has made it onto radio rotation and has a special meaning in the Sound Factory context. The song is about Nelson Mandela, but it also refers to a form of political protest in South Africa organized around dance and chants. In a club filled with racially and ethnically mixed gay people, you cannot help but think about the parallels between the political struggles and understand that in this setting you are acting out part of that struggle. If Sound Factory and other safe after hours clubs are allowed to be eliminated, there will be fewer racially and ethnically mixed, as well as gay crowds, and underground house music may die for lack of a venue.

Christina Visca contributed to this article.▼

## Books

# Penny Brown Nipples from Hell

The Salt Point by Paul Russell. E.P. Dutton. \$18.95. 210 pp.

by John Wing

**S**exual ambiguity in the hinterlands became chic with Michael Chabon's *Mysteries of Pittsburgh*; the latest entrant in this rapidly metastasizing genre is *The Salt Point* by Paul Russell, which presents us with the sexual escapades and dreary existential angst of the hippest clique in Poughkeepsie. What will next year bring, perversity in Passaic?

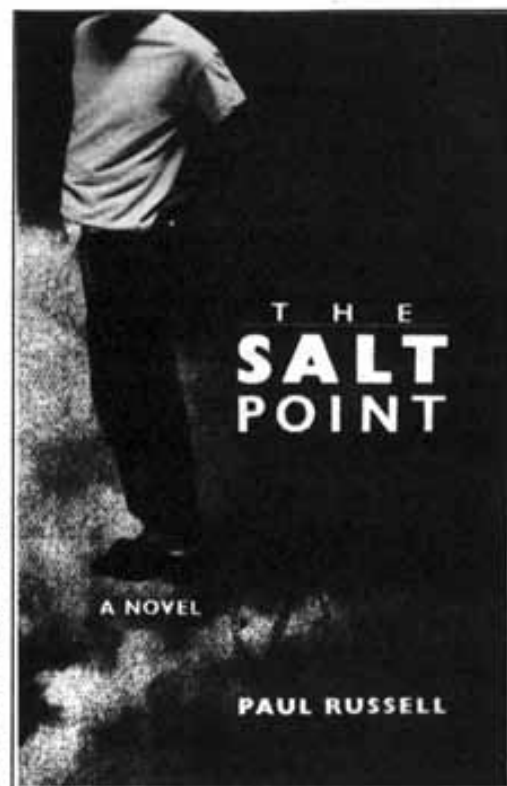
The would-be bohemians of Russell's first novel dream longingly about the great metropolis two hours down river and feel marooned in the bucolic squalor of Poughkeepsie. On Punk Night at Bertie's discotheque, the gang—who are only in their 20s—kvetch about how old and full of ennui they are. The one verifiably gay character named Anatole is—what else?—a hairstylist at the town's trendiest salon, Reflexion. And so the reader is treated to endless descriptions about the "raptures and heartbreak of human hair." *The Salt Point* is far from great writing, but, if nothing else, one can glean some valuable tips on what to do with one's coiffure.

Anatole's best friend Lydia, a native Poughkeepsian, spouts New Age jargon by the gobs ("to know the secret life of anything is to lift you out of yourself") and generally acts morose or bitter, remembering the good old days as a drop-out on the Lower East Side, when sex was plentiful. Both Anatole and

Lydia are in love with Chris, who dabbled in bisexuality in college, but now prefers to be celibate. Every couple of months, however, he treks down to New York and pays to watch two boys have sex in front of him at a hotel on Lexington Avenue. He gets a thrill out of choreographing their activities: "Go on, make out," he tells the lads, or "Go on, suck it." But Chris never feels anything at these jamborees, not even the inkling of an erection. "It's just a spectacle—these cocks plunging and withdrawing from avid mouths." He heads back to Poughkeepsie, flaccid and poorer.

This triumvirate is threatened by the appearance in town of 18-year-old Leigh, christened "Our Boy of the Mall" when he is sighted by Anatole in front of Reflexion. Anatole is smitten, but his friends are nonplussed by this latest crush. "But this one is different," Anatole gushes. "The light around him was different." Well, if there is light around Leigh—who turns out to be a petty hustler—it sure ain't from a halo. The inevitable encounter between Anatole and Leigh takes place at Bertie's, and the two begin cohabitating. Lydia feels miffed that Anatole is spending all his time with the new heartthrob, but is consoled when Leigh begins having an affair with her, too. Chris, meanwhile, is half annoyed at being usurped as Anatole's and Lydia's love object, and half attracted to Leigh's enigmatic airs and "nipples brown as perinies."

Since the story takes place in the mid-1980s, when AIDS is something



that people only get in the big bad city, safe sex is just a distant killjoy on the horizon. There are no condoms in this clique. In a typical scene, we find that Leigh has "spilled himself milky and pungent into [Lydia's] mouth." (Russell's sexual descriptions tend to sound like bad take-out Chinese food.)

When Anatole takes Leigh and Lydia to the city for the day, he is depressed when he realizes how unfashionable his clothes and hairstyle are compared to the city slickers. What's worse, he sniffles: "He's got Poughkeepsie written all over him." He is further annoyed when he gets bumped into by a woman with a "loud, belligerent voice." (Who is this woman? She is forever bumping into sensitive souls from the burbs in these clichéd scenes.) The gang makes a pilgrimage to the Astor Place Barbershop and to a wine bar, where they are aghast at having to pay four dollars for a drink. At a nearby table, some stylish club kids are discussing that irresistible New York topic—fist fucking. "I'm not sure my guts can take much more. I was bleeding this morning." The gang

See PENNY on page 72

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# Books

## Survivors



MIKE LEW, M. Ed.—Author of *Victims No Longer*

Photo: Susan Wilson

**Victims No Longer** by Mike Lew.  
Perennial Library. Pb. \$14.95. 326 pp.

### by Christopher Davis

I was certainly less than enthusiastic when asked to review a book about male survivors of incest, particularly one whose back cover suggests that it be categorized as "Self-Help/Psychology." Then shortly after I received the book I saw a young man in a laundromat intently reading a very well-used copy. I wanted to ask him what he thought of it, but I wasn't sure how to start the conversation, since he was obviously more than a casual reader, so I left without speaking. (Somehow, "Excuse me, but were you sexually abused as a child?" does not seem like the best way to start a conversation with a stranger.) Instead, I went home and spent the next several hours reading the book and working on this review.

*Victims No Longer* is not addressed primarily to a gay audience. Indeed, the author makes the point that most men who abuse children are straight, not gay (would someone please inform Jesse

Helm of this fact?), and men who were abused as children are no more likely to become gay than anyone in the general population. However, gay men who were sexually abused as children do have a more difficult time recovering from the abuse than their straight counterparts, for not only do gay survivors of incest (the author argues convincingly that "victims" is not an appropriate word) have to cope with their own feelings of lack of self-worth, but they also have to deal with the homophobia that is so much a part of our society. The book includes a chapter entitled "Sexuality, Homophobia, and Shame" in which the author states:

*Gay men...internalize our culture's homophobia. Raised in a society that teaches them that it is shameful to be gay, they must work extremely hard to overcome negative messages and build self-esteem.... At its worst, internalized homophobia can cause gay men to wrongly blame themselves (or their gayness) for their having been abused. This ultimate form of blaming the victim (the victim blaming himself) says that just by being who he is—gay,*

*weak, needy or otherwise flawed—he brought the abuse on himself.*

The audience for this book is probably not large. It is intended to help men who were themselves sexually abused as children, and therefore much of it is written in the second person ("you"), which sometimes made me uncomfortable. The text is broken up by written statements made by some of the author's patients, and many of these statements are very powerful. I actually had to stop reading one of them, and I'm going to use some of the space here to reproduce part of another.

*I cannot remember, but I have been told that when I was four years old I drank ammonia. I know now that was my first attempt at suicide....*

*I was acting out sexually, being promiscuous with older men from the time I was a junior in high school. I wanted a lover but was too needy and sexually wild. Then, at age twenty-five I met the perfect mate. He was a very successful older man who was in complete control at all times. He was also always angry and homophobic....*

*This ideal relationship—I felt like dirt and be treated me like dirt—lasted twenty-one unhappy years.*

This statement is typical of most of them, and the message is clear: Sexual abuse of children can and does destroy lives.

I found *Victims No Longer* both moving and informative, and I finished the book with tremendous respect for the work the author is doing. Finally, I think that this book should be required reading for anyone interested in an intergenerational relationship with a youth. According to the author, the same psychological damage that results from incest results from any sexual exploitation by an adult who is loved and trusted, and the damage can come from sexual abuse in teenage years as well as from sexual abuse in earlier childhood. ▼

**QUILT from page 61**

before for *The Times of Harvey Milk*.

**Jeffrey Friedman:** I think the award will be a nod from Hollywood to the AIDS epidemic. I think in some ways it's Hollywood responding to this virus which is devastating its own people. Because it is such a "dream factory," because it doesn't want to deal in ugly reality, and because it is such an extremely gay and closeted town, it hasn't dealt with this issue yet. I would like to think that Hollywood is responding to the quality of the filmmaking, but I also recognize that they probably saw this as an opportunity to make a statement about AIDS.

**Robert Epstein:** It's the right issue at the right time. And I hope it means that it's a symbol for more to be done rather than Hollywood saying, "OK, we'll give this film its due" and then everyone can feel good and lay the issue to rest.

**Phil Zwickler:** What is next for you guys? What kinds of projects do you want to do?

**Robert Epstein:** [Laughter] I don't know. I mean I never know. We want to see this project through distribution, and then we'd make a separation once we felt it was sufficiently out there in the world, which is what we are doing now.

**Phil Zwickler:** How is it going?

**Jeffrey Friedman:** The nomination has really helped. It came at a crucial point, here at the Berlin Film Festival where there is so much marketing going on. We're being approached by people, we don't have to chase buyers around as much. And before the award nomination, people were telling us that there are so many AIDS films around.

**Robert Epstein:** And that's just bullshit. ▼

**CAT from page 65**

put so much vitality into *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* seems almost as paralyzed as poor Brick when confronted with Williams' intensely personal lyricism. He seems unable to help his actors dig beneath the rich skin of Williams' language to reveal the cries of pain buried beneath. But then, two of his stars

have come from Hollywood without the tools required for digging.

This is not the kind of production Williams deserves, but more and more it is the sort our theater—commercial and institutional—presents us, at increasingly higher prices. The last thing our theater, our playwrights, need is actors whose only qualification is fame in other media. It is too easy to blame greedy, shortsighted producers. The fact is, if we wanted a theater better than this, we'd make it. ▼



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flees back to the safety of Poughkeepsie where drinks are cheaper and nobody fist fucks.

Chris is the only one who resists Leigh's penny-brown nipples. At the end of the novel they have an exchange which is surprisingly subtle, and shows that Russell is not completely devoid of talent. It is sad, however, that the reader has seen so little of Chris, while the story was maundering around with Anatole and Lydia. Leigh inevitably splits from Poughkeepsie, on to bigger and richer prey, and leaves the triumvirate in shreds.

*The Salt Point* is interesting in one respect: it shows quite clearly the MTV-ification of American fiction. This style of writing is always in the present tense, which suits characters whose lives are a nebulous "Now," with dim pasts and bleak futures. Music seems to be blaring in the background of every scene, while MTV is prominently featured, in all of its vacuous glory; "Sprawled on the sofa with a beer, Leigh watches MTV," or "In the living room, [Anatole] finds Craig and Leigh sprawled on the sofas watching MTV..." Sometimes Russell is so incoherent about music, it's almost funny, as when he writes of "the post-heroin sadness of David Bowie's voice as it wafts leisurely over the hollow rhythm of drums and marimba." Most of the time the music chit-chat is just banal. "Sometimes a song will trigger a single memory, elusive as the scent of a flower—the more you try to catch it the more it recedes."

With the exception of Chris, the characters in this novel are an unsympathetic lot. And Leigh, though he is the catalyst of disaster in three lives, is a superficial, uninteresting critter, his skills in the sack excepted. As Chris astutely says of Leigh's voice (and sums up the problems with the novel in a nutshell): it is "flippant, ironic, transparent—you can see right through it to a sort of nothingness. The equivalent of a shrug, it throws everything away." This nothingness—Russell's hip nihilism—pervades much of *The Salt Point*. Which makes it hard for the reader to keep from shrugging off the characters and from throwing the book away. ▼

departures of still more staff and volunteers.

Barry O'Neal, who worked on the Crisis Line as a volunteer for nearly three years, came to the Fund's offices on



"MAD PATH"—Barbara Smith Photo: Jim Marks

March 23 to find an impromptu meeting between the staff, volunteers and the board members who had been there to fire Henderson. Members of the board, according to O'Neal, were "abusing the staff and displaying complete contempt for all of us," leading him not only to leave the meeting, but to write an open letter urging "all gay people to withdraw support from the Fund for Human Dignity."

Caschetta recalled that she was so upset by the board members' behavior that she demanded that a professional facilitator be hired to supervise the next meeting between the staff and volunteers and the board. That meeting was scheduled for the following week—a week during which staff members were not given keys to the new locks, but were let in and out of the office by board members. "It's like being an inmate in their little insane asylum," remarked Caschetta.

Several members of the board met with several volunteers and staff members on March 29. While no significant decisions were made at the meeting, Wilson appeared satisfied with it. "I wouldn't call it successful," she stated. "It was a fruitful and meaningful meeting."

"I certainly don't think it was meaningful or fruitful," countered Lucile Duberman, a former volunteer. "The board just wouldn't answer." Duberman, who is Martin Duberman's sister, and who noted that she is straight but does not believe that a heterosexual person should head the Fund, had accepted a position on the

board the day before the meeting. But after the meeting, she said, "I don't think I need to formally resign."

