

THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWS MAGAZINE NO. 65

OUTWEEK

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WINS**

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CONTENTS

NEWS

- News.....12
Out Takes.....24
Philadelphia Journal.....26

HEALTH

- Positive Alternatives.....30

DEPARTMENTS

- Outspoken.....4
Letters.....5
Stonewall Riots.....5
Dykes to Watch Out For....6
Blurt Out.....7
Sotomayor.....8
Dreamboat of the Week...10
GLAAD Tidings.....24
The Doctor Is Out.....32
Out of Control.....34
Look Out.....43
Out of My Hands.....44
Gossip Watch.....45
Out on the Town.....46
Going Out Calendar.....57
Tuning In.....60

- Dancing Out.....61
Community Directory.....62
Bar Guide.....64
Classifieds.....68
Crossword.....82

ARTS

FILM: The Margaret Mead Film Festival *Bruce C. Steele grapples with groupings.....48*

TV: Miss America 1991 *Otis Stuart asks who she is.....49*

THEATER: Camille *A re-mounting of Charles Ludlam's classic lady beguiles Joe E. Jeffreys.....50*

MUSIC: Wishing Like a Mountain *Jim Fouratt helps us to ecstatic oneness.....50*

BOOKS: Voyages Out 2 *Maria Maggenti discovers the latest in the series.....52*

ARTCETERA: *Karl Soebnlein wonders if we're seeing things..53*

POETRY: To Spirit *Joan Larkin.....54*

ON THE COVER

LUST BUSTERS.....36

Nina Reyes uncovers the government's deliberate master plan to snuff out porn

Shane photographed by Robert Miller

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IS THIS
YOUR THERAPIST'S
IDEA?



GLICK AND THE TIMES

In our long struggle for political enfranchisement in New York, nothing has been more frustrating than the lesbian and gay community's inability to elect one of our own to legislative office.

It's therefore enormously significant that Deborah Glick, an open lesbian, won the Democratic nomination for state Assembly from lower Manhattan last week—and won it by a landslide. Her primary victory, which virtually ensures her election in November, shatters forever the myth that gays and lesbians can't win in New York, that our community is too splintered to unite behind a single candidate, and that such a candidate could never overcome the entrenched homophobia that permeates even the cosmopolitanism of downtown New York. Glick's historic victory proves that the right gay candidate can indeed win elections. It should hearten all lesbians and gays who seek to run for office in New York.

But unfortunately, Glick's well-deserved victory was ignored in *The New York Times*. Instead of a headline proclaiming that history had been made, the *Times* chose to bury any mention of Glick until the 17th paragraph of a general story about the primaries. A sentence in that paragraph mentioning that Glick is a lesbian was deleted from later editions, and the entire *Times* coverage of Glick's victory, the story that most New Yorkers read, was this: "In the hard-fought contest for a Democratic Assembly nomination in Greenwich Village, Deborah J. Glick won handily with 43 percent of the vote in a five-way race."

That's it. Period.

People look to the newspaper of record to provide perspective on current events, a perspective that forms the instant historical account of our era. The *Times*, like any fallible institution, frequently fails that standard. But for lesbians and gays, its failure is institutional and chronic. By ignoring our community and our lives even when we make history, the *Times* does us all inestimable harm.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS:

This edition of *OutWeek* introduces *Hunt*, a new personals magazine. *Hunt* will be inserted into *OutWeek* for several weeks and will then spin off and become a magazine in its own right. It fulfills a need of phone-sex and other sex-based advertisers for more glossy pages and for a single place to collect all sexual advertisements. We hope that readers will find it an easy and quick guide to use.

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LETTERS

READING READ

Nearly every week for the past 62 issues there has been something that has made me want to write to *OutWeek*—either to send my support of something or comment on some of the outrageous anti-queers out there. But this week's issues has only been in my house a half-hour, I have gotten through the editorial and the first letter, and I simply *must* write a response.

On the surface it may seem a response to the "I Hate Straights" furor; it isn't. It is a direct response to Campion Read, MD, (now you know another doctor to avoid). How dare he refer to Ms. Reyes as a "spick cunt"! I wish he were here right now to check out the autonomic reflexes triggered by that outrage. Is Mr. Read *truly* queer? He sounds just like every woman-hating straight dickhead I've ever heard praise my anatomy thinking that my brain was too puny to register the insult.

There is a real trend in the gay press toward attacking what lesbians write on the basis of their gender and sexual equipment rather than on their cogent thought processes. And lest Mr. Read think I am splitting cunt hairs here, let me say that I, in large part, disagreed with Ms. Reyes, but felt no need to write a condescending, "women-are-too-stupid-to-get-it" New Age psychobabble letter showing how *she* was the problem. Read doesn't understand the word go when it comes to a united movement for queers. Does he think that African Americans such as Malcolm X and H. Rap Brown had no place in the civil rights movement for Blacks? Is Read as conciliatory about everybody's oppression as he is with Ms. Reyes?

It seems that it is far past time that a few queers got angry. Some

of us lifelong queers have been angry for our whole lives—angry for ourselves *and* for the brainless and spineless (and possibly dickless) queers like Read who suck off the energy of those working for change while critiquing with pinky extended from within their plush-lined closets. How's that for some rage, Campion? (Do your friends call you Camp for short, or do they know better?)

Listen up, Read. Consciousness begins at home. No man has the right to refer to a woman's argument through her anatomy. But then a dickhead like you probably wouldn't understand. And now, since I've been forced to write a letter to *OutWeek*, let me just say that my Saturday mornings are made so much finer by the arrival of your magazine. It makes me laugh, makes me enraged, makes me feel good, makes me feel like quarantining straights, makes me feel liberated, but most of all it always gets my brain in gear and always makes me feel something.

Here in the provinces, *OutWeek* is a natural wonder. Everyone in my house reads it—including the pussies (cats, that is). Brava!

Victoria A. Brownworth
Philadelphia

OUT-OF-IT WEEK

From its headline in the Sept. 12 *OutWeek* (no. 63)—"ACT UP Hands Out Condoms at Mass in Puerto Rico"—the news story was inaccurate and insultingly insufficient in its coverage of a historic five-week series of actions and events in Puerto Rico and New York.

The story completely failed to give any background information about the tragic state of the AIDS epidemic in Puerto Rico, which was the stimulus for the work ACT

UP accomplished there.

For instance, in terms of per capita rate of new AIDS cases, PR has the nation's highest rate, more than three times the national average. This rate exists on our colony where AZT, pentamidine and other AIDS drugs are essentially unavailable, at the same time as the PR government focuses on contact tracing.

Your story not only failed to quote any Puerto Rican member of the newly formed ACT UP/Puerto Rico, but also failed to highlight several precedents that were set in PR: the first ACT UP chapter established in a Spanish speaking, Latin American country; and the longest series of actions and events in ACT UP's history, all the more remarkable for having

been accomplished outside the American mainland.

Here are just a few more examples of insufficiency. An unknowing reader of your article would have no idea that: a) a counter mass was held outside the San Juan Cathedral (the distribution of condoms inside the cathedral was only one part of the action, carried out by a few individuals, but to which, nevertheless, you devoted a major part of your "coverage"); b) the surrounding area was plastered with fliers identifying PR's Cardinal Aponte Martinez as an AIDS criminal; and c) both New York and Puerto Rican activists at the cathedral, and other actions, were joined by their parents and other family members.

STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



We know with certainty that this information, and a great deal more, was provided to *OutWeek*. Instead of the responsible and concerned journalism we expect from a friendly publication, we received a kind of racist, imperialist, short-sighted and gringo mentality coverage we can get from any other mainstream media rag.

The Latino/Latina Caucus of ACT UP demands a full article which will tell your readers what really happened and what is still going on in Puerto Rico. Anything less is unacceptable.

Puerto Rico Contrataca en la Lucha Contra el Sida.

*The Latino/Latina Caucus
ACT UP/NY*

QUEER AND HERE

I want to thank Tony Salerno for his letter [no. 63, Sept. 12] critical of *OutWeek's* use of the word "queer." He asks if *OutWeek* wants "queer" reintroduced to the mainstream and Barbara Bush using the word. I must admit Mr. Salerno had me agreeing with him but I quickly came to

my senses. "Queer" has never left the mainstream. I was called "queer" this summer in rural Pennsylvania outside a gay bar by a teenager in a passing car.

Both that teenager and I grew up buying into the notion that I was a queer, a faggot, a pansy and a homo, and I was no damned good. It took me decades to reprogram these deeply embedded tapes, and even today the old negative script surfaces from time to time. Perhaps that's why my favorite queer nation chant is "We're Here. We're Queer. We're Fabulous."

Yes, Mr. Salerno, I would be delighted if the president's wife or husband or, better yet, same-sex spouse publicly called us "queer." After all, I was taught as a teenager I was one.

*Hal Bramson
Manhattan*

NOT QUEER AND HERE

Recent coverage of the admirable work and intentions of the group Queer Nation, as well as a concern over the issue vis-à-vis

OutWeek, has led me to introspectively clarify for myself the reservations I have long held regarding the use of the words "faggot" and "queer" in gay political and camp parlance. I have long been against any such usage, as I feel it is more of a defensive and deceptively self-destructive posture than a creative one, and the effects or gains had or made by appropriating the language of an alleged oppressor are, I feel, frequently more theoretical than real.

I am not a faggot, and I am not a queer, and I am not inclined to honor anyone else's desire to call me by those names, whether straight or gay. Appropriating an undesirable language doesn't change the essential undesirability of the language. The effect its usage has, for me, is to make reading and following the progress of gay politics and activism more of a deconstructive experience than a constructive one, and it has often made collaboration with some activist segments an undesirable prospect. I will not link arms with a group of

people publicly defining me as a faggot or a queer, regardless of their intentions.

There are straight people who will always use these words to describe a kind of person they loathe—so be it, but that is no reason to join them in their misguided use of the dictionary. I would much rather use and help create the language of gay and straight people whose health antennae have allowed them to never hear the words "faggot" and "queer," and whose dignity and self-respect have encouraged them, quite naturally, to desist from using such language—not out of fear or in deference to a power that such language might be seen as having over them, but because they want a better way of life and a better way of speaking, about themselves and about the people they love.

*Gay Boy Ric
Hollywood, CA*

WORD SEPARATISM

Regarding your letter from Tony Salerno [no. 63, Sept. 12]

Dykes to Watch Out For



BLURT OUT

HERE SHE COMES, MISS AMERICA...

Thank the goddess that not every day is beclouded with the foul weather of hate, fear and prejudice. This year's Miss America has raised the pageant stakes by—surprise—showing off her brain and giving a shit. Refusing to be sucked into the vortex, Marjorie Vincent reiterated her pro-choice stance on abortion and chalked one up for our team while she was at it. To queries (or was it queries?) from the *Daily News* regarding "gay sexuality" Vincent responded: "Each individual has the right to lead life the way they choose." Maybe some of you Brooklyn gals should invite neighbor Marjorie by for a cucumber facial.

—Sarah Pettit

and the discussion around the use of the word "queer": I recall a discussion I had in the early '80s about the use of the word "nigger." After hearing the word used by whites (Caucasian as I am) in Minneapolis, I called my former lover (several times removed) who was Black. No, he informed me, most Blacks do not use the word. He felt that, within his own community, it served to desensitize him. Also, he explained, the word was used among small groups of Blacks, usually from the lower economic levels of the city, to establish their separateness from whites; to establish their "class" or "individualism."

I, for one, do not wish to become desensitized. I do not want to negate the emotions I felt when called "queer" as a child and, later, the empowerment I felt when I realized that one day I would meet the world as an equal; or the hope I feel when I see a small dark-skinned baby—that they may be able to grow and flourish in a world of love and tolerance and community, not in a world of segregation and aloneness.

The word "gay" is not a pejorative and has been used for generations to identify us, not only amongst ourselves but by the communications media (maybe not *The New York Times*, but...) as well. Indeed, in 1990, almost everyone in rural America knows that "gay" means a homosexual male with a positive identity.

Our language is full and lush and complete just as it is. To litter it with words such as "kike," "hebe," "spic" or "wop" can only serve to hinder us from participating in the greater community, to separate us amongst ourselves and to drive the wedge deeper into the chasm between ourselves and the straights.

Gary L. Walberg
Manhattan

sciously struggled for freedom and against annihilation during most of that time (i.e., for more than 21 years).

If we were to take leadership from the politics of Queer Nation and the "I Hate Straights" manifesto, at next year's Lesbian and Gay Pride march, or even sooner, we would logically circulate a document entitled "I Hate Whites" or "whities" or "honkies." Perhaps, given the movement's ongoing and pervasive racism, the document would be entitled "I Hate White Queers."

Like other forms of separatism and nationalism, lesbian and gay nationalism is a politically reactionary dead end. I organize against and hate homophobia, racism, misogyny, class oppression, antisemitism, ageism and ableism and not all the members of groups whose identities differ from my own.

Barbara Smith
Albany

THE MYTH OF HETEROFOBIA

My initial reaction to learning that the directors of both the Campaign to End Homophobia (Cooper Thompson) and the Fund for Human Dignity (Robert Brading) were straight was "What the fuck does a straight person know about homophobia?" or, in the words of a friend, "Couldn't they find a queer to do it?" Upon discussing the issue with several gay and lesbian friends, however, I discovered that few of my compatriots were as incensed as I. "It's about time. I'm tired of doing all the work," was a common response. Indeed it is high time that our straight "friends" get off their complacent butts and overcome their fear of being stigmatized for associating themselves with the gay movement. Just a cursory glance at both the women's movement and the civil rights movement will confirm that the respective dominant groups in question (i.e., men and whites) have been significantly more represented in these movements than straights

have been in the gay movement (which is by no means to say that the involvement of men in the women's movement or whites in the civil rights movement has been adequate). Yes, the time is long since overdue for straights to get involved, but not in positions of leadership.

I have been a feminist since before I came out, and I have dedicated much of my academic studies and political activism to women's issues. But, as a man, I would never presume to be an expert on what it means to be a woman in this culture, nor would I ever presume to become a leader (leading women) within the movement. I am also appalled at, and enraged by, the racism within the gay community and in general. Lesbian, gay and bisexual people of color face a double disenfranchisement—by both the heterosexual communities of color and the white lesbian, gay and bisexual community. Although I will continue to make issues of race a priority on my political agenda, I intend, as a white person, to follow the lead of people of color.

Does this make sense to anyone else but me? If so, then why don't we get angrier when we hear that more and more of our gay leaders are becoming straight? I really don't mean to sound so self-righteous. I'm just frustrated and a little confused—confused about why we as a lesbian and gay community have been so effectively "straight-washed." Perhaps we are so unaccustomed to (active) heterosexual support, that we are loath to be the least bit critical of the form it takes on those rare occasions that it does appear.

To Mr. Thompson and Mr. Brading, I encourage your continued support and involvement, but I urge you to reconsider the appropriateness and legitimacy of your current positions. You, gentlemen, will never be experts on homophobia, and you will never know what it means to be gay in this culture. Mr. Brading, you really betray yourself in your comments quoted in the Aug. 15 issue [no. 50] regarding the

ISM'S, NOT PEOPLE

People of color have been oppressed in this country from the time Europeans arrived five centuries ago. We have con-

"Queers Read This" essays. You obviously don't get it. "I Hate Straights" is *not* about hatred but about anger, about justified rage. Perhaps it is a weakness of the human mind that we must always search for symmetry in our social world, but just as there is no reverse sexism that is the opposite of and equivalent to sexism, and no reverse racism which is the opposite of and equivalent to racism, *there is no "heterophobia" which is the opposite of and equivalent to homophobia.* There is only rage, and a life or death need to effect change.

To the gutless "breeder" (this is the first time I have ever called anyone a breeder) who wrote the anonymous letter in the Aug. 1 issue [no. 57], I don't give you the right to call me a queer, no matter how supportive of gay rights you are, and I am not, nor will I ever be, *your "girlfriend."* You get over it. (P.S. Why didn't you sign your letter? Were you ashamed to have your name appear in a gay magazine, or were you afraid of "straight-bashing"?)

To Marianne G.C. Seggerman ["Letters," Aug. 1, no. 57], you may be a gay rights activist, but as a straight person you will *never* be a "queer" activist, "unabashed" or otherwise. How dare you presume to tell the Dartmouth valedictorian how he should feel. How dare you invalidate his experience as a gay person. To P. Tobin ["Letters," Aug. 22, no. 60]—well, your particular brand of heterosexual smugness and ignorance isn't even worth a response. Suffice it to say that perhaps your gay friends would be better off if you *did* stop caring. And get a clue: If gay anger turns you off as a heterosexual supporter—and I address myself now to all heterosexual supporters—then perhaps your commitment to gay rights is not as strong as you believed. *No shit,* we need your support, but don't tell us how to feel and don't tell us how to run our movement. And get over your delusions of heterosexual persecution.

Andy Hostetler
Ithaca, NY

FIRST YOUR CYNICISM, THEN YOUR PANTS

Thank you, oh inspired and anonymous queers, for writing and disseminating the controversial "I Hate Straights" essay. The pen *is* mightier than the sword, so congratulations in your victorious and eloquent strike against the enemy. The emergence of creative inspiration as a political and psychological tool for empowerment and healing of our community is exactly what we need; and we need a lot more of it.

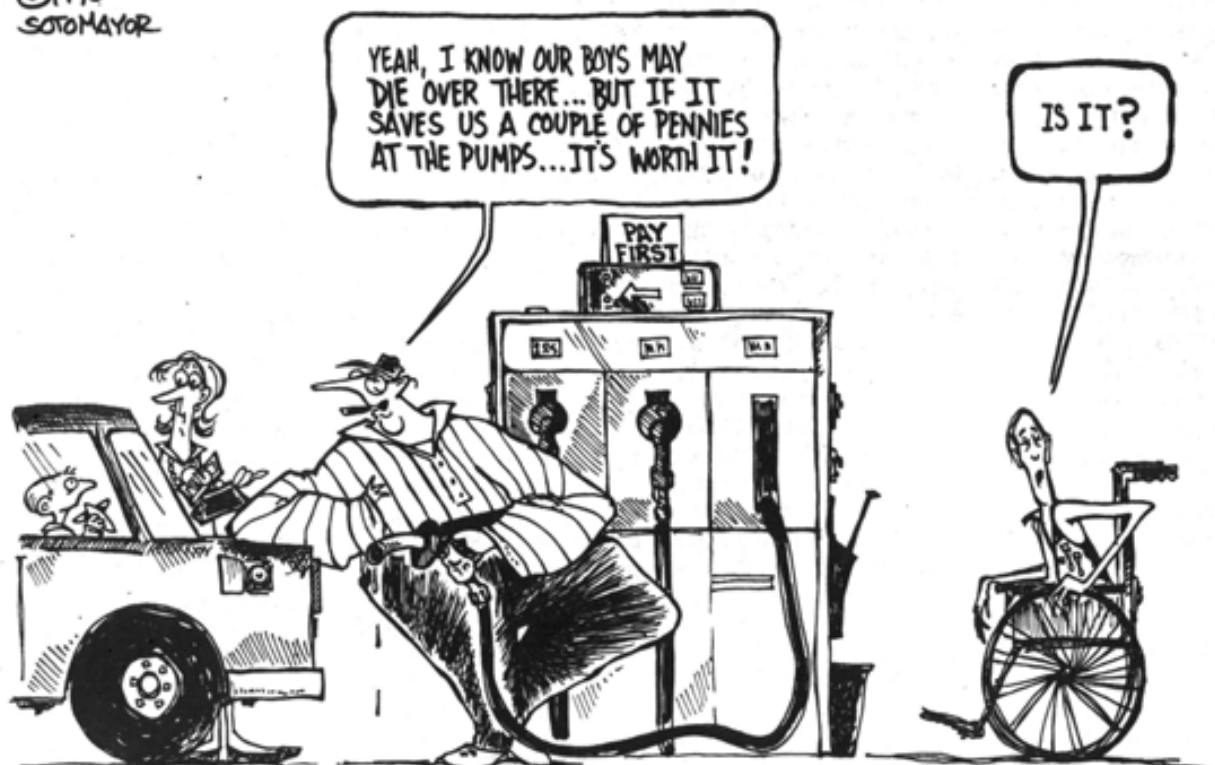
The creative expression also applies to innovative forms of social interaction, collectively and personally, in order to affect and enlighten societies and individuals. Young organizations such as ACT UP, Queer Nation, SANOE and Boy With Arms Akimbo come immediately to mind as examples of collective ingenuity.

We still isolate so many of our own brothers and sisters, through brutal competition for self-adoration and -aggrandizement...even

through this most painful era of death and social persecution. Rejection in love, abuse of another's feelings just for being physically intimate (tantamount to spiritual rape), male-hatred, female-hatred, racism, ageism, Aryan worship and destructive "clique-type" gossip are just some examples of how we break the spirits of (and kill) our own kind, without any assistance from the homophobic majority. This "exclusivity" is not limited to the bars, cafés and streets but extends also to those very organizations fighting for our lives and rights—discouraging many potentially inspiring souls from active participation.

It is my greatest hope that, once the cure for AIDS is found, we will also have cured our own internalized persecution. It is likewise my greatest fear that, even after AIDS is eliminated, we will fall back to our pre-AIDS "sexual revolution" without the concomitant ingredient of spiritual compassion. It is my dream of dreams that our post-AIDS era will be

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SOTOMAYOR



a blossoming of genuine sisterly and brotherly love, along with lots and lots of hot sex, good friends, good conversation and all other kinds of fun...as a joyful, extended family across the globe. Indeed, this "blossoming" may be the vital ingredient leading not just to "the cure" but to worldwide respect and liberation for lesbian and gay rights. Drop your cynicism for a moment, and think about it. Then drop your pants...in love.

Gene Catalano
San Francisco

UP WITH OUT IN THE '90S

Amid the controversy over ending leased access cable TV, one would think that the end of Gay Cable Network means the end of gay television. It certainly does not. On Manhattan and Paragon cable channel C/16 and on BQ cable channel 56, there is *Out in the '90s*, a public access show that is live, intelligent and attends to the needs of the lesbian and gay community. It does not run sexually oriented ads but relies instead on contributions from its viewers and was recently recommended by a major lesbian and gay organization as a resource for WNET Channel 13. Let's support *Out in The '90s!*

Nora Berner
Manhattan

RAZZING THE THOUGHT POLICE

Once again, an issue that should be uniting the gay and lesbian community is dividing it. Just as the German Jews bickered among themselves over questions of Zionism and "outness," we bicker over the value of speech on leased public access in New York City. Is it really so difficult a point to agree on, that conduits of public speech are worth protecting no matter how many scumbags avail themselves of the right to it?

Yes, Lou Maletta is a misogynist lesbo-phobe. Yes, Al Gold-

stein is loathsome scum not worthy of being skimmed off a stinking pond. Yes, Robin Byrd's show is fluffy, frivolous and far from fomenting the queer or socialist revolution. Yes, gay TV is merely a commercial for the porn industry that, until recently, pretended there was no gay health crisis. Yes, *The Gay Dating Game Show* is as inane and embarrassing as the nongay version. Yes, the club shows simply promote Mafia-owned

party parlors that treat us to Coors, Miller and surly phobe bouncers.

But Lou Maletta provides cities throughout the country with a dose of gay visibility. Goldstein's *fuck you's* have warned us about bait-and-switch deals in electronic stores. Robin Byrd gives us a respite from our tragic realities. *The Gay Dating Game Show* allows us to be just as tasteless and silly as the hetero main-

stream, without apology. Gay TV documents the slow rise in condom use in fuck films and lets us save a few bucks before we rent a film we wouldn't have enjoyed. And the club shows give us an idea of the fun—or lack thereof—available in those noise traps.

Speech is good when it is free; it is deadly when it is not. The Jews in Germany did not have any means with which to respond to Nazi rhetoric. Gays

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Come on, people. Let's get real. A few fascists and their cowardly apologists are already responsible for illegally keeping safer-sex education off of public access channels. Only by getting rid of the thought police and enfranchising even the disgusting provocateurs of filth and anti-social ideas will we be able to secure the rights of provocative but "valuable" speech we do want to receive. The price of freedom is undying vigilance, not deadly rationalizations.

Rick X
The Closet-Case Show
Manhattan

HOLTZMAN = HELMS?

This is in response to "New Group to Combat Rules Blocking Gay TV" [Sept. 5, no. 62]. As one of the media giants who simply want to homogenize everything, Time/Warner's stance is expected. (Forget about Manhattan Cable; it's Time/Warner talking). But because Elizabeth Holtzman doesn't think children should be exposed to sexually explicit ads, public access becomes a joke.

Entitled to her opinion, she is free to keep any kids in her charge from viewing them. I am also entitled to my opinion: Given everything kids are exposed to in this town, sexually explicit ads are the most offensive to her? Ms. Holtzman has jumped on the bandwagon of creating emergencies where none existed and ignoring the real ones. (She must have higher office in mind.)

What's next? A horrifying item in the September *Health Care Rights Advocate*, a newsletter of the Coalition for Alternatives in Nutrition and Health Care, tells us exactly where we are headed:

Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia...has introduced HR 4079, the Emergency Powers

DREAMBOAT of the week



This week's adorable love slave is scrumptious heartthrob Christian Slater who, it turns out, was instrumental in getting an educational and positive scene depicting the horrors of being a gay teen in his latest youth-rebellion film, *Pump Up the Volume*. But more than that, Slater, rather than shying away from homo roles like so many of Hollywood's finest, says there need to be more queer characters in films. And, when asked by Miami's *Weekly News* what would be his dream part to play, cream-inducing Christian replied, "a gay hero." Let's pump him up!

Act, into the 101st Congress. HR 4079 would *suspend the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights* due to drug traffic and high crimes. The bill is 96 pages long...[and] if passed, would [enact] the following existing executive orders, which were signed by Presidents Nixon through Reagan, [into] law:

"Executive orders would empower the president to take over all communications, electric power, gas, fuel and minerals, food resources and farms, all modes of transportation; control of highways

and seaports, provide for the mobilization of all civilians into work brigades under government supervision, etc.

How many of us average folks even know this is going on? This bill is now under consideration in five committees. That it is to be debated at all is scary. And who is to decide what constitutes "high crime" justifying the imposition of all these orders? I nominate Liz Holtzman, New York's very own Jesse Helms

And lesbian and gay organizations continue to back nongay candidates against

qualified lesbian and gay candidates? Will we never learn?

Ross Jacobs
Manhattan

LOADED CHARGE

Shame on you for concealing the identity of the "spokesperson" for Liz Holtzman who defended her unfortunate regulation limiting sexually explicit advertising on cablevision to the wee morning hours [Sept. 5, no. 62].

One doesn't have to be too knowledgeable to guess that this hidden person is none other than Tom Duane, who has never really *accomplished* anything for the gay and lesbian community, although he's taken a lot from it, including a very well-paid job as Holtzman's gay and lesbian community liaison.

Duane obviously wanted to have his cake and eat it too: defend his boss who gives him his paycheck but not be associated with her crass political opportunism in his future personal political ambitions—and you went along with it by "protecting" him in what you call a "news" article.

If Duane didn't want to be associated with his boss' position, he should have had the courage to resign and get a real job, like most of us have to.

For you, who have been outing other people whether they consent or not, to cover up Duane's identity and his cowardly, hypocritical manipulations is a disgraceful double standard which severely compromises your credibility in the community. You may also learn a personal lesson from this: Not every opportunistic gay politician who flatters and toadies up to you has your best interests at heart or those of the community.

Peter Anderson
Manhattan

Gabriel Rotello responds: An interesting point, except that it's totally out to lunch. The spokesperson I quoted was

not Tom Duane but Andrea Bernstein, Holtzman's assistant press secretary. The article even says that it was Bernstein. And Tom Duane is not Holtzman's gay liaison as you state, but her Manhattan liaison. Get a clue.

