

OUT WEEK

NEW YORK'S
LESBIAN
AND GAY
NEWS
MAGAZINE

KRAMER: WHY I HATE HIZZONER
THE DIARY OF BARNEY FRANK
GIRLS OF PROSPECT PARK
PEEK A BOO II

KOCH'S FALL FROM GRACE

by Sandor Katz

NEWS • SEXUAL POLITICS • HEALTH • THE ARTS

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OUTSPOKEN

What's going on here?

On the one hand, we are presented with imperfect but growing evidence that new treatments exist to prevent the onset of full-blown AIDS in HIV infected people. AZT, DDI, aerosolized pentamidine and bactrim are touted as being breakthrough drugs, and that's great. But on the other hand, these treatments are unavailable to the vast majority of those in need.

Clinics that can monitor people's T-cell counts and begin timely preventative care are full and accepting no more patients. Aerosolized pentamidine programs are not set up in local hospitals and may not be for a year or more. AZT isn't paid for by Medicaid until a person's immune system (and bank account) is so depleted that the full preventative benefits can no longer be realized. T-cell testing is prohibitively expensive for most.

It seems an almost deliberately cruel hoax that the government feels free to dangle the prize of health to the HIV-infected and then withhold that prize to most. It's especially bizarre considering that the cost of prophylactic care, even given Burroughs-Wellcome's criminal price gouging for AZT, is still far less than the government's inevitable financial burden when it ends up caring for those who fall to the full onslaught of AIDS.

So what's the deal? How can our "leaders" be so stupid? The answers are the same as they have been since the beginning of the epidemic: inertia, homophobia, racism, stupidity, cheapness, cowardice, passive genocide. The same responses that groups like ACT-UP have mounted against these horrors in the past must be escalated to new heights, because now with effective treatments in existence but unavailable, the battle is more than ever one of life and death.

We stand at the verge of a huge potential disaster or a well-deserved salvation. While 100,000 have already been diagnosed with AIDS, many, many times that number are fast approaching that bleak condition. Although the new therapies aren't perfect, although scientists show their contempt for us by ruling through press releases instead of published studies, although legitimate questions are unanswered and drug companies continue their gouging, nevertheless a clear consensus is emerging: Pre-AIDS is becoming treatable and full-blown AIDS often preventable.

To take advantage of this situation people must strive to take control of their lives and their health by getting tested or monitoring their T-cell counts. But testing and monitoring are useless, and can be psychological disastrous, without subsequent access to treatment. If it takes a revolution to achieve such access for all, never was a revolution more justified. ▼

OutWeek

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LETTERS

Gulf in Tomchin's Resolution?

I always read letters and articles by Larry Kramer because I can always count on their anger, criticism and passion (as well as their wordiness and abrasiveness)—sentiments I hope I share with him. In your 4 September issue you print his newest attack on GMHC followed by GMHC Board President Jay Tomchin's response (Xeroxed, Sept. 4).

I don't know if all of Larry's criticisms are valid, but I do know that Ms. Tomchin responded with hot air. Her letter is nothing but endless, bland and meaningless rhetoric, filled with self-congratulations and gloating, and skirting all of Larry's points. It's hard-

ly the stuff of leadership. How unattractive. How frightening.

Larry, right or wrong, at least brings up serious, timely, relevant issues. If Tomchin's response to him is representative of the GMHC board's attitude, that's all the more reason to give Larry's criticisms careful consideration.

One of the rare times Tomchin makes a concrete point in her letter is something I can personally respond to. She says, "...we often survey the people we serve to find out how we can do more." Oh, really? I've been a GMHC client for four and a half years and haven't once been surveyed.

Craig Rowland
Manhattan

The Real Deal

The Gay Men's Health Crisis' decision to change their policy on HIV antibody testing has serious implications in regards to access to health care services for minorities, women, the uninsured, gay/bisexual men and adolescents.

In principle, there is no question that the HIV antibody test is a reliable and useful first step towards assessing a person's need to begin early treatments for HIV disease. However, to date there is an extreme shortage of primary care, crucial for medical management and monitoring of HIV-infected people, and severely limited access to health care services for the majority of populations at risk for HIV/AIDS.

The advertisements and public service announce-

ments placed by GMHC suggested that people "think about..." getting the HIV antibody test "because if you test positive, now there are choices." Drugs such as AZT and prophylaxis such as aerosolized pentamidine to "prevent some AIDS-related illnesses" as well as monitoring your immune system using diagnostic testing, specifically T-cell subsets, were given as the compelling reasons to seriously consider taking the HIV antibody test. Although these three areas are important, they are expensive, not readily available and represent only one component of the total medical management of people who are HIV seropositive. People with HIV infection require comprehensive medical services delivered by providers expert in determining the



subtle changes in health status due to HIV disease. There are a variety of symptomatic treatments available for many of the medical problems associated with HIV which often occur in the early stages of infection. For example, many HIV seropositive people have dermatological conditions, fungal infections, gastro-intestinal complications, other viral syndromes such as herpes and cytomegalovirus and are susceptible to reactivation of syphilis and tuberculosis. All of these conditions as well as managing AZT and prophylaxis against pneumocystic carinii pneumonia (PCP) require ongoing medical monitoring which includes timely follow-ups and diagnostic testing.

At the same time that GMHC announced its campaign to encourage people to take the HIV antibody test, Dr. Louis Sullivan, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, stated at a conference in Washington on *HIV Infection and Minorities* that the federal government would promote and fund expanded HIV antibody testing but would not provide funds for the support services necessitated by such massive testing. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of NIAID admitted, at the same conference, that adolescents, even homeless youth who could be considered independent minors, could not get access to prophylactic treatment programs under their control.

Two weeks before GMHC held their press conference, they met with representatives of other AIDS service organizations. The majority of these organizations raised strong objections to GMHC's policy change because of their firsthand knowledge of the lack of low cost, accessible health care for their service populations. In response GMHC told the

group that at the press conference to announce the policy change, GMHC's encouragement of HIV antibody testing would be coupled with a statement demanding that Mayor Koch keep his promise to make health care services available to every New Yorker who needs them. GMHC is not an expert in the planning and implementation of health care delivery systems. Even when funding is available to enhance or expand health care for HIV infected people, the time lag between the allocation of funding and implementation of these services is a minimum of 12 months, and problems due to site location and critical shortages of health care providers sometimes cause indefinite delays in beginning operation.

It is unfortunate that GMHC is perceived by the media as the spokesperson for the AIDS service community, especially in light of the extraordinary response mounted by the lesbian and gay community at large in regards to AIDS. If GMHC had strongly emphasized the lack of access to health care services that people need if they test HIV seropositive then at least they would have complete information to use in their decision-making process. By not doing this, GMHC has chosen to minimize the real issue in the HIV/AIDS epidemic...the lack of accessible, appropriate and affordable health care.

Rona Affoumado
Executive Director
Community Health Proj.
A. Damien Martin, PhD
Executive Director

Hetrick-Martin Institute
Rodger MacFarland
Vice Chairman, Bd. of Dir.
AIDS Resource Center

Getting Over Get Over It

I thought that *OutWeek* was a magazine for all of New York's lesbian and gay communities. Yet your editorial "Get Over It" (*OutSpoken*, August 21 issues) seemed to be written as if only the most privileged among us were reading it. "Get over it. Get tested," you wrote. And then what? Wait months for a free T-cell test, if you can get one at all? Then quit your job, and empty your bank accounts, so you can qualify for Medicaid? And then wait more months to receive "care" at a city hospital or clinic, if you can get it all? Or wait until you're sick enough to be



Nightmare of the Week

CLOSE SHAVE FOR GOETZ

Macho man jailbird Bernie (Shoot First, Ask Questions Later) Goetz has once again managed to shoot off something (in this case, his mouth) before getting all the facts. Seems Bernie's slightly uptight about being forced to shave with used razors, thinking they can give him AIDS. So nervous has he become that he's refusing to return his own razors to correction authorities, prompting them to sentence him to an additional two weeks in the slammer. We say let him keep the razors, just throw away the key.

Photo: Bill Biggart/Impact Visuals

taken to an emergency room, where you can sit for a few days before being seen by doctors who may or may not have heard of aerosolized pentamidine, who won't do the paperwork for trimetrexate, and who don't have access to early-intervention AZT?

Even for those few lucky enough to have either health insurance or a large fortune available to be squandered on the medical and pharmaceutical industries, the imperious tone of your editorial was uncalled for. As was the ridicule of those who doubt AZT, or the HIV theory, or are concerned about the psychological consequences of a positive test. Serious and tragic medical and economic issues require more than oversimplified rhetoric.

I expected more from *OutWeek*.

Steve Quester
Manhattan

Getting Over Optimistic

When you wrote an editorial about preventing "the onset of AIDS indefinitely" by using AZT in conjunction with pentamidine (*OutSpoken*, Aug. 21) presumably you were referring to the CDC definition of AIDS that looks narrowly at PCP pneumonia and one or two other opportunistic infections.

While it is true that PCP is largely preventable, it is currently untrue to say that AIDS is largely preventable. As for now the only sure way to avoid AIDS is through safe sex (and not sharing works).

OutWeek has a responsibility to its readers to balance optimism with accuracy. After all, when AIDS is preventable, safe sex will no longer be necessary.

Barry Canter
Manhattan

Quit Calling It "Quilt Calls It Quits"

The Quilt calls it quits

(*OutWeek* Sept 4)? Never. The NAMES Project is committed to assembling and displaying the Quilt until the last person has died of AIDS. The display in Washington will be the last time the Quilt is seen in its entirety only because it will be too large



for any known space. The approximately 11,000 panels coming to Washington are a tragic representation of one of every five people who have died of AIDS, and the Quilt will continue to tour in smaller sections to bring the reality of AIDS to communities in the United States and indeed the world. On display in Washington will be panels from all 50 states, from Australia, Canada, Uganda, Brazil and Europe. The Quilt is a remarkable memorial, one which remembers the dead in overwhelmingly human terms, but which also educates the living in the tragedies of AIDS. Our commitment to the future honors the past.

Nancy Blanford
Regional Representative
The NAMES Project

Zero Credibility

A year ago, I began attending ACT UP meetings at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center on 13th St. These meetings have provided me with an invaluable source of information on the HIV agenda; and, as a PWA who's primarily concerned with treatment access to experimental drugs, I find the Treatment and Data Committee's weekly reports,

Treatment Digest, and teach-ins to be the most beneficial.