Both Mary Beth Caschetta and Paula Pressley resigned after the meeting. "It is less the appointment of Mr. Brading," Pressley wrote in her resignation letter, "than it is your complete lack of respect for, and abuse of, talented gay and lesbian individuals that leads me to this resignation."

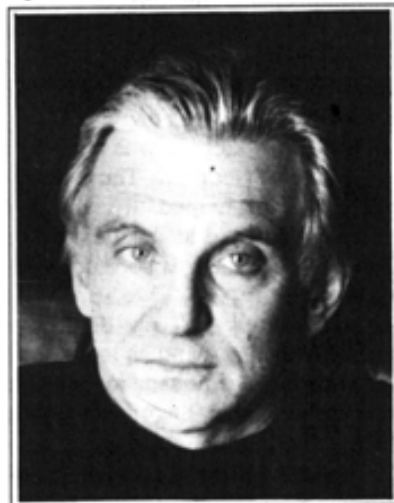
#### Critical Condition

Wilson had only one comment on the resignations: "People make their own decisions."

Meanwhile, only one of the few remaining staff members is reported to be in support of the board. That employee, Gregory Kinallen, declined several requests for comment.

The functioning of the organization's main program, the Crisis Line, appears impaired by the departures of volunteers and staff. According to staff member Joanna Asperger, on several nights the line was not staffed.

The Fund's future plans may be imperiled, as well. The coordinator of their first national gay and lesbian writers' conference, which was planned for June, expressed serious doubts that the event



"VERY FEW THINGS WE CAN CALL OUR OWN"

Martin Duberman Photo: Michael Wakefield

would occur. Neither Martin Duberman nor Barbara Smith was certain about the plans to give the keynote address. "It would kind of be like crossing picket lines, if they persist on the mad path they're on," predicted Smith.

"From what I hear, if they do carry off the conference, it may be the last thing they do," added Duberman. ▼

—filed from Boston



# GCN

## Gay Cable Network

EVERY WEEK ON MANHATTAN CABLE CHANNEL J (23)

### THURSDAYS

#### ***Pride & Progress***

**April 12**

10:30 pm

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

The Media's Coverage of AIDS, with Ed Sikov, gay media critic; Phil Zwickler, Editor, *PWA Coalition Newslines*; and Susan Chassen, Editor, *Visibilities*. Hosted by Andy Humm.

11:00 pm

#### ***The Right Stuff***

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

Interview with Kim McGuire, Hatchet Face from *Cry Baby*; Jimmy Sommerville at Red Zone; Interview with Helen Mira, *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover*.

### SUNDAYS

#### ***Men & Films***

**April 15**

11:30 pm

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

Lance strips for you; Clips from *Lewd Conduct*, *Think Big*, and *Suckulent*.

### MONDAYS

#### ***Be My Guest***

**April 16**

10:00 pm

Sybil Bruncheon hosts a panel game show with surprise guests. **Secret Passions** An original gay soap opera.

Party at Morrissey for *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover*, Party at Red Zone for Jimmy Sommerville.

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

***Celebrating our 8th year.***

# GOING OUT

## AN EVENTS CALENDAR

prepared by Rick X  
with additional 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

Monday to be included in the fol-  
lowing week's issue.

## ONGOING/ADVANCE

NYC DEPT. OF HEALTH **AIDS Training Institute**, courses from April to June, for professionals and service providers; issues include condom comfort, HIV test counseling, overview of HIV infection model, workplace and managers, women, adolescents, outreach to specific communities, social impact of HIV, pediatric AIDS, negotiating safer sex, infections and treatments, partner notification training; courses are free but space is limited; 566-7105

CENTER SPORTS **Mets Games**, tickets must be ordered now for spring and summer games: Astros 5/6, Pirates 6/8, Reds 6/28, Cardinals 7/28, Cubs 8/11, Giants 8/30, Cubs 9/28; \$14 for Center members; \$19 for non-members; 620-7310 (APRIL 14 deadline)

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION **April 29 First Annual GLAAD Media Awards**, "recognizing the best and worst in print and broadcast"; cocktails, dinner, speakers; at the Tower Suite, Time & Life Bldg; 6:30 pm; \$125-\$500; 966-1700 (reservations due by APRIL 16)

TOWER PRESS **Pride Guide '90 deadline** was **March 23** for organization listings, and is **April 20** for calendar of June events listings; 966-7722 (these basic listings are provided free)

CYCLE FOR LIFE **6-Day Ride from Ann Arbor to NYC** takes off May 1, a fundraiser for NYC's PWA Coalition and other groups; to ride or sponsor riders, call Gary 313/994-4285

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS **May 20 AIDS Walk New York**, a 10-kilometer fundraising walkathon, starting and ending at Lincoln Center, B'way & 65 St; sign-in 9 am, opening ceremony 9:30 am, walk begins 10 am; sponsors and walkers call 807-6310

SAGE announces **August's 8-Day Trip in the Pacific Northwest** (\$1328, deposit due May 1) and **October's 15-Day Mediterranean Cruise** (\$2298, deposit due July 1); 741-2247

HALLWALLS CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER **Ways in Being Gay: A Call for Work** from performers, writers, musicians, media artist (film/video/audio) for festival of work by and about lesbians and gay men; to be held in Buffalo, NY; 716/854-5828 (proposals due by June 10)

FOURTH LESBIAN AND GAY EXPERIMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL **Call for Super-8 and 16mm Films** for a September showing; send prints or video transfers (with return postage to get entry back) to NY LGEFF, c/o Jim Hubbard, 503 B'way, #503, NYC 10013; info 865-1499 (entries accepted thru July 1)

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY TELEVISION **Call for Tapes for Lookout: Lesbian and Gay Video Festival '90**, for October 9-11 showing; "by queers of for queers or about queers or all of the above"; all video-mastered modes OK, no film to video; no entry fee, small honoraria; 941-1298 (entries accepted thru AUG 10)

## LIVELY ARTS

WESSEL O'CONNOR GALLERY **Bruce of Los Angeles: The Male Figure**, featuring physique photography of bodybuilders, athletes, posers, and "youthful males goofing off"; 580 B'way (below Houston), 8th Floor; TUES-SAT, 10 am - 6 pm; 219-9524 (thru APRIL 28)

BROADWAY CARES sees **Phantom of the Opera**, a benefit for the AIDS resource network for PWAs; \$155 for prime seats (\$100 goes to BC), all performances from APRIL 20 to APRIL 28; info/tix 974-7500

THE GLINES presents **How Many Tomorrows**, a gay romantic comedy by David Mauriello, about a young street hustler and a straight-laced banker; at the Courtyard Playhouse, 39 Grove St (at Bleecker St); \$15; 869-3530; WED-FRI at 8 pm, SAT at 6 & 9 pm; SUN at 7 pm (thru MAY 13)

RIDICULOUS THEATRICAL COMPANY revives **Charles Ludlam's Der Ring Gott Farlonjet: a masterwork**, which won an Obie in 1977, a "magnum opus in the spirit of Wagner's Ring Cycle, but in far less time"; directed by Everett Quinton with a new score by Mark Bennet and costumes by Susan Young; 1 Sheridan Square; \$25; tix 691-2271, theater 564-8038, info 989-6524 (previews till APR 12 opening; TUE-FRI at 8, SAT-SUN at 7, thru MAY 20)

CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE presents **Elizabeth Page's Spare Parts**, about two women who want to have a baby together but first need to find a "spare part" in order to do it; 159 Bleecker St; \$22-\$28; TUE-FRI at 8 pm, SAT at 7 & 10 pm, SUN at 3 & 7 pm; tix 254-6330, info 645-7744 (open run)

THE NEW DUPLEX presents **Funny Gay Males**, Jaffe Cohen, Danny McWilliams, Bob Smith; 61 Christopher St; FRI and SAT at 10 pm; \$10 + 2-drink min.; reservations 255-5438 (open run)

## MONDAY, APR. 9

Passover First Seder

NYU WOMYN'S CENTER, NYU HUMANITIES STUDIES DEPT., THE HUMANITIES COUNCIL present **Mary Daly: Re-calling the elemental powers of women**; Ms. Daly, author of *Gyn/Ecology, Beyond God the Father, Pure Lust*, is "a Revolving Hag who holds doctorates in theology and philosophy...this Spinster spins and weaves cosmic tapestries in her own time/space"; refreshments served; Eisner Lubin Auditorium, Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place; 7:30 pm

HERITAGE OF PRIDE **General membership meeting**, at the Center, 208 W 13 St, 8 pm, 691-1774 (also MAY 14, JUNE 11)

## TUESDAY, APR. 10

Passover

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH **Community Seder** by advance registration only; 929-9498

OPEN CIRCLE **Gathering on the Full Moon to Celebrate the Goddess**; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; exactly 7-7:30 pm (come early to be on time); \$2 donation (info from OC, Box 4538, Sunnyside, NY 11104)

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS **HIV Health Seminar: Insurance Information**; 129 W 20 St, 3rd Floor; 7 pm; free; 807-6655, TDD 645-7470 (this and every 2nd TUES)

CENTER **2nd Tuesdays: Ed Sikov**, journalist, writer, author of *Screwball Comedy*, presenting *Laughing Hysterically: Sex, Repression and American Film Comedy*, illustrated with videotaped film clips; 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; \$3; 620-7310

1990 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL OF NY presents **Susan & Alan Raymond's Into Madness**, about three families with adult schizophrenic children; and **Lisa Loeman & Claudia Hoover's Metamorphosis: Man into Woman**, "an intimate and painful portrait of 39-year-old Gary, on his 4-year journey toward a full sex-change operation and new female identity"; Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St (off Astor Place); 9 pm; \$6; 741-5357 (repeats THU, 4/12 at 9:30 pm; SAT, 4/14 at 4 pm)

## WEDNESDAY, APR. 11

HISPANIC AIDS FORUM **Roundtable: Latino Adolescents Living in the Age of AIDS**, a discussion of prevention strategies; at Assn. of Puerto Rican Exec. Directors, 140 W 22 St, 3rd Floor; 9 am - 1:30 pm; Else 966-6336

SHESCAPE **Happy Hour Benefit for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund**, which will receive door proceeds collected between 5-7 pm at Shescape's **Wednesday After Work Party for Women at Twenty/Twenty** (5-10 pm); 20 W 20 St (Editor: a different charity benefits every week)

ASIANS & FRIENDS **NY Members Meet Members** at the Manila Bar/Restaurant, 31 W 21 St (5th/6th Aves); 6-8 pm; George, 924-1257

1990 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL OF NY presents **David Wojnarowicz & Phil Zwickler's Fear of Disclosure**, about desire in the age of AIDS; and **Ross von Praunheim & Phil Zwickler's Silence-Death**, "a scalding look at the response of artists to the tragedy of the AIDS epidemic and society's failure to deal with it"; Mr. Zwickler will be present at the screening; Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St (off Astor Place); 7 pm; \$6; 741-5357 (repeats SAT, 4/14 at 2 pm)

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES **Tombees**, in loving memory of those who have died from AIDS, the offering will benefit Holy Apostles AIDS Ministry - Bethany House; at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, General Theological Seminary, 175 9th Ave (20/21 Sts); 8 pm; 807-6799

A DIFFERENT LIGHT **Reading Series: Sumner Locke Elliott, Fairyland**, a tale of growing up gay in Sidney, Australia; 548 Hudson (btwn Charles/Perry); 8 pm; free but limited seating; 989-4850

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS **Meeting and Forum: S/M in Focus**, a slide pro-

gram including photos of interest to s/m men, "from the teasing fetishism of fashion photography to the cream of explicit erotica to the challenging compositions of the avant-garde"; at the Center, 3rd Floor, 208 W 13 St; 8:30 pm (doors open at 8); \$5; 727-9878

**EAGLE BAR Movie Night: Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan;** 142 11th Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-8451

## THURSDAY, APR. 12

### Charles Ludlam's Birthday

**ASIANS & FRIENDS NY** attend **NY Open Int'l Chess Tournament** in the Penta Hotel, 7th Ave at 33 St; noon or 7 pm; Xenon, 516/338-4834

**GREENWICH HOUSE ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAM Open House**, to meet the staff and become acquainted with the program, refreshments served; 151 W 19 St; 1-4 pm; rsvp 463-8244

**SAGE in Brooklyn**, at the Brooklyn Public Library, Kings Highway Branch, 2115 Ocean Ave at Kings Hwy; 1-4 pm; 741-2247

**ASIANS & FRIENDS NY** attends a **Thai New Year Celebration** at Dusit Thai Restaurant, 256 Bleecker St (6th/7th Aves); food and entertainment at \$20 per person; 6 pm; rsvp with George, 924-1287

**THE CENTER NATIONAL MUSEUM OF LESBIAN & GAY HISTORY Opening Reception for the Cartoon Show**, showcasing the work of 40 cartoonists who deal with the lesbian and gay experience; with work by Jennifer Camper, Howard Cruse, Mark Johnson, Burton Clarke, Jerry Mills, *OutWeek's* Bechdel; 208 W 13 St, Sandy Moss Room; 6-8 pm; \$2 suggested; 620-7310 (afterwards exhibits daily, 4-6 pm, thru MAY 25)

**JUDITH'S ROOM BOOKSTORE** presents **"Beyond the Pale: Outrageous Women Writers**, with Ros Dana, *Assistance of Vice*, Patricia Eakins, *The Hungry Girls*, and Jennifer Blowdryer, *Who's My Wife?*; 681 Washington St (at Charles St); 7 pm; free, but limited seating; 727-7330 (wheelchair accessible)

**SEGUE FOUNDATION** presents post/novelists **Robert Gluck** (*Jack the Modernist, Reader*) and **Fanny Howe** (*Deep North*); 303 E 8 St (at Ave B); 8 pm; \$5; info 718/852-2306

**RIDICULOUS THEATRICAL COMPANY Benefit Opening Performance of Charles Ludlam's Der Ring Gott Farbloujet: a masterwork**, which won an Obie in 1977, a "magnum opus in the

**MORE LISTINGS  
NEXT PAGE**

## Tuning In: A TV/Radio Guide for *OutWeek* Readers

Information must be received by Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send items to Rick X, Tuning In, Box 790, NY, NY 10108.