DOOR SLAMMERS

In reference to the letter "How Now Brown Cow Yogurt?" [Sept. 12, no. 63] may I quote:

"They say they don't want us around, but honey, we're stepping so far out of the closet, we're stamping them like little roaches on the kitchen floor."

Focus, please, on the phrase "stepping so far out of the closet." Now notice that the letter is signed *anonymously*.

Honey, name calling is not going to accomplish anything if "they" can still slam the door in your face because you are in the doorway.

Lea Rivera
Brooklyn

WHOOPI FOR MIKE

Love your magazine. I'm glad Michelangelo has his steam back. It seemed like he cooled off for a while. He only harangued the regulars. (Liz, Calvin, David, etc.). It's great to see the circle of names expanding once again (Jann, Whoopi).

Keep up the good work.

Greg Gregory

VOICES VOICE

Many thanks to you and Wickie Stamps for her positive review of *Voices of Battered Lesbians* [no. 57, Aug. 1]. Lesbian-battering is too often seen as a rare occurrence, a personal rather than political issue, and a reinforcement of homophobic stereotypes of lesbians—and is therefore passed over by much of the gay and lesbian media. We appreciate your spreading the word both about the abuse and our

efforts to end it.

A couple of corrections, though: *Voices* is an audiotape, not a video, and the price is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for organizations and professionals. Anyone unable to afford these prices can call us at (617) 426-8492 or write the Lesbian Caucus, MCBWSG, 107 South St., 5th fl., Boston, MA 02111.

Beth Leventhal
MCBWSG
Boston

MACT, GMAD AND RAINBOW DATING

It's 8:35 pm and I try to slip into what I believed would be a calm Gay Men of African Descent meeting for a little bonding with friends and brothers. The topic is "rainbow dating" and the boys have turned out in full force. What could have been a rather nasty evening of accusations and confrontation is kept down to a mild murmur of opinion, personal testimony and speculation. No real discoveries made, no revelations, no new truths bared that evening, maybe a few old ones revisited. 1) Can we separate sexual desire from a political context? 2) Are men who date exclusively outside the race looking for love or escape? Acting out of passion or self-hatred? 3) Is one's commitment to the race reflected in his choice of mate? Though I had some very definite opinions about these questions, I chose not to comment. I stood silent and listened throughout the meeting. Wrong move.

Now I am holding in my hands the Men of All Colors Together/NY Information Bulletin, dated Sept. 1990. The title "For Gay Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Was Clearly Not Enough" glares at me in all its minstrel gleam and appeal. Three MACT/NY members (two white, one Black) give accounts of the GMAD rainbow dating meeting. Again, the

tired old excuses surface: we are separatist, hostile, insensitive and ungrateful. Please. The brief account by the Black member is at best vague but generally positive without any obvious opinion. The two accounts by the white members are another story. The first, "the single white panelist" he calls himself, accuses GMAD of trying to "promote a negative view" on the issue of rainbow dating. Wrong. GMAD did not promote a view on the issue, nor does it promote views on issues. It's left up to the participant to offer views and arrive at his own conclusions.

Such statements by the panelist like: "Several things I said which I thought were provocative evoked no response, [such as] relating my almost exclusive attractions to Latino and Black men to racism....No one tried to challenge me on that issue" further support my conclusion. Could it be that his thoughts weren't provocative or warranted response? It's no surprise that racism is a major factor in many Black/white relationships. One only has to look at white porn or Mapplethorpe's (newly crowned queen of gay white male America) objectification of Black men to know this. The panelist should admit to himself that his agenda had little to do with exploring views and more to do with maintaining hidden biases and ugly prejudices.

"When I heard that GMAD was holding a forum on interracial dating—I had to be in attendance. As a white man I am seldom extended a warm invitation that has the reputation by some of being a gay male African American nationalist/separatist (and some might say bourgeois) organization was going to address this."

Again, a white boy scorned. First, MACT/NY has a reputation by many of being a rich

white brothel, an old boy dating service and socio-political embarrassment, but what is in a reputation? Again, nationalist and separatist are used as dirty words. Why is it that whenever people of color want to meet without the presence of white people, it's viewed as negative and hostile? Aren't we entitled to bond with one another, create agendas and address concerns without whites? Should we seek approval? Scrutiny? Ask permission? A statement like: "I am seldom extended a warm invitation to attend a GMAD meeting" is indicative of the problem. GMAD is an organization for Gay Men of African Descent. Get it? It seems a lot of whites don't get it or won't accept it. Some still show up at meetings trying to get in. I know the dating possibilities are limitless and therefore make the temptation enormous, but come on.

If the rainbow dating meeting, our agenda, our choice of concerns to address do not meet your approval, that's too bad. GMAD's meeting on rainbow dating was a loose discussion and achieved nothing more than raise an issue that clearly is being thought about a lot by both whites and Blacks. The fact that white/Black relationships became the major focus or that passions ran high is to be expected. White men, gay and otherwise, still dominate radio, television, newspapers, movies, the economy and so on, and therefore are a force constantly addressed and scrutinized. It seems that GMAD succeeded in stirring up a little liberal racism that echoed in the very title of the rather disappointing article in MACT/NY's Bulletin: "For Gay Boys...." Well, this is one gay man for whom the rainbow is definitely enuff!

Reginald T. Jackson

NEWS

Gay Vote Sweeps First Lesbian Toward Statehouse

Former GMHCer Wins Judgeship; Gay Man Loses Bid for Congress

by Nina Reyes and Duncan Osborne

NEW YORK—Lesbians and gay men scored an immense and historic victory in last week's primary elections when feminist and openly lesbian candidate Deborah Glick decisively won her race for the Democratic nomination in the heavily gay and lesbian 61st Assembly District. Glick's primary triumph virtually ensures that she will be sent to Albany in the general election, where she will take a place in state history as the first openly lesbian candidate elected to statewide office.

But, while Glick swept the polls in her downtown Assembly district, openly gay upstate New York candidate Sean Strub lost his bid to become the first nonincumbent openly gay man elected to Congress in a defeat that surprised many political analysts.

In a third race, for surrogate justice in the New York County Surrogate's Court, lesbian and gay votes and queer political clout were credited with decid-



"A VICTORY OF GRASS-ROOTS POLITICS."
—Deborah Glick

ing the race. The victor, Eve Preminger, had received the endorsements of a



"THE GAY VOTE WAS A MAJOR FORCE IN MY VICTORY."—Eve Preminger

slew of activists and gay community-based organizations.

Unofficial Election Results

Surrogate's Court
Eve Preminger—19,628
Lewis Friedman—18,311
Arlene Harris—17,597
Jacqueline Silbermann—9,281

61st Assembly District
Deborah Glick—4,930
Elizabeth Shollenberge—2,315
Kathryn Freed—2,177
Anthony Hoffman—1,617
Robert Rygor—297

22nd Congressional District
John Dow—6,374
Sean Strub—5,169

"I think that it is very exciting not just for me, but for the lesbian and gay community and the women's community," Glick commented after the primary. "It's a victory of grass-roots politics over clubhouse politics."

Glick wrested the Democratic nomination from her opponents after a long, fairly decorous race. Toward the end of the race, however, one of Glick's four opponents, Liz Shollenberger, whom pundits had expected to give Glick the hardest run, offended some lesbians and gay men by alleging that a lesbian would be a less passionate advocate for abortion rights because lesbians, she said, need only be concerned with pregnancy when raped.

Glick beat Shollenberger, who came in second in the race, by a more than two-to-one margin.

While Glick still faces a Republican opponent in the November general election, the 61st Assembly District, which



Photo: Ben Thornberry

"WE SHOULD NOT ONLY RUN AGAINST HOMOPHOBES."—Sean Strub

includes Greenwich Village, SoHo, Little Italy, TriBeCa and parts of the East Village, is overwhelmingly democratic and decidedly liberal. Seasoned political activists expect that Glick will beat her opponent, Elizabeth Ivory Greene, hands-down, though Hibbard noted that Glick intends to continue her intensive whistle-stop campaigning.

If Glick succeeds in her bid for the Assembly, she will join the handful of openly gay and lesbian

See ELECTION on page 26

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Caught Between Love and Culture: Third-World Lesbians in the US



"THERE IS SIMPLY NOT A PLACE FOR ME THERE."—*Lorrie Kim*

by **Victoria A. Brownworth**

Marya simply doesn't think about going home anymore. Her lover of three years would like to travel, but Marya is afraid: "If I leave the country, I may never get back in."

Marya (not her real name) is Malaysian. She has not been home to her native country in three years. She came to the US for graduate school and while here met and fell in love with another woman. Her family wants her to return home, marry and start a family. But for Marya, home is in New York City with Suzanne now, and the

Fighting Invisibility is an ongoing series of occasional articles on subjects not often discussed in relation to the lesbian community.

thought of a marriage to a man and a return to a culture which, she says, "doesn't even recognize that lesbianism exists" is unthinkable. But she misses her family and her country and finds herself in the dilemma more and more women are facing, particularly natives of Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Each year, thousands of women come to the US from other countries to study; some of those women are drawn to the ideals of American feminism and sometimes through that to lesbianism. Others are lesbians who can openly explore sexual expressions in the US in ways that are impossible in their home countries. For women who come from the sexually restrictive cultures that Marya and the other women interviewed for this

article are from, the results of such actions can be devastating.

For those lesbians living with the sexism that pervades American culture, it is difficult to imagine the US as one of the world's most feminist nations. But to women from cultures where marriage is inevitable and often planned by family, where Western styles of dress are considered wicked and where a woman's rights to property and even her own name are nonexistent, the promise of American feminism can seem great indeed. And in cultures where sexism also precludes sexual self-knowledge or -exploration, the US may appear to offer tremendous freedoms.

Yet as some of these women will attest, those freedoms do not come unencumbered. Choosing a lesbian lifestyle in the US often means rejecting family and country elsewhere. Should a woman come out to her family, parents may wish to return her immediately to her native country to "cure" her of what they see as a Western-inspired disease. Others may be more lenient and allow the woman time to be "rebellious," with the tacit understanding that she will eventually return to her native country, marry and raise a family.

Undoubtedly, there are cases where the reaction of a woman's family is not negative. But regardless of familial response, a woman's decision to stay in the US can raise conflicts surrounding allegiance to culture, country and, perhaps most painfully, family.

Marya believes that she can never really go home in spite of her longing for family and friends. "I don't miss

Riot in P-Town

PROVINCETOWN—A near-riot erupted in the center of town after police arrested a popular drag queen here, drawing in hundreds of residents and once again revealing the tension simmering in the relationship between the town's law enforcers and the lesbian and gay community.

Look in next week's issue for more complete coverage of the incident, which took place in the early morning hours of Sept. 5.

Malaysia per se," she says, "but I miss sitting and eating with my family. I miss being a part of a culture that includes me. But as a lesbian, I might now feel excluded by that culture—I don't know. What is sure for me is that this is the life I want, but in choosing it, I am, of necessity, rejecting the world and culture I came from."

Marya's lover feels some of the struggle, too. Suzanne would like to travel abroad, but Marya's fear of losing reentry to the country keeps them here. "Until she can apply for citizenship, until she is safely part of this country, we can't go anywhere else. But I really feel terrible that her love for me keeps her from her family."

Shilpa Mehta is from India. She, too, came to the US to study and has remained for seven years. Some extended family members live in the US, but her parents and siblings live in India. Mehta, a former local news editor at the *Philadelphia Gay News*, has told members of her family here that she is lesbian and has also recently told her parents and siblings. Like Marya, Mehta feels a conflict between her family at home and her life here. At 27, she will soon be an old maid by Indian standards, and there is still some feeling from her parents that she should return to India and marry.

Shireen Singh is Pakistani and a student at an Ivy League university who only recently came out. Barely 20, she is not yet ready to tell her family that she has decided to stay in the US and that she will never marry and raise children in the way her family expects.

She explains: "When I came here, my family was very concerned about

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news

boys, and about how I might behave without their protective influence. Although I have frequently traveled in the West and spent three years at school in London, I have always been with my family or been within a strong Pakistani network. That's not true now, and I'm afraid that my parents will view this as a reaction to US sexual liberalism—that they'll think if they can get me home and back in a 'proper' setting for a woman my age, I'll return to 'normal.'

"What they can't understand is that for the first time in my life I am feeling normal—really normal. In Pakistan—the rise and fall of Benazir Bhutto aside—I felt incredibly stifled. My life was a fore-

gone conclusion. Here, I feel as if I have options, that I can choose not to marry or that I can choose to love other women. These simply would not be options for me in my country. My family wouldn't allow it, and I wouldn't allow myself—because I have strong feelings about my family and my culture, and those feelings would have to come first. They would have to preclude my own desires."



"I HAVE TO WATCH WHAT I SAY AND WHERE I SAY IT."—Shilpa Mehta

In Korea, where Lorrie Kim's family is and where she spent half her life, there is no word for "lesbian." When people talk about lesbians, they use

the English word. "I don't think I ever knew about lesbians there," says Kim, 22, who returned to the US to go to college. "Sexuality isn't discussed, and certainly not women's sexuality. I would have had to learn of these things from Americans or people who weren't Korean. Korean gay men wouldn't tell me about it."

An intensely political person, Kim, an American citizen, cannot imagine living in Korea again, even though her parents would like her to return home. "I went back last summer, and that time in Korea told me why I couldn't ever live there again. There is simply not a place for me there. I won't say it's the worst possible sexist conditions, because I think that there's pretty terrible sexism here too, and sexism is sexism, but there are certain expectations of women of my class and education that I just wouldn't be able to fulfill."

Kim, currently a reporter at the *Philadelphia Gay News*, has talked to her parents about not returning, and she has told them about aspects of her life here. She hasn't "officially" come out to them, she says. "They just figured it out."

The conflict for these women is tremendous, though it is worse for some than for others. Some have legal residency here, while others do not. But regardless of their legal status, the pull toward home and family presents a seemingly unresolvable dilemma.

"It would be different if I were a gay man," explains Singh. "There wouldn't be such a tremendous sense

of guilt about disappointing my parents, I think. There's just a different attitude about the roles women are supposed to play in my culture. It's progressive of my family to let me come over here to study, but the expectation is still the same—that I will return home to the life there, that I will marry, and that whatever happened to me here in terms of my feminist awakening or in terms of my becoming lesbian-identified will just disappear—it just will never have happened."

Mehta has heard similar sentiments from her parents and, as a consequence, doesn't even want to return for a visit. It's been three years since she's been back to India, but the memory of her life there still affects her. "I come from an important family, and in India, family is everything. I don't want to make things difficult for my family by having the fact of my being a lesbian spread around. I do have to be careful, I do feel that I have to watch what I say and where I say it. And if I returned to India, then I would have to return to that kind of life. I'm not saying my parents would *force* me to marry, but you do get compelled by circumstances."

The impact of being caught among the culture of a native country, an irrefutable sexual orientation that seems irrefutable and the promise of feminist-inspired choice is dramatic for these women and other women in their situation. And as Singh notes, the US border policies that exclude homosexuals make entering and leaving difficult, rendering some decisions unalterable. "If I decide to go out of the country," she explains, "there is a very real chance I may never be able to return. If I am too openly lesbian here, my residency—tenuous as it is—will be in jeopardy."

The future for these women remains conflicted at best. Says Mehta, "I would never go back. There's no life for me there—no feminism, no lesbianism, no freedom as I know it here. My parents wouldn't deliberately take away my freedom, but it would be

Photo: Gary L. Day

taken away. There is an underground gay life, but there is no lesbian life."

And the forced exile of these women also means keeping secrets from the people they love—especially immediate family. Marya observes: "I have a wonderful, full, rich life here that I really am very happy with. But because it is a lesbian life, because my lover is a woman, I cannot share that with the other people I love, my family."

Mehta echoes her. "I can't tell them [my parents] that I have a lover, even though I've been out to them for three years. They just would be very upset."

For Kim it is a question of identity. "I have always identified as an Asianamerican. I was raised biculturally in one sense—in terms of my education. In Korea, there is not much of a concept of 'other.' So if you have always felt different somehow from other Koreans, then there isn't a place for that—it's a strongly homogeneous culture. To have a place for the 'other' [in the US] means I can fit in. If I went back to Korea, they would say, 'Let's help you, we'll take away your Americanism.' But it isn't America that has made me lesbian, although I would not have known the alternative of loving women in Korea. It is merely access to my own feelings—all of them."

Singh looks to other women in similar circumstances and to American lesbians for support. She believes that having access to other women feeling torn between their sense of duty to their family and their love for women and the freedom the US offers to express that is essential. "I'm lucky now. I'm at a major university in a major urban city where there is a lot of gay culture around me. There are many other women from my country here as well. But we need the community support of this because that is where our strengths are—in community. Besides, I feel strongly that we need to have the community realize we are here, a part of them and in need of them. Because for many of us, they will become our new family—adopted, like the US." ▼

Specific discussion of residency status of some of the women in this article has been omitted at their request, as have certain details about their occupations and living situations.

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Still No Suspects in Grisly Slaying of Queens Man

by Duncan Osborne

NEW YORK—Angered by what they are calling an inadequate police response to the gruesome murder of a gay man in Queens, gay and lesbian community leaders are pressing the city to add resources to the ongoing investigation and to classify the murder as a bias crime.

Matt Foreman, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, and Ed Sedarbaum, a member of Queer Nation and the Julio Rivera Anti-Violence Coalition of Queens, are pressuring the administration of Mayor David Dinkins and the New York City Police Department to classify Rivera's murder a bias crime, to add investigators to the case and to match a \$2,500 community reward for information leading to the arrests of the killer. Currently, the city is offering \$1,000, the standard amount in a murder investigation.

Julio Rivera was killed at approximately 3 am on Monday, July 2, in the Jackson Heights section of Queens where he lived. According to medical reports, Rivera had been struck ten to 12 times in the head with the claw end of a hammer and stabbed four or five times in the chest and back with a knife. Passersby are said to have reported to police that three white men were seen running from the scene of the attack. The crime has been classified as a drug-related robbery by the 115th Precinct, which is conducting the investigation.

At a recent meeting with representatives with the police department's bias crime unit, the 115th Precinct and Marjorie Hill, the director of the mayor's office for the gay and lesbian community, Foreman and Sedarbaum said that they were "extremely disappointed" by the city's

response so far. "The police offered no facts to dissuade us from our point of view that this was a bias crime," Sedarbaum noted. Foreman cited the history of bias murder and assaults in the area, other recent bias-motivated hammer attacks in the neighborhood and the brutality of this attack as evidence of bias motivation. Rivera was murdered near Jackson Heights' "Vaseline Alley," a cruising area popular with men who have sex with men.

Foreman also said that he had spoken to a local Queens man who, he said, was told, in a confrontation with a man claiming to have acted as a "lookout" for Rivera's murderers, that Rivera was killed because he was a "cocksucking faggot." Officers at the

115th Precinct have still not apprehended a suspect, and detectives at the 115th took a week to contact the alleged witness. Said Sedarbaum, "Clearly, they do not have enough resources to respond effectively." Some following the investigation have suggested that police "foot dragging" is due to the fact that Rivera was a Latino gay man who is known to have worked as a hustler and who used drugs.

But Marjorie Hill of the mayor's office maintained that the stance of the bias crime unit is appropriate. Hill expressed concerns about the resources being applied in this investigation but added that any murder investigations understaffed

How a Crime Becomes a Bias Crime

NEW YORK—The NYPD's Bias Incident Investigating Unit employs several criteria in determining if the motive behind any given crime is bias-related, according to Sergeant Phil Banks, a spokesperson for the unit.

First and foremost is determining the motivation of the perpetrator. Investigators speak to the suspect, the victim and witnesses to find clues to bias motivation. But the absence of any clear motive can sometimes indicate the presence of bias. When the victim was not robbed and did not know the perpetrator, police often look for some motive other than easy money or an interpersonal dispute.

Investigators also hunt for reports about the use of antagonistic epithets during the crime, but even these can be tricky. Banks said that New Yorkers are quick to use racist, sexist or anti-gay epithets as the readiest verbal weapon even in a nonbias-related dispute. Symbols like swastikas or the initials KKK are better indicators of bias, because forethought is required in displaying these. Cops also examine the date, time and circumstances of the incident. If the crime took place on Gay Pride weekend in Greenwich Village, for example, the motive may well have been anti-lesbian or -gay hatred.

Typically, groups, rather than individuals, commit bias crimes. Investigators also check if similar incidents have occurred in the area and for similarity among the victims.

When a crime has been classified as bias-motivated, the unit may conduct its own investigation, monitor the investigation of the local precinct, or the local precinct and the bias unit may run a joint investigation. The determination is most often made by the captain of the precinct where the crime occurred.

—D. O.

115th Precinct would come up short.

"I am satisfied that the 115th is giving this investigation the same attention they would give any murder investigation," Hill told *OutWeek*, noting that in addition to detectives from the bias crimes unit, detectives at the 115th were coordinating with the Tactical Narcotics Team. Hill has also met with Police Commissioner Lee Brown and senior police officials about the case. Because investigators on the case feel that they have promising leads, additional funds are not being allocated toward a reward. Currently, Crime-stopper bulletins offering the reward of \$1,000 for information are posted in the area where Rivera was killed.

Sergeant Phil Banks of the NYPD's bias crimes unit told *OutWeek*, "We are not officially investigating [Rivera's murder], but we are working on it." According to Banks, the bias crimes unit continues to investigate the murder with an eye toward either finding or disqualifying bias as a motive, and the unit expects to come to a decision soon. But their efforts are being stymied by the circumstances surrounding Rivera's death, according to Banks. A determination of bias motivation is often made, in part, based on the perceptions of the victim or, in a murder case, on the perceptions of witnesses. But police have not yet found any witnesses, and none may, in fact, exist. Banks added that the positive determination of an anti-gay motive for Rivera's murder would not, however, result in the allocation of additional police resources, although it would place the bias crimes unit in charge of the investigation.

Lt. Shelly Neal, commanding officer of the detective squad at the 115th Precinct, which is currently heading the investigation, declined to comment but termed the case an "active investigation, pursued diligently, with the probability of an arrest."

Since meeting with police and city representatives, Queer Nation, the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project and the Julio Rivera Anti-Violence Coalition of Queens, a group that has sprung up in response to the murder, spurred a march on Aug. 18 through Jackson Heights that drew 300 lesbians and gay men. ▼

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Thompson and Kowalski Still Hung Up in Court

by David Anger

MINNEAPOLIS—The seven-year struggle to tear down the legal barriers separating Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski encountered yet another roadblock on Friday, Sept. 1, when a judge denied Thompson's petition to become Kowalski's guardian. An October hearing is scheduled to determine the couple's fate.

The two women have been in the national spotlight ever since a car

but a temporary one. We will win, whether it is at this stage or in appeal."

Thompson had expected District Court Judge Robert Campbell to grant her guardianship of Kowalski, after medical and legal experts testified that Thompson is best suited to care for her lover. Kowalski's parents gave up their battle to prevent Thompson from seeing their daughter last year.

But two women who say that they are friends of Kowalski are now contest-

return a reporter's phone calls.

Thompson said: "I'm being eaten up by this. We live in fear of some homophobic person talking against us. Sharon has made it clear that the only person she wants to be with is me.

Still, the legal establishment, along with Kowalski's parents, refuses to recognize their relationship.

Even Kowalski's court-appointed attorney, Fred Friedman, said: "It's just a tragic thing. There are a lot of well-meaning people that can't or won't get together for the sake of Sharon's health and welfare."

Lesbian and gay legal advocates have long been watching the Thompson-Kowalski struggle. Minnesota state law stipulates that a husband or wife assumes the guardianship in similar situations, but it does not accommodate lesbian and gay partnerships. Opponents of Thompson's guardianship have suggested that a neutral third party serve as guardian, but the statute requires that a personal relationship exist between the guardian and the ward.

Thompson said that Kowalski's health was hindered during the three years that Kowalski's parents had custody. From 1986 to 1989 Kowalski lived in a Hibbing, Minn., nursing home. Kowalski has lived for the past 14 months at the Treville Nursing Home in Robinsdale, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis.

A final decision is expected to be made on the case within a week after the hearing, which is scheduled for Oct. 12 in Duluth, Minn. Thompson said that the hearing will be open to the public and media.

"I continue because I love Sharon Kowalski," she added. "I think she is a beautiful person. We've touched souls and we love each other." ▼



"WE'VE TOUCHED SOULS."—Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson

accident left Kowalski severely disabled, and Thompson, her lover, began a legal battle with Kowalski's parents for the right to care for her. Thompson's legal struggle here spawned a nationwide network of lesbians and gay men who rallied around her, and began a more general movement for domestic partnership rights for gay couples.

"I'm just so furious," said an emotional Karen Thompson. "It's a setback,

ing such a judgment. They allege that Thompson is attempting to "control" Kowalski for political purposes, a notion that Thompson vehemently rejects.

Karen Tomberlin of Coleraine, Minn., and Cathy Schroeder of Carlton, Minn., came forward two months ago to contest Thompson's guardianship. Neither Tomberlin nor Schroeder—both physical education instructors in northern Minnesota—want to be Kowalski's guardian themselves. They did not

Photo: M.J. Murphy

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Bar Patrons Chase Gay-Bashers in East Village

by Paul Rykoff Coleman

NEW YORK—Witnesses and victims who described a series of physical confrontations and riot-like conditions between gays and youths in front of an East Village bar on Second Avenue, early on Sept. 8, say the police were unresponsive to their pleas for help.

They say that officers from the 9th Precinct, whose headquarters is housed just a block from where the confrontations occurred on Second Avenue and 4th Street, reluctantly responded after groups of gay men, some bleeding, went over to the police station to complain. And when cops were finally sent out to quell the confrontation, witnesses said, the police turned against the gay men.

Four youths were eventually arrested, and the police classified the incident as bias-related, said Matt Foreman, executive director of the New York City Gay



Photo: T.L. Lutz

BASHING BACK—The Bar on 2nd Ave.

Gay Men Attacked in Greenwich Village

NEW YORK—Two gay men attacked at the corner of Sixth Avenue and 9th Street on Sept. 2, were pursued into a nearby green-grocer and allegedly bashed by three young men, while several customers and the cash register attendant looked on. According to a witness, when one of the men was arrested, he disclosed that he is actively enrolled in a division of the armed services.

Greg Farrell, one of the two gay men assaulted, reported that the confrontation began at about 10:30 pm, when he and a friend were jostled by three young men on the street. "I was kind of just side-hit, and I honestly thought it was an accident, so I said, 'Excuse me' and continued on," Farrell recalled, "and about 15 seconds later, I heard 'We can do that because you're faggots.'"

Thinking that the incident had concluded, the two men proceeded on their way. However, as the men reached 9th Street, Farrell stated, "Somebody came up from behind me and kicked me in the back, and at that point I knew we had some trouble."

The two men hustled into a grocery store and asked the attendant behind the counter to call the police, but the clerk said that there was no telephone. "Faggots! Faggots!" screamed the two

men's assailants from outside the grocery. One of the customers standing in line offered to call 911.

"Then one of the three came into the store and bashed me on the side of the head and pushed me into a rack of something," related Farrell. "He punched me and pulled my head back by the hair and continued to hit me." When Farrell momentarily broke away from his attacker, the two gay men ran to the back of the store for shelter.

"At that moment, I found the telephone, and I made sure that they could see me holding the receiver and speaking into it," Farrell recalled. The alleged assailants fled the store, and someone came in and reported that the men had run into the 9th Street PATH station.

When the police arrived a few minutes later, the two men accompanied them to the PATH station, where they caught up with two of the three alleged attackers on the platform.

The accused assailants are Joseph Murphy, whose address is listed as an armed forces station in West Germany, and Edward Gibbons, 60 Sherry Rd., Turnersville, NY.