When I heard that T&D's Mark Harrington would be writing the Political Science column in *OutWeek*, I was very pleased. As it turns out, I think that Political Science is

one of *OutWeek's* best columns. It is well-written, informative, and concise; however, I was a bit put off by Mark's attack on Randy Shilts in the August 28th issue where he unfairly compares Shilts to the *Native's* Charles Orfeb.

Mark says that in the book, *And the Band Played On*, Shilts "would have us believe" Patient Zero "single-handedly and knowingly spread HIV from coast to coast." Yes! Shilts did report that Gaetan Dugas (Patient Zero) purposely had unsafe sex after he had been diagnosed with AIDS without informing his sexual partners of his diagnosis. But Shilts never implied that Dugas "single-handedly" spread this disease. A good reading of this book will reveal quite the opposite.

Patient Zero was there alright, but so was government complacency and the Reagan Administration's neglect. And Koch's. So was the apathetic gay community, which so many of us were part of. So were the bath house owners, the blood banks, and (hiss) Dr. Robert Gallo. And more than that, there were the early heroes of this epidemic like Larry Kramer and Selma Dritz who were screaming their heads

off when nobody else was. And Mark Conant and Matt Krieger and Bill Kraus and Matilde Krim and I don't know how many different faces of AIDS. Yet, I do know that it is probably one of the warmest, compassionate, well-written books on this subject that we'll ever read. Although it's not without fault, it's a great piece of journalism as it chronicles the sad history of this disease.

As far as AIDS activists losing some sympathy at our demonstrations—Shilts is right. We do! However (and I'm sure Mark would agree) we get a lot more accomplished now upsetting people than we ever did from being silent. Yet we should be fair in our reporting and more accepting of others' criticisms.

David Lopez
Manhattan

Majority Reaction

This letter refers to your article, "Barriers, Solutions, Creating Trust: The Minority AIDS Battle" (August 28) regarding the Washington D.C. conference on AIDS in racial and ethnic communities. Although the article did cover the agenda of AIDS service workers, it neglected the very issues the conference grappled with during the week of August 13 through 17.

Let us begin with a few particulars. Firstly, the conference was attended by at least 4,500 representatives of communities of color, not 1000 as you erroneously reported. For five days these 4,500 participants engaged in plenary sessions, workshops, face-to-face sessions and caucuses. Disturbingly, there was no mention of the critical issues discussed in these sessions. These issues included health care as a right/nationalized health care, the crisis of homelessness among PWAs, the inac-

XEROXED

cessibility to drug trials for people of color, making AIDS education culturally sensitive, the continuum of care, and numerous other topics of vital importance to people of color.

As members of ACT UP's Majority Actions Committee and participants in the conference, we were shocked at *OutWeek's* omissions and disappointed at your insensitivity and your lack of journalistic thoroughness. In the future, we hope that when writing on issues concerning our communities, you consult with a full spectrum of community representatives.

We would also like to bring to your attention that the sole photograph and caption accompanying your article did not accurately reflect the events at the conference. What is wrong with this picture? Take a good look and you will see that the photo aptly depicts the effacement of people of color in the fight against AIDS.

Selwyn Garaway
Carl Strange
Ron Medley
Michael Wiggins
Wahn Yoon
Dan Williams
Lei Chou
Sharon Tramutola
Keith Cylar
Manhattan

Yipes, More Gripes

We have a few gripes we would like to share with *OutWeek* readers and the community. First of all, we are sick and tired of what is termed "gay-baiting," as if being gay or lesbian is bad. It seems that we have let the conservative hetero world get away with using what we are as an effective slur. A fine example is that during the controversy with House Speaker Foley, in which it was implied that he was gay, Bush said that the whole episode was "disgust-

ing." Most of the emphasis was placed on the fact that this "family" man could not be homosexual, than defending the integrity of the lesbian and gay community. As usual being gay seems to be on the same level as being a murderer.

Now about your magazine: 1) There is no reason for anyone to state that they are gay or lesbian in the Personals. It is fairly obvious what the sexuality of the readership is. This is almost as annoying as the use of the term straight acting/looking (sic). 2) The Social Terrorism feature is fun, but why are the photos taken at only two or three clubs? 3) In the 8/28 Nightmare of the Week, you really fucked up. Not only did you waste time by putting yourselves in that space when there are so many assholes to go after, but the Coors logo appears faintly but prominently in the background. What gives?!

Over all thanks for a good magazine. And keep up the good work.

Erik Smith
Dan Hunter
Manhattan

Coors Confusion

In your August 28th "Nightmare of the Week," in which the *OutWeek* editorial staff is chastised for printing the words "AIDS virus," I noticed what appears to be a case of Coors beer in the background. I hope you guys aren't drinking the stuff!

Thomas F. Hickey
Manhattan

Nightmares of the Week of Aug. 28th Respond: Perish the thought! In fact, the object in question is a postcard, sent to us mischievously by columnist Bradley Ball, which we use as target practice when we run out of Jesse Helms or Dannemeyer pin-ups.

Levi Fan

Ms. Joy Tomchin, President
Mr. Tim Sweeney, Acting CEO
GMHC

Dear Joy and Tim:

I am writing to congratulate you on your choice of Jeff Levi as liaison between GMHC and the "parallel track" clinical trials of NIH and FDA. Jeff has always shown intelligence and strength and always looks and sounds like a sane gay person. He is one of the most knowledgeable persons I know about the ins and outs of gays and AIDS politics.

Because of Dr. Anthony Fauci's scientific background, it was not possible to get alternative testing techniques in place until the NIAID was convinced that people would not be killed by non-traditional clinical trials. Jeff knew this. He did not believe the delay indicated an anti-gay conspiracy. There is no question in my mind that Levi was instrumental in the formation of the "parallel track" program (as were Mathilde Krim, Larry Kramer and ACT UP). With Levi's connections and experience it would be hard to imagine a more effective liaison person to NIAID and FDA. You are to be congratulated for your choice.

Best wishes,
Herbert I. Cohen, M.D.
Manhattan

Risky Behavior

GMHC Board of Directors
Dear Joy Tomchin:

During the onset of the AIDS crisis GMHC has been a major force in disseminating information and providing services to the Gay Community. The record of achievement during the years of its existence however has been blemished by incidents of racism. In what would appear to be an effort to address a people of color perspective

on issues concerning GMHC, Black and Latino advisory panels had been formed. The manner in which GMHC chose to proceed in the placement of ads concerning HIV testing—"Think About It"—may indicate that GMHC has little interest with Black and Latino advisory input. The decisions made as to the content of some of the ads reflect a bias based upon racism.

Late Wednesday afternoon, August 9th, I had received a faxed copy of the ads which were destined to appear in *Newsday*, the *Village Voice*, the *New York Times*, *El Diario* and the *Amsterdam News*. The faxed copies also included a message requiring a response by Thursday afternoon (next day) because of a Friday morning deadline to place the ads. Although my response included several comments, the first and most significant was concerning the ads' dissimilarities. The response read as follows:

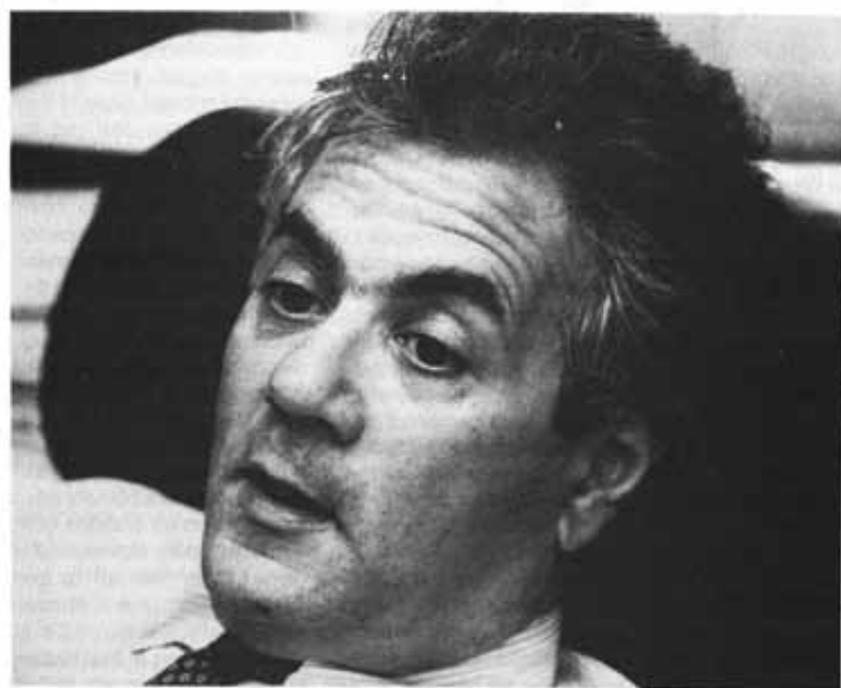
"The ad for *El Diario* and the *Amsterdam News* are different from the ad to be placed in the *Times*, *Newsday*, *Voice* etc.... If the general feeling is that statements should be made in the ad about those who are at risk, (HIV drug users, men who have sex with men, sexual partners of either group) then why exclude this information from *Newsday*, the *Voice*, *Times*, *OutWeek* etc.? Why should we assume that the readers of THESE papers are differently informed than those of *El Diario* or the *Amsterdam News*? If it's necessary information to include in one ad, then it should be important to include in all of them."

Obviously non-minority groups ALSO AT RISK need this information. Is it GMHC's

SEE XEROXED on page 70

Barney Frank's Home Used for Paid Sex Service

Male Prostitute Planning TV Movie



FRANK DISCLOSURES
Rep. Barney Frank

Photo: Jim Marks

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—Revelations that a gay prostitute used the Washington, D.C. home of openly-gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) as the headquarters for gay and bisexual escort services have spurred a host of mixed reactions from other Washington politicians, Frank's Massachusetts constituents, and the lesbian and gay community.