**A&E** (Arts & Entertainment, 555 Fifth Ave, 10th Fl, NYC 10017; 661-4500)

**CCTV** (Rick X, Box 790, NYC 10108)

**GBS** (Gay Broadcasting System, Butch Peaston, 178 7th Ave, Ste. A-3, NYC 10011; 243-1570)

**GCN** (Gay Cable Network, Lou Maletta, 32 Union Square East, Suite 1217; 477-4220)

**GMHC** (Gay Men's Health Crisis, Jean Carlomusto, 129 W 20 St, NYC 10011; 807-7517)

**HBO** (Home Box Office Prods., 1100 Ave/Ams, NYC 10036; 512-1000)

**RB PROD** (Robin Byrd Productions, Box 305, NYC 10021; 988-2973)

**WABC-TV** (7 Lincoln Square, NYC 10023; 456-7777)

**WBAI-FM** (505 8th Ave, 19th Fl, NYC 10018; 279-0707)

**WNET-TV** (356 W 58 St, NYC 10019; 560-3000)

**WPIX-TV** (11 WPIX Plaza, NYC 10017; 949-1100)

**Midnight RB PROD** *The Robin Byrd Show*: male and female strippers; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, CH J/23 (1:00)

**2:00 AM WPIX-TV** *Sidney Shorr*: Tony Randall as the middle-aged homosexual with a young actress for a roommate, the pilot for the TV series, *Love, Sidney* (1981-83); CH 11 (2:00)

## THURSDAY, APRIL 12

**1:30 PM WBAI-FM** *This Way Out*: international gay/lesbian weekly radio magazine; 99.5 FM (:30)

**2:00 PM WBAI-FM** *Breaking the Silence*: news magazine for the gay/lesbian community in New York; 99.5 FM (:30)

**9:30 PM GMHC** *Living With AIDS*: health and politics; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

**10:30 PM GCN** *Pride & Progress*: news, health, sports; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

**11:00 PM GCN** *The Right Stuff*: media, entertainment, advice; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

**11:30 PM RB PROD** *Men For Men*: Robin Byrd presents gay male porno stars; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

**11:30 PM GMHC** *Living With AIDS*: health and politics; Paragon Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

## FRIDAY, APRIL 13

**9:30 AM WPIX-TV** *Best Talk on Location*: raising money for AIDS; CH 11 (:30)

**10:00 AM WABC-TV** *Sally Jessy Raphael*: loneliness; CH 7 (1:00) (Editor: April is suicide month; let your friends tell you how depressed they are, and don't try to cheer them up with goony aphorisms.)

**2:30 PM WBAI-FM** *Rompiendo el Silencio*: todos los viernes, Gonzalo Aburto con temas y noticias para la comunidad latina gay y lesbiana; 99.5 FM (:15)

**7:30 PM** *The Gay Dating Game Show*; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

**8:00 PM WNYW-TV** *Easter Parade*: Irving Berlin is alive and well with Judy Garland, Ann Miller, Peter Lawford; CH 5 (2:00)

**11:00 PM Gay TV**: male porno clips; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

**1:00 AM RB PROD** *Robin Byrd Show*: male and female strippers; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, CH J/23 (1:00)

## SATURDAY, APRIL 14

**11:00 PM RB PROD** *The Early Byrd*: Robin Byrd presents male/female strippers; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (1:00)

**4:00 AM A&E** *Death in Venice*: Visconti's version of Mann's novella, with Dirk Bogarde dying to Mahler's music while lusting after beachboy Bjorn Andresen (2:30)

## SUNDAY, APRIL 15

**7:30 PM WBAI-FM** *The Gay Show*: Larry Gutenberg and Bob (Takin' the Town By) Storm; 99.5 FM (1:00) (On every other Sunday, alternating with *OutLooks*)

**11:30 PM GCN** *Men & Films*: male erotica; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

## MONDAY, APRIL 9

**10:00 AM WABC-TV** *Sally Jessy Raphael*: how transsexualism and transvestitism may affect one's career; CH 7 (1:00) (

**4:00 PM WABC-TV** *Oprah Winfrey*: incorrect diagnoses of terminal illness; CH 7 (1:00)

**8:00 PM WNET-TV** *Presidency, The Press, & The People*: ten former White House Press Secretaries, who worked for Kennedy through Reagan, share anecdotes, comments and wisdom; CH 13 (2:00)

**10:00 PM GCN** *Be My Guest*: Sybil Brunchon hosts a panel with surprise guests; David Gadberry's *Secret Passions*; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

**11:30 PM Tomorrow's TV Tonight**: entertainment; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, CH D/17 (1:00)

**11:30 PM WNET-TV** *Uncommon Women and Others*: five women recall their senior year in college in Wendy Wasserstein's play, with Swoosie Kurtz, Meryl Streep, Alma Cuervo, Jill Eikenberry; CH 13 (1:30)

**Midnight CCTV** *The Closet Case Show*: Glenwood Weber and other boys of *Love Machine*, Russell Maynor's photos and (Rox's) David Leigh's pants, Scott Heron as the nearly-nude dancing Salome; CH C/16 (:30)

**1:00 AM Gay TV**: gay male porno clips; Paragon Cable, CH J/23 (:30)

## TUESDAY, APRIL 10

**11:00 PM GBS** *Out in the 90's*: tonight, special coverage of ACT UP in Albany; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, CH C/16 (1:00)

**Midnight WABC-TV** *The Hellstrom Chronicle*: Why worry about AIDS when insects are about to take over the earth?; CH 7 (1:25)

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

**9:30 AM WBAI-FM** *Ghosts in the Machine*: women in pop, with Victoria Starr; 99.5 FM (2:30)

**7:30 PM WABC-TV** *Entertainment Tonight*: Rudolph Valentin; CH 7 (:30)

splrit of Wagner's Ring Cycle, but in far less time"; directed by Everett Quinton with a new score by Mark Bennet and costumes by Susan Young; 1 Sheridan Square; 7 pm; \$47 (includes champagne reception); tix 691-2271, info 989-8524 (thru MAY 6; TU-FR at 8, SAT-SUN at 7)

1990 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL OF NY presents Susan & Alan Raymond's *Into Madness*, about three families with adult schizophrenic children; and Lisa Loeman & Claudia Hoover's *Metamorphosis: Man into Woman*, "an intimate and painful portrait of 39-year-old Gary, on his 4-year journey toward a full sex-change operation and new female identity"; Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St (off Astor Place); 9:30 pm; \$8; 741-5357 (repeats SAT, 4/14, 4 pm)

## FRIDAY, APR. 13

### Good Friday

IDENTITY HOUSE Women's Discussion Group: *Monogamy/Non-Monogamy*, for lesbian and bi-sexual women; 544 Sixth Ave (14/15 Sts); 6:30-8:30 pm; \$7; 243-8181 (Editor: meets every week with a different topic)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Good Friday service with Rev. Troy Perry, featuring *Lavender Light Gospel Choir*; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7 pm

THE ANSWER IS LOVING Women Talking Women's Talk: Women's Passover Seder, "a substance-free, sugar-free, smoke-free evening with women from all backgrounds...We will share our hopes and we will pay tribute to our foremothers. We will read from a Hagadah for women about women."; with dinner and music, hosted by Ruth Berman and Connie Kurtz; Sheephead Bay, Brooklyn; 7 pm sharp; \$12; limited seating, rsvp ASAP; 718/998-2305

SAGE Women's 50+ Rap Group: *Mid-Life Sexuality*; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7:30 pm; membership info, 741-2247

SOUTHERN LESBIANS AND GAY MEN IN EXILE IN NY New group forming tonight, "to work here to make the South, America's most viciously homophobic region, a more tolerable place for gay people to live"; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7:30 pm; David Gilbert, 674-8073 (Next meeting APR 27 at 7:30 pm)

## SATURDAY, APR. 14

SAGE Support group for people whose partners are ill, begins today and continues each Saturday; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 11 am - 12:30 pm; Arlene 741-2247

1990 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL OF NY presents David Wojnarowicz & Phil Zwickler's *Fear of Disclosure*, about desire in the age of AIDS; and Rosa von

Fraunhelm & Phil Zwickler's *Silence=Death*, "a scalding look at the response of artists to the tragedy of the AIDS epidemic and society's failure to deal with it"; double-bill at 2 pm; also Susan & Alan Raymond's *Into Madness*, about three families with adult schizophrenic children; and Lisa Loeman & Claudia Hoover's *Metamorphosis: Man into Woman*, "an intimate and painful portrait of 39-year-old Gary, on his 4-year journey toward a full sex-change operation and new female identity"; double-bill at 4 pm (separate admission, \$8); Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St (off Astor Place); 741-5357

THE CENTER invites you to Meet the Cartoonists, a reception with the artists of the *Cartoon Show*; 208 W 13 St, Sandy Moss Room; 7-9 pm; \$2; 620-7310 (see APRIL 12 for more info)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Easter Vigil with Rev. Troy Perry, 135 W 4 St; 7 pm

DIGNITY/BIG APPLE Liturgy for The Great Vigil of Easter, at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 818-1309 (all invited)

CENTER 2nd Saturday Dance, DJ Amaja, cash bar & juice bar, free drink before 10 pm; 208 W 13 St, 9 pm - 1 am, \$8 general/\$6 members, seniors, students; 620-7310

## SUNDAY, APR. 15

### Easter Sunday

DIFFRENT SPOKES Staten Island bike ride; 718/859-1079

DIGNITY/QUEENS Easter Sunday Liturgy; info 718/565-2171

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Easter Sunday with Rev. Troy Perry; two services, morning and evening; at the Center, 208 W 13 St, 10 am; at the church, 135 W 4 St, 7 pm

1990 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL OF NY presents Rosa von Fraunhelm & Phil Zwickler's *Positive*, portraits of AIDS activists Larry Kramer, Michael Callen and Mr. Zwickler, who will be present at the screening; Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St (off Astor Place); 2 pm; 741-5357

SAGE Women's Sunday Drop-in, today and each 3rd Sunday, with "coffee, wine, laughter, fun, refreshments and good company"; in the SAGE Room, at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 2-5 pm; 741-2247

## MONDAY, APR. 16

### Passover Final Evening

THE PYRAMID presents Hapi Phace's *Film Fest: Talk to Go: Wigstock Episode, Promises*, 101 Avenue A, btwn 6/7 Streets; 420-1590

CCTV *The Closet Case Show*: hot boys at Roxy, Kioset Klips; CH C/16, midnight-12:30 am

## TUESDAY, APR. 17

### Passover Ends

THE NETWORK *Spring Fling Cocktail Buffet at Tavern on the Green*, Central Park; 6:30-9:30 pm; \$50 advance/\$60 door (space permitting); 517-0380

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS HIV Health Seminar: *Benefits Information and Nutritional Issues*; 129 W 20 St; 3rd & 6th Floors; 7 pm; free; 807-8655, TDD 645-7470 (this and every 3rd TUES)

ASIANS & FRIENDS NY goes to the Circus, proceeds go to the new AFNY AIDS Fund; at Madison Square Garden, 32 St at 7th Ave; 7:30 pm; \$13.50; reserve with Jerry, 718/497-5277; member info, 674-5064

CELLBLOCK 28 Hands On Party: *Hard Up*; 28 Ninth Ave (14/13 Sts); 9 pm - 2 am; \$10 (Editor: this is a safe-sex party held once a month)

OUT IN THE '90s presents *Talking With Parents*, interview by Amy Ashworth (a founding member of Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays); Ms. Ashworth will appear on *Out in the '90s* tonight and every third Tuesday; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, Channel C/16, 11 pm to midnight; 243-1570

## WEDNESDAY, APR. 18

SHESCAPE Happy Hour Benefit for GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), which will receive door proceeds collected between 5-7 pm at Shescape's Wednesday After Work Party for Women at Twenty/Twenty (5-10 pm); 20 W 20 St (Editor: a different charity benefits every week)

SAGE presents Dr. Charles Silverstein (*The Joy of Gay Sex, Man to Man: Gay Couples in America, A Family Matter: A Parents Guide to Homosexuality*), speaking on the re-emerging theory of homosexuality as illness, including "endocrine abnormalities"; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7 pm; \$3; 741-2247

A DIFFERENT LIGHT Reading Series: *Kenny Fries, The Healing Notebooks*, new book of poetry from the author of *Night After Night*; 548 Hudson (btwn Charles/Perry); 8 pm; free but limited seating; 989-4850

CENTER STAGE sees *The First Time*, a musical by Dan Clancy about ten patrons (gay and straight) in a piano bar, remembering theirs; at the Village Theatre, 224 Waverly Place; 8 pm; \$15; 620-7310

ISLANDERS' CLUB sees *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, with Kathleen Turner; \$50 members/\$60 nonmembers; 633-8898

EAGLE BAR Movie Night: Terrence McNally's *The Ritz*; 142 11th Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-8451