—Nina Reyes

and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. He added that three gay men were known to be injured, with one requiring six stitches. Four gay men have filed charges, he said.

Foreman met with victims and witnesses Sept. 12 to determine the confusing sequence of events. "We documented ten separate instances in which police responded unprofessionally, or their response contributed to the problem," Foreman said.

Witnesses say that the confrontations began before midnight, on Friday, Sept. 7, and continued until 3 or 4 am on Saturday. They told *OutWeek* that the confrontations were prompted by a multiracial group of eight or so youths who, standing in front of Woody's, a nightclub on the southwest corner of the intersection, were taunting patrons leaving the Bar, as well as gay men who were walking by. A bartender at the Bar reportedly turned off the music, stood up on the bar and announced that youths were taunting gays outside and that patrons should be careful when leaving. The entire bar emptied out as patrons chased some of the youths down 4th Street toward Third Avenue. Those on both sides hurled broken beer bottles at one another.

Meanwhile, witnesses said, the police at the 9th Precinct were uncooperative when victims tried to file complaints. "The psychological bashing in the precinct was much worse than the riot in the street," reported Ken Lindley, who said one of the youths punched him twice in the face.

"It says a lot about the gay community in that people weren't hurt badly," Foreman said. "It's a comment on the gay community's restraint."

While officials at the 9th Precinct declined to comment on the incident, Officer Ralph St. Juste, a police department spokesperson, told *OutWeek*, "It is the policy of the NYPD that we respond to all calls responsibly and in a timely manner, without regard to the nature of the caller."

The police department, using its narrow criteria, has classified the incident as the 75th gay-related bias incident this year, Foreman said.

The Anti-Violence Project is holding a community forum at 7 pm on Monday, Sept. 17, at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St., where 9th Precinct Commanding Officer Michael Julian is scheduled to answer community questions. ▼

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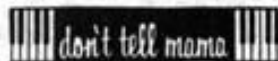
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GAY MAN'S MURDERER GETS SIX-TO- TEN

PITTSBURGH—A convicted gay-killer was sentenced to serve six to ten years in a minimum security facility last month.

Following a bench trial on July 18 before Common Pleas Judge Robert E. Dauer, John Smouse, 20, was found guilty of third-degree murder in the brutal slaying of a gay man, David Piergalski, last September. The murder shook the small gay community here, and became a focus of lesbian and gay activism.

A jury trial commences in October for 20-year-old Mark Glusic, the second man charged with criminal homicide in Piergalski's death.

The defense claimed that Piergalski had solicited Smouse and Glusic for a ride at Shanley Park, a cruising area popular with gay men. By their own admission, Smouse and Glusic had been to the park on a minimum of four previous occasions to ridicule and verbally harass gays. According to Smouse, he gave Piergalski a ride in his van and did not physically attack him until Piergalski allegedly made a pass at Glusic, who was supposedly asleep in the back of the vehicle.

A pathologist's report revealed that Piergalski's face had been struck in the same spot at least seven times. Additionally, it was determined that the intensity of the killer's chokehold probably led to the hemorrhaging of the victim's eyeballs. The official cause of death was attributed to multiple injuries, most notably, aspiration of blood.

Police measured a pool of blood three feet in diameter in the back of

Smouse's van.

Smouse, who was 19 at the time of the violent murder, had been president of his high school class and aspired to go to law school. Friends and family characterized the tall and athletically built man as an "all-American boy."

In an effort to thwart the increas-

ing number of anti-gay and -lesbian crimes, members of Piergalski's family and representatives of the gay and lesbian community pushed for the maximum possible sentence. Pennsylvania's Ethnic Intimidation Act provides stiffer penalties for bias crime offenders, but the state's definition of a bias crime pertains only to religious and minority

GLAAD TIDINGS *Commentary*

Morris County Gay and Lesbian Students

by Janet Rodgers

In Morris County, NJ, gay and lesbian students are being compared to rapists, drunk drivers, Nazis and—believe it or not—vampires.

The name-calling is a reaction to a new student group called Gay and Lesbian Organization, or GALO, at County College of Morris in New Jersey.

The formation of GALO has been accompanied by an enormous controversy. Many articles and letters to the editor on the subject appeared last spring in *Youngtown Edition*, the school newspaper. Although some letters were supportive, a significant portion revealed a frightening amount of bigotry and ignorance of homosexuality.

Among the letter writers' rhetoric were accusations that GALO's purpose is to seduce heterosexuals, that gays tend toward addictive behavior, stealing and vandalism, and that homosexuality is an abomination that should be cured, not accepted.

Perhaps most disturbing was a letter from a professor at the college, Joseph

Warganz, who wrote that "our civilization has a 4,000 year consensus that homosexuality is morally wrong." Apparently, this character has never studied ancient Greece.

Forming a positive gay or lesbian identity in this society is particularly hard for young people who live in relatively small cities and towns. The fall term starts soon, and GALO needs support and encouragement from all of us.

Write to: Dan Collins, Editor, *Youngtown Edition*, County College of Morris, Rt. 10 and Center Grove Rd., Randolph, NJ 07869, or call him at (201) 328-5224.

You can also send copies of correspondence to Edward Yaw, president of the college, at the same address. If you're a New Jersey taxpayer, your response will carry extra clout.

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.

groups—not lesbians and gays.

Prior to sentencing Smouse, Dauer compared what he called Smouse's "egotistical discrimination" to the injustices committed by both Hitler's persecution of Jews in World War II and the enslavement of Blacks by white people in this country; yet, he still granted the defense's request to place Smouse in a minimum security prison.

"The result of this case is in no way a deterrent to attacks and assaults on lesbians and gays. The sum total of all the benefit of the doubt John Smouse received added up to another gay bashing in the criminal justice system!" raged Bill Hileman of the newly named CRY OUT/ACT UP (formerly known as CRY OUT), a group dedicating itself to gay rights and AIDS activism.

—Janis Astor/*New York City*

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ELECTION

Continued from page 13

candidates nationwide who have made it to the statehouse.

In the national Congressional race in New York's upstate 22nd district, Strub, an entrepreneur whose direct-mail wizardry has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for gay community organizations, lost by just over 1,200 votes, more than 1,000 of which were cast in the conservative Rockland County polling stations.

Strub's defeat shocked pundits, who had predicted that Strub would win the district handily against his 85-year-old opponent, Rockland County resident John Dow. Dow served as the

Congressional representative from that district for two nonconsecutive terms but was ousted from office both times by Republican Rep. Benjamin Gilman, now the nine-term incumbent.

But it was one of Strub's own direct-mail solicitations, a gay and lesbian community card pack with ads for many different kinds of products and services, that may have been the single largest factor in his defeat.

Just a few days before the primary, two newspapers based in Rockland and Westchester Counties ran a story from the Associated Press wire that detailed the manner in which one Strub solicitation was packaged.

"Along with his political pitch come offers for condoms by mail, sub-

scriptions to gay magazines and a pamphlet from the Gay Men's Health Crisis that promises 'hotter, safer sex for gay men,'" the story read.

Local media reportedly leaped on the story, which also noted that Strub's direct-mail company, Strub-Dawson, had sponsored the mailing. Although Strub's campaign bought space in the solicitation at cost, some people believed that connection gave an appearance of impropriety. And some political observers have noted that it is unusual for any candidate to attach his or her campaign literature to that kind of bulk solicitation.

But it was the gay orientation of the companion ads, rather than the novelty of the technique, that local media chose to seize on. One radio station in the area broadcast the story throughout the day before the primary, according to Strub.

Ironically, the Washington, DC-based Associated Press reporter, Kim Mills, is a lesbian who got the idea for her story when she received the community card pack in the mail.

In his concession speech, Strub pointed out that his defeat proved, if nothing else, that homophobia has not been wiped out in the district, even though the incumbent is a moderately liberal Republican. "While we didn't win the election, it was enormously important, and it was good for the community," Strub said.

"A lot of people have a perception that we should only run candidates against notorious homophobes," Strub continued. "The point is that Jews shouldn't only be eligible to run against antisemites, Blacks shouldn't only be eligible to run against racists."

The Manhattan Surrogate's Court race, which drew a field of four candidates, was spotlighted by lesbian and gay electoral activists because of the increased role that court, which deals with wills, estates, trusts and adoption, has played in the lives of gay men and lesbians.

Preminger, one of the original board members at Gay Men's Health Crisis, won the race handily, and said the community's support had propelled her to victory. "Certainly from the response that I got at polling places, a large number of people told me that it was my position on gay rights and my involvement in the gay community

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before it became politically fashionable that persuaded people I was sincere in my commitment to gay rights," Pre-
 minger told *OutWeek*. "It is logical to
 conclude that [the gay] vote was a
 major force in my victory."

Preminger is expected to easily
 win the November election, when she
 will face Republican David Lande, as
 well as former Democratic rival Lewis
 Friedman, who received the Liberal
 Party's nomination. ▼

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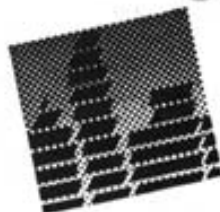
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Sisters Are Doin' It— Brothers Should Be, Too

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The recent wave of anti-gay violence in New York and other cities has brought gay men and lesbians together in another shared crisis. But for lesbians, the violence is nothing new; just as gay men are more subject to the epidemic of AIDS than are lesbians, so too are lesbians at higher risk from violence than gay men.



For lesbians, the problem is twofold: It is both gender- and identity-based. Ninety-one percent of the people who attack women are men. When an act of violence is perpetuated against a lesbian, it is as much because she is a woman as because she is gay. Thus when Claudia Brenner and Rebecca Wight went hiking in the Appalachian foothills near Gettysburg, both of these factors led to Wight's murder and Brenner's near murder.

There has been little attention

same solidarity against violence that the lesbian community has provided on the AIDS front.

Take Back the Night marches have rarely included gay men. The most recent such march in Philadelphia found only a handful of men among the 3,000 women in attendance. When the marchers passed the gay strip that night, men came out of the bars to watch but not to join.

Violence against women has a direct link to anti-gay violence. Sexism

and homophobia are inextricably entwined, and this should compel gay men to involve themselves in the fight against that violence. But the majority of gay men may be unaware of the scope and severity of the violence. Still others may feel that violence against women is not their issue. Lesbians, however, have taken an active role in the AIDS crisis regardless of the tiny numbers of lesbians with HIV infection. Gay men must see the need for a similarly active role in our epidemic.

According to the US Justice Department and the FBI Uniform Crime Report, violence against women, at an all-time high, has reached epidemic proportions. The most common violent crimes in the US are assaults on women. Rape has increased at four times the rate of other violent crimes, and since 1979, the rate of violence against women, age 15 to 35 has increased 49 percent even as the rate of violence against men in that same age group decreased by 12 percent.

Over four women are murdered each day, and murder is the leading cause of death for women of color in the US and the second leading cause of death for all women. A woman is assaulted every 12 seconds in the US and raped every six minutes. Violence kills more women than AIDS has killed gay men: It's the country's worst epidemic (50 percent of all women in the US will be a victim of violence before they are 35), and very little is being done about it.



focused on the massive epidemic of violence against women in the US—either from the media as a whole or from the gay community. The recent rally and march in Park Slope, Brooklyn, showed gay and lesbian solidarity on the issue of violence. But for the most part, gay men have responded to anti-lesbian violence because it is anti-gay and therefore affects them as well. But lesbians need from gay men the

they receive simply because they might be in the wrong place at the wrong time or be dressed a certain way. The anti-AIDS-funding lobby is also the anti-choice lobby and the anti-gay rights lobby. People who say that the Constitution doesn't protect women also believe that it shouldn't protect queers.

Gay men need to recognize that these biases are connected. They are in a unique position to help in the strug-

gle against anti-woman violence: While they are male, they are rarely rapists, attackers and murderers of women. But, as men, they retain the power to speak out against such violence and argue for protections for women, tough sentencing laws and services for victims of the violence.

Marching against anti-gay violence that includes lesbians is not the same as taking an active role in an issue that only engages you peripherally, yet that is exactly what is necessary. Lesbians are at risk for their lives in the same way that gay men are at risk, and just as HIV itself is invisible even as it devastates a community, so too is this epidemic of violence. One of the mottos of the gay and lesbian community has come to be "Silence = Death." And that is certainly the case with anti-woman violence.

The gay community needs to adopt a pro-active, rather than reactive, stance against violence. Lesbians are gratified when gay men join in an effort such as the Park Slope anti-violence march. But gay men must also engage on a deeper, more constant level. They need to speak out against the violence being perpetrated against women—not just because it affects them, too, but because we are trying to build a coalition of shared responsibility.

When gay men fight their own sexism and the sexism of other men, they help to break down the very foundations of violence against women. When gay men respond to the harassment and assault of women, they are helping not only the lesbian members of their community but also themselves. The perjoratives "fag" and "pussy" are interchangeable in this society; that alone should tell gay men that this is very much their issue, too. Combating sexism and homophobia as parts of the same whole can only serve to benefit every member of our community and help to end the violence ▼

As a contributing reporter at Out-Week, Victoria A. Brownworth covers Philadelphia and Washington, DC. Her forthcoming book Camera Obscura: Interviews with America and European Women Film/Makers will be published by the Women's Press, London, in the Spring of 1991.

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A Holistic Reading List

by Bob Lederer

Well-written books about holistic AIDS treatments have been slow in coming, but at last there is quite a long list. Several new additions are especially noteworthy:

Positively Well: AIDS as a Chronic, Manageable, Survivable Disease by Lark Lands, PhD (soon available from Carl Vogel Foundation, 2025 Eye St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 293-5153). Lands has a doctorate in nutrition and a master's in psychology. More relevant, she is a well-respected, longtime researcher, counselor and seminar leader on alternative AIDS treatments. She is, perhaps, one of the most knowledgeable and practical-minded practitioners in the field of AIDS.

This detailed book reflects Lands' eclectic, state-of-the-art approach. There are chapters on diet, nutrient supplementation, psychoimmunity (the mind-body connection), energy therapies and a lengthy discussion of alternative drugs and therapeutic agents, with subsections on treatments for the major opportunistic infections and their symptoms. A chapter on appropriate testing reviews in detail such tests as T-cell, P24, PCR, Beta-2 and others. Lands' writing is scientific yet down-to-earth, both philosophical and practical. This book should be a first point of reference for people with HIV or AIDS—and required reading for AIDS health care providers.

AIDS, Macrobiotics and Natural Immunity by Michio Kushi and Martha C. Cottrell, MD, with Mark N. Mead (Japan Publications, 1990, 496 pp., \$19.95). This comprehensive work was developed by two of the foremost



AIDS, MACRO- BIOTICS & NATURAL IMMUNITY

Michio Kushi
& Martha C. Cottrell, M.D.
with Mark N. Mead

leaders and an investigative writer of the earliest and perhaps most misunderstood alternative AIDS treatment. Macrobiotics is a Japanese philosophy of balance (yin-yang) and moderation in living, best known for its primarily vegetarian diet of whole grains, beans, vegetables and other unprocessed foods. Kushi, who first brought macrobiotics to the AIDS community in 1983, and Cottrell, a physician who has treated many PWAs in New York and has lectured widely, offer both a theoretical and practical presentation.

Kushi's first section explores lifestyle factors which may contribute to immune system breakdown, such as overuse of medication (especially antibiotics), drug abuse, X-rays and many others. Aside from a few imprecise and borderline sex-negative comments, the analysis is generally well-researched and provocative. Cottrell and Mead's chapter on "scientific and medical evidence" is an impressive presentation—amply footnoted—of the medical factors, particularly nutritional, which impair and improve immunity. Those who doubt that cutting back junk food has anything to do with surviving AIDS should read this section. Also included here is data from the 1983-87 study by Boston medical researchers of 20 gay men with Kaposi's sarcoma who used macrobiotics (both the diet and psychological changes) and generally had longer than average survival times, symptom improvements and better self-reported quality of life. The book's final section sets forth Kushi's 75-page dietary guidelines, chock full of recipes. An appendix includes engaging, frank interviews with six

PWAs using macrobiotics.

In the AIDS community, macrobiotics has been misunderstood (by most skeptics) and dogmatically applied (by some adherents), so that it has gotten an unduly bad rap. While this Eastern approach is not for every PWA—due to medical, financial, cultural and taste factors—its philosophy and science are valuable for every HIV-affected person to explore. This comprehensive book can help you learn more about life balance and good nutrition—and may help you struggle to make the difficult changes in daily living, however small, that can open doors to self-empowerment.

Immunity and Chinese Medicine (proceedings of a 1989 symposium) by the Oriental Healing Arts Institute, 1045 Palo Verde Ave., Suite 208, Long Beach, CA 90815. (213) 431-3544. \$19.95.

AIDS and Chinese Medicine (1990) by Quing Cai Zhang. Oriental healing Arts Institute. \$19.95.

Ancient Roots: A Modern Medicine (A Cross-Cultural Discussion on AIDS) (proceedings of a 1988

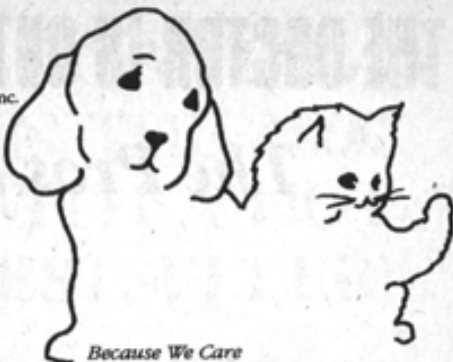
See **READING** on page 56

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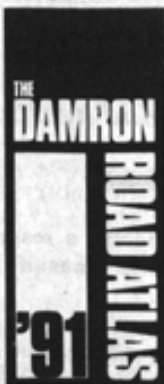
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The Pros and Cons of Disability

by Dr. Charles Silverstein

Dear Dr. Silverstein,

I was diagnosed with AIDS two years ago, when I was 32. I am doing well on medication and usually maintain a positive attitude.

However, recently I have been feeling sad and listless, and at times I just can't concentrate on my work as a data analyst. My thoughts often wander to the likelihood that my life may be significantly shortened, and that I won't have the opportunity to do more of the things that I enjoy—traveling, spending time with my family (who live out of state), my hobbies (photography and pottery). For three months now, I have been considering going on disability, but I can't seem to make up my mind. My lover says that he'll support whatever decision I make. Disability would give me the free time to do more of the things I enjoy, though less money than I am earning now. How do I decide?

Undecided

Dear Undecided,

In the past, disability, like retirement, was mostly a problem for middle-aged people and senior citizens. It's an especially difficult conflict for young men like yourself. I've asked a colleague and therapist, Al Sbordone, to respond to your question, because he's advised a number of clients in his practice about disability. I'll add a few comments of my own at the end.

Dear Undecided,

What you're dealing with is not simply a matter of time vs. money. The diagnosis of AIDS has a profound psychological impact, part of which is likely to be a situational depression.



You mention that you have been having difficulty with concentration and decision making, as well as feelings of sadness and loss of energy. These may be symptoms of depression. Other signs of depression include irritability, change in appetite along with ensuing weight gain or loss, change in sleeping patterns, decreased interest in activities that were formerly pleasurable, such as work and

You need to make two decisions. The first is whether or not you accept the fact that you have AIDS. The second decision is whether you want to go on disability while you're still in relatively good health.

socializing with friends, a resulting tendency to isolate oneself and lowered self-esteem.

Depression can interfere not only with your decision making but also with your capacity for detailed planning and your ability to follow through on your plans. You want to avoid making plans that are unworkable or that increase your depression.

Many people connect their career to their self-esteem. A job can be a

source of pride and an important element in your identity as a gay man. You may want to consider a part-time job or a volunteer position. The workplace (professional or volunteer) provides access to a social network, and, of course, you should maintain your relationships with current friends, who are a vital source of emotional support and self-esteem.

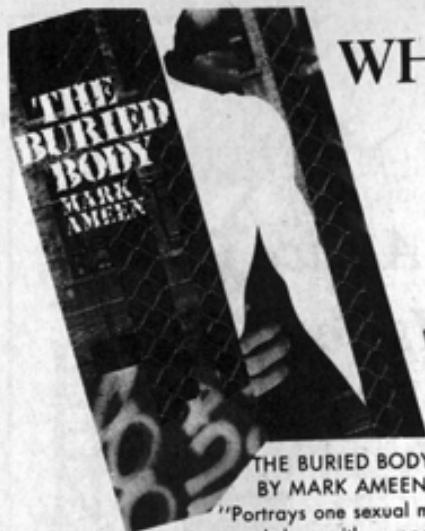
You and your lover should talk about how going on disability may affect your relationship. If you end up with less money, will you experience this as less power and control in the relationship? I suggest short-term individual or couples therapy to help you sort out the advantages and disadvantages of going on disability. Also, check out the services of the People with AIDS Coalition and Gay Men's Health Crisis. They can be helpful to both you and your lover.

Al Sbordone, MSW

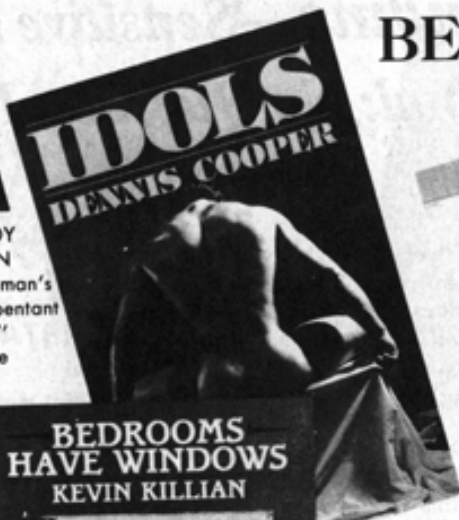
Dear Undecided,

It seems to me that you need to make two decisions. The first is whether or not you accept the fact that you have AIDS. The second decision is whether you want to go on disability while you're still in relatively good health. If I were in your place, I'd go on disability. I'd make those family visits while I'm still in good shape. I'd travel to places I've always wanted to see (even if I had to travel second-class). Your hobbies of photography and pottery sound fine. Enjoy the time more now, even with less money. What good is more money when you're ill? You may not be able to control the disease, but you can control how you want to live now. If you can't sort all this out with your lover, I agree with Al Sbordone that you should get short-term crisis-oriented therapy. ▼

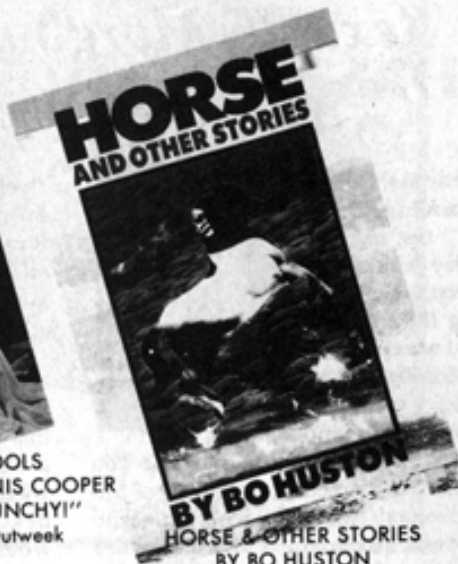
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Ms. Understanding—Sensitive Advice for the Sexually Marginal: No Question Is Too Stupid

by Susie Day

Dear Ms. Understanding,

Last night, as I lay waiting for sleep, I kept hearing little puffing and wheezing noises coming from the attic. I grabbed a flashlight and crept up the stairs, and what do you think I saw? An entire community of heterosexual squirrels had squeezed through a hole in the roof and settled into the rafters, where they were frisking and frolicking and fucking as if there were no tomorrow. As a lesbian, this made me feel invisible.

I went back to bed but couldn't



sleep. "Everybody gets to procreate but me," I sobbed. Then I got an idea: I, too, could have a baby! After all, I am a socially sensitive, under-employed, fortysomething single gal who can still remember all the guitar chords I used to play "Blowin' in the Wind" at those ban-the-bomb rallies. With the world in the shape it's in, this could be my last chance to raise a beautiful, highly evolved child who could help promote world peace! People on the street who would have sneered or beaten me up as a lesbian will now smile nonviolently at me—the mother—as I wheel my organically grown tot in its cute little stroller. "Ah, social justice," they will sigh. "Now I understand."

I think those squirrels came into my life for a reason, don't you? Tomorrow, I'm going to call up an old boyfriend and ask if I can drop by to borrow a cup of sperm. Well? Aren't you going to congratulate me?

—Passed My Midlife Crisis
With Flying Colors!

Dear Midlife,

If I were you, dear, I would have that hole in my roof fixed. Next, I would sit down and, in a realistic and grown-up fashion, I would figure out just how much it will cost to have a baby. I would then compare that figure with the \$25 billion that our government will spend in the next year to keep US military troops in the Persian Gulf. Finally, I would think a lot harder about world peace.

We're all operating at a deficit, you know, and even though

An entire community of heterosexual squirrels had squeezed through a hole in the roof and settled into the rafters, where they were frisking and frolicking and fucking.

strollers are not gasoline-powered, you might not have the finances it takes to give your baby an adequate upbringing. Therefore, if your baby manages to live into late adolescence, it may well have to become a soldier. Of course, you could choose to off-set some of your child-rearing expenses by having your picture taken in army uniform, holding your baby, for the cover of a national news magazine.

I don't know, dear. I think I would go back to bed and sleep on this. Which reminds me: Our government has already set aside 20 million hospital beds in the continental US for incoming Persian Gulf casualties. If you decide on having a baby, it may be wise to consider a home birth. ▼

Tomorrow, I'm going to call up an old boyfriend and ask if I can drop by to borrow a cup of sperm.