Republican congressmen lined up to denounce the sharp-tongued liberal Representative, and the Massachusetts Republican party called for his resig-

nation. But fellow Democrats went on record in support of Frank. Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-WA) said, "There is no more able, articulate and effective member of the House of Representatives than Barney Frank," according to the *New York Times*.

In his home district, which re-elected him by a landslide margin in 1987 after he publicly disclosed that he is gay, opinions ran from strong support to unqualified condemnation, according to an August 30 article in the *Times*.

Heading off demands for an investigation by his opponents, a House ethics inquiry into Frank's conduct will soon begin at Frank's own behest (see sidebar). Such inquiries may be launched on the grounds that any member of the House has done anything that could reflect poorly on the House.

[Earlier this year, Frank co-signed a letter requesting an ethics inquiry into the actions of Rep. Gus Savage (D-IL). Savage has been charged with making unwanted advances towards a female Peace Corps volunteer while on a mission to the African nation of Zaire.]

As part of its summer-long series of front-page stories about male prostitutes and prominent Washingtonians (see sidebar), the *Washington Times* reported Aug. 25 that Steven Gobie, a 33-year-old male prostitute and pimp, ran prostitution services out of Frank's Capitol Hill basement apartment for two years after Frank paid him for sex.

"I regret it," Frank told *OutWeek*. "I have damaged the community's standing and I have to make it clear to people that my personal weaknesses do not reflect on anybody else."

Secret Sex Service

Frank stated that in August 1987, after his landlord complained for the second time about unusual activity in Frank's home, Frank discovered that Gobie was running the service out of the apartment, and then kicked him out.

Gobie, however, maintains that Frank knew all along what was going on and was living vicariously through him, telling the *Washington Post*, "If [Frank] had been 20 years younger, he might be doing the same thing."

"The notion that I knew what was going on is crazy," Frank retorted. "It was the perfect set up. I hired him because I did feel sorry for him." Frank explained how Gobie could have kept his illicit dealings secret. "He knew a great deal. He was the one who drove me to the airport. He picked me up. He knew when I was going. He knew when I was coming back. And he was also in charge of

housekeeping at my place."

The *Times* reported that in 1985, Frank, then not public about his homosexuality, answered Gobie's escort ad in the *Washington Blade*, a local gay and lesbian weekly newspaper. The ad read: "Exceptionally good-looking, personable, muscular athlete is available. Hot bottom plus large endowment equals a great time."

Frank has acknowledged that on April 1, 1985 he paid Gobie \$80 cash for sex. Afterwards, he said, a professional relationship between the two men developed.

Although the *Times* reported that the men were "lovers" throughout their relationship, both men state that the sexual relationship tapered off after several months, after which Frank hired Gobie with personal funds to be his chauffeur and housekeeper. Afterwards, Frank wrote several letters to Gobie's parole officer on personal stationery, with congressional letterhead, on Gobie's behalf.

Gobie, who has felony convictions for possession of cocaine, oral sodomy and production of obscene items involving a minor, has stated that he was never formally employed by Frank and that the job was just a "cover" for his parole officer.

In the two years he worked for Frank, Gobie also attended then-President Ronald Reagan's signing of an

Out of the Closet and into the Fire

WASHINGTON—National gay and lesbian political activists across Washington are supporting embattled Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) through his recent sex scandal involving his hiring of a male prostitute as a personal aide.

The consensus from activists is that Frank will most likely survive the controversy, although not necessarily without damage to his credibility, based on the Massachusetts Democrat's personality and his immense popularity in the House and in his congressional district.

"If anyone can survive this ordeal, it's congressman Barney Frank," stated Robert Bray, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Frank scored high marks with gay and lesbian leaders in the "forthright" manner in which Frank

has addressed the issue.

"I can't think of anything more he could be doing to bring this issue out into the open and [have it] disposed of," stated National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project Director Kevin Berrill.

But Bray added, "Barney Frank is a perfect example that when you live in the closet and you carry a big secret, you are susceptible to making decisions that are against your better judgment."

"Being in the closet—especially when one is an important public figure—is enormously stressful and isolating," Berrill added.

"I don't think this would have happened after his having come out," he added. "And it's unfortunate that it's haunting him now."

—Cliff O'Neill

immigration bill which was sponsored by Frank, and played on Frank's congressional softball team.

Henry Higgins

Explaining his actions to the press, Frank has likened himself to Henry Higgins, the character in George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* who took a street urchin under his wing to reform her, a characterization

that has irritated Gobie.

"This is not a case of a poor wail who is being sheltered," Gobie told the *Post*. "This is the first time he felt good in a relationship. Here was a guy who didn't have a social life until he was 45."

In an Aug. 25 press conference held in Newton, Mass., Frank told the media that his evicting Gobie led to his decision to publicly acknowledge

Come See About Me

WASHINGTON—"Questions have been raised about my employment of a personal assistant during the period between 1985 to 1987," wrote Barney Frank in an official letter to the Rep. Julian C. Dixon (D-CA), chair to the House ethics panel. "I have publicly responded to these questions and have expressed regret for the mistaken judgement involved.

"In order to ensure that the record is clear, I hereby request that the Committee on Standards and Official Conduct conduct an investigation into these matters."

Of the inquiry, Frank told the *Washington Post*, "I hadn't thought that gross stupidity was a violation of House rules."

Frank told *OutWeek* that he wrote his letter to the panel because now "the charges have changed."

Some, including Georgetown law professor John Banzhaf, are recommending that Frank be prosecuted for

sodomy, not prostitution.

Under District of Columbia law, sodomy is a felony, punishable by up to ten years in prison. Although few are ever charged with the violation—unless they are caught in the act—Banzhaf has written a letter to the U.S. Attorney's office asking that Frank be brought up on sodomy charges based on his admission that he had sex with Gobie.

In an exclusive interview with Washington, D.C. television station WUSA, Gobie, in shadows, again charged that his employment as Frank's personal assistant was "a cover," constructed by Frank to allow Gobie to continue to run his sex business out of the apartment.

"Anybody who knows me knows I don't do windows," Gobie told WUSA, adding that the only housekeeping he did was "making the bed for the next client."

Attempts to contact Gobie were unsuccessful.

—Cliff O'Neill



"IF ANYONE CAN SURVIVE, IT'S FRANK"
Barney Frank

Photo: Jim Marks

his being gay. Frank added that he is now in a long-term relationship.

Support from Democrats

Almost immediately after learning of the charges, Massachusetts Republicans called for Frank's resignation. Massachusetts Democratic Party chairperson, Rep. Chester Atkins said, "[Frank's] personal life has nothing to do with the way he performs his public duties."

Privately, Democrats and gay and lesbian activists have stated that if anyone could survive such a controversy, Frank could. Similar reactions have come from polls held in Frank's district, where he is immensely popular.

Gobie, meanwhile, has been regularly speaking to the media, explaining that his motives in coming forward with his story were financial.

Gobie told the *Post* that he got the idea to tell his tale while watching the television movie *The Mayflower Madam*, the true-life story of a high

See **BARNEY FRANK** on page 58

Sex Crazy

WASHINGTON—It was Ronald Reagan's favorite newspaper. It prides itself for not being influenced by the media's "liberal bias." Its loose connections with the Unification Church have caused it to be casually referred to as the "moonie" newspaper.

And after 600,000 lesbians and gay men marched on Washington for their civil rights, their headline was: "Gay marchers revel in [defeated Supreme Court nominee Robert] Bork's plight."

It is the *Washington Times*. And this summer, it has been the best place to find sex in the nation's capitol.

Usually it may be found on the front page, in inch-high headlines and, more often than not, it is connected to some government official.

The *Times* and its ultraconservative editorial staff opened the summer season with a front page piece on a congressional investigation into allegations of the use of male prostitutes and of sex with minors, both male and female, by certain unnamed congressmen.

Following that, *Times*' reporters Paul M. Rodriguez and George Archibald launched what was expected to be the bombshell of the season, a scandal linking a recently-closed-down gay male escort service with members of the Bush and Reagan administrations.

After weeks of daily revelations about male prostitutes being given midnight tours of the White House, heterosexual orgies in the Australian embassy and the

unauthorized pilfering of White House knick-knacks, the rival *Washington Post* declared the bombshell "a dud."

In a feature item titled "The Bombshell That Didn't Explode," the *Post* poked a finger in the ribs of the *Times* for failing to deliver what it promised, and at the same time assailing the homophobic tone of Rodriguez and Archibald's reporting.

Then came the Barney Frank mess.