## THURSDAY, APR. 19

SAGE Lesbian Mothers Forum, a new group for mothers, co-parents and lovers of lesbian mothers; led by Bernice Dambowicz; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; SAGE Room; 6-8 pm; membership info, 741-2247

ASIANS & FRIENDS NY Monthly Discussion Group, on topics relevant to members' lifestyles, cultures, relationship; meets in the Village, 7:30-9 pm; reserve with George, 924-1287

JUDITH'S ROOM BOOKSTORE presents *Emerging Talent Competition Series* with Molly Peacock and Suzanne Paola; 681 Washington St (at Charles St); 7:30 pm; free, but limited seating; 727-7330 (wheelchair accessible)

CENTER STAGE sees *The Accomplice*, Rupert Holmes' comedy-thriller; at the Richard Rodgers Theatre; 8 pm; \$47; 620-7310

DIXON PLACE presents *Victor Joseph in Love Interest*, a performance piece in which the "author goes oral - is there life without a significant other?"; also *Jimmy Jeoners in Life With Jeon*, an "ongoing series of hallucinations directed by Maryrose Wood"; 37 E 1st St (btwn 1st/2nd Aves); 8 pm; \$6 or TDF; 673-6752

THE PLAGUE (NYU'S HUMOR MAGAZINE) and BEYOND VAUDEVILLE CABLE SHOW present the 9th Annual *Beyond Vaudeville Stage Show*, hosted by Quentin Crisp, with "a dozen unusual acts" including "Little" Mike Anderson ("the disco dwarf"), Dee Neck ("the female Elvis"), Danny the Wonderpony, and Jim Grosso (expert nose-whistler); proceeds benefit the Coalition for the Homeless; at NYU's Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place (at Wash. Sq. South); 8 pm; \$3

WOW presents Catherine Trotter's *Agnes de Castro*, with an all-female cast from the Hampshire College Women's Theater Collective, originally produced in London in 1696 during the lesbian reign of Queen Anne; about two women in 17th century Portugal who strive to remain lovers; 59 E 4 St; 8 pm; \$7; rsvp 460-8067 (also APRIL 20, 21)

## FRIDAY, APR. 20

IDENTITY HOUSE Women's Discussion Group: *Lesbian Sex*, for lesbian and bi-sexual women; 544 Sixth Ave (14/15 Sts); 6:30-8:30 pm; \$7; 243-8181 (Editor: meets every week with a different topic)

# DANCING OUT

## Monday

**Private Eyes** (Marc Berkley's *Kool Komrads*; male strippers) 12 W 21 St, club 206-7772

\***Pyramid** (Hapi Phace's *Film Fest*) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6th/7th Streets; 420-1590

## Tuesday

\***Love Machine** at Underground, 860 Bway, near 17th St; 254-4005

## Wednesday

**Better Days** 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves); 245-8925

**Private Eyes** (Jeffrey Sanker & Dallas's *Club Bad*) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves; 206-7772

\***Pyramid** (Tennessee's *House Nation*) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6th/7th Streets; 420-1590

**Silver Lining** (2-4-1 drinks, also open Tues-Sun, women SAT) 175 Cherry La., Floral Park, LI; 516/354-9641

**Stutz** (2-4-1 drinks, also open daily) 202 Westchester Ave, White Plains; 914/761-3100

## Thursday

\***Boybar** (has a new wave drag show) 15 1/2 St Marks Place, btwn 2nd/3rd Aves; 674-7959

\***Copacabana** (last Thu. of the month Susanne Bartsch party) 10 E 60 St, at Fifth Ave; 755-6010

**Excalibur** (\$1 drinks, also open Tues-Sun, women WED) corner 10th/Jefferson behind football stadium, Hoboken, NJ; 201-795-1161

**Grand Central** (2-4-1 drinks, also open Wed-Sun) 210 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, LI; 516/536-4800

**Hatfield's** (2-4-1 drinks, female impersonators; also open nightly, women on TUE & FRI) 126-10 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, Queens; 718/261-8484

\***Mars** (mixed straight/gay; Patrick & Chauncey party, 3rd Floor) Westside Highway and 13th St; 691-6262

\***Quick!** (Chip Duckett Thursdays) 6 Hubert St (on Hudson, 5 blocks below Canal); 925-2442

## Friday

\***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Pl., btwn 2nd/3rd Aves; 674-7959

**Columbia Dances** (1st Friday of every month) 116th St & Bway; 854-3574 days

\***Mike Todd Room** (Chip Duckett's *Boy+Boy*) 123 E 13 St; club (Palladium) 473-7171

**Private Eyes** (preppies and young professionals) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves; 206-7772

\***Quick!** (mixed straight/gay; Scott Currie + *Panty Girdles*) 6 Hubert St (on Hudson, 5 blocks below Canal); 925-2442

**TAG** at The Space (party for men, alternate Fridays, begins 4/13) 132 W 20 St; 718/729-2464

## Saturday

**Barefoot Boogie** (smoke & alcohol free) 434 6th Ave (btwn 9/10 Sts); 832-6759

\***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Place, btwn 2nd/3rd Aves; 674-7959

**The Center Dances** (2nd and 4th Saturdays) 208 W 13 St, btwn 7th/8th Aves; 620-7310

**Girth and Mirth Club at the Center** (3rd Saturdays, heavy men & their admirers) 208 W 13 St; 620-7310

**Columbia Dances** (3rd Saturdays, *Same But Different* Dance, through June 16) 116 & B'way, 10 pm - 3 am; info 629-1989

**Private Eyes** (Jeffrey Sanker & Dallas's *Club Bad*) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves; 206-7772

\***Roxy** (mixed gay/straight/TVs/club kids) 515 W 18 St (btwn 10/11 Aves); 645-5156

**Saint At Large** (*ad hoc* parties at different locations); 674-8541

**Sound Factory** (mixed gay/straight, Acid House, no alcohol) 530 W 27 St (btwn 10th/11th Aves); 643-0728

## Sunday

**Better Days** 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves); 245-8925

\***Mars** (Chip Duckett's *Mars Needs Men*) Westside Highway and 13th St; 691-6262

**Morrissey** (DJ Keoki started April 8) 11th Ave at 26 St; 633-0701

\***Pyramid** (Hapi Phace's Backdoor Cabaret) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6/7 Streets; 420-1590

**Twenty/Twenty** (T-Dance, 4 pm - 2 am) 20 W 20 St (5/6 Aves); 727-8841

**Woody's** (Dean Johnson's original *Rock & Roll Fag Bar*, alternate Sundays, call first) 4th St at 2nd Ave; 982-3686

## Every Night (or almost)

**Monster** (West Village) 80 Grove St at Sheridan Sq.; 924-3557

**Spectrum** (closed Mon & Tue, WED free, THU free & 2-4-1 drinks, FRI m/f strippers, SAT guest star show, SUN live show & free 9-10 pm) 802 64th St @ 8th Ave, Bay Ridge, Bklyn; 718/238-8213

## DANCING OUT for Women

### Tuesday

**Hatfield's** 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens; 718/261-8484

### Wednesday

**Bedrock** 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

**Excalibur** (*Ladies Night*, \$1 drinks) corner 10th/Jefferson behind football stadium, Hoboken, NJ; 201-795-1161

**Twenty/Twenty** (*Shescape After Work*, 5-10 pm) 20 W 20 St (btwn 5th/6th Aves); info 645-6479, club 727-8841

### Thursday

**Bedrock** 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

**Big Hunt Club** (*Her Planet*, 8 pm - 2 am; began 3/29) 804 Washington St, 4 blocks below 14 St; info 727-7616

### Friday

**Bedrock** 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

**Cheeks** 2000 Long Beach Road, Island Park, LI; 516/431-5700

\***Mike Todd Room** (Chip Duckett's *Girl+Girl*) 123 E 13 St; club (Palladium) 473-7171

**Hatfield's** 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens; 718/261-8484

**Roxy** (*Shescape* party) 515 W 18 St, btwn 10th/11th Aves; info 645-6479, club 645-5156

**Visions** 56-01 Queens Blvd, Woodside; info 718/846-7131, club 718/899-9031

### Saturday

**Bedrock** 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

**The Center** (*Women & Friends* 1st Saturdays, Feb. thru May) 208 W 13 St; 620-7310

**Mars** (last Saturdays, *Her Planet*; 4/28 this month) 13 St & West Side Hwy, 691-6262

**Silver Lining** 175 Cherry Lane, Floral Park, LI; 516/354-9641

**Starz** 836 Grand Boulevard, Dear Park, LI; 516/242-3857

**Twenty/Twenty** (*Shescape* party) 20 West 20 Street (btwn 5th/6th Aves); info 645-6479, club 727-8841

### Sunday

**Bedrock** 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

**Cave Canem** (*Sandwich Sister Sundays*) 24 1st Ave at 1st St; 529-9665

## Every Night (or almost)

**Cubby Hole** (tiny dance floor) 438 Hudson St @ Morton St; 243-9079

**Duchess II** Sheridan Sq. & 7th Ave South; 242-1408

**Spectrum** (closed Mon & Tuas; good gay/lesbian mix, see *Every Night*, above, for details) 802 64th St, Bklyn.; 718/238-8213

### NOTE:

All phone numbers are area code 212, unless otherwise noted.

\* = TVs welcome.

Send corrections/additions to:

Rick X, P.O. Box 790, New York, NY 10108

# COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

## A.C.Q.C.

AIDS CENTER OF QUEENS COUNTY  
SOCIAL SERVICES • EDUCATION • BUDDIES  
COUNSELING • SUPPORT GROUPS  
Volunteer Opportunities  
(718) 896-2500(voice) • (718) 896-2985(TDD)

**ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power)**  
496A Hudson Street, Suite G4 NYC 10014  
(212) 988-1114

A diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. Gen. meetings Mon. nights 7:30, at the Community Center 208 W.13th.

## ALDEC/APLN-NY

(Asian Lesbians of the East Coast/  
Asian Pacific Lesbian Network-New York)

We are a political, social and supportive network of Asian Pacific lesbians. Planning meetings on the 1st Sunday and social events on the last Friday of each month. Call (212) 517-5508 for more information.

## ARCS (AIDS-Related Community Services)

for Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. AIDS education, client services, crisis intervention, support groups, case management, buddy and hospital visitor program.  
214 Central Ave., White Plains, NY 10600 (914) 983-0000  
838 Broadway, Newburgh, NY 12550 (914) 962-5005  
AIDSline (914) 983-0667

## ATR (AIDS TREATMENT REGISTRY, INC.)

Publishes a bi-monthly Directory of clinical trials of experimental AIDS/HIV treatments in NY/NJ, and has educational materials/seminars for trial participants. ATR also advocates for improvements in the trial system. P.O. Box 30234, NY, NY 10111-0102. (212) 288-4196. Publications free/donation requested.

## BAR ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Lawyers Referral  
Service for the Lesbian and Gay Community  
Full Range of Legal Services (212) 458-4873

## BAR ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Free Walk-in Legal Clinic. Tuesday 9-5 pm  
Lesbian & Gay Community Centr. Ground Floor

## BIDS (BISEXUAL DOMINANCE & SUBMISSION GROUP)

Share S/M experiences and fantasies with others in a positive, non-judgemental atmosphere. First Sunday of the month, 4:45pm at the Community Center 208 W. 13 Street, NYC. This group is part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

## BISEXUAL PRIDE DISCUSSION GROUP

Topical discussions on issues of interest to the community in a congenial atmosphere, followed by an informal dinner at a friendly local restaurant. Every Sunday, 3:00 - 4:30pm at the Community Center 208 W. 13 Street, NYC. Part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

## BIWAYS NEW YORK

Monthly social events for the Bisexual community and friends. Call NYABN for details of upcoming events. (718) 353-8245

## BIPAC (BISEXUAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE)

Political action on issues of importance to the Bisexual/Lesbian/Gay community. Monthly meeting/potluck held 8:00pm on fourth Thursday of the month at members homes. Call NYABN for this month's location. (718) 353-8245

## BISEXUAL YOUTH

Informal social & support group for Bisexual kids/youth. Monthly meeting/potluck lunch held 1:00pm on fourth Sunday of the month at members homes. Call NY ABN for this month's location. This group is part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

## BLUS-BRONX LESBIANS UNITED IN SISTERHOOD

Social, political and support networking group for women and their friends. Regular social events and meetings on the first and third Fridays of every month. At The Community Center, 208 W. 13 Street, from 8:30-8pm. For more info call Lisa at (212) 829-9817.

## BODY POSITIVE

If you or your lover has tested HIV+, we offer support groups, seminars, public forums, reference library, referrals, social activities and up-to-date national monthly, "THE BODY POSITIVE" (\$25/year). (212) 721-1348.

208 W. 13th St., NYC, NY 10011

## CIRCLE OF MORE LIGHT

Spiritual support and sharing in a gay/lesbian affirmative group. West-Park Presbyterian Church  
165 West 88th Street

Wed: worship service 8:30 pm, program 7:30.  
Marsha (212) 304-4373 Charlie (212) 691-7118.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

208 West 13th Street, NYC, New York 10011  
For Appointments and Information  
(212) 675-3559 (TTY/Voice)

PROVIDING CARING, SENSITIVE AND LOW COST HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

PWAs, PWARCs & their physicians taking the initiative to seek promising intervention against AIDS in a resp. manner. For more info or to volunteer please call (212) 481-1050.

## CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH

NY's Gay and Lesbian Synagogue Services  
Friday at 8:30pm 57 Bethune Street  
For info. call: (212) 929-9406.