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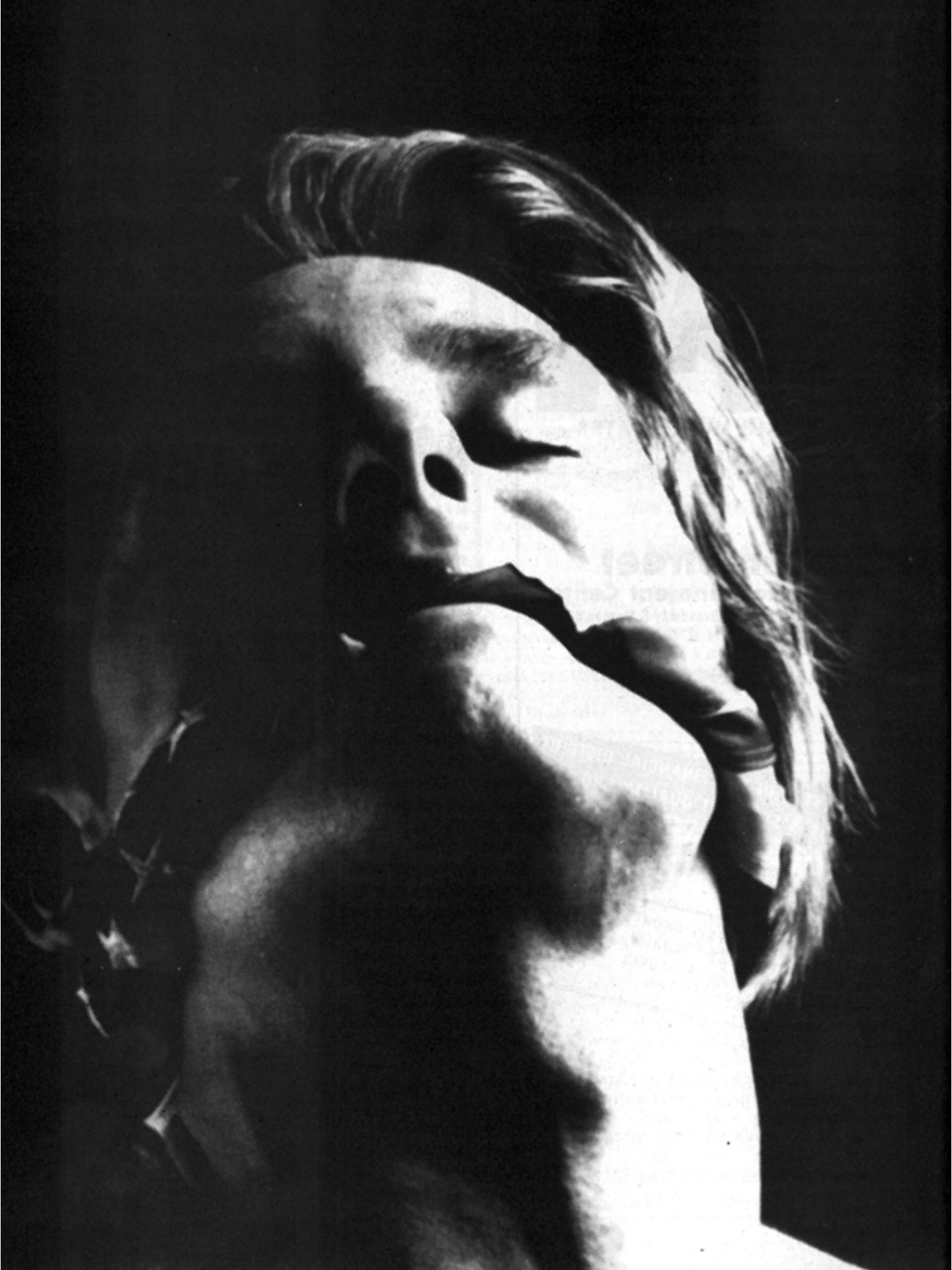
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Smothering Smut

*While the NEA controversy
takes center stage, the federal
government is carefully
dismantling the porn
industry—without media
attention.*

BY NINA REYES

Last spring, a series of swift and brutal government raids was launched on a multibillion dollar industry. Some businesses were forced to reexamine and pare down their inventory; others exited the field altogether. Curiously, while the businesses subjected to the search and seizures operate legally, the plundering they experienced at the hands of law enforcement agents received virtually no coverage in the press.

"Nobody cares about us because we're pornographers," states one businessperson simply. "Everyone is up in arms about the National Endowment for the Arts and censorship, but when we get

raided, no one writes about it."

Unfortunately, the allegation is all too accurate: Aside from several newsletters and publications specifically devoted to First Amendment issues, a coordinated effort—considered by experts to be one of the most serious assaults on freedom of speech to occur in the last few years—has surged ahead with almost no media attention. Even more alarming, the government-sponsored anti-obscenity unit behind the attack, which one commentator aptly termed "the national undercover morals squad," continues to receive plump annual allocations from the federal budget, acquires new litigators and has won

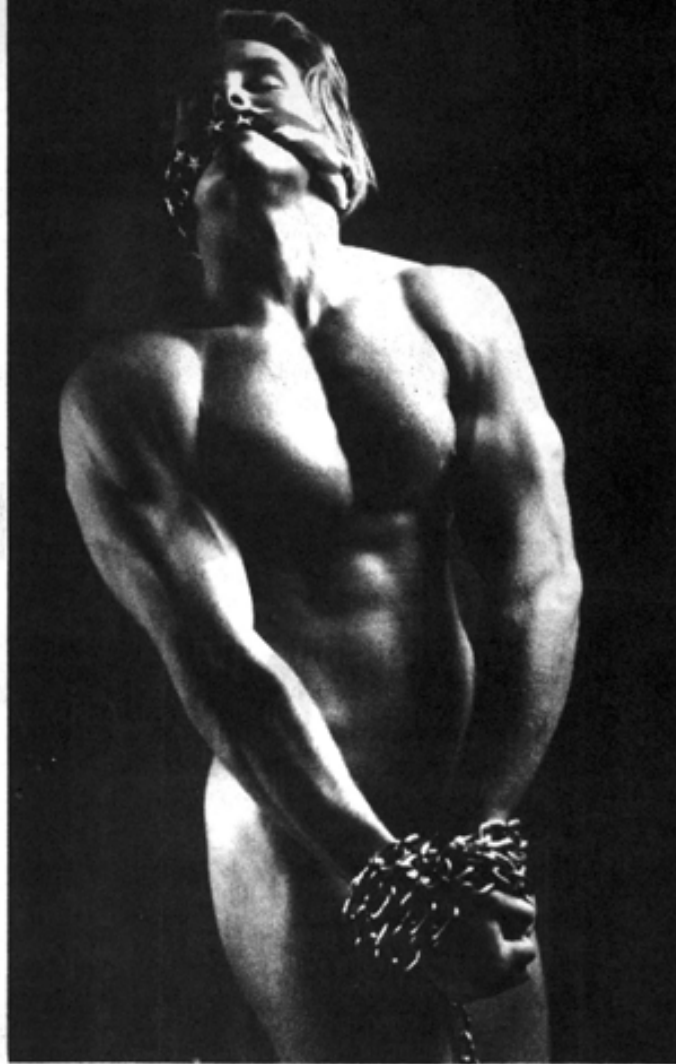
a fresh round of victories in the federal court system.

While many would agree that the government's morality brigade must be stopped, the public certainly isn't very interested in defending the rights of pornographers to distribute their dirty little pictures. And since the government anti-porn group recently changed its name from the bureaucratic-sounding National Obscenity Enforcement Unit to the more emotionally loaded Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section—due, a spokesperson claims, to the fact that half of the unit's staff hours are spent prosecuting child exploitation and abuse cases—which makes convincing the public to scrutinize its urge to censor even more problematic.

For lesbians and gay men, considering the role that visual erotica has played in the age of AIDS, and pondering the growing significance of pornography in the expression of lesbian sexuality, this latest assault on X-rated visuals is particularly chilling. Just as gay men and lesbians nationwide have once again seized on the power of visibility actions as a tool for liberation, prosecutors of porn have found that visuals featuring same-sex smut, particularly gay male sexual acts, are more likely to bring convictions than heterosexual romps in the hay.

The irony, of course, is that queers, as well as our liberal allies, have risen in eloquent defense of high-brow erotica, such as the late Robert Mapplethorpe's work, insisting that the images over which so much ink has been spilled are *art*, not *pornography*. The implication left lingering in the air, then, is that censorship of erotic visuals considered overtly pornographic will be tolerated.

And, unfortunately, in these times, as Mapplethorpe's lesbian and gay defenders have discovered, when censorship hits, queerly erotic images are burned first.



The force behind this most recent crackdown on visual sexual images is no less a power than the United States Department of Justice, which, under the direction of Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, has lifted obscenity prosecutions out of the backwaters where they have resided since the Warren Court in 1973 broadly defined the parameters of the First Amendment to include most forms of sexually explicit material. With a little help from his predecessor, Edwin Meese, and the former attorney general's 1985 Commission on Pornography, Thornburgh has nurtured and refined a fighting force of litigators who are spearheading the national war on porn.

This anti-obscenity unit, created in consonance with the recommendations of the Meese commission, has access to resources far beyond its ten staff litigators and its annual \$1.7 million budget. In addition to the ten coordinating litiga-

tors on staff at the unit's Washington headquarters—a staff which is expected to grow to 13 in the near future—the unit may, at its choosing, use an assistant US attorney specially trained for obscenity prosecution in each of the 94 federal districts. Furthermore, for research and enforcement actions in the prosecution of individual adult entertainment businesses, the unit utilizes the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the US Postal Service and local police.

It's no wonder, then, that the anti-porn unit has forged a novel approach to obscenity prosecution that melds modern legal tools and a medieval mentality with frighteningly successful results. By threatening legitimate businesses and their managers with simultaneous indictments from a number of jurisdictions, debilitating fines, years of incarceration for violation of

federal law, and, more recently, asset forfeiture, the obscenity unit can win without even going to trial.

Earlier this year, for example, the owner of a gay mail-order business in the Midwest returned from an 18-month stint in jail that had resulted from a series of indictments brought against him by the Justice Department task force, and last year, a West Coast distributor of gay porn videos closed its doors as part of a plea bargain in response to charges brought by the obscenity unit. Some companies have paid fines nearing \$1 million. Others have attempted to fight the charges brought against them and found that the cost of putting up a legal defense against a number of indictments forces them into bankruptcy.

"Even if the defendants win, it's a pyrrhic victory," comments John Weston, a West Coast attorney and member of the private bar of lawyers that specializes in advising and defending businesses within the X-rated industry.

During the two years the federal obscenity unit has been operating at full throttle, a working pattern has emerged that observers think belies the political agenda behind the unit's stated purpose of enforcing federal anti-obscenity laws.

The pattern involves the use of sting operations in small towns—where, presumably, an unjaded grand jury could be convened—followed by search-and-seizure raids conducted in conjunction with agents from the FBI, the IRS, the US Postal Service and local police, on out-of-state distributors. After indictments are returned, defendants are offered plea bargains that include astronomical fines and agreements to go out of business. Since the alternative is typically the prospect of a lengthy legal battle, followed by decades of incarceration if the defendant is convicted, an overwhelming number of defendants choose the plea bargain.

One of the more alarming aspects of the anti-obscenity unit's methodology is that there is no solid basis in the law for the charges they file against the purveyors of porn: Unlike narcotics, for example, the obscenity—and consequent illegality—of adult entertainment products is left to the judgment of the beholder. In other words, what may offend the community standard in one jurisdiction—and thereby be deemed illegal—may not raise hackles in a more cosmopolitan bailiwick, so while a video's producer languishes in a Tennessee jailhouse because a local jury finds the material obscene, hundreds of thousands of viewers enjoy the same tape with complete immunity in cities all across America.

This seemingly arbitrary obscenity standard was carefully crafted in the 1973 Supreme Court ruling in *Miller v. California*. That decision included a three-pronged obscenity test: An "average person applying contemporary community standards" must find that that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interests; the work must depict or describe sexual conduct, explicitly defined by state law, in a patently offensive way; and "the work taken as a whole [must] lack serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value." The standard, particularly given the inclusion of the latter requirement, provides pornographers

with a virtually foolproof defense.

On the other hand, the fact that "contemporary community standards" play a role in deciding what constitutes obscenity has given prosecutors a huge loophole through which to make a legal leap. Given the right community, a zealous team of prosecutors could put the whole adult entertainment industry out of business.

And that is precisely what the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section is attempting to do.

In 1988, in conjunction with the FBI and the US Postal Service, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section initiated Project PostPorn, an anti-pornography prosecutorial blitz aimed at mail-order businesses that ship X-rated material. Filing charges that the targeted businesses had engaged in conspiracy and racketeering and had violated federal laws governing use of the postal system, the government sought to put



Under the direction of Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, the federal obscenity unit is operating at full throttle, conducting sting operations followed by search-and-seizure raids.

adult entertainment operations out of business by employing a controversial tactic known as multiple prosecutions, or the simultaneous filing of charges from a number of separate jurisdictions.

The financial drain of erecting a legal defense against a number of suits, the government correctly reasoned, would quickly drive even established X-rated businesses into bankruptcy. A secondary effect of the effort—and presumably the desired long-term goal—would be to frighten other businesses into a state of self-censorship.

The effectiveness of this strategy relies largely upon two things: first, the availability of multiple prosecutions as an anti-obscenity weapon; and second, the community standard element of the obscenity test devised by the Supreme Court.

According to Bruce Ennis, a First Amendment specialist who has closely followed the work of the government's anti-porn unit, and who has filed suit against the Department of Justice on behalf of a North Carolina mail-order distributor that has been subjected to harassment by the government's anti-obscenity agents, "The multiple prosecution approach is disfavored by the Justice Department in all contexts except this one."

However, the prosecution of obscenity, and consequently the federal anti-obscenity unit, is reportedly a top priority of US Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, so it is unlikely that multiple prosecutions will cease without direct intervention from the courts. Additionally—and this is where the community standards elements of the obscenity test comes into play—multiple prosecutions serve a utilitarian standard from a fiscal point of view: If a grand jury in one jurisdiction does not return a decision that the disputed material is obscene, a grand jury in a more conservative district may find just the opposite. In other words, filing multiple prosecutions reduces the hit-or-miss risk of going for an obscenity conviction.

From a First Amendment point of view, however, the fact that one community can determine the highest threshold of sexually explicit material that will be tolerated in another community poses a potentially grave threat to freedom of speech. In essence, it inverts the notion of the greatest good for the greatest number of people, because while a ruling against the defense may materially affect only



one manufacturer or distributor, it peripherally influences the entire industry.

The possibility also exists that one of these cases will end up before the Supreme Court, which would have the authority to devise a new obscenity standard. And while the existing law does not explicitly state what is legal and what is obscene, few First Amendment attorneys could look forward to the definition of obscenity that Chief Justice William Rehnquist's court would return.

Not coincidentally, a number of the videos and magazines selected for trial under Project PostPorn featured same-sex sexual acts. According to attorneys familiar with some of those cases, the prosecutors found gay male sex so offensive that they expected members of the grand jury to experience similar revulsion and consequently return indictments without worrying about the nuances of First Amendment protections.

Considering that, for most of us, adult entertainment enterprises exist in a kind

A zealous team of prosecutors could put the whole industry out of business.

of hazy, red-lit netherworld, it doesn't seem like a very great leap of logic to go from netherworld to underworld and conclude that the X-rated industry is controlled by the Mafia. Perhaps it is for that reason that the heaviest artillery yet wheeled out in the government's war on porn is a law that was tailored specifically for use in the fight against organized crime.

While RICO, the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, allows the government to seize the assets of people charged with racketeering, it has not been used extensively so far. But a conviction under the federal racketeering statute recently upheld by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia may have laid the groundwork for future application of the forfeiture law in obscenity cases.

"The thinking was that they would

hold off aggressively using RICO until they had a circuit court uphold it," explains Ennis. Other First Amendment experts concurred with Ennis' assessment but added that intensive application of RICO forfeiture to other obscenity cases may again be postponed, since two cases are currently working their way up to the Supreme Court, where the constitutional questions that arise when the statute's forfeiture provisions are invoked could be resolved.

The federal RICO statute was designed to help prosecutors dismantle mob empires by forcing the forfeiture of all property acquired or supported through racketeering activities. However, in 1984, by tacking on one of his infamous amendments, North Carolina Republican Sen. Jesse Helms added obscenity violations to the list of activities included under the scope of the federal RICO statute, and since then, prosecutors need only show a pattern of illegal activity—or a series of prosecutions on similar charges within a specific period of time—to justify starting RICO forfeiture proceedings against a defendant.

Although the obscenity provision of the federal RICO law was on the books for several years before prosecutors began filing charges under the statute, recent successes the government has scored with RICO obscenity cases suggest that the law will be more frequently applied in the future.

"They're going to bring more RICO cases because that conviction puts fear in the hearts of manufacturers and distributors," warns Barry Lynn, legislative counsel for the Washington office of the American Civil Liberties Union, pointing out once again that because producers can never be certain what will be deemed obscene, and because the prospect of losing an entire business due to an error in judgment is so devastating, the mere threat of RICO can be used as persuasion for compliance.

Interestingly, while specialists in the field of adult entertainment defense generally agree that beliefs that the erotic industry and the mob are closely allied owe more to the popular imagination than to fact, some people within the field say the charges may be accurate.

"When someone grows out [of] nowhere all of a sudden, supported by all of this upfront capital," said one gay producer, "it makes everyone else in the business wonder if they were loaned big chunks of money through one of these larger distributors, and they took it. It's a classic organized crime mechanism."

Furthermore, the producer explained, with the advent of the video boom, it suddenly became clear that hundreds of millions of dollars can be made in the production, manufacturing and distribution of erotic videos, and, at the same time, there were very few legitimate sources that would lend start-up capital to an X-rated entrepreneur because of the constant threat that the government's obscenity prosecutions pose. Noting the irony in the fact that the government efficiently creates a bogeyman where none need have existed (by keeping the heat on legal businesses, which forces them into such a high-risk category that traditional lenders will not do business with them, forcing them to seek initial investments from less respectable sources), the producer said, "The rea-

son that Mafia-like people are attracted to this business is that there's no sureness to it."

With the arrival of the AIDS epidemic and safer-sex campaigns, gay producers, manufacturers and would-be distributors, in particular, were vulnerable to the advances of shady venture capitalists from more established distribution houses.

At this point, whether or not the Mafia is involved is moot, considering that the RICO statute has been used with immense success by the government in a number of recorded cases. In the RICO conviction upheld before the Virginia Court of Appeals, Dennis Pryba forfeited over \$1 million worth of property after being convicted on charges resulting from the seizure of barely more than \$100 worth of X-rated videos and magazines. And after being convicted on federal charges in Minneapolis, adult bookstore- and



The financial drain of a legal defense, the government reasons, will drive many X-rated businesses into bankruptcy. A secondary effect is to force other business into self-censorship.

theatre-owner Ferris Alexander faces nearly 120 years in prison, stands to pay \$1.6 million in fines and may ultimately lose millions of dollars worth of property to RICO forfeitures.

"I'm afraid of the authorities cracking down on me," explained the manager of a West Coast soft-core gay pornography vendor, echoing a sentiment expressed by every producer, distributor and manufacturer of X-rated material contacted for this article. "If we don't get some sort of Supreme Court ruling or something to stop this, I think that one by one they'll go after the hard-core companies, and then they'll work their way up the line."

To forestall the manager's prediction, which a number of experts agree is a very real possibility, some people in the business are ceasing sale of sexually explicit products altogether. For instance, Malibu Sales, a division of Liberation Publications Inc., which publishes the *Advocate*, announced early this summer that it would no longer sell X-rated videos and magazines.

"This decision is the result of the continuing unfriendly business climate for sale of X-rated products," Malibu president John Knoebel wrote in a letter to the mail-order company's vendors. "The actions of the Justice Department in moving against many other firms over recent months have led us to reevaluate our own involvement in this area."

Other businesses have simply stopped shipping to states from which grand jury indictments are known to have come, and, in fact, some distributors are becoming more and more reluctant to deal with any orders outside major metropolitan areas at all. On the consumer level, video stores are increasingly unwilling to rent or sell sexually explicit videos to out-of-state customers for fear that they will be indicted on federal charges of sending obscene materials over state lines. "We're not doing this because we want to set any kind of precedent or anything," says the manager of a New York City video store. "We're just trying to make sure that we don't get involved with anything that will get us in trouble."

The climate of fear has become so intense that a number of businesses involved with the adult entertainment industry, particularly gay-owned enterprises, declined to attend one of the largest annual industry trade shows, which was held in August. According to several sources, word had gotten around that most of the businesses hit in the series of raids last spring had been visited by undercover authorities during a trade show in January. A lesser example of the pervasive paranoia was the consistent refusal of businesses to be interviewed for this article, lest their operations somehow end up under a higher level of scrutiny by the government. If the Department of Justice has not yet managed to destroy the porn industry, it has very successfully convinced the industry's managers that Big Brother is watching.

The gay community nationally has suffered disproportionately from the new brand of redlining that has resulted from the government's crackdown on erotica. Although there is no way to accurately gauge the availability of new gay-oriented material in small-town America,



"I'm afraid of the authorities cracking down on me," says a soft-core gay porn vendor. "If we don't get a Supreme Court ruling to stop this, I think one by one they'll go after the hard-core companies and work their way up the line."

considering that Project PostPorn sought to make gay-oriented sexually explicit products risky investments, and, given the comparative fragility of gay-owned and -operated X-rated businesses, some commentators are beginning to wonder if the Department of Justice is winning the war on porn.

Ultimately, the success of the government's anti-porn crusaders—short of forcing a more restrictive definition of obscenity into law—lies simply in its ability to harass and intimidate businesses who deal with X-rated products into leaving the market. At that point, the anti-porn forces will move on to torment more sophisticated players in the sexing of America, because, as one X-rated producer notes, "If you eliminate the leading edge, then all of the sudden all the people who are sort of respectable and stuff behind it are in jeopardy because they are the new leading edge."

"Censors always come back," explains the ACLU's Lynn wearily, pointing out that this latest assault on the First Amendment is hardly the government's first concerted effort at suppression of protected speech. "Censors will always find something to go after, and unless you stop them, they'll always come back." ▼

PORN VS. ART?

To the feds, it's all the same

While it stands on the front lines of the government's war on porn, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (the Department of Justice's tactical strike-force), is not alone in the purge to rid us of what it deems evil. And what it deems evil clearly isn't always what's traditionally considered "porn."

The destruction of the porn industry is such a high priority for Attorney General Dick Thornburgh right now that enterprising prosecutors—eager to please the feds—are lining up left and right to bring forth high-profile suits based on the federal obscenity laws.

Witness, for instance, the Robert Mapplethorpe controversy at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati. Dennis Barrie, director of the Center, was

accused by a county prosecutor of pandering obscenity, and while the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section claims that it had nothing to do with stirring up the brew that led to Barrie's indictment, the carefully orchestrated legal assault on erotic art bears all the hallmarks of the government's anti-obscenity unit. Indeed, news organizations covering the debacle came to the same conclusion: Although they have miserably failed to track the questionably constitutional *modus operandi* of the Department of Justice's porn prosecutors, both *The New York Times* and the *Boston Globe* linked the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section with the First Amendment furor in Cincinnati.

In another example, for which the anti-porn unit has also demurred responsibility,

the studio of San Francisco photographer Jock Sturges, who has gained fame for his black-and-white portraits of families in the buff, was raided by the FBI.

At the very least, Thornburgh's bluenoses may take credit for creating a context in which the work of eminently respected photographers such as Sturges is construed to be obscene. Furthermore, since the government's anti-obscenity unit has a mandate both to provide law enforcement officials with research and technical assistance on obscenity prosecutions, and to help lawmakers draft anti-obscenity legislation, experts worry that the current actions of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section are a mere prelude to an imminent all-out war.

—N.R.

LOOKOUT



It's wonderfully obvious what target audience the folks at *Orchis*, the home-furnishing catalog, are trying to reach with their queerly suggestive ads that have popped up in all the trendiest bourgeois interior-design rags.

—M.S.

Having fooled that pretentious gang over at *Women's Wear Daily* last year when they snapped her in a nightclub as one of many fashionable women spotted out, downtown dragster Codie Ravioli has now made it into *W* (above). But still, the Fairchild crew can't seem to get their categories straight, describing the blond one as "one of New York's top transsexuals." Is that an allusion to some sort of contest going on, or are they revealing her in bed position preference?

—M.S.



OUT OF MY HANDS

Memory, according to Joan Didion, is the major cost of public life. Or so I attempted to inform my editor when he raised some troublesome questions about a deadline, when the issue of selecting a winner in the Annual Summer Fudge Competition was once again brought to my attention via a rather strident inter-office memo which shot out of the pneumatic tube beside my desk yesterday evening. I wrote across the bottom of the memo, "Memory, according to Joan Didion, is the major cost of public life," and sent it back through the tube, hoping that that would serve as a satisfactory response, since I was on my way to an urgent appointment at the Widening Gyre restaurant and did not have the time to debate the subject in greater and finer detail.

One of the facts of the matter is that even if I had the time, I certainly can't talk to my editor about the missing competition entries. Times being what they are, I'm afraid that he simply wouldn't understand how such a thing could have happened, and our personnel liaison, Edelweiss, hasn't been around to run interference these past few weeks. (Depending upon whom you ask, Blossom or Snow, Edelweiss is away on holiday in either Jackson Hole or Salzburg.)

Another fact of the matter is that I do honestly believe the statement, for certainly my life has been far too public of late and my memory far too faulty as a consequence. For example: Sometimes I can't remember if it's supposed to be four capsules every six hours, or three tablets 30 minutes before eating, and whether or not alcohol may intensify the effect, in which case the decision over which wine to have with the grilled salmon steak becomes doubly freighted until sometimes it's easier, if not altogether better, to skip the meal entirely. Similarly, once I arrived for my urgent appointment yesterday at the Widening Gyre restaurant, where mere anarchy has evidently been loosed upon the kitchen, I had difficulty remembering the exact sequence of events that had brought me there, who it was that had suggested the location, or, for that matter, who it was I was meeting. All I could recall was that the missing entries for the Annual Summer Fudge Competition were somehow involved.

While I waited, the people next to me were discussing, I think, Faulkner, but I couldn't quite hear. Presently, a fellow whom I immediately recognized as Johann, the pianist from the revolving cocktail lounge of the Marriott Marquis Hotel, sat at my table.

"I came," he said, "to talk with you about your plans." Just then the waiter appeared. I ordered the smoked breast of indignant desert bird and, deciding finally that it was two capsules at bedtime, a half carafe of Donner Pass chablis. Johann asked for an egg, hot milk and a roll. We exchanged hearsay about *Assassins* until our food was served. Mine,



By Bradley Ball

unfortunately, was so overcooked that it fell apart, so I just sipped the wine while Johann devoured his meal. Surely, I thought, soon revelation is at hand.

Once he'd finished, he leaned across the table and whispered, "I have a message from Julian." Before I could reply that I didn't know anybody named Julian, he continued: "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity. They want you to announce a winner in the Annual Summer Fudge Competition, and they've stolen all your entries, save one, so that you will have no choice." Before I could ask who "they" were, he continued: "We want you to award the pastry marble to our entry. By publishing our

recipe you can deliver a vital message to the community." Before I could ask who "the community" was, he continued: "We think—we do not guarantee—you will be without trouble. Everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned."

By now, I determined that I had been mistaken about the dosage, and the alcohol was, in fact, intensifying the effect, and I asked Johann if I could have some time to consider his request.

"Do not think too hard. It is best not to be too prepared for matters of this kind." With that, he handed me a hatbox and a box full of summer fudge and left without saying good-bye or contributing anything toward the bill.

While the particulars of the evening were unclear and already falling victim to my fitful memory, I was able to glean a slight compensation that I was provided with enough material for a "Dining Out!" review, which would keep my editor in abeyance until I figured out what to do about the rest of it. ▼



GOSSIP WATCH

It's always a treat when our receptionist, Reggie, informs me that there's someone calling "from the Coast." These are usually long, enticing conversations, which we at *OutWeek* have come to label "D chats," since they're divinely and devilishly dripping in delectably delicious and dizzying drama, dish and dirt.

And, oh, did that Reggie ever continually announce those coastal calls last week. So here's what the cross-country buzz was about: AIDS Project Los Angeles hosted a benefit two Fridays ago called "Commitment to Life IV." Though the benefit committee and the guest list included Hollywood closet case after Hollywood closet case, the organizers had to go halfway around the world and get Ian McKellan as an openly gay actor to honor for the event (such a sad commentary on Tinseltown). Among those co-chairing the do—which also lists "stars to greet and entertain you" like Whoopi Goldberg, Lauren Hutton, Richard Gere, Christine Lahti, John Glover, Sam Harris and others—were David Geffen of Geffen Records, 20th Century Fox's Barry Diller and agent Sandy Gallin (all three of whom have spent plenty of time in the hot seat here and elsewhere for their backing of Andrew Dice Clay as well as other homophobes).

Starting a few weeks before this event, I was getting word of some uneasiness. The LA group called Artists Confronting AIDS had sent a letter of denouncement to APLA: "In looking over the ill-conceived list of notables chosen to promote [the benefit], we noticed a startling number of closet-case celebs listed alongside some of Hollywood's most notorious homophobes. Is this an AIDS fund-raiser or a monument to showbiz self-hatred?...Commitment to Life?! Honey, next year, call it what it really is: Commitment to the Closet." (Contacted for a reaction to any protests or questions regarding who is chosen to chair benefits, APLA Chief Executive Officer Stephen Bennett was in agreement with some of the concerns of activists but firmly insisted that he "will not give a litmus test to donors.")