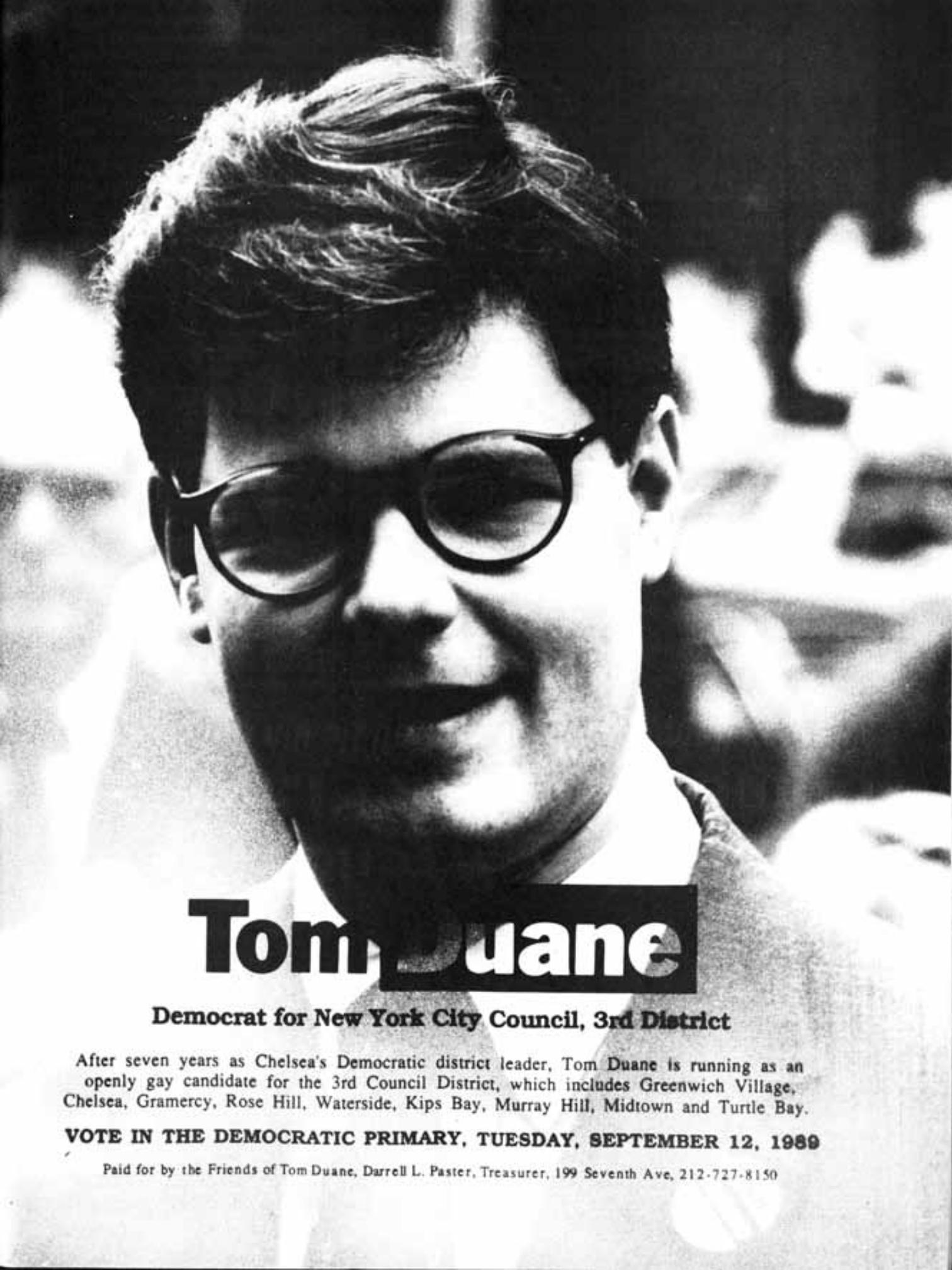
Printing Frank's approximate address and then showing a picture of his apartment, complete with apartment number, the *Times* let loose the genie for which it had been rubbing its homophobic magic lantern.

And off it went. At one point in the story they quoted Gobie as saying that Frank asked him if he was sexually "versatile," which the reporters immediately defined parenthetically as "willing to assume either a male or female sex role."

Alongside their blockbuster story, the *Times* ran a sidebar explaining how Gobie approached them with the sensational story and they then carefully verified the facts, even having Gobie undergo a "lie-detector" test (which, incidentally, he failed twice).

Neither did the *Times* miss the chance to poke the *Post* for its sideswipe. In the same edition, *Times* managing editor Wesley Pruden penned an opinion piece telling the *Post* that if it "sleeps through this [scandal], too, it ought to go back to Dubuque to sell shoes."

—Cliff O'Neill



Tom Duane

Democrat for New York City Council, 3rd District

After seven years as Chelsea's Democratic district leader, Tom Duane is running as an openly gay candidate for the 3rd Council District, which includes Greenwich Village, Chelsea, Gramercy, Rose Hill, Waterside, Kips Bay, Murray Hill, Midtown and Turtle Bay.

VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1989

Paid for by the Friends of Tom Duane, Darrell L. Paster, Treasurer, 199 Seventh Ave, 212-727-8150

OutWeek's City Council Primary Election Guide

NEW YORK—It took more than a decade of organizing, lobbying and civil disobedience to get the New York City Council to pass legislation protecting the rights of lesbians and gay men. The Council, though not the most highly-respected legislative body in the world, has considerable power over our lives. And it will have even more, particularly in relation to the city's \$27 billion budget, under the new City Charter.

Here are just a few of the things which the City Council could do in the coming years, which would impact directly on our lives:

- Dismantle or strengthen existing legal protection for gays and lesbians.
- Extend or veto full spousal benefits to the domestic partners of city employees.
- Shift the city's budget priorities to fund AIDS services.

There are primary contests in only one-third of the council districts. Two of the races—in Manhattan's third and fourth council districts—include openly gay candidates. Three of the races include pro-gay candidates challenging council members who opposed the gay rights bill when it passed in 1986.

A number of council members and candidates do not fully comprehend the idea of domestic partnership, are not sure how they feel about it, or support it only in its most limited application for bereavement leave. These individuals are marked by "?" in the domestic partnership column. One candidate—Ray Cline, running in Manhattan's fourth district—merited a "?" for insisting that he supports domestic partnership benefits, but opposes "gay marriage." Questions about AIDS funding were posed to candidates in a general way.

Candidates are inclined to say what they think they must in order to win. Nothing can drive these issues home to these candidates and council

members like being harassed. Call them, write them, ask questions at forums. One council member (and a community ally at that) told *OutWeek* that she had already answered "your organization's questionnaire," which had been sent by FAIRPAC. She seemed to think that "gay" was a single organized entity. Another, also a community supporter, referred to "AIDS victims" and the "Gay Men's Health Club."

The more visible the lesbian and

gay community is to politicians, the more likely they will go beyond just voting, and actively advocate for our community.

If you don't know what council district you are in, FAIRPAC has provided the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard with directories and guides to the candidates' stands on important issues. Call the switchboard at (212) 777-1800 for more information.

—Sandor Katz

City Council Primaries

Where only one name is listed, the incumbent is running unopposed. All candidates are Democrats except Republican Susan Molinari. There are no Republican party councilmember primaries.

District/Borough	Candidate	1986 vote (gay rights bill)	Lesbian/ Gay Rights	Domestic Partnership	Increased AIDS \$
1 SI	Susan Molinari	No			
2 M	Miriam Friedlander	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3 M	Tom Duane [openly gay]		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Carol Greitzer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 M	Ray Cline		Yes	?	Yes
	Ronnie Eldridge		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Lance Fletcher		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Jerry Goldfeder		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Ethel Sheffer		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Janice Shorestein		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Scott Stringer		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Dave Taylor [openly gay]		Yes	Yes	Yes
5 M	Hilton Clark	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	C. Virginia Fields		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Wilbert Kirby	(no information available)			
6 M	Adriano Espaillat		Yes	?	Yes
	Stanley Michels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Robert Dryfoos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8 MBX	Carolyn Maloney	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Adam Clayton Powell 4th		No	No	Yes
	William Perkins		Yes	Yes	Yes
9 BX	Wendell Foster	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
10 BX	June Eisland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11 BX	Rafael Colon	No			
	Pedro Espada		Yes	Yes	Yes
12 BX	Michael DeMarco	No			

The Book of Ruth



SETTING THE STANDARD

Ruth Messinger Photo: Lee Snider

by Sandor Katz

NEW YORK—Although Manhattan has seven council members, ask Manhattan residents who represents them in the council, and chances are they'll say Ruth Messinger. Or rather, Ruth, since half the city seems to be on a first-name basis with this ubiquitous Upper West Side figure.

Messinger is the Council member who—appropriately—had the honor of casting the deciding vote when the gay rights bill passed in 1986. She backed the bill from her earliest days in the Council and worked closely with lesbian and gay activists to get it passed.

She is universally acknowledged to be the Councilmember who best under-

stands the City's complex budget process, and has used her insider position as a tireless advocate for increased funding for AIDS services and other city social service programs. In June, during a break in the final hours of budget negotiations, she took a few minutes to march with ACT UP, which was demonstrating outside City Hall, demanding

CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT

increased funding for AIDS services. Suddenly, she looked at her watch and excused herself, for fear of what programs might be cut in her absence.

With her tiny staff and a small army of volunteers, Messinger has been the most consistently visible progressive opposition to the Koch administration. Her council colleagues are in awe of her: Year after year when the *Daily News* surveys council members, Messinger is rated "most intelligent" and "most effective." This year she's trading in her Council seat for the more visible platform and bigger staff of the Manhattan Borough Presidency. The seat she is vacating is the most hotly-contested council race of the year, with eight contenders (including openly-gay Dave Taylor). Messinger's only opposition in her Borough President race is the New Alliance Party's Barbara Taylor.

Beyond supporting the lesbian and gay community for purely political reasons, as is the case with many elected officials, Messinger actually works and interacts with gay men and lesbians on a daily basis. Her campaign manager, David Fleischer, is gay, as are several other campaign staffers.

In contrast with the defensive posture of the Koch administration with regard to AIDS services, Messinger has already set up a task force comprised of community-based AIDS service organizations to help devise sound city AIDS programs, to set the agenda rather than react to it.

Messinger provides a role model which other elected officials would do well to emulate. ▼

District/Borough	Candidate	1986 vote (gay rights bill)	Lesbian/ Gay Rights	Domestic Partnership	Increased AIDS \$
13 BX	Jose Rivera	(appointed since 1986)			
14 BX	Jerry Crispino	No			
15 Q	James Keough		?	?	?
	Walter Ward	No			
16 Q	Sheldon Leffler	Yes	Yes	?	Yes
17 Q	Archie Spigner	No			
18 Q	Morton Povman	No			
19 Q	Julia Harrison	Yes	Yes	?	Yes
	Frank Steele	(no information available)			
20 Q	Peter Vallone	No			
21 Q	Walter McCaffrey	No			
22 Q	Arthur Katzman	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
23 BK	Herbert Berman	Yes			
24 BK	Priscilla Wooten	No			
25 BK	Susan Alter	No			
26 BK	Chris Owens		Yes	Yes	Yes
	James P. Sullivan		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Enoch Williams	No			
27 BK	Victor Robles	Yes	Yes	?	Yes
	Ada I. Vasquez (New Alliance Party)		Yes	Yes	Yes
28 BK	Mary Pinkett	Yes	Yes	?	Yes
29 BK	Abraham Gerges	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Jim Ryan		Yes	Yes	Yes
30 BK	Stephen DiBrienza	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
31 BK	Sal Albanese	Yes	Yes	?	Yes
32 BK	Noach Dear	No			
	David Eichenenthal		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Robert Evans		Yes	Yes	Yes
33 BK	Samuel Horwitz	Yes	Yes	?	Yes
	Adele Cohen		Yes	Yes	Yes
34 Q	Joseph Lisa	Yes (but he tried to switch to "No" an hour later)			
35 SI/BK	Jerome X. O'Donovan	No			

IRS Monkey Wrench for Domestic Partner Laws

New Tax Regulations May Derail Health Benefits

by Keith Clark

SEATTLE—When the Seattle city council recently enacted a limited domestic partner ordinance that would extend emergency leave benefits to city employees for illness or death of a partner or in a partner's family, a more sweeping set of benefits—health care privileges that would cover not only city workers but also

NEWS FOCUS

employees in the private sector—was temporarily put on hold over a federal income tax issue that may threaten the future of similar legislation from San Francisco to New York.