## DIGNITY/BIG APPLE

A community of Lesbian and Gay Catholics. Activities include Liturgies and socials every Sat., 8:00 pm, at the Center, 208 W. 13 Street, NYC.  
Call (212) 818-1308.

## DIGNITY NEW YORK

lesbian and gay Catholics and friends  
AIDS Ministry, Spiritual Development,  
The Cathedral Project.  
Worship Services & Social-Sun. Eves. 7:30pm-Sat.  
John's Episcopal Church 218 West 11th Street @  
Waverly-875-2179

## EDGE

Education in a Disabled Gay Environment  
For the physically disabled Lesbian and Gay Community. (212) 989-1921  
P.O. Box 305 Village Station, New York, NY 10014

## FEMME SUPPORT GROUP

For lesbians who self identify as Femme. For info and meeting times call Lisa at (212) 829-9817. No men please.

## FRONT RUNNERS

A running club for lesbian and gay athletes of all abilities. Fun Runs of 1-8 miles held every Sat. at 10am and Weds. at 7pm in Central Park and every Tues. at 7pm in Prospect Park. For information: call (212) 724-9700.

## THE FUND FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

National Gay and Lesbian Crisis Line  
"AIDS 800"—1-800-SOS-GAYS  
Educational Resource Center; Positive Images Media Center; NY State Arts Program  
686 B'way Suite 410 NYC, NY 10012 (212) 529-1800

## 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 914-378-0727 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.

Do you have 30 minutes a month to fight homophobia?  
Join the GLAAD PhoneTree!  
Call (212)-966-1700 for information.

## GLIB

Gay and Lesbian Independent Broadcasters invites you to turn into OUTLOOKS on WBAI-NY, 99.5 FM every other Sunday, 7:30-8:30pm. Join us every other Tuesday at 7:30pm to become a member of GLIB. No experience needed.  
505 Eighth Avenue, 19th floor. (212) 748-0405.

## GAY & LESBIAN HEALTH CONCERNS

An office of the NYC Dept. of Health, provides linkages between NYC Health & Human Svcs, and the Lesbian & Gay community, focusing in ALL health concerns; resource information for health services consumers and providers. 125 Worth Street, Box 87, New York, NY 10013. For info call (212) 506-4895.

## GAY & LESBIAN PSYCHOTHERAPY

Sliding scale fees • Insurance accepted.  
Institute for Human Identity.  
(212) 799-9432

## 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, 486A Hudson Street, Suite D23, NYC 10014. (212) 727-9678.

## GMAD (GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT)

80 Varick Street, NYC 10013 a support group of Gay Men of African Descent dedicated to consciousness-raising and the development of the Lesbian and Gay Community. GMAD is inclusive of African, African-American, Caribbean and Hispanic/Latino men of color. Meetings are held, weekly, on Fridays. For more information, call 718-802-0162.

**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  
212-667-8665

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

**GIRTH & MIRTH CLUB OF NEW YORK**  
Social club for heavy, chubby gay men & their admirers. Monthly socials at the "Center", weekly bar nights Thursdays at the "Chelsea Transfer", monthly Fat Apple Review, bi-monthly F.A.R. penpals. For more information call Ernie at 914-899-7735 or write: G&M/NY, Dept. O, P.O. Box 10, Pelham, NY 10803.

**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) 633-8820(voice)  
(212) 633-8826 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 pm 4th Thursday of every month at 208 West 13th Street.  
Call (212) 891-4181  
or write H.U.G.L., P.O. Box 226 Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10018.

**LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND**  
Precedent-setting litigation nationwide for lesbians, gay men and people with AIDS. Membership (\$35 and up) inc. newsletter and invitations to special events. Volunteer night on Thursdays. Intake call: 2-4pm Mon thru Fri (212) 995-8565

**LAVA (LESBIANS ABOUT VISUAL ART)**  
Call for slides for Lesbian Artists' Exhibition, Gay & Lesbian Community Center, NYC. For more information, send SASE to:  
Miriam Fougere  
118 Fort Greene Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11217.

**THE LESBIAN AND GAY BIG APPLE CORPS**  
Get your instrument out of the closet and come play with us. Symphonic, Marching, Jazz, Dixieland, Rock, Flute Ensembles and Woodwinds.  
123 West 44th St. Suite 12L, New York, NY 10036  
(212) 869-2922.

**LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER**  
208 West 13th Street New York, NY 10011  
(212) 820-7310 9am-11pm everyday.  
A place for community organizing and networking, social services, cultural programs, and social events sponsored by the Center and more than 150 community organizations.

**LESBIAN AND GAY LABOR NETWORK**  
An organization of Lesbians and Gays who are active in their labor unions working on domestic partnership benefits and AIDS issues. For more information call (212)823-8690.

**LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS PROJECT**  
of the American Civil Liberties Union  
**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS / WE'RE EXPANDING THEM**  
(212) 944-9800, ext. 545

**LESBIANS AND GAYS OF FLATBUSH**  
Brooklyn's social organization for both gay men and lesbians. P.O. Box 108, Midwood Station  
Brooklyn, NY 11230 • (718) 858-9437

**LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES**  
P.O. Box 1258  
New York, New York 10116  
212/874-7232  
Since 1974, the Archives has inspired, shaped and reflected Lesbian lives everywhere. Call to arrange a visit or to volunteer for Thursday worknights.

**LONG ISLAND ACT-UP**  
P.O. Box 291, New Hyde Park, NY 11040  
Support us for change on Long Island.  
(516)338-8662 (516) 997-5236 Nassau  
(516) 928-5530 Suffolk

**MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER NY**  
A multi-racial group of gay men against racism. Meetings every Friday night at 7:45 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th Street. For more info. call: (212) 245-8366 or (212) 222-9794.

**METROPOLITAN TENNIS GROUP(MTG)**  
Our 200 member lesbian and gay tennis club includes players from beginning to tournament level. Monthly tennis parties. Winter indoor league. Come play with us! For information: MTG, Suite K03, 406-A Hudson St., New York, NY 10025. (718) 852-8562.

**MOCA (Men of Color AIDS Prevention Program.)**  
Provides safer sex and AIDS education information to gay and bisexual Men of Color; coordinates a network of peer-support groups for gay and bisexual Men of Color in all 5 boroughs of New York City.  
303 Ninth Ave., New York, NY 10001  
or call (212) 239-1796.

**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)332-8483.

**NEW YORK ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**  
NYACN is the community's largest gay and lesbian professional group, welcoming all in communications—and their friends. Monthly meetings, 3rd Wed 8:30pm at the Community Center. Members' newsletter, job hotline, annual directory. Phone (212) 517-0380 for more info. Mention OutWeek for one free newsletter.

**N.Y. WOMEN'S SOFTBALL GUILD**  
For experienced, serious Softball Players, Coaches and Managers. We play mod/feet pitch weekends in Manhattan and Queens. Try-outs begin Feb. 11 thru April- or until filled. (212) 255-1379 Janet.

**NINTH STREET CENTER**  
Since 1973, a community dedicated to demonstrating that a homosexual lifestyle is a rational, desirable choice for individuals dissatisfied with the rewards of conventional living. Psychologically - focused rap groups, Tues., Sat., 8 to 10 pm. peer counseling available. 319 E. 9 Street, New York, NY 10003, for info call (212) 229-5153.

**NORTH AMERICAN MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOCIATION (NAMBLA)**  
Dedicated to sexual freedom and especially interested in gay intergenerational relationships. Monthly Bulletin and regular chapter meetings on the first Saturday of each month. Yearly membership is \$20; write NAMBLA, PO Box 174, Midtown Station, New York, NY 10018 or call (212) 807-8576 for information.

**NORTHERN LIGHTS ALTERNATIVES**  
Improving Quality of Life for People with AIDS/HIV. THE AIDS MASTERY WORKSHOP: Exploring the possibilities of a powerful and creative life in the face of AIDS. Call (212) 255-8554

**NYC GAY & LESBIAN ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT**  
Counseling, advocacy, and information for survivors of anti-gay and anti-lesbian violence, sexual assault, domestic violence, and other types of victimization. All services free and confidential.  
24 hour hotline (212) 807-0187

**PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION**  
(212) 532-0290/1-800-825-3280/Hotline (212) 532-0568  
Monday thru Friday 10am-6pm  
Meal programs, support groups, educational and referral services for PWA's and PWA's.

**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, & educational services for gay & lesbian senior citizens. Also serves over 180 homebound seniors & older PWA's.  
208 West 13th St. NYC 10011, (212) 741-2247

**SETHIAN GAYS, LESBIANS AND BISEXUALS**  
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Community volunteers providing a weekly buffet supper for the Brooklyn AIDS community. TOUCH meets Monday even. 5pm to 8:30pm- at downtown Brooklyn Friends Meeting House (110 Schermerhorn St. near Boerum Place). Limited transportation may be arranged. Info: (718) 622-2798. TOUCH welcomes contributions of funds, food and volunteers.

**ULSTER COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE**  
Meets first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church on Sawkill Road in Kingston. For information, call (914) 826-3203.

**WHAMI (Women's Health Action Mobilization)**  
A non-partisan coalition committed to demanding, securing and defending absolute reproductive freedom and quality health care for all women. We meet every Wed. at 8:30 pm at the Village Independent Democrats, 224 West Fourth Street (off Sheridan Sq.). We are not affiliated with VID. (212) 713-5966. Mailing address: WHAMI, P.O. Box 733, NYC 10008

**WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY CENTER (WACC).**  
A non-profit, Lesbian community center serving Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties. Thurs night weekly discussion grps. 8-30pm, for other activities please contact us at (516) 483-2050.

**To list your organization in this space, call (212) 337-1222.**

# OUTWEEK BAR GUIDE

## CHELSEA

---

- 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  
Private Eyes, 12 W. 21st St. (bet. 5th & 6th),  
206-7770  
Rawhide, 212 8th Ave., (21st St.), unlisted.  
Spike, 120 11th Ave., 243-9688

## WEST VILLAGE

---

- The Annex (to Cellblock 28), 673 Hudson St. (bet.  
13th & 14th), 627-1140  
Badlands, Christopher & West St., 741-9236  
Boots & Saddle, 76 Christopher St., 929-9684  
Cellblock 28, 28 9th Ave, 733-3144  
The Cubbyhole, 438 Hudson (Morton St),  
243-9079  
D.T.'s Fat Cat, 281 W. 12th St., 243-9041  
Duchess II, 70 Grove St (7th Ave.), 242-1408  
J's, 675 Hudson St., 242-9292  
Julius, 159 W. 10th St., 929-9672  
Keller's, 384 West St. (at Christopher), 243-1907  
Kelly's Village West, 46 Bedford St., 929-9322  
The Locker Room, 400 W. 14th St. (9th Ave),  
459-4299

- Marie's Crisis, 59 Grove St. (7th Ave), 243-9323  
The Monster, 80 Grove St. (7th Ave.), 924-3558  
Ninth Circle, 139 W. 10th St., 243-9204  
Ramrod, 185 Christopher St., unlisted.  
Sneakers, 392 West St., 242-9830.  
Two Potato, 145 Christopher St., 242-9340.  
Ty's, 114 Christopher, 741-9641.  
Uncle Charlie's, 56 Greenwich Ave., 255-8787

## WEST SIDE

---

- Candle Bar, 309 Amsterdam Ave., 874-9155  
Cat's, 730 8th Ave., 221-7559  
Don't Tell Mama, 343 W. 46th St., 757-0788  
Sally's Hideaway, 264 W. 43 St., 221-9152  
Town & Country, 9th Ave at 46th St., 307-1503  
Trix, 246 W. 48 St. (bet. Bdwy & 8th Ave), 664-8331  
The Works, 428 Columbus Ave (at 81st),  
799-7365

## EAST SIDE

---

- Brandy's Piano Bar, 235 E. 84th St., 650-1944  
G.H. Club, 353 E. 53rd St., 223-9752  
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  
The Townhouse, 236 E. 58th St., 754-4649  
Twenty-Nine Palms, 129 Lexington Ave., 686-8299

## EAST VILLAGE

---

- The Bar, 68 2nd Ave. (at 4th St.), 674-9714  
Boy Bar, 15 St. Mark's Pl., 674-7959  
The Pyramid, 101 Avenue A, 420-1590  
Tunnel Bar, 116 1st Ave (7th St.), 777-9232

## BROOKLYN (718)

---

- After Five Plus, 5 Front St., 852-0139  
Spectrum, 802 64th St. (at 8th Ave), 745-9611  
Sweet Sensations, 6322 20th St., 435-2580

## QUEENS (718)

---

- Breadstix, 113-24 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills,  
236-0300  
Hatfield's, 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens,  
261-8484  
Hideaway, 87-36 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, 657-4585  
Love Boat, 77-02 Broadway, Elmhurst, 429-8670  
Magic Touch, 73-13 37th Rd, Jackson Hgts,  
429-8605

## STATEN ISLAND

---

- Sandcastle, 86 Mills Ave., (718) 447-9365

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**OUTWEEK BAR GUIDE**  
**and get free advertising**  
**(if you respond by May 20th)**  
**for information, call 212-337-1222**