And Queer Nation/LA was planning its own little party, which finally took place outside the benefit as bedazzled guests arrived and walked a long red carpet from their limos. The group stood there chanting, holding huge posters and giving out fliers, both of which depicted photos of Geffen,

Gallin and Diller which were captioned, respectively: "Miss Geffen, the Record Producer"; "Mary Gallin, the Agent";

"La Diller, the Movie Mogul."

It was one of those parties, I'm told, where EVERYONE showed up, and the protesters report that many of the stars raised their fists in solidarity and/or certainly giggled, getting a kick out of the the camp sensibility of the protest. All, of course, except for Barry Diller himself, who reportedly read the flier and appropriately turned lavender—perhaps even more so because of the

message on the bottom of the flier that read "David, Sandy and Barry, you self-loathing shit-heads, your tax deductible AIDS charity work won't wash away the blood on your hands promoting Andrew Dice Clay, notorious queer-bashing 'comic.'"

Look, I just report these things. (Oh, ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha)

But since we're on the closet-case bandwagon, let's get to that freak of the week, Sandra Bernhard. WOMAN, WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL? Says Ms. B. in *People*: "I am not a lesbian, and I'm sick of being called one. I'm not, and I want to set the record straight." Well, Sandy, let's suppose, for a moment, that you aren't a dyke. Isn't it still quite homophobic to say, "I'm sick of being called one," in a national magazine? And the only response I have to that statement anyway is: "But ya are, Blanche! Ya are!" Yes,

Ms. Bernhard, read my lips: YOU ARE A LESBIAN. YOU ARE A LESBIAN. YOU ARE A LESBIAN. So says that flashy, arty editor girlfriend of yours. So say lots of other close friends of yours. So says your cute but faux ex-boyfriend whom you used simply for press "bearding" purposes (and who I know isn't straight also because, well...I've slept with him myself! Oh, ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha! And he's now explained everything about you to us). And so said you, yourself, sweetie, in *Spin* magazine last year—or did your manager bash you over the head and cause you to develop amnesia because you've suddenly hit *People* magazine, Hollywood and the big time?

Who would have thought that it'd be you, Ms. Hot, Hip and Happening, the girl who was kicking ass to the great straight, white patriarchy? YOU ARE THE SELLOUT SLIME OF THE CENTURY. And to think, we, your loyal queer following, helped push your career and thus participated

See GOSSIP on page 67

**FAX ZAP!
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**ABIOLA
SINCLAIR
IS A
DANGEROUS
MONSTER!**

**FAX THIS COLUMN TO THE
AMSTERDAM NEWS
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By Michelangelo Signorile

OUT ON THE TOWN WITH LIZ & SYDNEY

Photo: Michael Waisfeld



LADIES OF THE EVENING—Andé Whyland and Dany Johnson

LIZ & SYDNEY:

They met at the taping of a cable TV show, *The Wild World of Jeff Turteltaub*, where they got drunk, destroyed the set and were asked to leave. Some years and clubs later, Andé Whyland and Dany Johnson are still together, going to parties, working the clubs, shooting photos, writing on downtown dyke culture and doing lots of other things.

Sydney: Dany and Andé started working and hanging out back in the early '80s at Club 57, which they describe as "a social club in the basement of a Polish church," at 57 St. Marks Place. "Ann Magnuson was the manager, and we formed the Ladies Auxilliary of the Lower East Side to plan the schedule for 57," says Dany. "We would meet at Ann's house to plan the whole month of performances, films and contests. One of the performances was a Nell Campbell show with the president of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* Fan Club, Sal Piro." Dany would deejay there on WOW (Women's One World Theatre) nights, and Andé took her first pictures. She became the house photographer and put on several performances and slide shows.

Club 57 wasn't really a pickup scene, but some people met there. The club was mixed, filled with filmmakers, band members, writers and, according to Andé, *not* "boys in their underwear," as she describes the current gay scene. Andé blames the inflated housing market, in part, for killing the creativity of the scene. "The rents were low, and anyone could move here and make a living doing anything." At the same time, the whole West Village clone scene was hap-



By Liz Tracey &
Sydney Pokorny

pening, and, as Dany said, "the East and West Village did not mix."

Liz: This was displayed in the formation at the time of a small but visible movement called Fags Against Facial Hair. One *Village Voice* writer actually took before and after pictures (with and without his moustache) for publication. Keith Haring was loosely affiliated with the group. The affinity group stenciled East Village sidewalks with "Clones Go Home" and planned a picket of the Saint on opening night; unfortunately, it may have been too loosely affiliated—they couldn't get it together enough to do the action.

Sydney: In the beginning, the other clubs, like the Mudd Club, "didn't respect us." Tension existed between East and West and an unofficial club war also existed between the more mainstream clubs and Club 57. Dany says that when people from the Mudd Club came to Club 57, "they had to take a lot of shit from us, because they didn't want us in their club. For Halloween, we built a haunted house and charged \$1 to get in. Some nonmembers (from the Mudd Club) knocked it all down, and we had to chase them out of there. Club 57 was kind of an anti-club club. If the owner of the Mudd Club came to 57, we would harass him by throwing things at him. When Mudd Club started to slide, they changed their attitude about us. They asked some of us to work there—I took over Anita Sarko's job, and John Sex performed."

Liz: Dany and Andé are of two minds about the lesbian scene of that time. Dany's favorite bar was Bonnie and Clyde's (now a comedy club on West 3rd Street), which had a "cute crowd" and women playing pool. But the West Village really wasn't their scene. As Dany says, "I came here to be a punk, and here were all these dykes in suits." She once witnessed a woman yelling at her girlfriend for hugging a pole.

Andé, on the other hand, liked and still likes the Duchess—which she feels

See LIZ AND SYDNEY on page 88

GCN

EVERY WEEK ON MANHATTAN CABLE CHANNEL J (23)

Every Saturday 6:30-7:30pm on Paragon Cable Channel J (23)

Every Saturday 6-7pm on Brooklyn-Queens Cable Channel (56)

Gay U.S.A. 10:30-11:30 pm

September 20

THURSDAYS

**NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY
ANDY HUMM AND THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES, DEBRA GLICK
AND SHAWN STRUB. TELEVISIONS PAST- FROM RECEIVER TO
REMOTE CONTROL. REBECCA LEWIN AND LESBIANS WITHOUT
BENEFITS. FRANK MAYA BRINGS US GAY LAUFER. CLIPS
FROM OUTLOOK- THE LESBIAN AND GAY VIDEO FESTIVAL.
PHILIP MORRIS BOYCOTT- A MAJOR STOCKHOLDERS VIEW.
"PARIS IS BURNING" THE GAY FILM AT THE MARGARET MEAD
FESTIVAL. LAVENDER HEALTH-MARJORIE HILL- AND THE
DINKINS ADMINISTRATION. NAMING NAMES POINTS A FINGER
AT THE MEDIA.**

Men & Films 11:30 pm

SEPT. 23

SUNDAYS

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

**BEAU BEAUMONT
STRIPS FOR US.
CLIPS FROM "COLTS-
MINUTE MAN VIDEO
#8" & "HOT SUMMER
KNIGHTS"**

Be My Guest 10:00 pm

SEPT. 24

MONDAYS

**Events and entertainment for
and about the Gay and
Lesbian Community**

**JACH HOFFMAN'S
SPECIAL WIT!**

Gay Cable Network

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THE ARTS

A Real Grande Dame

THE MARGARET MEAD FILM FESTIVAL.

American Museum of Natural History, Sept. 24-27 (*Charlotte's Diary*, Sept. 24, 8:10 pm; *Paris Is Burning*, Sept. 26, 8:30 pm; *Comrades in Arms*, Sept. 27, 7:45 pm).

by Bruce C. Steele

The Margaret Mead Film Festival provides a telling glimpse of how the straight world must often try to understand the lesbian and gay community. In a program of films that focus almost entirely on difference—from the filmmaker, the projected audience or from both—lesbian and gay topics ought to be right at home.

This year, the museum pointed out three films of interest to gay men and lesbians. Jennie Livingston's *Paris Is Burning*, a riveting and disturbing documentation of the late '80s Harlem ball scene, and *Comrades in Arms*, Stuart Marshall's tepid mix of shallow interviews with gay and lesbian World War II veterans and nurses along with newsreel footage and rather silly reenactments, were both shown in June at the New Festival. (*Paris* also showed at last week's Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival.) The third film is the American premiere of director Puck Goossen's, *Charlotte's Diary*, a moving and insightful documentary about a transsexual Dutch factory worker.

What's telling is not the festival programming, which is limited by what's available, but rather the subjects that fascinate filmmakers enough to devote up to three years making a film about them. Proud, open activists and lesbians and gays in settled relationships rarely attract the film-making voyeur. Instead,

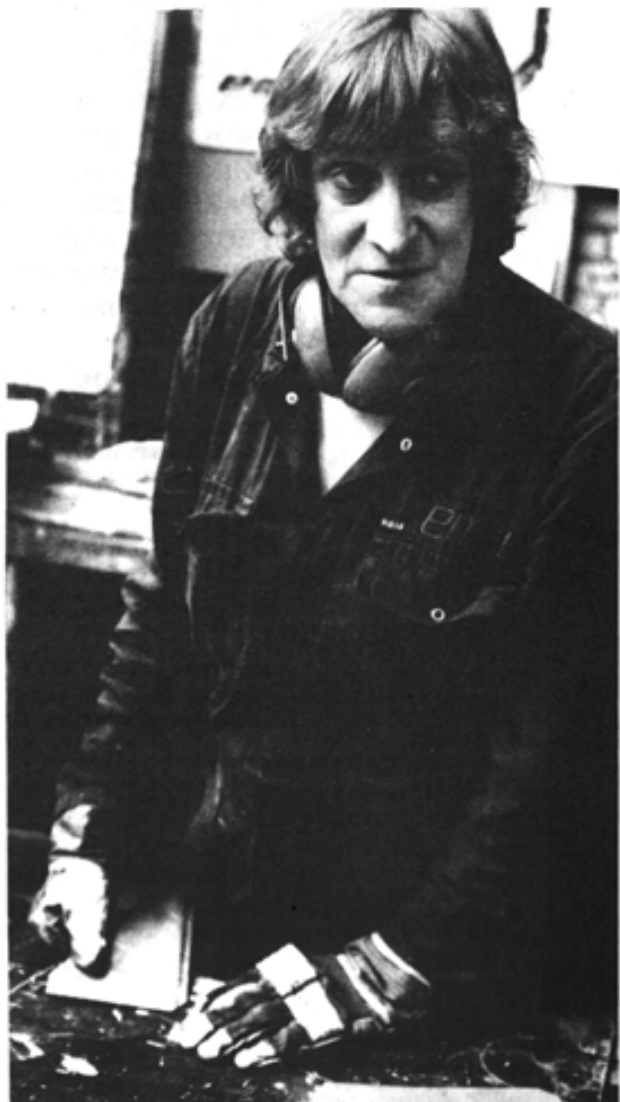
lesbian and gay viewers must be satisfied with the elderly, reserved Brits of *Comrades*, the spunky 'house mothers,' drag queens and quasi-transsexuals of *Paris*, and the quiet, matronly Charlotte, who makes the final transformation from man to woman during the course of *Charlotte's Diary*. It's no wonder that straight people can't figure out who we are—we are all the gender rebels they reject and a lot of people they didn't even know existed.

Nevertheless, the festival programmer's lumping of Charlotte's story with *Comrades* and *Paris* raises a difficult question: Are transsexuals part of the lesbian and gay community? To exclude transsexuals betrays our inclusive political convictions, but to include them demands that we reject the simplest explanations of who we are—thereby further confounding the straight world.

Yet confound we must. If we define ourselves largely in terms of desire and

"HERE COMES LOTTIE—A REAL WOMAN."

Puck Goossen's *Charlotte's Diary*



FILM

gender identification—as in a “man-loving man” or a “woman-identified woman”—we leave no place for Charlotte, who has sexual desire for neither gender and who seems to identify herself not as a liberated woman but as a variation on the middle-class spinster stereotype.

Charlotte does indeed resemble the vision of woman she carried within herself for 52 years: “a real grande dame,” as she puts it, who spends one-third or more of her income on “classic clothes.” On the job as a machinist, before the final surgery, Charlotte is clearly, if gently, masculine. But properly dressed, she is “maybe not the woman I dreamed [I’d be], but I am who I am—more or less a woman.”

The emotional stress of her situation is at all times evident—particularly at the close of the film, when legal entanglements from her male past threaten to overwhelm the psychological victory of her surgery. But the undercurrents of self-doubt that so often make filmed interviews with transsexuals painful to watch are undetectable in Charlotte. She may be uncomfortable having to explain herself to the world, but she’s not the least insecure about who she is. After the final surgery, she jokes, “I looked down at my belly and thought, ‘Poor thing, it’s gone!’”—and laughs. She’s anxious to get out of the hospital and walk down the street in high heels, thinking proudly, “Here comes Lottie—a real woman.”

Charlotte’s self-confidence makes *Charlotte’s Diary* the best film document I’ve seen about transsexualism, because in Charlotte’s case there are no gnawing questions of regret or psychopathology. Here stands a healthy woman born as a man. One recurring image is of Charlotte, modestly but handsomely decked out, addressing the unseen filmmaker in her new and as yet empty apartment. Her old life has been swept away, her new existence waits to be filled, and she’s prepared to do whatever it takes to survive. It’s quite an affecting portrait; Charlotte is eminently likeable. (Her reluctantly “accepting” brother, on the other hand, is an old prude who won’t allow his face to be filmed, insists that he and Charlotte “keep our lives separate” and refuses to use the word “vagina”—he prefers “thing.”)

Charlotte’s personal appeal makes it all the more difficult to deal with her rather retrogressive notions of womanli-

ness. She teaches herself how to drink a beer and comb her hair “like a woman,” and she clearly clings to the prevalent images of femininity that she probably admired when growing up—the “grande dame” and the “woman of mystery.” She has no use for men or for sexuality (“I can’t grasp it. Sex was always a chore”), and she expresses her closeness to women as an asexual desire to “hold them, be next to them, be a part of their world.” It’s gratifying to those of us who respond positively to Charlotte that after her surgery she feels that “the wall

between [myself and other women] had been torn down,” but we still can’t be sure exactly what it is that made her go through the hell of gender reassignment. “It’s not a question of will,” she says, “it’s like a royal command from inside the body and soul.” Any attempt to locate Charlotte politically is doomed to failure. She’s essentially a private, conservative person who was compelled to perform a publicly revolutionary act—two revolutionary acts, if you also count her allowing her story to be filmed. ▼

Miss Who?

MISS AMERICA PAGEANT 1991. NBC. Sept. 8.



THE APPLIED SCIENCES—Former Miss America tapes a station break

by Otis Stuart

Miss America, age 70, returned to Atlantic City last week with Bert Parks, age 75, in tow. An eighth decade prompted reflection from our reigning beauty pageant, the one not even Bess Meyerson’s trial or Vanessa Williams’ tongue could stop. In addition to the 50 contestants, 29 past winners were on hand to see Miss Illinois, Marjorie Judith Vincent, crowned Miss America 1991, and the collision course of past and present spotlight the contest’s annual, queasy message to the American ego. Circa 1990, the question isn’t who will be Miss America. It’s who *is* Miss America.

The answer, according to this

year’s event, is not flattering. One can only hope, for example, that the guest performance by Clinton Holmes, backed by an ensemble of eight men who should never sing words of even potential sibilance, said more about Atlantic City than American entertainment standards in general. Unfortunately, the pageant’s pandering to the mob instinct was only enhanced by the four-score crowned heads crowding the Convention Center, all looking remarkably alike. This year’s winner, the most individual choice in the pageant’s history, was the only woman without big hair, and Vincent clarified how little Miss America has to do

Photo: Robert Fox/Impact Visuals

with any specific woman. (Name three—and not Meyerson, Williams or Phyllis George.) In contrast to her immediate predecessor, Debbie Turner, Vincent is a Black woman who looks like a Black woman. She answered her test question with specifics rather than platitudes and played real Chopin, but her winner's walk down the runway showed just how hard Miss America and her subjects must fight reality. Vincent had to share the television screen with a close-up of Parks yodeling the show's theme song. (The man has more half notes than a slide kazoo.)

The rule confirmed by her exception goes a long way toward explaining the gay men who remain among Miss America's hardiest followers: if those are women....(The week of boardwalk reveries preceding the big night includes a motorcade through town annually met in the local gay quarter with cries of "Show your shoes.") Headliner in a subliminal drag-fest, Miss America is the girl whose salient qualities are cosmetic, clinical or both, and she's still uneasy about walking in high heels. The lengths to which she has taken manicure were blisteringly clear among both the returning winners and their '90s successors. The string of faces softened since the '50s came to a cruel halt on the wedge, yanked back to within an inch of life, that was Mary Anne Mobley. Bouffant-bent, the current contestants did as much to the ozone layer in a single night as a season of Yosemite fires.

Miss America's priorities, obviously, are as suspect as her tastes, which are scary (and never scarier than Debbie Turner's first gown, a trailing explosion of black sequins swirling up over her body, little fingers of spangles lifting and separating her breasts). The annual attempt to jack up the contest's IQ with pop quizzes on child abuse, drugs and the environment backfired again among hosannahs on the order of Miss Texas' "all the way for America" or inanities like Miss Oklahoma's call to "solving the solution." The uptown pretensions of the talent competition were dependably undermined by the whimsy of a ventriloquist Miss Pennsylvania, Miss South Carolina's marimbas and an aching-to-drop-to-the-knees rendition of "Stormy Weather" by Miss Louisiana, who saw Lena Horne and didn't get it.

Not getting it, or any, of course, is the unspoken expectation for the Ameri-

can miss of traditional vintage, and Miss America, tits to the wind, is the frozen sexual asset personified, a perpetual testament to the insecurity of the American male. She is, after all, a runway model for standards in contemporary flesh—fronts are full, and then some, this year—and each ample angle of the swimsuit competition confirms Miss America's uniqueness as royalty born of a butt shot. Her single concession to

feminine consciousness, in fact, only adds duplicity to the dealings. The current emphasis on physical fitness in the prelude to the bathing suit parade, without a mention of looks, is an obvious attempt to clean up the meat market, to have your cunt and eat it, too. All it does is make the stilettos look downright professional, in a kinky sort of way. Who is Miss America? The dominatrix next door?▼

Not the Melmac, the Limoges

CAMILLE: A TEARJERKER by Charles Ludlam.

Directed by Everett Quinton. Ridiculous Theatrical Company.
One Sheridan Square. (212) 691-2271.

by Joe E. Jeffreys

No other play in the Charles Ludlam canon is as closely associated with him or his Ridiculous Theatrical Company as *Camille*. The role became the late Mr. Ludlam's signature performance and the company's calling card. Created in 1973, it was presented more than 500 times and toured internationally.

Seventeen years later, the play has once again emerged. A critical quandary rises with it. Imagine John Waters remaking his 1974 film, *Female Trouble*. New actors would be required to portray the roles so closely identified with Divine, Edith Massey, David Lochary and Cookie Mueller. In the final

"I'D RATHER PEDAL MY COSSIE IN THE STREETS THAN BE AN ACTRESS ON THE STAGE."

Everett Quinton as *Camille*



Photo: Carmen Schwaner

product, comparisons would be unavoidable. Such is the situation Everett Quinton hazards by remounting Ludlam's signature *Camille*. Ludlam *père*, Quinton *filis*: Which is the Melmac, and which the Limoges?

Having never seen Ludlam in the role, I cannot make the comparison nor feel that it needs to be drawn. Quinton's production should be viewed independently. Though the mythic proportions of Ludlam's *Camille* still linger, *Camille's* advice should be heeded: "I travel lightly, without a heart."

The production is all about heart, golden or otherwise. In restaging this particular Ridiculous play, Quinton simultaneously pays the greatest homage to Ludlam while asserting his own artistic prowess. Melmac or Limoges becomes a moot point. Quinton smashes the last piece of the family china with love and carefree spirit as only *Camille* can.

Even if I had seen the original production, it is hard to imagine what could compare with this one. Elizabeth Michal Fried has filled the postage stamp-size stage with more fabric and hoop skirts per square inch than imaginable. Faced with potential costume gridlock, Quinton directs his actors toward the only logical solution: polka! And if the costumes weren't big enough, Larry Vrba has accessorized them with jewelry of truly profound proportions. Mark Beard's set is once again a thing of grace, beauty and sight-gag subtleties to die for. *Camille* does.

The acting rarely loses out to the miasma of *mise en scène*. H.M. Koutoukas' puce upper lip sneering over his teeth conjures a vileness into Baron de Varville beside which the character's frequent Sade allusions wither. Eureka snarfs, guzzles and hoists her skirt—the better to fan her crotch—with a crudeness that can only lead you into loving the money-grubbing Prudence Duvernoy. Stephen Pell once again displays his versatility by presenting not a cardboard cutout maid but a three-dimensional self-sacrificing Nanine. Carl Clayborn's gangly deportment gives Nichette Fondue an innocence exceeding by far the whiteness of her wedding dress.

Quinton's *Camille* is spastic with

THEATER

joie de vivre. His portrayal lends a childlike youthfulness and abandon to *Camille*. He pouts when he doesn't get

his way and jumps up and down with glee when he does. In the raucous first act, Quinton radiates like Limoges. As the play becomes progressively more naturalistic, Quinton's performance loses hold and begins to look more like Melmac. Quinton's biting word attack now takes the soft edge away from Marguerite. He ably plays the precise come-

dy, yet the very elements which enable him to make the comedy fly fight against him in the tragic moments. Quinton is unable to transcend the material and offer a death scene to die for.

As a story of forbidden love and death by disease, *Camille* resonates in endless spirals for the late Charles Ludlam's Ridiculous Theatrical Company. Far from staging a museum piece, Quinton has escaped the past and created his own play. The result is one of precise comedy with tragedy of sentiment that lacks operatic scale. Quinton's signature has begun to form. ▼

Surrender, Dorothy

WISHING LIKE A MOUNTAIN AND THINKING LIKE THE SEA by
Poi dog Pondering (CBS).

by Jim Fouratt

Greenpeacers, neo-hippies and sonic youth who say no, no, no to crack, sexual violence and the domination of corporate metal, rap and mindless Milli Vanilli noise on the airwaves, and say yes, yes, yes to Mandela's nation, Ziggy's dream beat, gender-free relations, the wet kisses of four-legged animals and the babel of burping babies will immediately dig the organic ear-food ladled into the grooves of this post-Dead, pancultural dance band. Poi dog Pondering is proof perfect that eight people can expand to encompass a universe: a party under the stars soars when the instruments are brought out,

joints are rolled, and everybody takes a turn in the center of the Sun Ra circle.

Embracing the spirit of Matthew Fox's cosmic creation blueprint, Poi dog Pondering reaches across the cultural differences among people and brews in its musical cauldron a polyrhythmic gumbo spiced with non-material values, creating a rhythmic bouquet out of a frying pan, piano, autoharp, trumpet, trombone, organ, xylophone, cow bell, violin, timbale, accordion, steel guitar, cello, sax, electric and acoustic guitars, marimbas, wood blocks, mandolins, drum traps, tap dancing and congas, turning Kundulini energy

MUSIC

EXPANDING YOUR UNIVERSE—Cosmic dance band Poi dog Pondering



Photo: Luke Sevinsky

into a yogi dance for human mating and cosmic dreaming. Urban cynics and ultra-cool despair-heads beware: This music will revamp your goth fantasies with a sunsweep of the vampire's den. Poi dog Pondering is a conspiracy of hope, an aural rebirth in the '90s of the San Francisco Diggers post-beat, earth-oneness.

Breathe in, and feel the vibrations: Haight-Ashbury, the human be-in, the Incredible String Band are time-machined to the Tex-Mex conjunction of Austin and Maui. The back-to-Sorrento serenade reinvented by lyrics like "I want to be your watermelon

and sing inside your radio, I want to be the yeast inside your bread" are lusty odes for the save-the-earth generation. It's a heartfelt affirmation for believing that people care, that music is for the soul, that dreams can come true, that kids are worth giving birth to, that friends breathe life together. Maui beach bums and Texas back-hill people can come together and find a common chord to chime ecstatic on.

Think of Jonathan Richman jamming with Woody Guthrie, the Waterboys meeting the Weavers, Flaco Jimmie rounding with the Incredible String Band, the Roches making peace

with Two Nice Girls or Ry Cooder going to Honolulu.

Grateful as these eight members may be, Poi dog Pondering singer and song progenitor, Frank Orrall, dazzles as a shamanistic dream-weaver making real a thousand points of light that turn to ash the machinations of Roger Ailes. A lovely lass, Susan Volez, with string bow in hand, weaves an aural coda to acupuncture away cynical resistance to genetic yearning for ecstatic oneness.

Surrender, Dorothy, and play Poi dog Pondering every time you feel hopeless. ▼

Voyaging Viragoes

VOYAGES OUT 2: SHORT LESBIAN FICTION by
Julie Blackwomon and Nona Caspers. Seal Press. \$8.95 pb. 160 pp.

by Maria Maggenti

It is a truism that the short story is one of the most difficult forms to master. Its economy, pacing and depth must be parceled quite delicately. Without the latitude allowed in a novel, there is

Press' new series edition, *Voyages Out 2: Lesbian Short Fiction*.

This volume, like the first one, features the work of two lesbian authors who are not yet widely published. Julie Blackwomon and Nona Caspers have had most of their work published in feminist or lesbian journals and in small press anthologies of women's fiction. Neither writer is particularly accomplished or compelling, and though their writing is stylistically and thematically different, its flaws combine to make for a very lackluster reading experience.

Nona Caspers work is edgy, circumspect and given to moments of refreshing silliness. Julie Blackwomon's stories are sure, flat-footed, even and warm. But what both women have in common is an inability to balance form and content. It is as though, because they are each writing about lesbians in a lesbian universe, they really needn't worry about nuance, tone, character development, details of space and time or the exacting challenge of language. Caspers' attempts to inspire, enlighten or provide insight into white lesbian existence fall too

quickly and too easily into innocuous, politically correct portraits of the way we are (or are supposed to be). Similarly, there is a certain



... SCRIBES

Julie Blackwomon

rehearsed smugness to Blackwomon's stories, as if her mostly lesbian characters in the Black community were, by virtue of existence in a white male literary landscape, simply enough to turn dull, ordinary descriptions into good prose.

In "Symbols," a story of a man whose wife comes out as a lesbian, Blackwomon creates a world that is so

leveled and so devoid of interior conflict that the conclusion seems unequal to the emotional demands of the story. Where charac-



SAPPHIC ...
Nona Caspers

small margin for error, and flaws can stand out hideously. The formal challenge requires a writer to compress the magnitude of real life into a carefully laid map of detail, leading to a swiftly developed resolution. It is an ambitious task. It was not, therefore, so surprising to find myself disappointed by Seal

BOOKS

Photo: Ruth L. Hall

ters should be reflective, they are superficial—the only thing keeping them distinct from one another is their names. One of her strongest offerings, "The Long Way Home," originally published as "Cat" in *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*, is the story of a teenage girl discovered *in flagrante delicto* with her best girlfriend. Tight, spare and genuine, it captures some of the devastation, confusion and betrayal that accompany adolescent lesbian passion. "Ophelia," on the other hand, about a white woman who wants to be Black, is confusing, awkward and below the literary, not to mention psychosocial, demands of such a story. These little-told stories of Black women and girls should be rich as honey on the tongue. Regrettably, Blackwoman's insistence on simplicity has kept her from developing the kind of strong, loud voice these tales deserve.