Before the city council here began hearings in late June on bill 107342 which would give unmarried same-sex and opposite-sex couples the same sick- and funeral-leave rights as married city employees, the Seattle human rights department in

April ruled that the existing Seattle fair-employment law prohibits discrimination against gay or straight unwed cohabitants and that all city employers would be required to extend medical, dental or other benefits packages equally.

The ruling stunned even this rather liberal city and sent shock-waves through the business community which saw it in bottom-line terms of tens of thousands of dollars in added payroll expenses. It would have been the first time that any municipality required private sector businesses to extend health insurance benefits to employees' domestic partners.

But before the city council could determine whether to uphold the ruling or not, a bigger monkey wrench was thrown into the entire domestic partner works nationwide by the Internal Revenue Service.

The unexpected twist came from part of the 1986 congressional overhaul of the federal tax code that is scheduled to go into effect on October 1. One section of the revised IRS code requires that employer health and benefit plans apply equally to workers at all levels, and was intended to prevent companies from giving special, non-taxable benefits that are not available to other workers to executives.

and state governments—prove their benefits packages extend only to workers' spouses and legal dependents. Failure to meet this new IRS requirement brings not only a penalty federal tax on the benefits of the individual worker, but also on the employer's entire tax-exempt program. A so-called "doomsday clause" in the new tax code would require that health insurance benefits apply to individuals who qualify by IRS definitions of spouse or dependent. If benefits are extended to others, like domestic partners, the employer's entire benefits package for all employees could be taxed.

An IRS official in Washington, D.C., said, "I don't think anyone thought about domestic partners when Congress passed the law. It means hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of dollars in taxable income that IRS would collect from employees. No one knows how much flexibility we might have on domestic partners benefits."

Businesses—and now cities with domestic partners laws either in effect or in the works—have joined in protesting the complexities and expense of complying with the proof of relationship requirement in the new code. San Francisco IRS spokesman Larry Wright said, "It's going to be an enforcement problem. The IRS will have to police every employee to make sure every dependent is a legal dependent."

Seattle city benefits manager Sally Fox was even more blunt. "It's all a big mess," she said. "It's an entirely impossible part of the [new] tax regulations." West Hollywood personnel analyst Kevin Fridlington agrees. "We've got our fingers crossed that

IRS & Doomsday

But part of this revised code also requires that employers—including municipal, county



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Openly gay Washington State Rep Cal Anderson

Photo: Seattle Gay News

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Openly Gay President of
San Francisco's
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TANGLING WITH THE TAX MAN

Roberta Achtenberg of the San Francisco Mayor's Office

Photo: Rink

we just won't have to deal with it." West Hollywood is one of a dozen or so U.S. cities that either already have or are considering various forms of domestic partner laws.

Private Sector Interest

Aside from legislation, an increasing number of businesses have also begun showing interest in adding health insurance benefits for unmarried employees during the past few years. Hewitt Associates of Lincolnshire, Illinois, recently reported that 10 to 20 percent of the some 2,500 firms it advises on employee benefits and compensation packages are currently considering various partner benefits programs. Five years ago almost none were.

But the reason for such recent interest in the private sector isn't necessarily a liberalizing trend in corporate America. According to Hewitt Associates, about 40 percent of the average employee's total compensation currently comes in the form of non-payroll benefits while 15 years ago that figure was only about 35 percent. And for the last 20 years or so, American employers have increasingly looked to non-payroll benefits packages as a major way of attracting and keeping good workers. And as the general trend toward live-in, unmarried relationships—including

lesbian and gay partners—has accelerated, so too have unmarried gay and non-gay workers looked at the short end of the benefits stick that they see themselves holding.

Even so, many employers have been rather reluctant to undertake such extended benefits programs. Concerns about the costs as well as reluctance among insurance companies, which maintain that there isn't enough actuarial data available to

evaluate the insurance risks that determine premiums, have made employers squeamish. "It's the big unknowns that make insurance companies uneasy," said a spokesperson for the Health Insurance Association of America. Lesbian/gay-rights advocates claim insurance industry reluctance comes more from its own biases against homosexuals who might enroll, and out of cost concerns surrounding AIDS.

As a result, municipal government, more responsive to political realities than to profit motives, have been in the forefront of the domestic partners push. But with an estimated 2.5 million employees in the U.S. on city government payrolls, the threat posed by the new IRS code requirements could severely limit domestic partners legislation in many budget-conscious cities around the country.

City Partners Plans

West Hollywood, which has the most extensive domestic partner legislation on the books at this point, had to resort to self-insurance for its partners health benefits beginning January 1 of this year. All 16 insurance companies it approached refused to underwrite the city's benefits package, claiming they had no way of determining costs for the program.

Ironically, West Hollywood city

planner David Amorena estimates that the self-insurance plan has not only enabled the city to provide more flexible coverage including domestic partners, but has also saved West Hollywood an estimated \$65,000 in insurance premiums during its first six months of operation.

The recently enacted San Francisco domestic partner law has been forced onto the November ballot following a repeal move by fundamentalists and does not, in itself, extend health insurance benefits to partners.

But a set of companion resolutions passed unanimously by the city's board of supervisors establishes a task force to make recommendations about extending such health benefits to city workers, and another to examine corporate benefits in the private sector. Already faced with stiff political opposition from religious fundamentalists, some lesbian/gay rights activists fear the ambiguities in the new IRS tax code may sharply shift the balance of support for the new law in November.

Roberta Achtenberg, who heads the San Francisco mayoral task force studying health benefits for domestic partners, however, believes the city's plans may not come under the new IRS code's domain because city workers, rather than the city itself, would pay for the added coverage.

"They [the IRS] don't know what they're talking about. They will have to deal with what all these issues mean within the new tax code. What we need to do is be there to influence how all these new regulations are interpreted by IRS," she told *OutWeek*.

But IRS officials disagree, and say the new regulations apply regardless of who pays for the benefits.

And in Seattle, no one is even willing to guess what it all means either to the recently-established domestic partner benefits, or to the city's human rights department's ruling. If the current reading of the new IRS code is accurate, some political observers believe it likely that the city council may also back-pedal and at least partly disembowel the fair-employment law as well.

See IRS on page 58

Here We Go Again

SEATTLE—The Seattle city council Aug. 14, passed an amendment to the city's personnel ordinance establishing a range of domestic partner benefits for municipal employees by a vote of 8 to 1. The Council rejected by the same vote a move by council president Sam Smith to place the new policy before the voters for approval. Mayor Charles Royer signed the legislation, and it is scheduled to take effect Sept. 16 unless a referendum move now underway succeeds.

Seattle council clerk Theresa Dunbar said the new benefits package for city workers with domestic partners, whether same sex or opposite sex, is the same one the city now provides spouses.

The ordinance also expands a number of other city benefits, allowing employees to use sick leave to care for a dependant child and to trade sick leave with other city workers struck by a catastrophic illness, and providing funeral leave policies for employees' domestic partners or parents of domestic partners.

The ordinance, although not requiring a formal registration of partnerships, does require city workers to file an affidavit attesting to the relationship.

Within a week of Mayor Royer's signing the bill into law, however, fundamentalists, led by Ilona Fogassy, were busy gathering signatures to temporarily void the measure until it can be voted on by the electorate. Fogassy must submit 10,921 valid signatures of registered voters by Sept. 15 to prevent the policy taking affect and put the issue before the voters.

Although specific line-items of municipal ordinances can be repealed individually, the opponents of the policy say they want the entire bill deleted.

"Any part of the policy, if left in place, would be a crack in the wall that would validate homosexual and immoral relationships. We don't want to let even a crack exist," Fogassy said.

—Keith Clark



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Photos: Ellen B. Neipris

BROOKLYN — Among the many demonstrators marching through the streets of Bensonhurst on Sunday, August 27, were a large contingent of lesbians and gay men, including a group from ACT UP. The marchers came to Bensonhurst to protest the slaying of Yusuf Hawkins, a young Black man gunned down earlier in the week by a group of whites on 20th Avenue, and "to affirm the rights of all Blacks to free passage everywhere in New York," according to one of the protest organizers.

Crowds of local residents (above) poured out of their homes to meet the marchers with racial taunts. Shouts of "This is not Howard Beach," and "Free the boys from Bensonhurst," echoed through the streets. "If a white guy kills a Black guy, it's called racism. But if Black guy kills a white guy it's called drugs," said Paul Cassidy, a young white man who said he lived nearby.

"They got streets named after Black people: One way," shouted another.

The residents, who had to be restrained with police barricades, also discovered the gay men and lesbians in their midst. "Come over and give me a kiss, you fucking faggots," one shouted.

"Go home" and "Our streets" were chanted over and over by residents who stood on the sidewalks and leaned out of the windows of the two-story houses that line the street.

"I'm with them," said one man as he walked on the sidewalk, alongside the demonstration, referring to the civil rights marchers in the street. "I think the ones from Bensonhurst should get out," he said through a distinct Italian accent. "What difference does it make what nationality you are? It's the same thing in the gay life. What you do behind closed doors is your own business," he told *OutWeek*. The man, who is gay and a resident of nearby Kensington, did not want to be identified.

Other Bensonhurst residents who said they supported the demonstration also refused to give their names.

Police felt the potential for a riot to be so great that they positioned sharpshooters on the rooftops along 20th Avenue and demonstrators, including several prominent Black ministers from across the city, (above right) were escorted back to the nearby subway station by over 50 motorcycle cops, where they were met by a legion of transit police.

— Andrew Miller

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- instituted bereavement leave for lesbians and gays in the District Attorney's office and hired openly gay staff.
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- supports parental rights for lesbians and gays in adoption and foster care.
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Out Takes

Times for Tom

NEW YORK — *The New York Times* endorsed Tom Duane in his race against incumbent City Councilwoman Carol Greitzer in a Friday, September 1 editorial. It was the first time in history that the *Times* endorsed an openly gay candidate, according to Duane campaign manager Lisa Parrish.