## WESTCHESTER (914)

Playroom, 590 Nepperhan Ave., Yonkers,  
965-6900

Stutz, 202 Westchester Ave, White Plains,  
761-3100

## LONG ISLAND—NASSAU (516)

Bedrock, 121 Woodfield Rd., West Hempstead,  
486-9516

Blanche, 47-2 Boundary Ave., Farmingdale,  
694-6906

Cheeks, 2000 Long Beach Rd, Island Park,  
431-5700

Grand Central, 210 Merrick Rd, Rockville Centre,  
536-4800

Pal Joey's, 2457 Jerusalem Ave., North Bellmore,  
785-5031

Silver Lining, 175 Cherry Lane, New Hyde Park,  
354-9641

## LONG ISLAND—SUFFOLK (516)

Bunkhouse, 192 N. Main St. Sayville, 567-9834

Club Swamp, Sizes, 8 E. Main St., Bay Shore,  
665-5175

Kiss, 161 Farmardie Dr., Lake Ronkonkoma,  
467-9273

Mr.'s, 608 Sunrise Hwy., W. Babylon., 661-9580

Starz, 836 Grand Boulevard, Deer Park, 242-3857

Thunders, 894 W. Jericho Tpke., Smithtown,  
864-1410

## NEW JERSEY (201)

Charlie's West, 536 Main St., E. Orange,  
678-5002

The Den, 12-16 Hiram St, New Brunswick,  
545-7329

Feather's, 77 Kinderkamack Rd., River Edge,  
342-6410

Friendly's Bar, 6310 Park Ave., West New York,  
854-9895

Le Mannequin, 67 Orchard St., Elizabeth,  
353-9694

The Station, 308 Watchung Ave., Plainfield,  
755-4000

Excalibur, 10th & Jefferson, Hoboken, NJ,  
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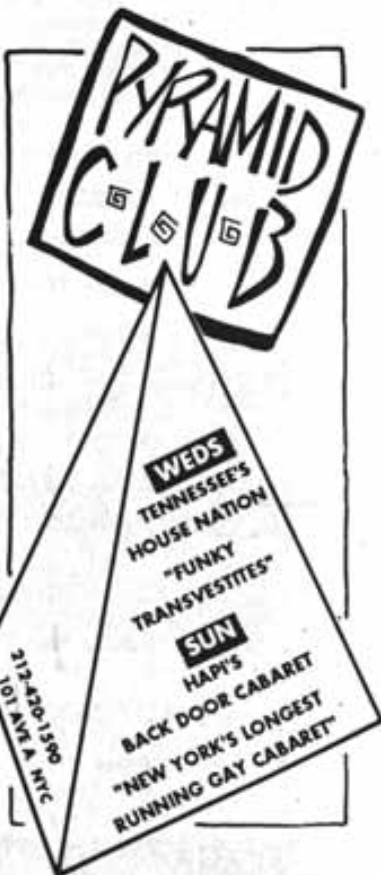


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April 12, 6:00-10:00, Mon. May 7, 7:00-  
1:00, Sat. May 19, 6:00-10:00  
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**MORE HELP WANTED, NEXT PAGE**

QUESTIONS

# CLASSIFIEDS

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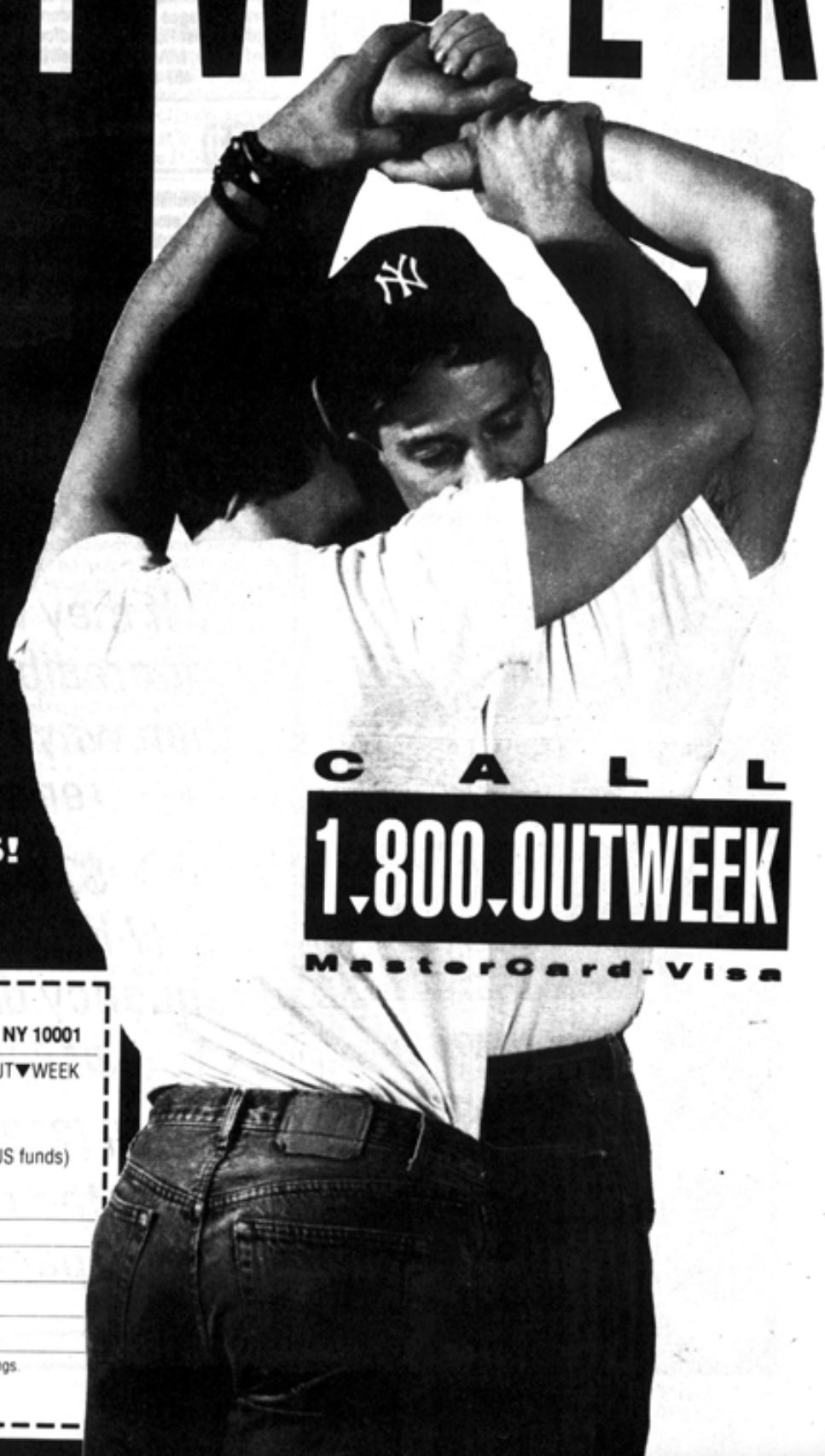
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kid in my kindergarten class...Now I'm doing the teaching. What do you want to learn? Make sure you're fun, uninhibited and damn sexy. Photo/phone please. Until we meet. Outweek Box 2335.

### SEX KITTEN FROM HELL

searching for my tigress. Young, strong, wicked and hot, 5'4", 125#, deep dark eyes, dark brown fur and retractable claws. Tell me where you want to be scratched, show me where you want to be bitten...I'll make your back arch and your hair stand on end. No scratch-posts please. Photo to a must. Outweek Box 2336

## MEN'S PERSONALS

### SPIRITUAL AND CUTE

Artist sort of guy, blonde, 145lbs., 5'10", 23 y.o., br. eyes, trim athletic bod. Looking to meet a creative and handsome gent, early 30's, to share the spring sun, murphy brown, and some

serious talks and silences. I'm open to warmth and foolishness. Phone/photo/note to: Outweek Box 2357

### MATURE BLACK TOP

wanted by midtown white writer, 52, 5'10", 165, for

daytime get togethers. Call Joe at 757-4983 Mon-Fri 9-5 only.

### 4 SKIN LOVER-QUEENS

GWM 6' 175lbs yng 46 seeks u/c Latino or European 18-40. Also like Arab or S.Asian. Must be

masc. I am cut restoring my 4skin. Write P.O. Box 647, Maspeth, NY 11378 or call 718-424-1064. No JO calls.

### B.D. G.A. CONTINUED

I may kid around about big drills and gay astronauts but what I want is someone to share things with. You GWM warm honest caring intelligent & real with sense of

humor 26-40 pref. slim. Me GWM prof. 36 5'8" 130# br/br. Of course, helium heels ARE a +. PH/PH to OUTWEEK BOX 2228.

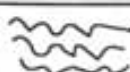
### SPIT

wants to rub his fresh crewcut head under his buddy's big jock-smelly balls. Outweek Box 2362

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White Latin male, Cl. shaven, cute,

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healthy, 5'4", 130, 39, hairy, uncut will be slut for top dominant man. service, spanking, verbal, safe kink. Write with pho. no. P.O. Box 2099, NY NY 10185.

**GWM, 30, VERY HANDSOME,** very fit. 6', 160#. Hates bar scene. Looking for sincere, romantic, loving man who also wants a monogamous relationship. Must be handsome, well-built, 25-35. Include note, phone# . Outweek Box 2367

**NO GOLIATHS** GWM, 38, 6', 160, b/br, gd/kg, clnshvn, not balding, bright, witty affec, d-t-earth, profli, into perf arts, weekend drives, village, mtns, DC, desert

SW, flea mkts, beach at dusk, love in the afternoon, sks GWM, 27+, c.5'5"-5'9", slim. w/brains, boyish gd looks, big heart for rom./rel.. Taller ok. No drugs. Photo/phone/note a must to: P.O. Box 20597, NY NY 10023.

### HANDSOME BOTTOM

is looking for another attractive guy who also finds the bar scene lacking pretty faces. I am a clean cut, good looking, 27 yr old profli., 5'8", 145 br/br with a lean body who is seeking a muscular top for safe fun. If you're the type that is often praised and rarely rejected and would like a partner of similar quality, write to me at:

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- 1. USE A CONDOM WHEN FUCKING.** Avoid oil-based lubricants such as baby oil, Vaseline, Crisco etc., as they can cause condoms to break. Instead use water-based lubes like KY. The older a condom, the less reliable, so find condoms whose manufacturers' dates are less than three months old.
- 2. USE A CONDOM DURING ORAL SEX.** If you don't, avoid placing the head of your partner's cock in your mouth. HIV-infected cum or pre-cum can enter your bloodstream through cuts, tears or ulcers in your mouth.
- 3. USE DENTAL DAMS DURING ORAL-VAGINAL SEX.** HIV is present in some amounts in vaginal secretions, urine, menstrual blood, and infection-related vaginal discharge.
- 4. NEVER SHARE WORKS.** This includes needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers. If you must reuse works, clean them after each use with bleach, or in an emergency with rubbing alcohol or vodka, by drawing the solution into the needle three times and then drawing clean water into the needle three times.
- 5. AVOID FISTING, RIMMING, OR SHARING UNCLEANNED SEX TOYS.**
- 6. AVOID POPPERS.**
- 7. AVOID EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE.** Many people are unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
- 8. DON'T HESITATE TO:** Fuck with a condom, have oral sex with a condom. Play with, but don't share, clean sex toys, vibrators and dildoes. Enjoy massage, hugging, masturbation (alone, with a partner or in a group), and role-playing.

**Remember, sex is good, and gay sex is great. Don't avoid sex, just avoid the virus. Learn to eroticize safer sex and you can protect others, remain safe and have fun.**

P.O. Box 131484  
NY, NY 10313-0002.

**DOWNTOWN CREATIVE WM** seeks displaced country boy with artistic aspirations. Gdlikng masc. 36 yo Ital. filmmaker lking for brainy boyish mature stable man to 36 for weeks in city wknds in country. Photo pls. Outweek Box 2370

**ZEN ROMANCE** Serious Zen student/artist living in present moment seeks like-minded friends for life experiences and community in the city and country. Unlimited possibilities. Outweek Box 2381

**N.J. WM 30's WISHES TO START J/O CLUB** gay, bi, and married men welcome. For more info. write letter telling me all about yourself with phone# to Dick PO Box 2153, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010 "NOW"

**WANTED: BOYFRIEND** Tall 36yr old HIV+ healthy Vhdsm 155# GWM w/slim gym, swimmers bod br/bl. Sks candidate who's bright VGL, romantic, in-shape. Must enjoy film, music, politics, dancing, the beach & romance in & out of bed. Sd resume w/photo. Outweek Box 2383

**BIWM X-ARMY QNS AREA** 33, 6', 155#, enjoys being of use to married men who can appreciate a quickie. Pix or fone please.

Box 1243, NY, NY 10017.

**MODERN ROMANCE.** Seeking a "modern" arrangement with a man: 37, 5'8", 170lbs., brown/brown, handsome face, mustache, dark complexion. (Mediterranean type) honest, sincere, + unpretentious. Intelligent, politically conscious + healthy. Photo optional. PO Box 8557, JAF STA NY, NY 10116.

**SOLO PARA LATINOS** Si estas cansado de tener que explicar que son alcapurrias, bacalaitos, pasteles, morcillas, mofongo, etc., reuna monos para hablar y "compartir" otras cosas. Yo: Puertorriqueño, 25, 5'3", 125. Outweek Box 2389

**DARIEN/ GREENWICH** Handsome, in-shape, 5'9" strwbry blond/blue, 26, with fully intact immune system, seeks darker haired CT neighbor of similar fiber, 25-31, to build a balanced life. Stable, responsible, career-oriented, masc, artist/athlete mix, nonsmkr. Strictly monogamous. No games—tricks are for kids. Outweek Box 2390

**COUPLE SEEKS FRIENDS** Happily- married GWMs, 29 & 36, are looking for other couples for friendship (but NOT sex). We are both well-educated professionals



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who enjoy good conversation, museums, theatre, movies, parlour games, & hanging out in NYC. Our relationship is solid, but feel that friendship with other couples can help keep it strong. Interested? Then reply to POB 1654, Old Chelsea St., NYC 10011.