Nona Caspers' stories range from the absurd—a young girl with a crush on Marcia Brady goes to California to meet the Brady Bunch only to witness a surreal and severely dysfunctional family—to the mundane—a woman visits a bar with her best friend in an attempt to conquer her fear of dancing with someone she hasn't slept with yet. The story "Black Bananas" nicely counterpoints a woman's dejection and angst at losing her lover with her morbid observations of a bunch of bananas slowly rotting on top of her fridge. It is a nice metaphor, but its emotional potential isn't fully realized. This has partly to do with her use of the diary/journal format, a structure that looks easier to use than it actually is. Caspers' writing feels like that of the best student in an advanced fiction seminar surrounded by very mediocre classmates—she needs an even tougher writers' group than the one she thanks in her acknowledgments.

It is tempting to be dismissive of work that you think hasn't lived up to its potential. You want to just say, "It's bad, don't buy it, don't read it." But that seems a wholly consumeristic way to approach the still-nascent lesbian voice in contemporary fiction. Perhaps the best purpose poorly written literature serves is as a lesson on what not to do when trying to write. Hopefully, *Voyages Out 3*, unlike *Voyages Out 2*, will travel beyond that purpose. ▼

If a Homophobe Bashes in the Dark

by Karl Soehnlein

The most interesting character in *Darkman*—the latest comic-book fantasy film—is Robert Durant, a sadistic, psychopathic crime boss who uses a cigar-cutter to chop off his victim's fingers. That Durant is, additionally, portrayed as gay has prompted the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation to issue a statement condemning the film.

GLAAD's position is based, I assume, on a couple of scenes. The film opens with a rival mobster referring to Durant and his gang as "girls" and "a bunch of cuties." He threatens to cut Durant's balls off but rescinds, saying that "that would probably be more satisfactory for you." Pretty routine macho stuff: To insult a real man, you liken him to a woman. Later, Durant is at a cocktail party with one of his sidekicks, a preppy younger guy. Durant asks him graciously,

"Would you like a martini?" The preppy, charmed by the offer, responds, "I'd love one." Perhaps this is someone's idea of a fey exchange. When the preppy is later killed, Durant mistakenly believes that he has run off to Rio with another gang member and goes a bit apeshit. It doesn't get more dense than that. Durant never even gets called a "faggot."

Another film currently receiving some heat from gay sources is *After Dark, My Sweet*, an adaptation of Jim Thompson's potboiler novel. It is the story of Collie (Jason Patric), an escaped mental patient who drifts through Southern California and gets mixed up with a kidnapping plot. At one point, he is taken in by Doc Goldman, a small-town MD who seems, at first, to have Collie's best interests in mind

but later becomes possessive of him. When Doc finally tries to intervene in the kidnapping plot, Collie, a former boxer, delivers a swift punch to his abdomen. We later learn that Doc is found dead, killed by "a single blow to the heart."

Goldman was described recently in the *Village Voice* by Gary Indiana, a

queer writer whose work I respect immensely, as "the effeminate, creepy doctor, whose obvious fag lust for Patric is predictably rewarded with a fatal beating." Having read the Indiana review before seeing the film, I expected the worst. I watched this character closely as he took Collie under his wing, waiting tensely for the moment of truth when the seedy, lustful intentions behind his kind gestures would be

unmasked. It never happened. No shots of hands lingering on thighs or shoulders, no extended glances. Goldman is hardly Mother Teresa, but neither is he the "fag villain" I anticipated. (The proof of the pudding for Indiana is that Doc "doesn't appear in the original novel"; in fact, he does, though he isn't killed, only bound and gagged.)

Both GLAAD and Indiana certainly have the right and the responsibility to call 'em as they see 'em. As potential viewers, we can take their warnings as sound advice—either a chance to save \$7.50 on the ticket or to forge ahead to witness the offending material

Is it "safer" to condemn what might be construed as homophobic than to be sorry later on that it passed without comment? Or are we queers so on guard against negative depictions of ourselves that we look for evil fags and dykes within every celluloid shadow?

ARTCETERA

firsthand. But what about these films being condemned for characterizations that no one sees—not just straight people, to whom queers are more often than not invisible anyway, but gay viewers, who are hip to the homophobia that Hollywood churns out and schooled in the brand of moviegoing science that Vito Russo terms "spot the homosexual." Not one of the three people who saw *Darkman* with me thought that Durant's "homosexuality" was even worth mentioning; two friends at another screening said that they didn't see it at all. Is it "safer" to condemn what might be construed as homophobic than to be sorry later on that it passed without comment? Or are we queers so on guard against negative depictions of ourselves that we look for evil fags and dykes within every celluloid shadow? If a homophobe bashes in the dark, and no one hears it, does it make a sound?

I realize that defending films made by straights from the outraged cries of other gays is treading thin ice. Hollywood images reach millions of people, and some of those people will bash us and discriminate against us and hold us in contempt because they think that we're all sick, perverse and criminal. But movies don't exist in a vacuum, and the importance of media representation can be overrated.

The real problem with negative film images of gay men and lesbians is that there are so few positive ones to offset them. Very few straight people are able to tell a story about queers that doesn't exploit or exoticize us; our power lies in speaking for ourselves. Actor Denzel Washington, asked about his recent projects *Glory* and *Cry Freedom*, which tell tales of Black people from white points of view, responded: "What do you expect? These are the stories that white directors want to do. Why should they be looking out for us, doing us a favor? We should make movies ourselves." There's wisdom in those words for the gay and lesbian community. When we have the chance, it works; *Pump Up the Volume* scores with a gay-sensitive moment because it was written and directed by Allan Moyle, a gay man. Though it's a single minor episode in the film, it pinpoints the advantages in seizing control of our representation.

Hollywood films were once the only contact the world had with gays

and lesbians, but in 1990 we have a degree of visibility that we didn't have in 1981, when Vito Russo published his landmark *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies*. Gay men and lesbians, regularly covered in the news and frequent topics for the talk shows, are even making inroads into prime-time TV. Though of course the coverage is limited and often skewed by its heterosexual origins, it's no longer possible in America to believe that gay men and lesbians do not exist.

Screen images of us no longer pack as powerful a punch to the "general population" (among which I would include queers) as they once did. Even

if the "average straight teen" (or "closeted self-hating queer") left *Darkman* thinking that Durant was a fag, would they by extension also believe that he was representative of all gay men? Will people who see *After Dark, My Sweet* come away with the impression that all older single men who show concern for younger guys are actually perverted homos moving in for the kill? I'm not convinced. Not that I believe that GLAAD should turn down the heat, or that responsible journalists shouldn't expose bigotry wherever they see it, but maybe the time has come for us to reevaluate the importance we put on how the media represent our lives. ▼

To Spirit

by Joan Larkin

...God of breathing,
I pray that my mother will make her breakfast and really eat it,
that she will wash herself and walk to the kitchen without falling,
that my brother will shut up about the nursing home,
that she will dress herself in mint & pink polyester,
pay her rent,
take heart medicine,
sleep through the night,
read a book again.

That her friend Sandy will bring soup,
that Mary Hoyt will sit with her,
Marian shop for her,
Meals on Wheels feed her.
That nightmare will not harrow her,
no man frighten her,
my brother not bully her, bully her.

God, do not abandon us in our age
or worse, let condescending children control us.
For choice is the life spirit in her
even as she becomes a child.

And as work is taken from us,
and as home is taken from us,
and as sex is taken from us,
and as the body is taken from us,
and writing is taken
and the mind lightens
and we are divested even of sense—
let Self remain
and choose—
Spirit, all praise to You—
choose, even on the last day.

POETRY

Joan Larkin's second book of poems is *A Long Sound*. Gay and Lesbian Poetry in Our Time: An Anthology, which she co-edited with Carl Morse, received the first Lambda Literary Award for poetry in 1989. ▼

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READING

Continued from page 31

symposium) by the Center for Traditional Medicine of Green Cross, Inc. 1510 U St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202) 265-0100. \$10.00.

These three scientifically oriented, but generally lay-reader-friendly, books explore Third World healing approaches to AIDS. They offer valuable scientific information, leads to explore and food for thought on the use of low-tech, inexpensive treatments.

Immunity and Chinese Medicine includes theoretical views of Chinese medicine, applications to HIV and AIDS and clinical data from AIDS projects around the US. *AIDS and Chinese Medicine*, cohesively presented by one author, covers similar themes and has detailed suggestions on acupuncture points and herbal formulas. *Ancient Roots* notes that "the majority of the world's population is still being treated by traditional healers" and, in that light, offers articles on indigenous HIV and AIDS treatments written by scientists, doctors, holistic practitioners and patients from China, Africa, India and the US.

Finally, here are several other useful resources on alternative HIV and AIDS treatments (most available at A Different Light and Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop):

A World Without AIDS: The Controversial Holistic Health Plan by Leon Chaitow, MD, DO and Simon Martin. Thorsons Publishing Group. 1988.

AIDS, Cancer and the Medical Establishment by Raymond Brown, MD. Robert Speller. 1986.

Psychoimmunity and the Healing Process by Jason Serinus. Ten Speed Press. 1988.

AIDS and Syphilis: The Hidden Link by Harris N. Coulter. North Atlantic Books. 1987.

Living With AIDS: Reaching Out by Tom O'Connor with Ahmed Gonzales-Nunez. Corwin Publishers. 1987.

An AIDS Information Packet on Alternative and Holistic Therapies by HEAL (Health Education AIDS Liaison), Box 1103, New York, NY 10113. (212) 674-HOPE.

Alternative/Holistic AIDS Treatment (survey booklet) by ACT UP/NY Alternative/Holistic Treatment Committee. 496A Hudson St., #6A, New York, NY 10014. (212) 989-1114. ▼

LIZ AND SYDNEY

Continued from page 46

hasn't changed all that much since she began going out.

And now? They definitely think the girls' scene is a lot more wild. At Channel 69, the *My Comrade/Sister!* magazine party, the women who participated in Strip-O-Grama (a game show) had to put some clothes on before they could play—and once on stage, they put the men to shame. They also favor Cave Canem (for the neighborhood feel and the shows, though it unfortunately closed recently), the Duchess and the Clit Club.

Sydney: Andé thinks that the guys' club scene has gotten stale in the past few years. "It's just all these boys in their underwear. Everybody talks about how they saw this cute guy or that cute guy—that's what makes a good party."

Liz: They work with Les/Linda Simpson not only on Channel 69 (which is actually becoming a cable TV show) but also on *My Comrade/Sister!* as well. Les had released his first issue, and Dany called him for an advertisement for her record company. Simpson had the idea for *Sister!*, and with Dany and Andé's input (and Whyland's photography), it

seemed less a good intention than a companion magazine. They have become more and more involved as each new issue comes out—and it's getting easier to get help as *My Comrade/Sister!* has gotten recognition and respect. "At first we couldn't get anyone to photograph," says Andé. Now, they have begun to do their own soliciting for contributors, and Simpson still has many ideas for both of the sections. Dany describes their ideal audience: "Girls who are not assholes" and "lesbians who sleep with women." ▼



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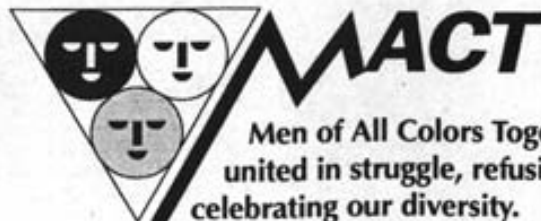
Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood (*BLUS*, pronounced "blues"), is a multi-racial group of women of all ages, committed to promoting solidarity with, and opening avenues of communication among lesbians in the Bronx, & other outer boroughs.

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The Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 1st & 3rd Fridays of every month. 6:30-8:00pm
1 Fordham Plaza, 8th Floor, Bronx AIDS Services Room, 2nd Wed. of every month, 6:30-8:00 pm.
Contact 212/829-9817 or 212/409-1131
BLUS P.O. Box 1244, Bronx, NY 10462



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united in struggle, refusing to be divided,
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JOIN US! We meet every Friday at the
Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 208 West 13th St., at 7:45 pm

MACT/NY P.O. Box 1518 Ansonia, NY 10023

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GOING OUT

AN EVENTS CALENDAR

prepared by Rick X

For additional information, call

The Gay & Lesbian
Switchboard of New York
daily, noon to midnight,
212-777-1800

Send calendar, TV & club items to:

Rick X, OutWeek Listings
Box 790
New York, NY 10108

Items must be received by
Monday to be included in the fol-
lowing week's issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting with the next issue, **Announcements** will be a paid bulletin board for items that do not have a natural home in the **CLASSIFIEDS** section. At a rate of 7 cents per character (paragraph wrap-around style) or \$2.50 per line (36-character maximum each) you may place calls for volunteers, advance listings, requests for donated services or money, ongoing meetings or services to the community, exhortations to action (boycotts, phone or mail campaigns, etc.) or other miscellaneous public announcements (partnerships, births, adoptions, moves, divorces, coming outs, anniversaries). We reserve the right to reject or to refer to more appropriate Classifieds or Personals sections.

You can type or print the notice on plain paper, count the keystrokes (punctuation, spaces, letters, numbers) and multiply by 7 cents. Or count the lines and multiply by \$2.50. Reduce the total to the nearest dollar and send a check payable to **OutWeek Magazine** to Rick X, Announcements, Box 790, NY, NY 10108. Supply a contact phone # for confirmation purposes.

The **LIVELY ARTS**, **GOING OUT** (daily Calendar of Events), **TUNING IN** (radio/TV), and **DANCING OUT** listings will continue to be free, for those events, clubs and showings which are current.

Bold type may be used for the most important phrase in your item (circle it). *Italics* will be used according to standard procedure (titles) but you may underline a few words which you want to emphasize. Two examples (complimentary, this time):

The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of NY seeks volunteers to work a minimum of two 3-hour shifts per month. Experience in the gay/lesbian community not required, but a non-judgmental, caring attitude is. 777-1800, noon to midnight, 7 days. (This paragraph-style ad: 236 keystrokes x 7 cents = \$16.52. Thus, \$16.00.)

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We hope you find this new arrange-
ment to be of value. The rules may be
fine-tuned as we progress.

LIVELY ARTS

Also see the daily listings for
showings of one or two days.
A (-) signifies a new listing

JOYCE THEATRE presents **Karen Finley: We Keep Our Victims Ready**, fresh from her two sold-out performances at Lincoln Center's Serious Fun!; 175 8th Ave (at 19 St); TUES-SUN (SEPT 18-22 only) at 8 pm; \$25; tix 242-0800

-THE DUPLEX presents **Funny Gay Males** (back from P. Town); 61 Christopher (NE corner at 7th Ave); \$10 + 2-drink minimum; every SAT in September, 10 pm; 255-5438 (thru SEPT 28)

MAZ TROPPE and CUCINA DELLA FONTANA (formerly Trocadero) present **Women's Fun Fest!** featuring the comedy of **Michelle Balan, Trisha Conboy, Maz Troppe**, and more; 368 Bleecker (West Village); \$8 + 2-drink minimum; every Saturday in September; 8 & 10 pm; 242-0638 (thru SEPT 29)

WESSEL O'CONNOR GALLERY presents **Queen: Out in Art**, "a group exhibition of work by queer women and men whose art serves to reaffirm the power and significance of their sexual identities," with painting and sculpture; 580 B'way (N/R to Prince St); TUES-SAT, 10 am - 6 pm; 219-9524 (thru SEPT 29)

-WESTBETH THEATER CENTER presents **Salome**, Oscar Wilde's 1891 play, banned in Britain till 1968, with choreography by **Kimberley Bierley**, music by **Kevin Rudolf**, directed by **Huckleberry Feyk**; with **Shisha McKee, Andrew Kaplan, Olivia Charles, Steve Duffy, James Babbin, Frank Dowd, Robert Logan, Melissa Zullo, Steve Rome, Jorgan Jacobs, Yvonne-Willrich Teague, Heather Robinson, David McIntyre**; 51 Bank St; \$10; TUE-THU at 7:30 pm, FRI & SAT at 7:30 & 10 pm, SUN at 7:30 pm; 741-0391 (thru SEPT 29)

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKS presents **Whotnot**, "the new musical vaudeville featuring 4 actors in almost 20 roles, a fantasy musical combining the worlds

of illusion, quick change and spectacle"; 1990 recipient of the Richard Rodgers Production Award; conceived and written by **Mark Waldrop** and **Howard Crabtree**, directed by **Mr. Waldrop**; music & lyrics by **Dick Gallagher**; featuring **The Holiday Sisters: Mr. Crabtree, Jennifer Smith** and **Mark Lazors**, with **John Treacy Egan**; Theatre at Saint Peter's Church, 54 St & Lex Ave; \$20; TUE-SAT at 8 pm, also SAT & SUN at 3 pm; 688-8022 (thru OCT 6)

BILL REPICCI, M.D. MINICHELLO & P.A.P.A. present **Michel Tremblay's Hosanna**, starring **David McCann** and **David DeBeck** as two lovers experiencing a bizarre Halloween night; directed by **Charlie Hensley**, 100 7th Ave South (Sheridan Sq); \$15; TUE-SAT at 7:30 pm, SUN at 3 & 8 pm; Tix 564-8038, theater 691-8226 (thru OCT 7)

-PROMETHEUS THEATER presents **Charles Dwyer's Staircase**, about two middle-aged homosexuals trying to make sense of their lives; directed by **Boykin Lee**; starring **Stephen Broker** and **Fred Fodres**; 239 E 5 St; \$8; THU-SAT at 8 pm; 477-8689 (thru OCT 27)

JEWISH MUSEUM presents a **Photography Exhibit: A Day in the Warsaw Ghetto**, disturbing pictures taken by a German soldier, some seen for the first time in America, which speak about one holocaust with eerie parallels to a more recent, and local, one; 5th Ave at 92 St; \$4.50 (seniors/students \$2.50); SUN, 11 am - 6 pm; MON, WED & THU, noon - 5 pm; TUE, noon - 8 pm (free after 5); 860-1888 (thru NOV 1)

THE GLINES presents **John Glines' Men of Manhattan**, directed by **Charles Catanese**, "a celebration of the delightful diversity of gay life in NYC here and now" with seven actors playing 25 characters in a series of vignettes involving an actor-waiter, phone-sex users, guppie lawyers, gym hunks, a stripper-hustler, many others; with **David Baird, Steven Liebhauser, Cy Orfield, T.L. Reilly, Leslie Roberts, Richard Skipper, Bill Wingard**; at the Courtyard Playhouse, 39 Grove St; \$15; WED-FRI at 8 pm, SAT at 6 & 9 pm, SUN at 7 pm; 869-3530 (thru late NOVEMBER)

CHARLES LUDLAM THEATRE presents **Ludlam's Camille**, starring and directed by **Everett Quinton**, with **Cheryl Reeves, Ken Scullin, Georg Osterman, Eureka, Bobb Reed, Jim Lamb, Carl Clayborne, H.M. Kououkas, Jean-Claude Vasseux, Steven Pell**, 1 Sheridan Square; \$25; TUE-FRI at 8 pm, SAT & SUN at 7 pm; 691-2271

-LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE presents **Falsettoland**, the William Finn/James Lapine musical, the third in Finn's **Merwin Trilogy**, an examination of the impact of AIDS on a gay male couple, a lesbian couple, a heterosexual couple, and a child; 121 Christopher St; \$27-\$35; TUES-FRI at 8 pm, SAT at 7 & 10 pm, SUN at 3 pm; 924-8782

-PERRY STREET THEATRE presents **Christopher Widney's Big, Fat and Ugly with a Moustache**, about two gay men who try to adopt an "at risk" baby, and all the hurdles they face; 31 Perry St; \$10; previews start WED, SEPT 19; opens SUN, SEPT 23; shows WED-SAT at 8 pm, SUN at 3 pm; tix 869-3530, box office 691-2509

RAPP THEATRE COMPANY revives **Thomas M. Disch's The Cardinal Detoxes**, "a chilling look inside the hierarchy of the modern Catholic Church exploring such issues as AIDS, abortion, ties to organized crime and homosexuality"; directed by **R. Jeffrey Cohen**, starring **George McGrath** as the Cardinal; 220 E 4 St; \$8; FRI & SAT at 11:30 pm (RT= 40 min.); 529-6180

VILLAGE PRODUCTIONS revives **O Sappho, O Wilder!**, a comedy revue of the gay '90s; with music by **Raven Hall**, directed by **Bill Cosgriff**, musical direction by **Joel Malasano**; featuring **Lisa Goodman, Raven Hall, John Kudan, JoAnna Rash** and **Joe Spencer White**, with sketches by **Claire Olivia Mood, Karen Mullen, Carol Polcovar, Marc Castle** and **Al Luongo**; at Rose's Turn, 55 Grove St; \$10 cover + 2-drink minimum; every Saturday at 8 pm; 366-5438

MONDAY, SEPT. 17

MOMENTUM PROJECT **Fifth Anniversary Celebration** with the **Rev. Calvin Butts**, celebrities, heads of city's major AIDS organizations, Momentum's staff, people living with AIDS; at St. Peter's Church, Citicorp Bldg, with a hand-holding ceremony that will surround the Citicorp block; 5:15 pm; public invited; 268-2610

BRONX AIDS COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECT **Bronx AIDS Task Force Meeting**, with a workshop on alternative therapies in HIV infection, One Fordham Plaza, Suite 800; 6-7:30 pm; 212/295-5605

NY ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK **Meeting and Forum: "Media Guerrilla" Tony Schwartz: How**

Change the World With Commercials, with the creator of the (in)famous "Daisy Spot" for Lyndon Johnson's '64 campaign against Goldwater; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 6:30-9:30 pm; \$5 members; \$8 nonmembers; 517-0380

DYKES & LEZZIES LESBIAN FEMINIST THEATRE & SCHOOL begins Fall Classes that run on Monday nights from **SEPT 17 - DEC 10**, playwriting, directing and acting taught by **Dina Hamilton**; at the Center, 208 W 13 St, Alexander Room; 8-10 pm; info 807-8017

GAY ACTIVIST ALLIANCE IN MORRIS COUNTY, NJ Weekly Meeting & Social with *The Annual \$1.98 Beauty Contest* at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown NJ; 8:30 pm; 201/285-1595

MARC BERKLEY'S KOOL KOMRADS present *The Battle of the Bulge*, week three of a nine-week contest at Private Eyes, ending OCT 22; with Men of Dancesations vs. Men of Good-N-Plenty; MC **Razor Sharp** with special guests; 12 W 21 St; doors open 10 pm; contest at midnight; \$7 general/\$5 with invite; 206-7772

TUESDAY, SEPT. 18

PINK PANTHERS Meeting at the Center, 208 W 13 St, 6-8 pm, 315-8469 (Editor's note: Changed from Wednesday in observance of Rosh Hashanah.)

QUEER NATION EDUCATION ACTION GROUP Meeting at the **Duchess**, Grove St at 7th Ave, 6 pm, info 496-7535

CENTER KIDS Discussion Group: Dealing With Families of Origin, facilitated by **Rosemary Poulos**, discussing relationships with parents and siblings and how their families of origin have reacted to the participants' decision to parent; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 6:30-8 pm; 620-7310

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION Volunteer Open House, to "give people an opportunity to learn about GLAAD, its activities, its committees, and how to get involved"; at GLAAD's office, 80 Varick St, Suite #3E; 8:30 pm; 966-1700

LESBIAN RIGHTS CMTE OF NOW-NYC First Fall Meeting, to "work on the issues you bring to us"; at NOW offices, 15 W 18 St; 8:30 pm; 807-0721 (Hereafter, every second Tuesday of the month)

WOMEN ABOUT Calendar Mailing Party at the Center, all volunteers welcome; dinner follows the stuffing; 208 W 13 St; 8:30 pm; info 677-6595

MOSAIC BOOKS Fall Reading Series: Jewell Gomez, reading women's erotica; 187 Ave B at 10 St; 7 pm; 475-8623

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS HIV Health

Seminar: Benefits Information and Nutritional Issues, tonight and every 3rd Tuesday; 129 W 20 St; Benefits, 3rd Floor & Nutrition, 8th Floor; 7 pm; free; 807-6655 (TDD 645-7470)

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS Ice Cream Social & Planning Party, BYO ice cream and toppings, or some other dessert; no booze, tonight, please; SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578

COALITION FOR LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS Forum: Cable TV Controversy: Censorship or Access for Gay Men and Lesbians; invited panelists include **Bill Squadron** (NYC Commissioner of Telecommunications), **Tom Blewitt** (Fair Access), **Lou Maletta** (Gay Cable Network), **Robin Byrd** (*The Robin Byrd Show*), **Chris Lynn** (lawyer), **Jean Carluosto** (GMHC video and cable producer), **Rick X** (*The Closet Case Show*); at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 627-1398 (Editor's note: CLGR Forums are held every third Tuesday.)

JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH Centennial Forums: Illegal Drugs: A Re-examination of public policy, with **Dr. Kildare Clark** (Kings County Hospital Adult Emergency Dept.), **Joe Klein** (*New York Magazine*), **Joyce Purnick** (*New York Times*); 55 Washington Square South; 8 pm; free; 477-0351

NINTH STREET CENTER Rap Group: "Queer Questions, Queer Answers" with the focus on defining homosexuality for the '90s; tonight's facilitator is **Rich Kamenick**; 319 E 9 St, basement; 8-10 pm; 228-5153

THE CHELSEA TRANSFER Body Positive Night for HIV+ and their friends; 131 8th Ave (16/17 St); all night; bar 929-7183, Body Positive 721-1346 (Editor's note: Body Positive will meet at The Chelsea Transfer tonight and every Tuesday.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19

PAULA MARTINAC (*Voyages Out*) leads a **Six-Week Creative Writing Workshop** with assignments/discussions on homophobia, coming out, writing about sex, political responsibility; begins tonight at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; rsvp 718/984-2234

INTEGRAL YOGA INSTITUTE Positive Approaches Toward Healing Seminar: Being a Care-Giver: For Ourselves or Another, for those whose lives have been affected by HIV or life-threatening illness in themselves or a loved one; 227 W 13 St; 7:30-9 pm; \$5; 929-0586 (Editor's note: Hathya Yoga classes are offered Saturdays.)