Tom Duane Photo: Jerry Casciano

"Carol Greitzer has made many contributions in 20 years on the Council, but lately her effectiveness has been limited. Tom Duane could bring the district more energetic leadership, and we support him," said the editorial, which described Duane as "a stockbroker and a leader in the gay community."

Duane is running for city council in Manhattan's Third District, which includes the Village and Chelsea, as well as Gramercy Park and other East Side neighborhoods.

"I'm thrilled to be the first openly gay candidate to be endorsed by *The New York Times*," Duane told *Out-Week*. Duane said that he was quite surprised. "Everyone's reaction has been, 'Congratulations. I'm shocked,'" he said.

Parrish used the opportunity to optimistically announce Duane's vic-

tory party, which will be on Election Day, Tuesday, September 12, after the polls close at 9 pm. It will be held at Francisco's, a restaurant on West 23rd St. between 6th and 7th Streets. All are welcome. —Andrew Miller

Deja vu?

WASHINGTON—In a speech prepared for the Conference on AIDS in Puerto Rico and Among the Puerto Rican Population on the Mainland on August 28, New York City Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph once again set forth his personal preferences for eliminating anonymous HIV testing in New York City, and requiring the names of people who are HIV positive to be reported to the municipal government.

Earlier this summer, a similar announcement by Joseph at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Montreal brought instant denouncements from nearly every AIDS organization in New York City, and forced Mayor Edward Koch to convene a special meeting of AIDS advocates at Gracie Mansion, at which Joseph backed down from his plan.

En route to the recent conference in Washington, Joseph was detained by an office emergency, and the



Dr. Stephen Joseph Photo: T.L. Litt

speech was delivered by Gloria Rodriguez, an AIDS project director for the New Jersey state health department.

Moving from his experiences in dealing with AIDS as New York City's health commissioner to the availability of new treatment options, the text of Joseph's remarks called for an increase in funding for health care services, including treatments.

It continued, "Medically confidential pre- and post-test counseling and testing should continue as the cornerstone of AIDS policy, but should become routine in high prevalence areas in every clinical setting so that HIV-infected people can be identified and their treatment begun as early as possible. Anonymous counseling and testing should be preserved as an option for those who will not accept testing any other way.

"Within a confidential public health framework, I personally believe we should also see mandatory reporting of people who are infected with HIV. Doctors should be required to report the names of their HIV-infected patients to their local public health authority, as is required with tuberculosis." —Andrew Miller

"A cure for AIDS"

BROOKLYN — Residents of the Midwood section of Brooklyn have encountered homophobia in a new form this summer. Leaflets entitled "A Cure for AIDS" have been placed under the windshield wipers of cars along Ocean Avenue near Avenues M and N, and elsewhere in the neighborhood.

The leaflets state that "AIDS is caused by gays and gays alone. By encouraging or protecting the gays we are committing suicide. Gay rights and gay parades will cause the death toll to rise. There is no cure other than to stop the gays. Homosexuality

must be outlawed, or else death will spread like wildfire. Take action now. It is already too late."

The unsigned leaflets come complete with an exhortation to copy and distribute them elsewhere.

The area is represented in the City Council by the notoriously homophobic Noach Dear, whose virulent opposition to the city's lesbian and gay rights bill is still talked about by gay and lesbian residents of his district.

Some area residents say they suspect that one of the local Hasidic organizations is behind the leafleting effort.

Jerry Milstein, a Dear campaign aide, told *OutWeek* that it would not be appropriate for such literature to come out of anyone's political office, and that the flyer had no connection with Dear's campaign. "It has nothing to do with us, and there is no need for us to comment on it," he said.

—Andrew Miller

True or false

SAN FRANCISCO—The district attorney's office here has decided not to pursue charges against former Metropolitan Community Church minister Lynn Griffis for filing a false police report in connection with an alleged assault against her in July, essentially bringing to an official close the confusing and contradictory story.

"Although there is probably cause to believe that the complainant [Griffis] did in fact mislead the police," Jerry Benson of the district attorney's office wrote in a letter to the police department, "it is not believed that...the evidence compellingly establishes her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt."

Griffis, who had been with MCC/SF for about a year before being appointed to head the church's AIDS ministry in June of this year, claimed she had been briefly abducted July 27 by two men she described as "skin-heads." Griffis said the two beat her and cut a cross into her chest because of her work with people with AIDS.

New York



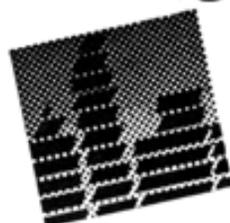
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Out Takes



Rev. Lynn Griffis

Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani

Two weeks before the alleged assault, Griffis had reported an earlier assault in her home.

When police and community leaders confronted Griffis with "inconsistencies" in her account of the second assault, she changed her story and claimed she had also been raped during the abduction. Police, however, found her revised account also inconsistent with the evidence, and said the medical examiner's report indicated the cuts to her chest may have been self-inflicted.

Griffis abruptly resigned from MCC and left town to return to her parents' home in Nebraska. Later she contacted police and asked that her complaint be withdrawn.

—*Kelth Clark*

INS: Get out and stay out

MINNEAPOLIS — Yong Sook Bonsma, a Korean lesbian from the Netherlands, was detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) here on Monday, August 28. Bonsma was en route to the Asian Pacific Lesbian Network's (APLN) first national retreat at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Rather than face an INS hearing, she returned to

Amsterdam.

To Schotigen, the INS' northern region district director, said Bonsma was detained because she entered the country as an "intended immigrant." According to Schotigen, INS officials discovered documents in Bonsma's possession which indicated that she was seeking employment in the U.S. Bonsma was traveling on a visitor's visa, which prohibits employment-related activity.

The search which revealed the allegedly incriminating documents was initiated because Bonsma's return ticket date was open-ended, and not because of her destination, according to INS officials. Both Bonsma and APLN spokesperson Julie Portraz declined to make any statement.

"Flying between Amsterdam and Minneapolis for gay people is probably not a good idea," said one Capitol Hill insider conversant with immigration policy.

But Ann DeGroot, director of the Minneapolis-based Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council said she was deeply disturbed by the INS' detention of Bonsma, who is the fourth gay Dutch national in six months to be detained by the Minneapolis INS.

INS's "intended immigrant" provision is the most common reason travelers are not permitted to enter the U.S.

—*David Anger*

Pat Parker remembered

WASHINGTON—To honor the life and work of Black lesbian poet Pat Parker, Black Women Together will sponsor a memorial poetry reading on September 10th at 4 p.m. at Howard University's Blackburn Center, 6th St. and Howard Place NW, Washington DC.

Parker, author of numerous books of poetry, including *Jonestown and Other Madness*, was also the former



Pat Parker

Photo: Marilyn Humphries

director of the Oakland Women's Feminist Health Center, one of the country's first women's abortion clinics.

The reading will include area poets, friends and literary peers reading and giving a chronology of her life. Featured speakers will include Nancy Bereano, Elizabeth D'Alessio, Essex Hemphill and Ivy Young.

Parker died of cancer June 17th in Oakland, California. She was 45.

—*Andrew Miller*

Shit happens

NEW YORK — The U.S. Secret Service paid a visit to ACT UP's workspace at 2:15 Wednesday, August 30, looking for the person or persons responsible for mailing a box of human excrement to the White House.

Special Agent Greg A. Dickey along with a partner, told Lei Chou and Garance Franke-Ruta, two ACT UP members who were at the workspace at the time, that a package had been sent to President George Bush by a man named Steven Hsu from "AIDS of America Ltd." The agent was looking for the organization at 349 West 15th St., an address that does not exist, but that would be

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Out Takes

on the same block as the workspace, which is located at 76 9th Avenue, at the corner of West 15th St. Dickey would not say what was in the package, but Ruta said that a form Dickey was carrying said "a box of human excrement."

According to Ruta, Dickey asked "Don't you think that it's a coincidence that there are two AIDS organizations on the same block?" He reportedly questioned Ruta for less than ten minutes before leaving. Neither Ruta nor Chou have ever heard of Steven Hsu or AIDS of America Ltd. "It sounds like something the FBI would do to try to incriminate ACT UP," Ruta said.

Reached at the New York City office of the U.S. Secret Service, Dickey told *OutWeek* that his interest in ACT UP was only a spontaneous coincidence. "There's no investigation into ACT UP whatsoever. I wouldn't have known that the organization even existed if I hadn't gone upstairs. We're not out to hassle them. We're looking for one particular individual."

While he would not confirm the contents of the box, he described them as "not very pleasant." The investigation is still open and ongoing, according to Dickey.

— Andrew Miller

AIDS behind bars

LOS ANGELES — Alleging discrimination against women with AIDS, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California filed suit in U.S. District Court August 29 against the California Department of Corrections (CDC) and the California Institution for Women (CIW).

The lawsuit was brought on behalf of six women inmates at CIW who are HIV positive. They are being segregated in an AIDS Isolation Unit which is maintained exclusively for inmates who are HIV positive or have AIDS.

The complaint charges that the women jailed in these facilities suffer from inadequate medical and psychiatric care, inhuman conditions of confinement, discrimination, and unlawful exclusion from programs and services within the prison.

Rebecca Jurado, an ACLU attorney, said the lawsuit would "set a human and constitutional standard for the treatment of people with HIV infection throughout society."

The AIDS Isolation Unit has 16 beds in four double-celled rooms and a dormitory with four double bunk beds. The women have access to one toilet, one shower and one tub. There is no dining area, and the women are forced to eat their meals while sitting on their beds. In the summer, temperatures in the unit regularly reach 100 degrees.

At least one inmate said that she was unable to obtain a refill for prescription medicine for ten days after she ran out.

— Sandy Dwyer

Give it up

LOS ANGELES — At the request of Jon Davidson, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, the Los Angeles County Counsel's office has agreed to make available certain records of the Sheriff's Department relating to ACT UP/LA and individuals known to be members or supporters of the organization.

The documents being released include: five video tapes, 135 black and white photographs, 302 color photographs, a 168 page file with a two page index and other documents.