**HOT ITALIAN SAUSAGE**  
GWM, 33, 6'4", 190, friendly, amusing, sincere top, HIV-, (size 13 shoe) seeking same to service me through times of need. No drugs. Outweek Box 2293

**CLEANCUT GERMAN TOP**  
WM 45/6/170 healthy trained uncut military man wants SM drill buddy for man to man training, action sex tt cbt bdge leather/uniforms. No rubber. Expand (y)our limits! Beginners welcome. Photos get same! SS 245 8th Avenue No 272 NYC 10011.

**EXHIBITIONISTS**  
Public displays, embarrassing situations, street, subway, bus, locked-out nude, etc. Also huge, obscene, erect, traffic-stopping bulging basket displays in skin-tight sweats, spandex, too-small shorts, anything sprayed-on, rude, vulgar. Swell it out of proportion, tease, pose, exhibit. If it's too big to control in your pants then

contact hot, smooth 29 with required photo & phone for reply. Imaginative and humongous only. P.O. Box 1699 Old Chelsea Station, NYC 10011.

**E. VILLAGE STUD UNCU**  
GWM, 33, 6', 170#  
BR/BR, built, cute, hung looking for loverboys/man-toys (age 20-40) for play downtown. You: bright, open-minded and ready to go. Me: caring, responsible and cum-passionate. PH/PH. Outweek Box 2307

**GWM 5'6" 135 LBS., CREW CUT**  
stache. urban animal seeks same to share all that NY has to offer. No Charlie types need apply. Easy going and spontaneous a definite plus. Photo/phone: Outweek Box 2319

**LOOKING FOR AN EQUAL**  
GWM, 28, 5'7", 160 lbs. Handsome, sensuous, down to earth Manhattan man looking to reach past the one liners, one nighters, the pretentious scene. Active in sports, onto dancing, walks on the beach, theater. Live life with my child at heart; energetic, playful. A regular kind of guy seeks a man who shares a desire to take an emotional risk with another man, to share thoughts, fan-

tasies, a love of life. Give it a try. Phone/photo if you see fit. Outweek Box 2321

**ACTIVIST SEEKS NON-ACTIVIST**  
GM AIDS activist seeks sympathetic shoulder attached to intelligent GM, 21-40. I don't smoke, nor do you. I'm, in ACT UP, you're not. I need escape, you have something important to do and don't need to live vicariously thru me. We both need someone to go to after the battles and want to get serious for the 90's. I'm 31, 5'11", 150, br/hzl, aggressive w/politicians but shy w/boys. You're interesting. Phone/photo. outweek Box 2322.

**NICE JEWISH BOY**  
I admit it, I'm basically a Nice Jewish Boy, GWM, 33, 5'10", 175, healthy HIV+ bottom. I'm bright, loving, sensitive, loyal, and always amazed anew at the miracle of life. Looking for a togguy open to exploring the possibilities of a monogamous relationship. Outweek Box 2323

**PEC PASSION**  
Very handsome, professional, masculine GBM 5'10" 160, 30, athletic build, looking for another masculine man with a good body and hot nipples. Race not important. Relationship possible. Respond with photo if possible to: Old

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## PERSONALS OF THE WEEK

### SEX KITTEN FROM HELL

searching for my tigress..Young, strong, wicked and hot, 5'4", 125#, deep dark eyes, dark brown fur and retractable claws. Tell me where you want to be scratched, show me where you want to be bitten...I'll make your back arch and your hair stand on end. No scratchposts please. Photo a must. Outweek Box 2336

### BOY IN LINGERIE

White Latin male, Cl. shaven, cute, healthy, 5'4", 130, 39, hairy, uncut will be slut for top dominant man. service, spanking, verbal, safe kink. Write with pho. no. P.O. Box 2099, NY NY 10185.

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**PROF. GWM, 27,  
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good looks. En-  
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and theater.  
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and sponta-  
neous. Sks.  
masc. man.  
Healthy endowm-  
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Phone to : Out-  
week Box 2325

**HANDSOME,  
INTELLIGENT**  
young 40yr old  
GWM 5'9" 150  
lbs., dark-haired,  
lean, into movies,  
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soul & brains. PO  
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**JACKIE OH!  
THINK-ALIKE  
JOHN JOHN  
LOOK-ALIKE**  
looking for an Ari  
(not Aries) to

show me the world, Dallasnot included. Love big yachts, big pills, big bank accounts, big cities, big times, big mén, oh hell—big everything! Photos please (no photographers). Outweek Box 2337

**FREQUENT  
FUCKING PLAN**  
Earn bonus points on East Village airlines...28 y.o. 6' 170# bl/bl looking

for quick kinky and young one-nighters, afternoons and mornings. For more information, send photo and phone and fantasy to Outweek Box 2338

**MAN OF  
SUBSTANCE  
SOUGHT**  
Professional 26 year old GBM 6'2", 195, bl/br, good-looking. I want to meet a scholarly,

older (45-6-) professorial-type GWM who is masculine and interested in monogamy and commitment. Tall, grey-haired, friendly ones drive me wild! If interested, please send ph/ph to: Outweek Box 2347

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**THE OLDER AND  
THE YOUNG**  
GJM, late 50th, European background. Romantic and kind person, Opera and classical music lover. Non-smoker dislikes heavy drinking. Looking for relationship with GM, 20's into 40's. Write in all confidence with photo if possible, to: P.O. Box 524, New York, NY 10268.

**PHONE SEX IS  
SAFEST**  
Hot GWM, attr, well-blit, hung, seeks verbal men, esp tops over 30. Tall, husky, hairy chest, grey, musc., Ital. are turn-ons. Use and abuse me. Send tel, fantasies (foto a +) to POB 2520, Times Square Sta. NYC 10108.

**DESPERATELY  
SEEKING  
FUCK BUDDY**  
I want an East Village neighbor to fool around with—safely. Must be 20-30 y.o., cute and steamy. No rules. Keeping the spark alive needs to be your highest priority—even if that means never speaking a word. I'm cute, bright, 28 y.o., fun, good shape, 145 lbs., and waiting. Let's trade photos. Out-Week Box 2177

**DADDY/SON**  
43 year old Dad needs son. You 18-26, race/color not important. Me attr 5'6" 150lbs. blond blue versa-

tile kind. Photo and phone get mine. Respond to Box 255-250 Mercer Street, NYC, NY 10012.

**2 MEN WANT  
IT RIGHT**  
Tom, bi, 30, an athletic masseur will trade legit massages and train fit beginner. Jim, 35, GWM, firm gentle top muscular and sensual seeks slim novice for pleasure control. Submit to: Tom or Jim, Box 1487, NYC, 10009.

**HERE I AM**  
GWM 37 5'6" 142 lbs. Br/Br moustache romantically inclined and in search of that special guy. I am considered very attractive, enjoy dining out, theatre, dancing, music and intimate evenings. Am also very sincere and affectionate. You should be 28-40, non-smoker and enjoy the same things I do. Don't be afraid to take a chance and write to me. I don't think you'll be disappointed. Please include your phone # and photo. Outweek Box 2256

**LOOKING FOR  
SOULMATE?**  
GWM intelligent interesting mid-50's, officer of large corporation, well built (work out 3x a week) 6' 170# HIV-, does AIDS volunteer work, vacations in Europe annually, seeks affectionate amusing man with self-respect in great shape to share theatre, travel, affection, and conversation. Pls write about yourself. No fats

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**GWM, 54, 5'10", 185 LBS.**  
Brown hair/brown eyes, moustache, handsome. My interests are dancing, movies, theatre, and quiet evenings at home. Would like to meet GWM who is tall, husky and attractive who shares similar interests. Prefer non-smoker, light drinker, no drugs. I'm a good looking guy who is interested in meeting and dating and other possibilities. I'm fun-loving and if you are too, let's get together. Outweek Box 2262

**SPIRITUAL AND CUTE**

Artist sort of guy, blonde, 145lbs., 5'10", 23 y.o., br. eyes, trim athletic bod. Looking to meet a creative and handsome gent, early 30's, to share the spring sun, murphy brown, and some serious talks and silences. I'm open to warmth and foolishness. Phone/photo/note to: Outweek Box 2357

**MATURE BLACK TOP**  
wanted by mid-town white writer, 52, 5'10", 165, for daytime get togethers. Call Joe at 757-4983 Mon-Fri 9-5 only.

**4 SKIN LOVER-QUEENS**

GWM 6' 175lbs yng 46 seeks u/c Latino or European 18-40. Also like Arab or S.Asian. Must be masc. I am cut restoring my 4skin. Write P.O. Box 647,

Maspeth, NY 11378 or call 718-424-1064. No JO calls.

**B.D. G.A. CONTINUED**  
I may kid around about big drills and gay astronauts but what I want is someone to share things with. You GWM warm honest caring intelligent & real with sense of humor 26-40 pref. slim. Me GWM prof. 36 5'8" 130# br/br. Of course, helium heels ARE a +. PH/PH to OUTWEEK BOX 2228.

**SPIT**  
wants to rub his fresh crewcut head under his buddy's big jock-smelly balls. Outweek Box 2362

**BOY IN LINGERIE**  
White Latin male, Cl. shaven, cute, healthy, 5'4", 130, 39, hairy, uncut will be slut for top dominant man. service, spanking, verbal, safe kink. Write with photo. no P.O. Box 2099, NY NY 10185.

**GWM, 30, VERY HANDSOME,**  
very fit. 6', 160#. Hates bar scene. Looking for sincere, romantic, loving man who also wants a monogamous relationship. Must be handsome, well-built, 25-35. Include note, phone# . Outweek Box 2367

**NO GOLIATHS**  
GWM, 38, 6', 160, bl/br, gdlng, cinshvn, not balding, bright, witty affec, d-t-earth, profl, into perf arts, weekend drives, village,

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# MEET

1-800-999-6338

mnts, DC, desert SW, flea mkts, beach at dusk, love in the afternoon, sks GWM, 27+, c.5'5"-5'9", slim, w/brains, boyish gd looks, big heart for rom./rel.. Taller ok. No drugs. Photo/phone/note a must to: P.O. Box 20597, NY NY 10023.

### HANDSOME BOTTOM

is looking for another attractive guy who also finds the bar scene lacking pretty faces. I am a clean cut, good looking, 27 yr old prof., 5'8", 145 br/br with a lean body who is seeking a muscular top for safe fun. If you're the type that is often praised and rarely rejected and would like a partner of similar quality, write to me at: P.O. Box 131484 NY, NY 10313-0002.

### DOWNTOWN CREATIVE WM

seeks displaced country boy with artistic aspirations. Gd/king masc. 36 yo Ital. filmmaker liking for brainy boyish mature stable man to 36 for weeks in city wknds in country. Photo pls. Outweek Box 2370

### WANTED: BOYFRIEND

Tall 36yr old HIV+ healthy Vhds 155# GWM w/slim gym, swimmers bod br/bl. Sk candidate who's bright VGL, romantic, in-shape. Must enjoy film, music, politics, dancing, the beach & romance in & out of bed. Sd resume w/photo. Outweek Box 2383

**BIWM X-ARMY  
QNS AREA**  
33, 6', 155#, enjoys being of use to married men who can appreciate a quickie. Pix or fone please. Box 1243, NY, NY 10017.

### MODERN ROMANCE

Seeking a "modern" arrangement with a man: 37, 5'8", 170lbs., brown/brown, handsome face, mustache, dark complexion. (Mediterranean type) honest, sincere, + unpretentious. Intelligent, politically conscious + healthy. Photo optional. PO Box 8557, JAF STA NY, NY 10016.

### SOLO

### PARA LATINOS

Si estas cansado de tener que explicar que son alcapurrias, bacalaitos, pasteles, morcillas, mofongo, etc., reuna-monos para hablar y "compartir" otras cosas. Yo: Puer-torriqueno, 25, 5'3", 125. Outweek Box 2389

### COUPLE SEEKS FRIENDS

Happily-married GWMs, 29 & 36, are looking for other couples for friendship (but NOT sex). We are both well-educated professionals who enjoy good conversation, museums, theatre, movies, parlour games, & hanging out in NYC. Our relationship is solid, but feel that friendship with other couples can help keep it strong. Interested? Then reply to POB 1654, Old Chelsea St., NYC 10011.

**BODY BUILDERS**

**15¢**

**per minute 40¢ first**



**BODY BUILDERS.  
BODY WORSHIP.  
HOT HARD MUSCLE!**

**CALL NOW:**

**550-BODY**

# CLASSIFIED / PERSONAL ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

|                    |             |               |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|
| OFFICE USE ONLY    |             |               |
| # _____            |             |               |
| Start Issue: _____ |             |               |
| Paid _____         | Keyed _____ | Proofed _____ |

All *OutWeek* Classified Advertising is prepaid.

**The Deadline is NOON MONDAY, one week before on-sale date.**

*OutWeek* reserves the right to edit, reject or rewrite any advertisement.

In case of error on our part, no refunds -- additional insertions only.

**\$15.00 fee for copy changes or cancellations.**

Mail sent to *OutWeek* Box #'s is forwarded weekly, on Mondays.

*OutWeek* boxes are NOT to be used for the distribution of bulk mail or advertising circulars.

**FOR YOUR SAFETY, NO STREET ADDRESSES ARE PERMITTED IN THE PERSONALS SECTION.**

**OUTWEEK BOX #'s OR P.O. BOXES ONLY.**

Return this entire page,  
with appropriate payment, to:  
**OutWeek Classifieds**  
159 W. 25th Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10001.

## CLASSIFIED RATES:

\$3 per line (seven line minimum). Please conform your ad copy to the grid.