TIMES SQUARES Free Introductory Square Dancing Class at PS #3, Hudson St bwn Christopher/Grove; 7:30-10 pm; 741-0168

A DIFFERENT LIGHT BOOKSTORE presents **Fall 1990 Reading Series: Matthew Stadler, Landscape-Memory**; 548 Hudson St (btwn Charles/Perry Sts); 8 pm; free (but limited seating, arrive early!); 989-4850

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Rosh Hashanah First Evening; 57 Bethune St (near West St, inside the Westbeth Complex); 8 pm; 929-9498

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshop, a two and a half hour workshop for gay men to help make safer sex more erotic, creative and satisfying; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; free, no rsvp required; info 807-6655 (TDD 645-7470)

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS Pool Night & Drinks/Snacks; at Brownstone Billiards, 7th/Fleetbush Aves, Brooklyn; 8 pm; followed by **Landmark Pub**, 187 7th Ave/2nd St, Park Slope; 10 pm-ish; SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578

EAGLE BAR Movie Night: Hard to Kill; 142 11th Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-9451

PYRAMID presents Linda Simpson's Channel 69: The Iris Chacon Variety Show, starring **That Latin Spitfire**, **Glamore**; 101 Avenue A (btwn 6/7 Sts); 1 am; \$5; 420-1590

THURSDAY, SEPT. 20

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Rosh Hashanah First Day; 57 Bethune St (near West St, inside the Westbeth Complex); 9 am; 929-9498

ASIANS AND FRIENDS/NY Discussion Group, a "forum for discussion of topics which are relevant to our lifestyles, cultures, and relationships"; space is limited; at a home in Brooklyn Heights; 7:30-9 pm; member info, 674-5064

QUEER NATION Meeting at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7:30 pm, 463-7208 (alternate Thursdays, except OCT 18 is moved to OCT 16 at NYU; next regular meeting is at the Center, OCT 4)

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Rosh Hashanah Second Evening; 57 Bethune St (near West St, inside the Westbeth Complex); 8 pm; 929-9498

GAYMEN AND LESBIANS IN BROOKHAVEN Women's Rap Group: Lesbian Literature & Resource Sharing Night; at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, South Country & Beaverdam Rds, Brookhaven, LI; 8 pm; 516/751-2901 (meets every 1st & 3rd Thursday)

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS Lesbian Lit Night, to discuss your favorite fiction, non-fiction, lesbian books, cartoons, etc.; bring snacks/bevs, books, etc. to The Clubhouse; 8 pm; SAL

Info/rsvp 718/965-7578

WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVES COMMUNITY CENTER Weekly Social/Discussion: Dealing with the Mainstream: Being a Lesbian (in or out) in the Real World; 675 Woodfield Rd, West Hempstead, LI; 8 pm; \$3 more if/less it; 516/483-2050

DAVID LEIGH & LEE CHAPPELL present *New Tuff* at **Private Eyes**, with special performer **Moss Foote**; 12 W 21 St; opens 10 pm; \$7 general/\$5 with invite; 206-7772

DISCO INTERRUPTUS presents **Holy Chaos**, a culture exchange with **San Francisco's Club Chaos**; opening party for **NOW's photo exhibit** at 10 pm; **Adam Hembrecht's film Our Father** at 10:30 pm; **Robert Hillfort's film Stop the Church** at 11 pm; a **Live Crucifixion** starring a six-month pregnant woman as **Jesus** at midnight; performances by **Joey Arias** as *la puta Mary Magdalene* and **John Kelly** as *The Virgin*; with **Tabboo**, **Lambert**, **Madame** as *Catherin The Great*; **Lahoma & Ru Paul** serving **Kool Aid** in the **People's Temple Lounge**; NY DJs **Patrick Butts** and **Craig Spencer**, SF DJs **Michael & Lewis**; featuring the **Sisters of Our Lady Pity Choir**; 515 W 18 St; 10:30 pm - 4 am; \$10; 645-5156

FRIDAY, SEPT. 21

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Rosh Hashanah Second Day; 57 Bethune St (near West St, inside the Westbeth Complex); 9 am; 929-9498

GAY & LESBIAN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS Benefit for the NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, honoring Congressman **Jose Serrano**, **Lee Hudson** (NYS HPD) and **David Hassell** (President of the NYGLAVP); at a home in the West Village; 6-9 pm; \$25-\$100; info/rsvp **Eddie Baca**, 348-0662

CENTER KIDS Welcoming Party for Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition, International; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7 pm; 620-7310

ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT presents **Fred Small in Concert: Friends Meeting House** at East 15 St bwn 2nd/3rd Aves; 7:30 pm; \$10 advance/\$12 door/\$8 limited income; 718/965-6609

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER Consciousness-Raising Session: Embracing Our Contradictions, around the issues of sexuality, health, sexism and racism; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7:45 sharp; 245-6366 (days), 222-9794 (evening)

GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT Forum: Adopting a Child, with members of **Center Kids**, gay men who have adopted children; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 620-7310

OTHER COUNTRIES: BLACK GAY MEN WRITING presents *Feeling Like...: Readings on Families, Eroticism, History and AIDS*; with B. Michael Hunter, Cary Alan Johnson, Pamela Sneed, Michael Wiggins, Jaya Austin Williams; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; \$10 for one night/\$15 for two nights; 505-0506 (also tomorrow, same time, different artists)

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS Manhattan Night, with a trip to Karen Finley's *We Keep Our Victims Ready*, Joyce Theater, 175 8th Ave at 19 St, Manhattan; 8 pm, \$25; followed by *The Clit Club*, new lesbian dance club, 432 W 14 St, 10 pm-ish, \$5; SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578 (Note: Get your own Karen Finley fix immediately, 242-0800)

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Erev Shabbat Shuva, 57 Bethune St (Westbeth Complex, near West St, up courtyard ramp); 8:30 pm; 929-9498

THE CLIT CLUB presents a *Lesbian Dirty Talking Party* with sexy go-go women, lezbo erotic videos \$1 drinks before 10 pm; dress for hot, sweaty dancing; 432 W 14 St at Washington St; 9 pm - 4 am; \$5; 406-1114

DON'T TELL MAMA presents Jack Hoffman: *Tales From Beyond the Pink Cloud*, "songs, story, stand-up, gossip, fashion and outrage"; 343 W 46 St (Restaurant Row); 10 pm; \$10 cover + 2-drink minimum (no credit cards); 757-0788 (also SEPT 23 at 5:30 pm)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22

BODY POSITIVE and MANHATTAN PLAZA FOUNDATION All Day Workshop: Personal Finances & HIV, at Manhattan Plaza, 400 W 43 St, 2nd Floor Ellington Room (WC accessible); registration at 8:30 am; \$50; info/registration from David Petersen, 697-2580

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB 2nd Annual Stonewall Festival along Washington Place, Greenwich Village, 11 am - 8 pm; vendors call 593-3247

10th Annual Washington Square Park Arts, Crafts & Antiques Festival, 754-6330

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS Garage Sale Trip to Jersey City, 9 am, SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578

WOMEN ABOUT Atlantic City Trip, not for gamblers only; bus approx. \$20; info from 212/779-0269

GAY CIRCLES Workshop: Dating at Twentysomething, "for gay men in their 20s who want to meet men with confidence and esse"; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 10 am - 5 pm; \$15; rsvp 598-9680 (with a Sunday picnic, tomorrow, in Prospect Park, Brooklyn)

THE LOFT (IN WHITE PLAINS) Organizational Meeting for a new Peer Counseling Program for lesbians and gay men from Westchester County, NY and surrounding areas; at The Loft: the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, 255 Grove St (off East Post Rd), White Plains, NY; 11 am; 914/948-4922 (write to Box 1513, White Plains, NY 10602)

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS Workshop: Think About It: Deciding to Take the Test; open to all, male/female, gay/non-gay; at the Center, 208 W 13 St, 3rd Floor; 1-6 pm; free, registration required; 807-6655 (TDD 645-7470)

RADICAL FAERIES Queer-In at the Ramble, Central Park; "a tribal picnic, a happening, an equinox indulgence, a musical jam, an uplifting smooch for lesbian/gay artists, a groovy dress up/dress down fest, a queer cosmic blow-out!"; bring food, bev, percussion and other types of instruments; enter at 81 St, West Side; 2 pm to dusk; 718/318-0789 (raindate Sunday, SEPT 23)

NORTH CAROLINA SENATE VOTE '90 presents Mandy Carter, African American lesbian and national organizer for NC Senate Vote '90; speaking on how New Yorkers can help defeat Jesse Helms; at PS 122, on 1st Ave at 9 St; 3:30-5 pm; 633-8534

ASIANS AND FRIENDS/NY see Camille, the Ridiculous Theatrical Company production starring Everett Guinton (1 Sheridan Square, 691-2271); 7 pm; rsvp with ARNY, 674-5064

WHAMI and REPROVISION present *Video for Women's Lives*, a benefit for both groups; with *ReproVision's This is Not a Federal Reserve*, Dolly Malenka's *Keep Your Laws Off Our Bodies*, Ladies of the Lake's *Great Gobs o' Country Gold*, Scarlet Harlot's *Outlaw Poverty Not Prostitutes* and Pope Don't Preach, Stafford-Juhaz-Goldfarb's *Self-Protection*, Chris Hill's *Reproductive Histories Update*, and Lori Hirls' *With a Vengeance*; at DCTV, 87 Lafayette St; 7:30 pm; \$7; 713-5966

NINTH STREET CENTER Rap Group: "Queer Questions, Queer Answers" with the focus on defining homosexuality for the '90s; tonight's facilitator is Gabe Bobek; 319 E 9 St, basement; 8-10 pm; 228-5153

OTHER COUNTRIES: BLACK GAY MEN WRITING presents *Feeling Like...: Readings on Families, Eroticism, History and AIDS*; with Craig Harris, Gale Jackson, Cary Alan Johnson, Shellah Denise Mabry, Carlos Sequera; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; \$10 for one night/\$15 for two nights; 505-0506 (also Friday, SEPT 21, same time, different artists)

PEOPLE'S VOICE CAFE presents Ann Hernandez, a "Puerto Rican lesbian trumpet-playing folksinger," singing

songs of peace, justice and the "American Way"; & Cathy Winter, feminist guitarist; 133 W 4 St; 8 pm (Doors open 7:30); \$8 or TDF; info 718/426-2183, club 212/777-2528

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS Newlywed Game at The Clubhouse, "both newlyweds and oldlyweds have been selected for tonight's entertainment"; Park Slope, Brooklyn; 8 pm; SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578

CENTER resumes its **4th and 2nd Saturday Dances** tonight; DJ, cash, bar, juice bar; 208 W 13 St; 9 pm - 1 am; \$8 (\$5 for seniors, students with ID, Center members); 620-7310

COLUMBIA PEP BOYS PRODUCTION Same But Different Stop Jesse Helms Dance, at which tastefully provocative art will be displayed; with a Harvey Gantt for US Senate table; tonight (the 4th Saturday), thereafter, every third Saturday; for gay men and lesbians and their friends; DJ Karin Ward; Earl Hall, 116 St & B'way (M1/99 train); 10 pm - 3 am; \$5 (ID to drink!); 629-1989

NANCY AND TREVA present *Her Planet* at Handle Bar, alternate Saturdays, beginning tonight; "hottest go-go girls in NYC"; 232 E 9 St (btwn 2nd/3rd Aves); 10 pm; \$8 general/\$5 with invite; info 255-7875

SUNDAY, SEPT. 23

Medieval Festival at Fort Tryon Park, with jousting, puppetry, pageantry, medieval music, dance & combat, magic, storytellers, falconry, demonstrations, marketplace; enter 192 St & Fort Washington Ave (A Train to 190 St/Cloisters; M4 Bus to Fort Tryon Park); noon - 6 pm; free; 781-4051

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS goes to **Brooklyn Arts Museum**, meet at coat check at Eastern Parkway entrance, 10:30 am, SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS goes to a **Lesbian Softball Tournament & Picnic in Prospect Park**, "come to play, cheer, or just indulge in the cook-out"; a fundraiser for The Center, Manhattan; meet at Eleanor's Hill or find the players later in Long Meadow; 11 am - 7 pm; SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578

WOMEN ABOUT Skunk Hike, 8 miles, moderate with beautiful views and steep climb; info/rsvp 201/481-0440

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER/NY Smorgasbord Brunch Buffet at Windows-on-the-World, a fixed-price brunch with all-you-can-eat; One World Trade Center, meet in lobby at noon, reservation for 12:30 pm (102nd floor); jacket and tie, please; about \$30 with tax and tip; 222-9794 (there are only 9 spaces available) (Editor's note: This is also the first annual celebration

of Lidell Jackson's 39th birthday.)

BISEXUAL PRIDE Discussion Group: How to tell our Lesbian friends we are B!; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 3-4:30 pm; 459-4784

JUDITH'S ROOM BOOKSTORE presents Dell Richards, *Lesbian Lives*; 681 Washington St (at Charles); 3 pm; free & WC accessible, but seating is limited; 727-7330

20/20 presents Michael Fesco's *Tea Dance*, with tonight's DJ Mark Cleore; free Bloody Marys and Mimosas from 5-7 pm, buffet at 7:30 pm; 20 W 20 St; opens 5 pm; \$8; 727-8841

DON'T TELL MAMA presents Jack Hoffman: *Tales From Beyond the Pink Cloud*, "songs, story, stand-up, gossip, fashion and outrage"; 343 W 46 St (Restaurant Row); 5:30 pm; \$10 cover + 2-drink minimum (no credit cards); 757-0788

BODY POSITIVE River Cruise around Manhattan, for HIV+ people, their lovers, families, & friends; music, dancing, cash bar; live music by Black gay male rock band M. Thang; Circle Line Pier 83, 42 St & Hudson River; 6:30 pm boarding/7 pm departure; \$15; 721-1619

COSMIC FLAIR DESIGNS Cross-Dressers' Fashion Show, "one-of-a-kind fashions by David and Barbara, plus jewelry, makeup, wigs, shoes, samples by portrait photographer and pastel protraitist"; benefits the Center; light refreshments served; 208 W 13 St; 6-9 pm; \$5; 620-7310

THE BUTCH/FEMME SOCIETY Opposites Attract Dance Party, with continuous house music, raffle, butch/femme game of "Fatal Attraction" judged by a panel of experts; at Cave Canem, 24 1st Ave at 1st St; 8-10 pm; \$7; 718/961-6236 (proper attire, no sneakers, for butch, femmes and their friends only) (Editor's note: This item was submitted far in advance. Call to confirm.)

DIXON PLACE Benefit for Women's Network/Mujeres Unidas with Craig Lucas, author of *Longtime Companion* and *Prelude to a Kiss*; 37 East 1st St (btwn 1st/2nd Aves); 8 pm; \$8; no rsvp, arrive a half hour early; 673-6752

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS Dining at Aunt Suzie's, Italian food at a lesbian-owned establishment; 247 5th Ave (btwn Carroll/Garfield), Brooklyn; 8 pm; SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578

MONDAY, SEPT. 24

QUEER NATION/NY joins **Cincinnati City Task Force: Art on Trial** demonstration against censorship in that beleaguered Ohio city; travel info from Ed, 674-2799

PINK PANTHERS Meeting at the Center, 208 W 13 St, 6-8 pm, 315-8469

GRACIE SQUARE HOSPITAL BREAK-THROUGH OUTPATIENT TREATMENT CENTER announces the start of an **Early Recovery Group for Newly Sober Lesbians**, with group leader **Barbara Ann Levy, MPS**; 421 E 75 St (1st/York Aves); 6:15-7:45 pm; info 222-3654/8

SLOPE ACTIVITIES FOR LESBIANS Lesbian Laundry Night, "we'll even pick you & your laundry up if you live in Park Slope (Bklyn)"; the laundromat at 173 7th Ave/1st St; 7 pm; followed by drinks/snacks at **Two Boots**, 512 2nd St/7th Ave, 8:30 pm; SAL info/rsvp 718/965-7578 (Editor's note: A lesser organization might take you to the cleaners.)

A DIFFERENT LIGHT BOOKSTORE presents **Fall 1990 Reading Series: Terry Sweeney, It's Still My Turn**; 548 Hudson St (bwn Charles/Perry Sts); 8 pm; free (but limited seating, arrive early!); 989-4850

GAY ACTIVIST ALLIANCE IN MORRIS COUNTY, NJ Weekly Meeting & Social with **Dell Richards**, author of **Lesbian Lists**; at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown NJ; 8:30 pm; \$3 members/\$4 non-members; 201/285-1595

MARC BERKLEY'S KOOL KOMRADS present **The Battle of the Bulge**, week four of a nine-week contest at Private Eyes, ending OCT 22; with **Men of Descendants vs. Men of Good-N-Plenty**; **MC Razor Sharp** with special guests; 12 W 21 St; doors open 10 pm, contest at midnight; \$7 general/\$5 with invite; 206-7772

**more
list-
ings
next
week**

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 & Ent, 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, Sta. 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)

RB PROD (Robin Byrd Prods., Box 306, NYC 10021; 988-2973)

WABC-TV (77 W 63 St, NYC 10023; 456-7777)

WBAI-FM (505 8th Ave, 19th Fl, NYC 10018; 279-0707)

WCBS-TV (51 W 52 St St, NYC 10019; 975-4321)

WNBC-TV (30 Rockefeller Plaza, NYC 10112; 664-4444)

WNET-TV (356 W 58 St, NYC 10019; 560-3000)

WNYW-TV (Fox, 1211 AV/AM, NYC 10036; 556-2400)

Editor's Notes

➤ Refers to those shows which may be affected by the new cable TV franchise agreement eliminating Channel J/23 (which is one channel, not two, as misstated by the *Times* and *Voice*). Some shows may return to Manhattan Cable (but not Paragon) channels M/26 and V/35. September is fund-raising month for WBAI. You can "vote" for more gay/lesbian programming by making a pledge while a gay/lesbian show is on the air. Money talks.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

10:00 AM WNET-TV *Souther* Hearings, till 6 pm, with a lunch break from 1-2 pm; CH 13 (8:00)

9:00 PM WNBC-TV *Babies*, Dinah Manoff, Lindsay Wagner, Marcy Walker are three close friends, different from each other, but who all want kids; CH 4 (2:00)

9:30 PM WNET-TV *John Cage: I Have Nothing to Say and I Am Saying It*, performance biography, with Yoko Ono, Merce Cunningham, Laurie Anderson, Cage biographer Richard Kostelanetz; CH 13 (1:00)

9:30 PM GBS *Out in the 90's* community news, discussion, interviews; (tape of last Tuesday's MCTV/Paragon show) BQ Cable, CH 56 (1:00)

➤ **10:00 PM** GCN *Be My Guest: Michel Tremblay's Hosanna, Wigstock*; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (3:00)

11:30 PM *Tomorrow/Tonight Live!*: entertainment; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, CH D/17 (1:00)

midnight CCTV *The Closet Case Show*: Jock Special; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, CH C/16 (3:00)

12:30 AM *The Brenda and Glenda Show*; Manhattan Cable, CH C/16 (see 8:30 PM)

➤ **1:00 AM** *Gay TV*: gay male porn; Paragon Cable, CH J/23 (3:00)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

4:00 PM WCBS-TV *Geraldo*: fatal accidents at children's summer camps; CH 2 (1:00)

5:00 PM HBO *The Truth About Alex*: Jock Scott Bale learns his best friend is homosexual (1:00)

8:00 PM A&E *Richard M. Nixon*: a portrait, including the Watergate scandal; interviews with Helen Thomas, Ben Bradlee, John Ehrlichman, John Dean, Ted Sorenson (1:30)

9:00 PM WCBS-TV *Field of Dreams* (1989), a baseball fantasy with Kevin Costner; CH 2 (2:20)

9:00 PM Lifetime *My Body, My Child* (1982): Vanessa Redgrave as a Catholic woman considering abortion of a likely-deformed unborn child (2:00)

10:00 PM WABC-TV *Tribute to Oprah Winfrey*, recognizing her generosity and humanity are Barbara Bush, Lily Tomlin, Whoopi Goldberg, MC Hammer, James Earl Jones, Roseanne Barr, Fred Savage, Kirk Cameron, Bob Hope, others; CH 7 (1:00)

10:00 PM MTV *Sex in the '90s*: candid opinions on abortion, AIDS, birth control, pornography (1:00)

11:00 PM GBS *Out in the 90's: Neil Broome's Perfect Targets*; Manhattan & Paragon Cable, CH C/16 (1:00)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 AM WBAI-FM *Ghosts in the Machine*: women in pop,

with *Victoria Starr*; 99.5 FM

12:30 PM WNET-TV *AIDS Babies: Fighting for the Children*; Dr. James Oleske, Newark Children's Hospital, in a pediatric AIDS ward; CH 13 (3:00)

10:00 PM WABC-TV *An Evening With... Cher, Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler, Olivia Newton-John, Meryl Streep, Robin Williams* benefiting Mothers and Others for a Livable Planet, in LA; CH 7 (1:00)

➤ **midnight** RB PROD *The Robin Byrd Show*: male and female strippers; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, CH J/23 (1:00)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1:00 PM WBAI-FM *This Way Out*, the int'l gay/lesbian magazine; 99.5 FM (3:00)

1:30 PM WBAI-FM *An Afternoon Outing*: local news and information about the gay/lesbian community; today: a special one-hour bilingual edition with *Larry Gatenburg* and *Gonzalo Aburto*; 99.5 FM (1:00)

2:30 PM WBAI-FM *AIDS: Paths to Self-Empowerment & Living*: *Bob Lederer* and *Jim Fouratt* discuss alternative treatments, self-empowerment, politics; with interviews of health practitioners, PWAs, activists; 99.5 FM (1:00)

➤ **7:00 PM** GBS *Way Out!*: *Mark Chesnut* and *Carol Polcovar* host a lesbian and gay entertainment show; tonight: *Steven Broadway*, body painter and Quick! invitation artist; *Wigstock* coverage; *Rich Volo*, producer, 254-7685; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (3:00)

8:00 PM WOR-TV *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955), *James Dean*, *Sai Minso*, *Natalie Wood*, *Jim Backus*, *Dennis Hopper*; CH 9 (2:00)

9:00 PM WLW-TV *People's Podium*: members of our community pose questions to City Health Commissioner *Woodrow Myers* and openly-gay Mental Health Commissioner *Billy E. Jones*; Manhattan/Paragon Cable, CH L/25

➤ **9:30 PM** GMHC *Living With AIDS*: health and politics; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (3:00)

➤ **10:30 PM** GCN *Gay U.S.A.*: news and entertainment from around the country; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (1:00) (For Paragon Cable, see SATURDAY)

➤ **11:30 PM** RB PROD *Men For Men*: *Robin Byrd* presents gay male porno stars; Manhattan Cable, CH J/23 (3:00)

➤ **11:30 PM** GMHC *Living With AIDS*: health and politics; Paragon Cable, CH J/23 (3:00)

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DANCING OUT

Monday

♣ **Private Eyes** (*Hom-o-Sexual Snack-A-Teria*; Razor Sharp & strippers, snackboys; students, professionals; \$7) 12 W 21 St, club 206-7772

Tuesday

***Love Machine** (Larry Tee & Lahoma Van Zandt, young & exotic crowd) 860 Bway, at 17 St; 254-4005

***Private Eyes** (Marshall Simon's *Rock 'n' Roll Drag Bar*, \$7) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves; 206-7774

***Roxy** (*Man on Wheels*, gay roller skating; starts 8 pm) 515 W 18 St; 645-5156

Wednesday

***Better Days** (primarily gay men of color) 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves); 245-8925

***Limelight** (Michael Alig & Larry Tee's *Disco 2000*, 10 pm, \$10; *Coors served*) 8th Ave at 20 St; club 807-7850

Private Eyes (*YMVA Night*; students, professionals, lesbians and non-gay women; \$7) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves; 206-7772

***Pyramid** (Linda's *Channel 69* party, DJ & live lesbian/gay shows; East Village crowd; \$5) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6/7 Streets; 420-1590

Silver Lining (2-4-1 drinks, also open Tues-Sun, women SAT) 175 Cherry La., Floral Pk, LI; 516/354-9641

***Sod-O-Mee** (Lahoma Van Zandt, porn stars, go-go boys; opens 10:30 pm, \$7) 565 W 23 St (11th Ave); 366-5253

Stutz (2-4-1 drinks, also open daily) 202 Westchester Ave, White Plains; 914/761-3100

Thursday

***Copacabana** (last Thu. of the month Susanna Bartsch party, next is Sept. 27; iffy door) 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

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

♣ **Private Eyes** (David Leigh & Lee Chappell's *New Turf*, with biker dancers; \$8) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves; 206-7772

Quick! 6 Hubert St (on Hudson, 5 blocks below Canal); 925-2442

***Roxy** (*Disco Interruptus*, DJs Sister Dimension & Patrick Butts, entertainment breaks; \$10; opens SEPT 13) 515 W 18; 645-5156

Friday

Columbia Dances (1st Friday of every month, including summer, next is October 5) 116th St & Bway; 854-3574 days

Meat (Aldo Hernandez's *alternate* Fridays, next is Sept. 28; DJ, go-go boys, videos; opens 10 pm; \$5) 432 W 14 St; 353-3866

Octagon (Patrick's *Friday Night Jam Session*, primarily gay men of color; free munchies; opens 11 pm) 555 W 33 St; 947-0400

Private Eyes (*YMVA Night*; students, professionals, men) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves; 206-7772

***Quick!** (*Panty Girdles*; TVs, gays, straights) 6 Hubert St (on Hudson, 5 blocks below Canal); 925-2442

Saturday

Barefoot Boogie (smoke & alcohol free) 434 6th Ave (btwn 9/10 Sts); 832-6759

♣ **Columbia Dances** (*Same But Different*, 3rd SAT except next on SEPT 22; DJ Karin Ward, 10 pm - 3 am; \$5) Earl Hall, 116 St/B'way; 629-1989
419 419 N. Highway, Southampton, LI; 516/283-5001

Love Zone (dancing & performers) 70 Beach St, Staten Island; 718/442-5692

***Roxy** (gays/TVs/club kids; non-gay women, some lesbians; mix depends on party) 515 W 18 St (btwn 10/11 Aves); 645-5156

Sound Factory (mostly gay; serious House/Club dancing, no alcohol, opens 11 pm) 530 W 27 St (10th/11th Aves); 643-0728

Sunday

***Better Days** (primarily gay men of color) 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves); 245-8925

The Building (Club Bad's *The Men's Room*, students, professionals, men; go-go boys & 60-ft. ceiling) 51 W 26 St; 576-1890

Monster (Sunday Tea Dance at 4 pm; dancing also on other nights from 10 pm) 80 Grove St at Sheridan Sq.; 924-3557

***Pyramid** (*Scream*; DJs Patrick and Aaron, host Loretta; \$5) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6/7 Streets; 420-1590

***Roxy** (*A Groovy Kind of Love* and *YMVA*) 515 W 18 St; 645-5156
20/20 (Michael Fesco's *Tea Dance*, opens 5 pm; \$8; free Mimosas & BMs from 5-7, buffet at 7:30; *Miller served*) 20 W 20 St; 727-8841

Every Night (or almost)

419 (nightly *Gay House Party*, opens 6 pm) 419 N. Highway (Rte 27), Southampton, LI; 516/283-5001

Grand Central (closed Mon & Tues, 2-4-1 drinks Thursday) 210 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, LI; 516/536-4800

Magic Touch (ethnic mix; Anglo/Latin/Asian) 73-13 37th Rd, Jackson Heights, Queens; 718/429-8605

Monster (West Village) 80 Grove St at Sheridan Sq.; 924-3557

Spectrum (closed Mon-Tue, WED free, THU free & 2-4-1 drinks, FRI w/ft strip, SAT record stars, SUN variety show & free 9-10 pm; *Coors served*) 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

Grand Central (women's night, also open Wed-Sun) 210 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, LI; 516/536-4800

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

Private Eyes (*Shescape Afterwork Party*, 5-10 pm; \$5 before 7 pm, \$7 after; 2-4-1 drinks before 7) 12 W 21 St; info 645-6479, club 206-7772

Thursday

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

Friday

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

Clit Club (Jocelyn & Julie's *alternate* Fridays, next is Sept. 21; go-go girls, lesbo videos; 9 pm; \$1 drinks before 10; \$5) 432 W 14 St; 406-1114

Hatfield's 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens; 718/261-8484

Millennium (*Ladies' Night*) 1770 NY Ave (Rte 110), Huntington, LI; 516/351-1402

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

Handle Bar (*Her Planet*, alternate Saturdays, \$8; opens SEPT 22) 232 E 9 St (btwn 2nd/3rd Aves); info 255-7875

Silver Lining 175 Cherry Lane, Floral Park, LI; 516/354-9641

Starz 836 Grand Boulevard, Dear Park, LI; 516/242-3857

Sunday

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

Pulse (*Shescape Tea Dances for Women*, 7 pm - midnight, \$5 before 8 pm/\$7 thereafter) 226 E 54 St (2nd/3rd Aves); info 645-8479

Every Night (or almost)

Duchess II (small dance floor) Sheridan Sq. & 7th Ave South; 242-1408

Spectrum (closed Mon & Tues; good gay/lesbian mix, see *Every Night*, above, for details) 802 64th St, Bklyn.; 718/238-8213

Editor's tips for tourists:

A (*) denotes a club that attracts TVs. A (n) denotes a new listing. Clubs generally open at 10 pm, close at 4 am, unless otherwise noted. Admissions range from \$5 to \$15. Invites offer discounts, and are sometimes required. It's wise to call ahead to confirm that a party is still happening.