The records had been formally requested by the ACLU on July 26 under the California Public Records Act. The request was the result of allegations made by ACT UP members that the Sheriff's Department was harassing them and the organization in an attempt to intimidate and silence them. ACT UP has recently been critical of the Board of Supervisors' response to the AIDS crisis.

The Sheriff's Department said that their surveillance of ACT UP members was part of its investigation into the AIDS graffiti vandalism on county property last Spring.

In July, three men, all members of ACT UP, were charged with spray painting slogans on county buildings, including the health department headquarters. All three entered not guilty pleas; their cases are still pending.

The ACLU's Davidson said that the sheer volume of the records released indicated that the Sheriff's Department "put a lot of time and energy into this." The documents will be scrutinized to determine whether there are legal grounds for a suit against the Sheriff's Office.

— Sandy Dwyer

Burb up

WESTBURY, New York — Artsy movies regularly open in New York City's suburbs six months after they play in Manhattan, and it takes a while for the latest East Village hairdos and don'ts to filter out to points further east than Avenue C.

So when Long Island ACT UP was born five weeks ago in a basement apartment in Nassau County, it was not only a welcome addition to the world of AIDS activism, but a more or less timely one as well.

The twenty-member group, which is meeting in a Westbury storefront while it looks for more permanent digs, is off and running, spray painting now-familiar logos at the intersection of Glen Cove Road and Jericho Turnpike, and planning its first demo, at an abandoned hospital in Freeport, to alert officials that "there is a place for people with AIDS, if Nassau County would get off its ass," according to Ted Oneto, the group's spokesperson.

The protest, planned for 1 pm on September 16 at Lydia Hall on West Merrick Road, will attempt to dramatize the unnecessary lack of non-acute care facilities in Nassau for Long

Island's over 1,000 people with AIDS, according to Long Island ACT UP.

For more information, Oneto can be contacted at 516-338-4662, or write P.O. Box 514, Westbury, NY 11590.

— Andrew Miller

Same struggle, same fight

CHICAGO — A Saturday night anti-racism demonstration on Halsted Street, the center of Chicago's gay neighborhood, saw ACT UP Chicago direct its anger on August 19.



ACT UP/Chicago Photo: Rex Wockner

Activists charged that some of the 15 bars on the Halsted strip periodically require several photo IDs from Blacks, but rarely card non-Black patrons. A few members of Black and White Men Together joined the protest.

The video bar and dance club Christopher Street was singled out by demonstrators, who charged that the bar limits the number of Black men who can be inside at any given time, and allegedly demands multiple IDs of Blacks who try to enter alone or in an all-Black group.

But Christopher Street manager Ben Pohn told reporters that he was completely baffled. "There is no truth

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whatsoever to the allegations of quotas and that sort of thing," Pohn said. "We are here for the whole community. We even get straight people."

Across the street, however, at Rick's Retreat, Black men observing the protest said they, too, had been carded at Christopher Street.

Their protest ended peacefully, and there were no reported arrests.

—Rex Wockner

Silence=Mort

PARIS—When the French Parliament begins its new session October 4, members of parliament will experience yet another bizarre American importation into French culture.

Weirder than Pac Man. Stranger

than Madonna. More foreign than the Big Mac.

The Parliament will be zapped by the brand-new ACT UP/Paris.

"All the TV crews and newspapers will be there," promised ACT UP/Paris founder Didier Lestrade. "We'll do civil disobedience in front of Parliament. That has never been done before. Gay people and the left-wing community in general here just don't go into the streets."

The French government's fundamental sin, according to Lestrade, is a failure to provide education on preventing HIV transmission.

"We have the highest percentage of AIDS cases and HIV-positives in Europe, but the lowest-key education programs," Lestrade said. "It comes from a government that is more concerned with preventing discrimination against gays. It believes that if AIDS

becomes a major issues, discrimination will increase."

France's four television AIDS education campaigns, including one targeting gay men, have been criticized as ineffectual.

Condom sales increased for about two months following each TV blitz but then returned to pre-campaign levels, according to Lestrade. "It shows that people aren't having safe sex all the time," Lestrade said.

ACT UP members also intend to fight for AIDS education in France's African and Arab communities. "We need campaigns in their languages; but nobody has even talked about this," Lestrade said. "Soon, like in America, AIDS is going to become a racial problem."

ACT UP's first action was a brief die-in during the June 24 gay pride parade.

—Rex Wockner



NEW YORK — Billing themselves as "A Dignified Walk by the God-Fearing People Against Homosexuality Which Destroys Human Life," about 30 members from the Abdul Muhsii Khalifah Masjid, a Moslem mosque in Bedford-Stuyvesant, marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to City Hall on Thursday, August 24. According to a *Newsday* story by Brooklyn reporter Merle English, one demonstrator carried a placard reading: "Homosexuals are not gay. Gay means happy. How can one be happy disobeying the words of God." Imam-Zakee Abdul-Hameed, the group's religious leader, said the march ended at City Hall because "we would like Mayor Koch to make a statement about the harm that homosexuality causes in the society at large," according to *Newsday*. Koch has not answered the group's letters.

—Andrew Miller Photo: Andrew Lichtenstein

Oh no you don't

SAN FRANCISCO — Superior Court Judge Ira Brown dismissed without comment August 18 a petition filed by lesbian couple Cindy Bologna and Sydney Erskine that sought to legally halt a repeal vote aimed at the city's recently passed domestic partners law.

The Brown rejection of the petition did not surprise legal experts, who generally agree that California courts prefer to place such contested legislation before the voters, rather than embroil the courts in lengthy legal fights over question of what can or cannot be on the ballot.

The petition grew out of a repeal move led by the Reverend Charles McIlhenny, pastor of the First Orthodox Presbyterian Church here. McIlhenny and others aimed at nullifying the city's domestic partners ordinance, which was passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors in May. The ordinance would permit unmarried heterosexual and homosexual couples to register their relationships with the county clerk for a \$35 fee, similar to a marriage registration. Erskine and Bologna alleged wrongdoing and deceptive tactics on the part of the repeal activists.

The domestic partners repeal measure, now labeled Proposition S, will go before voters in November, if there are no further court challenges.

— *Keith Clark*

Mazel tov...

CHICAGO—Gathering steam to continue the battle against homophobia in the Jewish community, 300 gay and lesbian Jews from 26 U.S. states, Canada, England and seven other nations conferenced Aug. 25-27 at Chicago's Hyatt Regency Hotel for the

See **OUT TAKES** on page 58

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Photo: Andrew Lichtenstein

NEW YORK — Openly gay City Council candidate Dave Taylor has been pounding the pavement of his West Side district for the past few months, lending a personal touch to the tough, eight-way primary race he faces next Tuesday.

"I think I'm the first and only candidate in the district to go door-to-door with my campaign and its message," Taylor told *jskdjkj*, adding that he had knocked on some 2,000 doors in the area.

"I don't just do subway stops and supermarkets. I want to meet the people in this district, and discuss the issues with them personally. The reaction has been fabulous," he said, noting that he had not "encountered even one incidence of homophobia" while on the trail.

Taylor's formula for victory includes attempting to unite the large lesbian and gay presence on the Upper West Side and in Clinton and Hell's Kitchen with the equally large number of Black and Latino voters. "I speak to the issues of both lesbians and gays, and Blacks and Hispanics: AIDS, drug abuse, housing, and discrimination," Taylor said.

He will have "a couple of hundred volunteers" on the street on Primary Day, September 12, but said that he faces a hard fight, and would welcome more help. To volunteer, call the Dave Taylor Headquarters at (212) 721-0064. Taylor is running Manhattan's fourth council district for the seat being vacated by Councilwoman Ruth Messinger. The district runs from West 100th Street to West 29th Street, from the Hudson River east to Central Park West and Eighth Avenue.

— David Kirby

Corrections

In a recent article about the Gay Men's Health Crisis, (Issue No. 10, August 28), Rona Affoumado is named the founder of the Community Health Project. The group was actually formed in 1983 as the result of a merger of the St. Marks Community Clinic and the Gay Men's Health Project. Affoumado is CHP's executive director, as the article also stated.

• • • •

The location for last week's cover photo (Wigstock 89, issue 11) was provided by Tom Stempfley.

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Political Science

Human Sacrifice

by Mark Harrington

"I believe the great fantasy is the idea of a social body constituted by the universality of wills. The phenomenon of the social body is the effect not of a consensus but of the materiality of power operating on the very bodies of individuals."

—Michel Foucault,
"Body/Power," 1975

Some of America's most renowned university hospitals are bastions of human sacrifice. Each day, your tax dollars fund Principal Investigators (PIs) who function as priests in a medical orthodoxy that sanctions the killing of hundreds of humans every year in an arcane, anachronistic ritual known as the "placebo-controlled clinical trial."

Before FDA high priests of this cruel religion can sanctify a new treatment as "effective," they must be placated with a ritual offering—a pile of bodies cremated into a mass of data. The bodies are those of placebo receivers who died in clinical trials because they didn't get a drug which could have saved their lives.

Dogma holds that a few must die now to prove a drug works, saving many more in the future. Thousands are sacrificed for the sake of that vague, collective entity called "posterity." People who have a disease *now* are worth less than those who don't. This mad logic continues to disfigure American AIDS research.

Placebos—inert substances

identical in appearance and mode of administration to the drug being tested—aren't always bad. If you wanted to test a new headache drug, "Z," it might be easier to compare "Z" to a placebo than to aspirin. If "Z" were active against headaches, it would be easier to measure its *difference* versus placebo than to measure its *equivalence* to aspirin. No one would die if they were on the placebo arm and got a headache.

With life-threatening diseases, it's a different story. Treatments do not reach Phase II efficacy trials—when placebos are first used—without showing substantial safety and strong indications of ac-

over the body. One of the most serious infections, CMV colitis, occurs in the intestine, causing wasting and diarrhea. DHPG is administered intravenously, so it goes all over the body. But if you have CMV colitis, you can only get the drug paid for by insurance or Medicaid if you have it in your eye. A separate, placebo-controlled trial will be conducted in people with CMV colitis.

Dr. Margaret Fischl of the University of Miami is the doyenne of placebo-controlled studies in AIDS. She co-authored the Phase II study of AZT in which 19 placebo takers died, vs. only one on AZT. Some physicians feel this was because doctors knew which patients

were getting AZT and gave them better treatment.