### FREQUENCY DISCOUNTS:

4x .....10%

13x .....15%

26x .....20%

## PERSONALS RATES:

\$1 per line (seven line minimum). Please conform your ad copy to the grid.

## DISPLAY CLASSIFIED RATES:

\$25 / column inch. Please inquire for frequency discounts. Column width: 1 7/8"

## CLASSIFIED / PERSONAL ORDER FORM

One letter, space, or punctuation mark per box.

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| 15 |  |

## PERSONALS

\_\_\_ lines @ \$1.00 (seven line minimum)= \_\_\_\_\_

times \_\_\_ weeks ad is to run: \_\_\_\_\_

Give me an OutWeek Box #  
and forward my mail each week for \_\_\_\_\_  
months @ \$20 per month = \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone verification charge:  
(if your phone # appears in ad) @ \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

## TOTAL ENCLOSED:

## CLASSIFIEDS

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ lines @ \$3.00 (seven line minimum)= \_\_\_\_\_

times \_\_\_ weeks ad is to run: \_\_\_\_\_

if ad is to run four or more times,  
deduct appropriate frequency discount: \_\_\_\_\_

## TOTAL ENCLOSED:

Charge my Visa / Mastercard. Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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In Hardcore Ultimate  
HARDCORE

"Where the Topmen

Where the Topmen at

15c per minute/15c

1st Minute 40c/15c

100% Gay Owned/ope

gay owned/operated

CALL .CALL

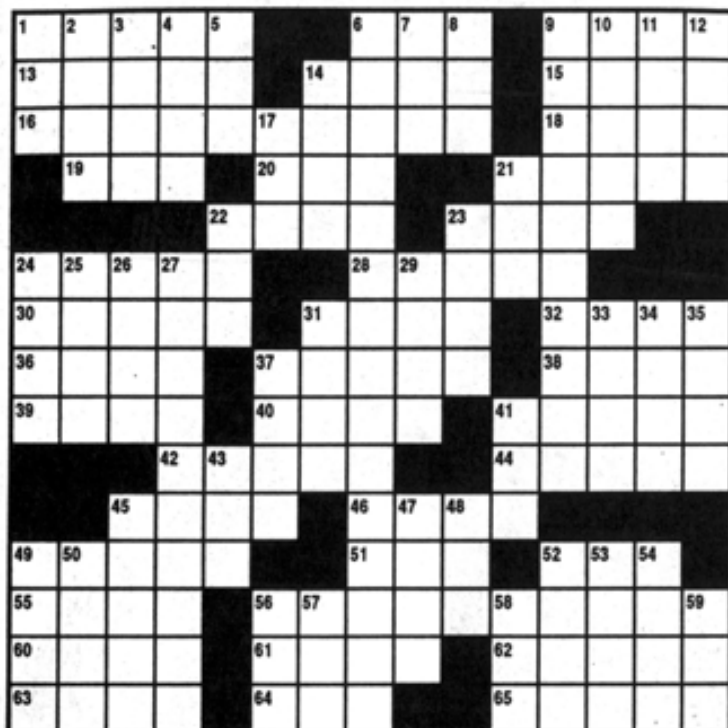
550HARD



# OutWeek Crossword

by Greg Baysans

Edited by Gerard Mackey



9. Norse poem
10. Epic poem
11. Thaw
12. Peary's quest
14. Char
17. Cereal grass
21. Chem. or biol.
22. Poetic time of day
23. Tools
24. Road sign
25. \_\_\_\_\_ poem
26. Split \_\_\_\_\_
27. Norse poem
29. Ye \_\_\_\_\_ Curiosity Shoppe
31. Film \_\_\_\_\_
33. Landed
34. Baptism, e.g.
35. Afrikaner
37. Level
41. A Boy Named \_\_\_\_\_
43. Frigid
45. Tightwad
47. Killer whale
48. Dennis Quaid remake
49. Play It \_\_\_\_\_ Lays
50. Created
52. DJ's Disk
53. Rhyme scheme
54. Max or Buddy
56. Call \_\_\_\_\_ day
57. Sister
58. Calendar abbr.
59. Short Line and B & O

**SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S OUTWEEK ON SALE MONDAY**

## ACROSS

1. Pierces
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Stoops to Conquer
9. Ineffective one
13. Forbidden
14. Green or lima
15. Bread spread
16. Harold Norse poem
18. Small brook
19. Norton and Sullivan
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Poetica
21. Emulate Boitano
22. Sicilian site
23. Boric, for one
24. Phase
28. Poison
30. Director Joshua
31. Cleo's waterway
32. Dress
36. Blame
37. Aliments
38. Mixture
39. Moistens
40. Toe the \_\_\_\_\_
41. Plaza \_\_\_\_\_

42. Coronet
44. Absolute
45. Treaty
46. Mine find
49. Friendship
51. Fam. member
52. Apply gently
55. H.H. Munro
56. Norse poem
60. Prefix for thought
61. Brass band member
62. Live coal
63. Aquatic bird
64. \_\_\_\_\_ port in a storm
65. Wild pigs

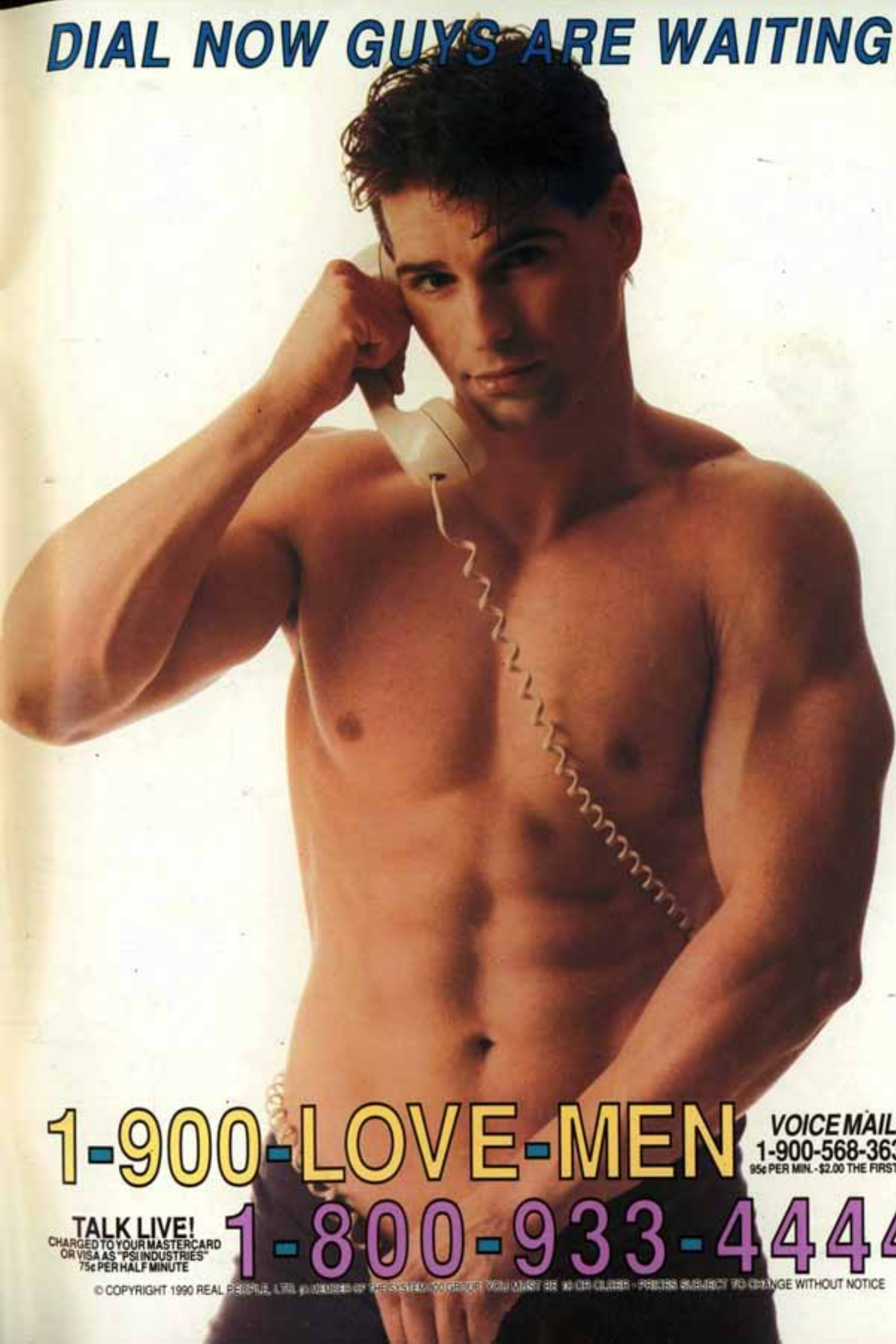
## DOWN

1. Eye inflammation
2. Not feral
3. Alphabetic quartet
4. Neckwear
5. Sun, in Sonora
6. "You Must Have Been a \_\_\_\_\_"  
Norse Poem
7. Crone
8. Compass pt.

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



**DIAL NOW GUYS ARE WAITING!**



**1-900-LOVE-MEN**

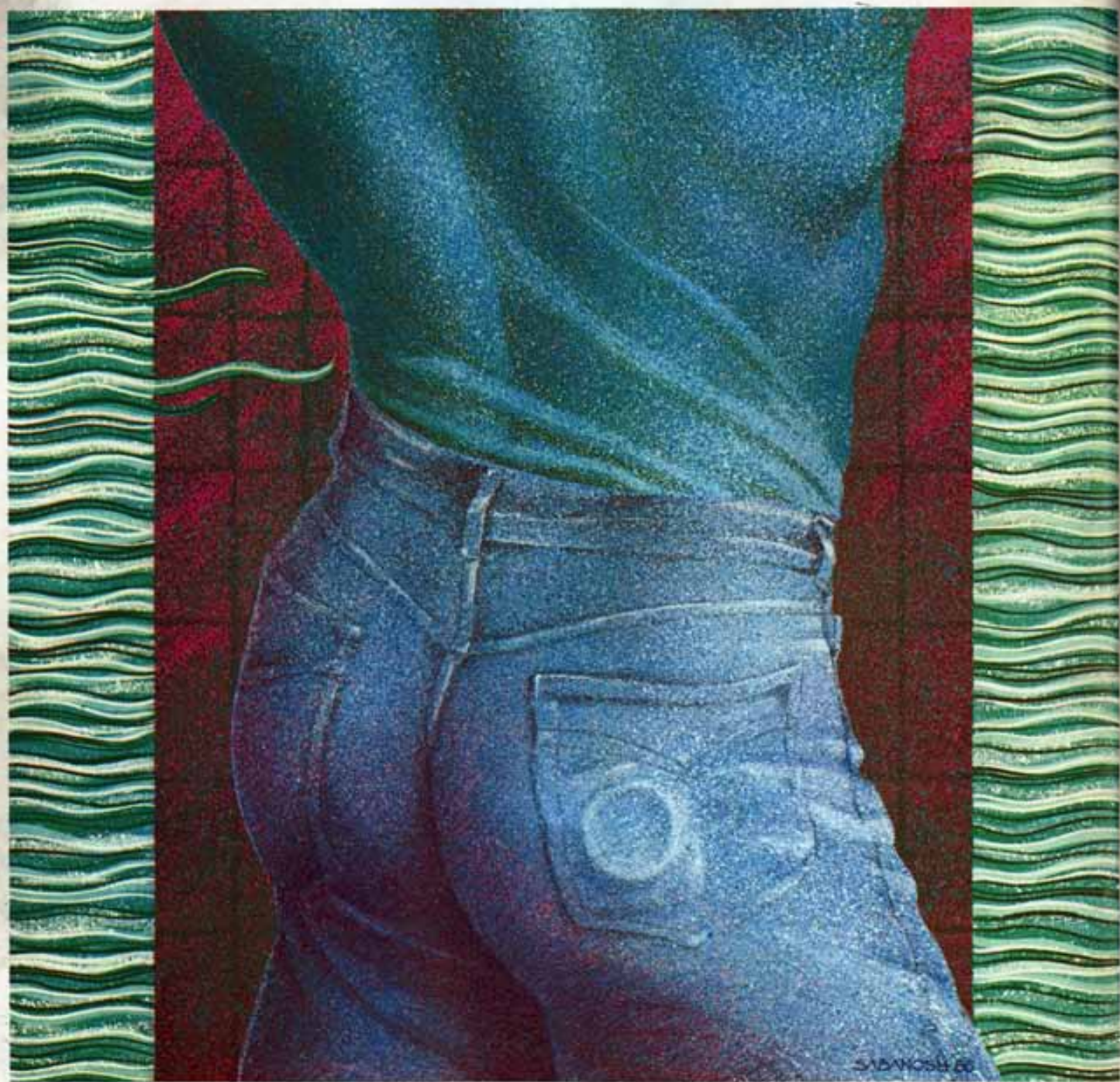
**VOICE MAIL!**  
1-900-568-3636  
95¢ PER MIN. - \$2.00 THE FIRST MIN.

**TALK LIVE!**  
CHARGED TO YOUR MASTERCARD  
OR VISA AS "PSI INDUSTRIES"  
75¢ PER HALF MINUTE

**1-800-933-4444**

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A RUBBER IS A FRIEND  
IN YOUR POCKET



UN CONDON ES UN AMIGO  
EN EL BOLSILLO

FOR ANY INFORMATION CALL THE **GMHC** HOTLINE 212-807-6655/TDD 212-645-7470 (for hearing impaired)  
PARA MAS INFORMACION LLAMA AL