Some clubs, especially Copacabana, but also Limelight, Love Machine, Roxy, and others, let people in randomly or selectively; instead of having a simple line at the door. Mixed parties usually get gayer as the night wears on.

Clubs that serve *Coors* or *Miller* will be noted but not excluded from these listings. Send information, corrections, & complaints to Rick X, Box 790, NYC 10108.

You may also fax Rick X at 212/337-1220. Discrimination on the basis of race, gender and orientation is illegal. Selectivity based on attire, attractiveness and attitude is not. Coming early helps.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

A.C.C.C.

AIDS CENTER OF QUEENS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES-EDUCATION-BUDDIES-COUNSELING-SUPPORT GROUPS

Volunteer Opportunities
(718) 896-2500(voice)
(718) 896-2989(TDD)

ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power)

405A Hudson Street, Suite G4 NYC 10014(212) 989-1114

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, in The Great Hall, Cooper Union, on Cooper Square between Astor and St. Marks Place's.

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)

Supportive housing for homeless PWAs (Bailey House and apartments). Non-judgmental pastoral care for PWAs and loved ones. Volunteer opportunities. (212) 481-1270, 24 West 30th St., NYC 10001

ALOE/C/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) 517-5598 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 10606(914) 983-0908
838 Broadway, Newburgh, NY 12550(914) 562-5005
AIDSline (914) 983-0887

ASIANS & FRIENDS-NEW YORK

A not-for-profit organization which promotes friendships with Asian/Pacific Islander, Asian-American, and non-Asian gay men through social, cultural, educational, and service activities and programs. Call our Hotline: 212-674-5064, or write to: P.O. Box 6628, NY, NY 10163-6023.

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) 288-4198. Publications free/donation requested.

BAR ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Lawyers Referral Service for the Lesbian and Gay Community Full Range of Legal Services (212) 459-4673 Free Walk-in Legal Clinic, Tuesday 6-8 pm, Lesbian & Gay Community Centr. Ground Floor

BIDS (BISEXUAL DOMINANCE & SUBMISSION GROUP)

Shares S/M experiences and fantasies with others in a positive, non-judgmental 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 INFORMATION & COUNSELING SERVICE, INC.

A professionally staffed, non-profit organization for bisexuals, their families and partners, facing problems of a psychological or medical kind. We also work with those in doubt about their sexuality. Confidentiality is protected by law. For information phone: (212) 459-4784

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. (212) 459-4784

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. (212) 459-4784

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 8:30-9pm. For more info call Lisa at (212) 829-8817.

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.
2085 Broadway, Suite 300, NY, 10023

BROOKLYN'S LESBIAN AND GAY POLITICAL CLUB LAMBDA INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

L.I.D. endorses and works for candidates in local, state and national elections, lobbies for legislation, and conducts community outreach through streetfairs and meetings on special topics. Join us, 338 Ninth St., Suite 135 Brooklyn, NY 11215 (718) 965-8482

CIRCLE OF MORE LIGHT

Spiritual support and sharing in a gay/lesbian affirmative group. West Park Presbyterian Church 185 West 86th Street West: worship service 6:30 pm, program 7:30. Manha (212) 304-4373 Chelsea (212) 691-7118.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

208 West 13th Street, NYC, New York 10011 For appointments and information (212) 675-3550 (TTY) Voice/PROVIDING CARING, SENSITIVE AND LOW COST HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

CRI tests experimental drugs and treatments for AIDS and HIV related illnesses. Monthly treatment and research group for HIV+ individuals. Treatment and research newsletter, forums and public seminars. Call Alice Spears or Ken Formattaro at (212) 481-1050 for info and mailing list.

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH

NY's Gay and Lesbian Synagogue Services Friday at 8:30pm 57 Bathurst Street For info. call: (212) 929-9498.

CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN

Monthly Spiritual Gatherings and free catered festive luncheons for all People With AIDS, their lovers and families. Program includes music and discussion led by our Rabbi. Call (212) 787-7800

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) 818-1369.

DIGNITY NEW YORK

Lesbian and gay Catholics and friends AIDS Ministry, Spiritual Development, The Cathedral Project, Worship Services & Social-Sun. Even. 7:30pm-St. John's Episcopal Church 218 West 11th Street @ Waverly-675-2179

EDGE Education in a Disabled Gay Environment

For the physically disabled Lesbian and Gay Community. (212) 989-1821 P.O. Box 305 Village Station, New York, NY 10014

FRONT RUNNERS

A running club for lesbian and gay athletes of all abilities. Fun Runs of 1-6 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) 724-6700.

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 688 E 57th St Suite 410 NYC, NY 10022 (212) 529-1000

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

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

GAY FATHER'S FORUM

A support organization for gay fathers, their lovers, and others in child-nurturing situations. Monthly meetings include a potluck supper, support groups on varied specialized topics, speakers, and socializing. Meetings: 1st Friday each month, 7pm, at The Center, 208 W. 13th St., West of 7th Ave. Contribution: \$6. Bring a main course for 4 people (or pay a \$5 food charge.) For information call: 212-679-7541 or 212-288-3236

GLAAD Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

10 Verick Street, NYC 10013 (212) 986-1700 (GLAAD) combats homophobia in the media and elsewhere by promoting visibility of the lesbian and gay community and organizing grassroots responses to anti-gay bigotry. Do you have 30 minutes a month to fight homophobia? Join the GLAAD Phone Line! Call (212) 686-1700 for information.

GLIB

Gay and Lesbian Independent Broadcasters invites you to tune into OUTLOOKS on WBAI-NY, 98.5 FM every other Sunday, 7:30-8:30pm and join us every Tuesday at 7:00pm to 9:00pm to become a member of GLIB. No experience needed, 505 Eighth Avenue, NY, NY 10018. Atrc Outlooks or call (212) 245-6366- ask for GLIB.

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 67, New York, NY 10013. For info call (212) 566-4995.

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS

Dedicated to safe and responsible S/M since 1981. Open meetings w/programs on S/M techniques, lifestyle issues, political and social concerns. Also special events, speakers bureau, workshops, demos, affinity groups, newsletter, more. GMSMA -Dept. O, 496A Hudson Street, Suite D23, NYC 10014.(212) 727-9678.

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 718-802-0182.

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: 212-867-6852/212-645-7470 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, Palham, NY 10603.

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.

HERITAGE OF PRIDE, INC.
Organizers of New York's Lesbian and Gay Pride events: the March, the Rally and the Dance on the Pier. Call (212) 691-1774 for meeting schedule or more information. 208 West 13th Street, NY, NY 10011.

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) 691-4181 or write H.U.G.L., P.O. Box 228 Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10018.

IDENTITY HOUSE
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Meets Tuesdays at 8pm at 181 Post Ave. in Westbury, NY. Support us for change on Long Island. Mailing address: PO Box 514, Westbury, NY 11590. 516-338-8822.

LSM
is a support and information group for lesbians and bisexual women interested in fantasy, role-playing, bondage, discipline, S/M, fetishes, alternate gender identities, costumes and so forth. Membership is available only to women 18 years and older. Actual experience is not required but genuine interest and an open mind are. For information please write: P.O. Box 963, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156

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) 245-6399 or (212) 222-6794.

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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) 238-1796.

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 20008. (202) 332-6453.

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 Out-Week for one free newsletter.

N.Y. FEMMES
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NORTHERN LIGHTS ALTERNATIVES
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PEOPLE WITH AIDS HEALTH GROUP
Underground buyer's club importing not-yet-approved medications and nutritional supplements. 31 West 28th St. 4th Floor (212) 532-0280

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338 Canal Street, 8th Floor, NYC 10013 212-645-3351

QUEER NATION
The Lesbian and Gay direct action group dedicated to fighting homophobic and Gay and Lesbian invisibility. Anyone can suggest an action and should come to meetings prepared to organize and implement it. O.N., Box 1524, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10003. Call 212-483-7208 for meeting info.

SAGE: (Senior Action in a Gay Environment)
Social Service Agency providing care, activities, & educational services for gay & lesbian senior citizens. Also serves over 100 homebound seniors & older PWA's. 208 West 13th St. NYC 10011, (212) 741-2247

SETHIAN GAYS, LESBIANS AND BISEXUALS
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SUNDANCE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SOCIETY
A non-profit club offering outdoor activities for every season including hiking, biking, skiing, water activities and other outdoor activities for the Gay/Lesbian community. For information or complimentary Newsletter call (212) 598-4726.

THE OUTREACH USING COMMUNAL HEALING (TOUCH)
Community volunteers providing a weekly buffet supper for the Brooklyn AIDS community. TOUCH meets Monday eves. 5pm to 8:30pm at downtown Brooklyn Friends Meeting House (110 Schermerhorn St. near Boerum Place). Limited transportation may be arranged. Info: (718) 622-2788. 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 pm. at the Unitarian Church on Sewall Road in Kingston. For information, call (914) 628-3033.

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A direct-action group committed to demanding, securing and defending absolute reproductive freedom and quality health care for all women. We meet every Wed. at 6:30 pm at 105, E 22nd St., 4th Floor. (212) 713-5986. Mailing address: WHAMI, P.O. Box 733, NYC 10008

WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY CENTER (WACC)
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 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

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 Crazy Nanny's, 21 7th Avenue South, 366-6312 (Women)

- D.T.'s Fat Cat, 281 W. 12th St., 243-9041
 Duchess II, 70 Grove St (7th Ave.), 242-1408 (Women)
 Dugout, 185 Christopher St., 242-9113 (formerly the Ramrod)
 Eighty Eights, 228 W 10 St., 924-0088
 J's (The Hangout), 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
 Marie's Crisis, 59 Grove St. (7th Ave), 243-9323
 The Monster, 80 Grove St. (7th Ave.), 924-3558
 New Jimmy's, 53 Christopher, 463-0950
 Ninth Circle, 139 W. 10th St., 243-9204
 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
 Gents, 360 W 42 St. (9th Ave), 967-0659
 Sally's Hideaway, 264 W. 43 St., 221-9152
 Town & Country, 9th Ave at 46th St., 307-1503
 Trix, 246 W. 48 St. (bet. Bow & 8th Ave), 664-8331
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EAST SIDE

- Bogart's, 320 E. 59th St., 688-8534
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 NY Confidential, 306 E 49 St., 308-8390
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 Rounds, 303 E. 53rd St., 593-0807
 South Dakota, 405 3rd Ave (at 29 St.), 684-8376
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- 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

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 Spectrum, 802 64th St. (at 8th Ave), 745-9611
 Sweet Sensations, 6322 20th St., 435-2580

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 Hatfield's, 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, 261-8484
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Blanche, 47-2 Boundary Ave., Farmingdale, 694-6906

Grand Central, 210 Merrick Rd, Rockville Centre, 536-4800

Pal Joey's, 2457 Jerusalem Ave, North Bellmore, 785-9301

Silver Lining, 175 Cherry Lane, New Hyde Park, 354-9641

Station House Pub, 3547 Merrick Rd, Seaford, 785-9808

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419, 419 North Highway (Rt. 27), Southampton, 283-5001

Bunkhouse, 192 N. Main St. Sayville, 567-2865

Cherry's, Bayview Walk, Cherry Grove, FI, 597-6820

Club Swamp Disco/Annex Restaurant, Montauk Hwy, Wainscott, 537-3332

Ice Palace, Cherry Grove Beach Club, FI, 597-6600

Kiss, 161 Farnardie Dr., Lake Ronkonkoma, 467-9273

Club 608, 608 Sunrise Hwy., W. Babylon., 661-9580

Millennium, 1770 NY Ave, Huntington, 351-1402

Starz, 836 Grand Boulevard, Deer Park, 242-3857

Thunders, 894 W. Jericho Tpke., Smithtown, 864-1410

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Charlie's West, 536 Main St., E. Orange, 678-5002

Feather's, 77 Kinderkamack Rd., River Edge, 342-6410

Friendly's Bar, 6310 Park Ave., West New York, 854-9895

Excalibur, 10th & Jefferson, Hoboken, NJ, 795-1161

Nite Lite, 509 22nd St., Union City, 863-9515

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Yacht Club, 366 Berkshire Valley Rd., Jefferson, 697-9780

STOP THE VIOLENCE

BE STREET SMART!

Anyone can be a victim of crime. Anti-gay & anti-lesbian violence is random. You can reduce your chances of becoming a crime victim in the following ways:

STAY ALERT!

Awareness is your best self-defense.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!

If you think something is wrong, remove yourself from the situation.

PROJECT CONFIDENCE!

Walk as if you know where you're going.

- ▼ Don't walk alone, especially if you are upset or intoxicated.
- ▼ Be aware of who gets off the bus or subway with you.
- ▼ Choose busy, well-lit streets.
- ▼ Walk near the curb, avoiding doorways, alleys, construction sights and parks after dark.
- ▼ If you feel threatened, cross the street, turn around, run to a safe place or walk closer to traffic.
- ▼ Always have money for a bus, cab or phone call.
- ▼ Be aware of who is in front of you and who is behind you.
- ▼ Don't wear headphones.
- ▼ Have your keys in hand when you reach your home or car.
- ▼ Conceal your money and jewelry.
- ▼ Carry a whistle, and if you feel threatened, blow it, or shout "fire" to attract attention.
- ▼ If you decide to bring someone home, introduce her or him to a friend or bartender so that someone knows with whom you left.
- ▼ Harassment is often a prelude to an assault. If you decide to answer back, be prepared for any consequences that may occur.

BUY A WHISTLE! BUY A WHISTLE!



Blow it if you feel threatened. If you hear the sound of a whistle, try to determine where the sound is coming from; call 911; gather other people and rush to the sound blowing your own whistles. The purpose is not to physically intervene, but to scare off attackers with a number of people on the scene. AVP has whistles for \$1.

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People with HIV disease who cannot afford a paid subscription may obtain a complimentary copy by calling the National AIDS Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-458-5231.

SAFETY TIPS

You can never insure that you won't become a crime victim. No crime victim is to blame for the crime committed against them. Nevertheless, these few safety tips may be helpful:

- Identify local "danger zones" in the places you frequent. Avoid these areas, especially when you are alone. Keep on top of the news, especially the lesbian and gay press, to learn if a particular neighborhood has become a target for gay bashing.

- Plot our "safe" routes from subway stations and bus stops to your home and other places you frequent often. Note well-lit streets and stores open late at night.

- If you feel threatened or unsafe, trust your instincts and remove yourself from the situations quickly as possible. Run. Bang garbage cans. Make noise. Yell "Fire". Call 911 for police assistance as soon as possible.

- Letting someone you don't know into your home makes you vulnerable to robbery and assault. If you leave a bar with someone you've just met, introduce her/him to a friend or the bartender. Let other people know you are leaving together. Exchange names and phone numbers before you get home.

- Women should beware of men in "mixed" bars who claim to be gay and invite women to their homes.

- Be wary of taxis that wait outside of gay and lesbian bars and clubs. Try to leave bars, community centers, and other gay/lesbian identifies facilities with people you know. Assailants sometimes wait for potential victims outside places where lesbians and gay men meet.

- Carry a whistle. consider taking a self-defense class.

- Most importantly, be alert and remain aware of your surroundings.

GOSSIP WATCH

Continued from page 48

in making the Frankenstein you've become. Fine. But do not even try coming back to us when everything crumbles—and it always does, Sandy. It always does. See, as you once said, without us, you're nothing.

Oh, boy. Someone just threw the new issue of *Paper* on my desk, and after briefly breezing through it, I see that, while Joe Dolce continues to do a great job addressing gay and AIDS issues, and while the monthly for the most part gives us an honest and cutting-edge slice of downtown life, George Wayne's "In the Raw" gossip column is severely bumming me out. Message to *Paper* editor David Hershkovits: If Wayne wants a job at Condé Nast, you should instruct him to send his resume there and not shamelessly use his column and your publication to apply for it by kissing up, thereby insulting the readers with such drek and embarrassing the editors. I mean, it's disempowering and just plain annoying to open up an alternative publication and then see photos of monsters like Tina Brown and S.I. Newhouse in the gossip column, accompanied by glowing write-ups of them and other high society oppressor boldface types. I can read Suzy (*New York Post*) for that. (Wayne also has his own underground publication called *ROME*, and this month's cover girl is *Vogue* editor, Anna Wintour. Get the picture?)

But I suppose we shouldn't expect more from alternative or community presses. And the *Amsterdam News* is a clear example. In the same week in which they endorsed open lesbian Deborah Glick for the state Assembly and printed a story about Rutgers University cutting ROTC scholarships because of the armed forces' anti-gay policies, the weekly ran a chillingly homophobic piece headlined "Village Voice Exceeds Boundaries of Decency," written by their media columnist, Abiola Sinclair.

Sinclair takes issue particularly with what she calls "a gay trash column," Michael Musto's "La Dolce Musto," in the *Voice's* Aug. 25 edition in which Musto ran a photo taken at the gay club Sod-O-Mee. In the picture, a club patron's mouth is on a go-go boy's plastic covered crotch (the

dancers wore clear plastic jockstraps). Sinclair gets all bent out of shape about Musto's listing of gay "underground" clubs (because, she says, kids can pick up the *Voice*) and about the sexual imagery (as well as about other photos that have appeared in the *Voice* showing "lesbians bare-chested"). "Not satisfied with his normal tweak at the boundaries of good taste, Musto and the management of the *Village Voice* have literally flushed themselves down the toilet of journalism. They are nothing more than a gay rag masquerading as a 'newspaper.'" Gee, Abiola, what if someone called the *Amsterdam News* "a Black rag masquerading as a 'newspaper?'" You'd rightfully claim that that was extremely racist. DON'T YOU THEN SEE HOW HOMOPHOBIC AND HATEFUL YOUR STATEMENT IS, ASSHOLE?

Sinclair goes on to tell us that "the *Village Voice* is...promoting homosexuality in one form or another," and that the paper "assumes everyone wants their noses rubbed in homosexuality, lesbianism and sexual exploitation." And she informs parents that they should not have their children read the *Voice*, but rather, they should read "the rap magazines [which are] nice, decent, interesting publications that I recommend." Not to give rap a bad rap, dear Abiola, but I've looked at plenty of those magazines, and lots of them are all about groups which have advocated raping and then slicing up women, beating children to a pulp, instigating gang wars, carrying knives, guns and bombs and pulverizing and pummeling the horrible, despicable, disgusting queers until they're dead. Oh, but I suppose the latter would be right up your alley.

No, Abiola, you should tell the kids to read the *Voice*. Because if some of the kids happen to be lesbian or gay (and 10 percent of them are and always will be, no matter what you or they do), they'll thank God that there's a publication that recognizes them, makes them visible as an integral part of society and does not depict them as grotesque freaks who should be banished. Perhaps then they wouldn't be among the statistics, the many victims of suicide (a whopping 30 percent of all teen suicides are among gay and lesbian teens who feel shunned by society and want only to

be accepted for what they are). And the straight kids need to read the *Voice*, too, so that they will be sensitized to gays and won't feel that they must act on the irrational fear that monsters like you have reinforced in them—the urge to go out and beat lesbians and gays because they perceive them to be perverse and subhuman. (Gay-bashing in New York City is up 162 percent this year.)

The editors of the *Amsterdam News* should realize that being sensitive and gay-positive in some areas of the paper and then having bigots in others doesn't cut it. Such biases should be tolerated nowhere. Abiola Sinclair is a homophobe. And, with every hateful, anti-gay word she spews, she discredits the paper as well as condones violence against lesbians and gay men. But perhaps the editors need to hear that message—OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN—spitting out of their fax machine until it gets lodged in their brains. Fax them this column at (212) 222-3842. And then...FAX IT AGAIN.▼

Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood



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We meet in Manhattan & the Bronx at
The Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 1st &
3rd Fridays of every month, 6:30-9:00 pm
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Bronx AIDS Services Room,
2nd Wed. of every month, 6:30-9:00 pm.

Contact 919/920-0817 or 919/400-1131
BLUS P.O. Box 1944, Bronx, NY 10469



Men of All Colors
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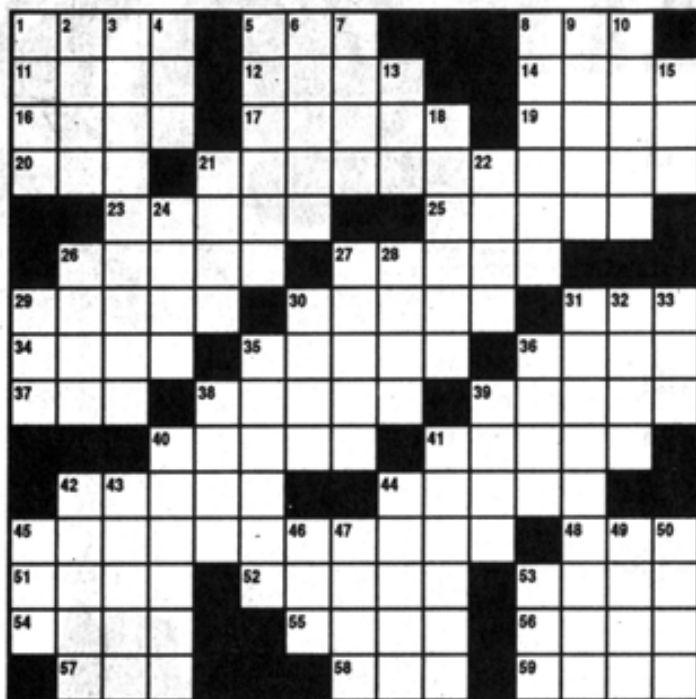
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For immediate service call Toll-Free 1-800-OUT-WEEK.

OUTWEEK CROSSWORD

by Greg Baysans

Edited by Gerard Mackey



7. _____ *Alice*, Albee play
8. Gave birth, as a mare
9. Rafsanjani's religion
10. Vascular body
13. Follow
15. Fort near Monterey
18. *The Lotus* _____
21. Dewlap
22. Peruse
24. Uttered
26. Included
27. Door: Fr.
28. Tibetan monk
29. Resort
30. Execute, in a way
31. Marilyn, once
32. Uncloses: poet.
33. Eric the _____
35. Creator of an amusement park ride
36. Injure
38. Duo
39. Leafy plant
40. Arises
41. Kitchen utensils
42. Stage whisper
43. Author cited in 23-across
44. Holy book of 9-down
45. Atty's group
46. Reserved
47. Certain African
49. Fairy tale character
50. Italian family of crossword fame
53. Wt. measures

SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S *OUTWEEK*—ON SALE MONDAY

ACROSS

1. Nearly all
5. Rent
8. Pear-shaped fruit
11. Division word
12. Eager
14. Northern European capital
16. Land unit
17. Cree's craft
19. Controversial pesticide
20. Visit
21. Featured performer in one version of 45-across
23. "A saint _____ to be for two."
25. Rains cats and dogs
26. "_____ man who danced with his wife."
27. Beg
29. Plodding one
30. Miser's verb
31. Neither's companion
34. Walden, for one
35. Rural sights
36. Faith, _____ and charity
37. "_____ so to bed"
38. Five: pref.

39. Managed
40. NCO, for short
41. Salon sets
42. Moving
44. "Instant _____," Lennon song
45. Film thrice-made
48. Playwright Orton
51. Catafalque
52. Beach locale
53. Appendages
54. Mine entrance
55. "The _____ of Living Dangerously"
56. Gymnast Conner
57. Printer's measures
58. TLC dispensers
59. Snicker _____

DOWN

1. Actress Farrow et al.
2. "_____ upon a time..."
3. Featured performer in one version of 45-across
4. Digit
5. Gap
6. Skirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



*"I'd often admired his sculpted
hairless body in the showers at
the gym. I thought he was straight,
but was never quite sure.
I had just spotted him working
his way onto the dance floor at
The Boy's Room.
My heart stopped."*

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OPENING NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19, 1990

51 WEST 26TH ST. NYC 10:00 PM

YOUR HOST: DALLAS

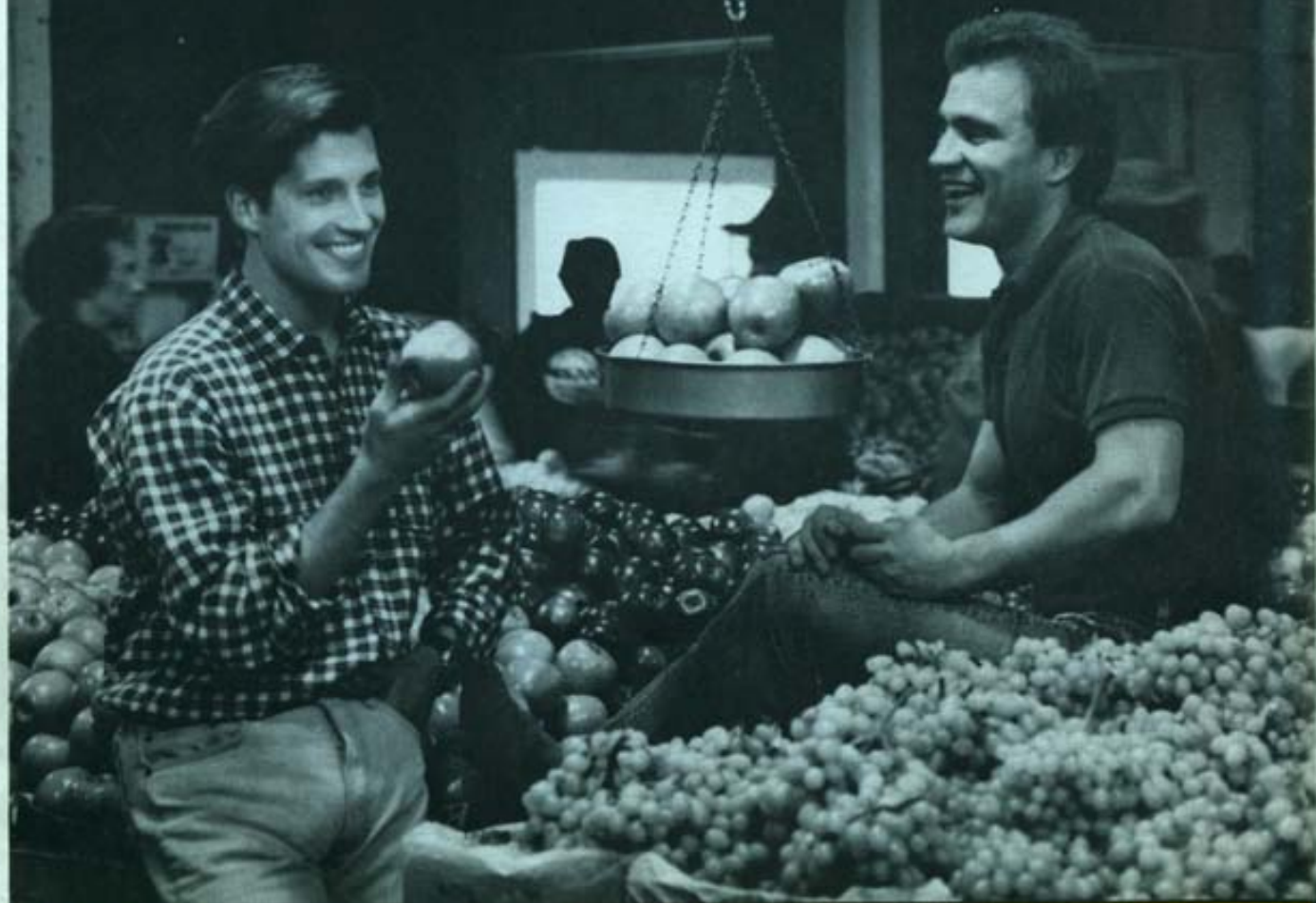
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