More recently, Dr. Fischl published a study of Bactrim for PCP prophylaxis. Bactrim (trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, TMP/SMX or Septra) is an approved antibiotic. It is an inexpensive pill, easy to take. Since it is

sulfa-based, about half of PWAs develop allergic rashes and stop taking it. Papers from as long ago as 1977 document Bactrim's ability to prevent PCP in immunosuppressed children. The index study was conducted by pediatrician Walter T. Hughes at St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis. He gave Bactrim to children with leukemia who were immunosuppressed because of chemotherapy. Bactrim was *100 percent effective* in preventing PCP in these children.

Many AIDS doctors refused to heed these results. The drug had

See HUMAN SACRIFICE, page 70



tivity. The new drug has already been tested in the lab, in animals, and in Phase I trials in humans. If there is no approved treatment for the condition in question, it is more ethical to give people with the disease an experimental treatment rather than *no* treatment.

The medical establishment has a mania for testing the same drug on different populations, even after it's known to be effective in one group. For example, the FDA recently approved DHPG to treat cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis—a viral infection in the eyes. Yet, in AIDS, CMV can be disseminated all

GMHC: Undermining Its Own Credibility

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) recently announced an ad campaign to encourage HIV antibody testing, and many AIDS service providers and activists are upset about it. The controversy ultimately has very little to do with the pros and cons of HIV testing. The real issue is priorities, and how an organization like GMHC is using its credibility.

The stated rationale for the GMHC pro-testing ad campaign, according to the press release, is to "bring people at risk of HIV infection into the health care system."

But so far as I can tell, that "health care system" is in such bad shape that it can't handle existing demands, never mind a deluge of newly-identified HIV-infected individuals seeking care. The "health care crisis" in New York is not a rhetorical excess on the part of AIDS activists. The crisis is that *despite* the fact that AIDS is becoming an increasingly treatable condition, treatment is largely inaccessible.

Two health care professionals I know did an informal study last week. They called the GMHC hotline for testing advice. They said they wanted treatment information before they made the decision to get tested. A number of different counselors told them not to worry about treatment until after they were tested. One man identified himself as someone with no insurance but a job, and hence not eligible for Medicaid. He was told, "Maybe you're one of those people who falls through the cracks," and was advised to get tested anyway.

If many more people decide to

get tested, what then? Since GMHC's announcement, the number of calls to the Department of Health hotline, which makes appointments for the city's HIV testing sites, has skyrocketed. The day it hit the news, only three staffers were on the phones. I know it took me many days to get through when I tried to schedule an appointment several months ago. This is the first barrier of many.

The bigger question, of course, is what happens after people test positive? From what I hear GMHC itself is backlogged in its client services. And treatment? There is already such a shortage of primary medical care that

the two HIV primary care centers can't handle more than 4,000 such visits."

These numbers are staggering. How can GMHC recognize so clearly the vast gulf between the existing demand for treatment and what is available, and still use its resources to put out a call for testing to feed people into treatment services, which it knows aren't there? GMHC's ads only perpetuate the myth that the health care system is functional, and reinforce the government's one-sided AIDS agenda.

The same week as the GMHC HIV testing press conference, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human

Services, Louis Sullivan, announced that the federal government would be funding widespread HIV antibody testing, but not treatment programs. And of course the coverage of GMHC's testing position gave city Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph an opportunity to advance his dangerous agenda of contact-tracing.

Is GMHC's job really to echo the ass-backwards approach to AIDS which the government has taken? To use its credibility to promote HIV antibody testing in such a public way and then limit its attacks on the lack of treatment access to behind-the-scenes lobbying is irresponsible.

This is not an anti-testing diatribe. Of course any HIV-infected individual is better-equipped to make health care decisions knowing his or her HIV status. We can only hope that as more people test HIV antibody positive, they loudly demand access to health care. And perhaps

See GMHC on page 70



the city says it is setting up T-cell testing and pentamidine centers to handle the most universal HIV monitoring and treatment needs. "But what are they going to say when someone walks in with chronic diarrhea?" asks Rona Affoumado, who runs the Community Health Project. Anyone who tests HIV antibody positive needs to have regular access to medical care and not just to stopgap treatment for the most common problems.

GMHC recognizes this. In a June 20, 1989 letter, GMHC pointed out to Mayor Koch: "The New York City AIDS Task Force says 900,000 HIV-related physician visits are needed this year, but

Koch's Fall from Grace



The Erosion of A Mayor's Lesbian and Gay Support

by Sandor Katz

These days, whenever Ed Koch appears at public events with predominantly lesbian and gay spectators, he gets booed and heckled. His planned speech was drowned out—and he was driven from the stage—at last June's ceremony dedicating Stonewall Place. He was jeered as he marched in this year's Gay Pride Parade. At a candidates' forum at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, a woman rose and told him he should be ashamed of himself; she was backed by raucous applause. Koch didn't even bother showing up for the Gay Men's Health Crisis candidates' forum on AIDS issues a few weeks later.

Of course the current climate was not always the case. Koch enjoyed the strong support of our community when he was first elected mayor in 1977. And he made headlines on his first day in office by banning anti-gay discrimination by city agencies. But his populari-

ty among lesbians and gays has eroded since those early, hopeful days of his administration. Today, a large segment of our community considers Koch an enemy.

Koch is now running for an unprecedented fourth term as mayor. Most visible lesbian and gay activists are opposing Koch in favor of David Dinkins. As the election approaches, the question arises: Why have so many of us turned against him?

"For many of the same reasons that his popularity has decreased in general," says openly gay City Council candidate Tom Duane, echoing the sentiments of many of those interviewed. But our community's disillusionment with the mayor has been vastly intensified by the AIDS crisis. Our fair city is the center of the epidemic, with more than 25,000 cases diagnosed to date, and an HIV infection rate estimated at 200,000 to

500,000. "People have been really stunned at the lack of response from the city," observes David Fleisher, a gay political organizer who is running Ruth Messinger's campaign for Borough President. The history of Ed Koch's relationship with the lesbian and gay community, inseparable at this point from his handling of the AIDS crisis, provides a prism for examining our evolving political culture and the relationship of our community to electoral politics.

* * * * *

In 1977 there was no legal recognition of lesbians and gays in New York City. Harvey Milk was campaigning for San Francisco Supervisor. Anita Bryant was crusading against us. And the *New York Times* was still calling us "avowed homosexuals." But we were gaining recognition as a political force here, and our votes were being actively courted.

In that year's Democratic primary for mayor, incumbent Abe Beame faced six challengers. Bella Abzug was the top vote getter in the neighborhoods which have the greatest visible concentrations of lesbians and gays. However, Koch received the most votes city-wide, with Mario Cuomo trailing close behind. A Koch-Cuomo runoff ensued.

The Gay Activist Alliance (GAA) accused Cuomo of gay-baiting Koch (who during the campaign paraded about town with Bess Myerson on his arm, and hinted of post-election matrimony). It was said that Cuomo campaign sound trucks were driving around certain neighborhoods blaring chants like "Vote for Cuomo, not the homo," and that Cuomo's television advertising stressed the now-familiar "family" theme to accentuate the contrast between him and the "bachelor" candidate. Cuomo responded angrily, reporting to the *New York Times* that "he and his staff had 'rejected any effort to get us involved in digging up

information' purporting to portray Mr. Koch as a homosexual. 'Aside from everything else, I knew it could backfire and wind up hurting me. It looks as though that's what's happened.'"

In the run-off between Koch and Cuomo, Koch won by the greatest margins in the same gay neighborhoods where Abzug had. Gays and lesbians are widely credited with having helped to elect Ed Koch.

Koch reciprocated with an announcement on his first day in office that he would issue an executive order prohibiting city agencies from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. We were off to a promising start.

Cut to 1989. Koch has issued another groundbreaking executive order, this one providing bereavement leave to the non-spousal domestic partners of city employees. "He could have done that 12 years ago," says Duane. Many activists believe Koch did more for gay civil rights in the first day of his administration than he has done in all

of the years since. And as AIDS entered all of our lives, the toll of his neglect grew more and more tragic. Regarding the erosion of Koch's support in our community, openly gay City Council candidate Dave Taylor remarks, "It's surprising that it took so long."

There is virtual consensus among lesbian and gay political activists that Ed Koch has lost the support of the vast majority of our community. He retains some vestigial support, of course. The *New York Native* continues to rave about him, and the Stonewall Democratic Club (affectionately known as "The Koch Club") has endorsed him. Jan Carl Park, the assistant director of Koch's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community, insists, "There is still lots of support for the mayor."

But most visible politically active lesbians and gays disagree. David Rothenberg, a former City Human Rights Commissioner appointed by Koch who has since broken with the mayor, says, "I want to find a gay person who's supporting Koch who's not



TOMBSTONE-WALL PLACE
ACT UP at last June's ceremony naming Stonewall Place

Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

on the payroll." Virginia Apuzzo, a longtime lesbian activist with strong ties to Governor Cuomo, believes that support for the mayor in our community is limited to those with "a single issue perspective totally focused on lesbian and gay civil rights issues in the strictest sense." They are people like Jason Worth, a Koch supporter employed by Civil Court Judge Richard S. Lowe, who recalls, "Under his tenure we got the gay community center," and with regard to AIDS laments, "there is always more that could be done." Or the Koch appointee a friend of mine recently met, who boasted that "the mayor has done more for gay people than any other individual since 5,000 B.C."

Park describes "a whole dimension of people who remember that the mayor was the first mayor to march in a gay pride march," that he issued the executive orders, supported gay rights legislation and appointed open gays. But it is only through such an appeal to nostalgia, to the pre-AIDS context, that Park even tries to defend his boss. "Many view his work on AIDS as not being enough. I think that's understandable."

Apuzzo's reference to the "single issue perspective" dredges up a long-standing tension in lesbian and gay politics. Some view us as an "interest group" with a limited legislative political agenda, something on a par with the National Rifle Association, whose needs can be met by supporting choice pieces of legislation. In other words, Koch deserves our support if he supports X, Y and Z, regardless of whatever else he does or doesn't do. Others have taken a broader "liberationist" approach, arguing that

we are systematically oppressed and must pursue a broad progressive agenda in coalition with other oppressed groups.

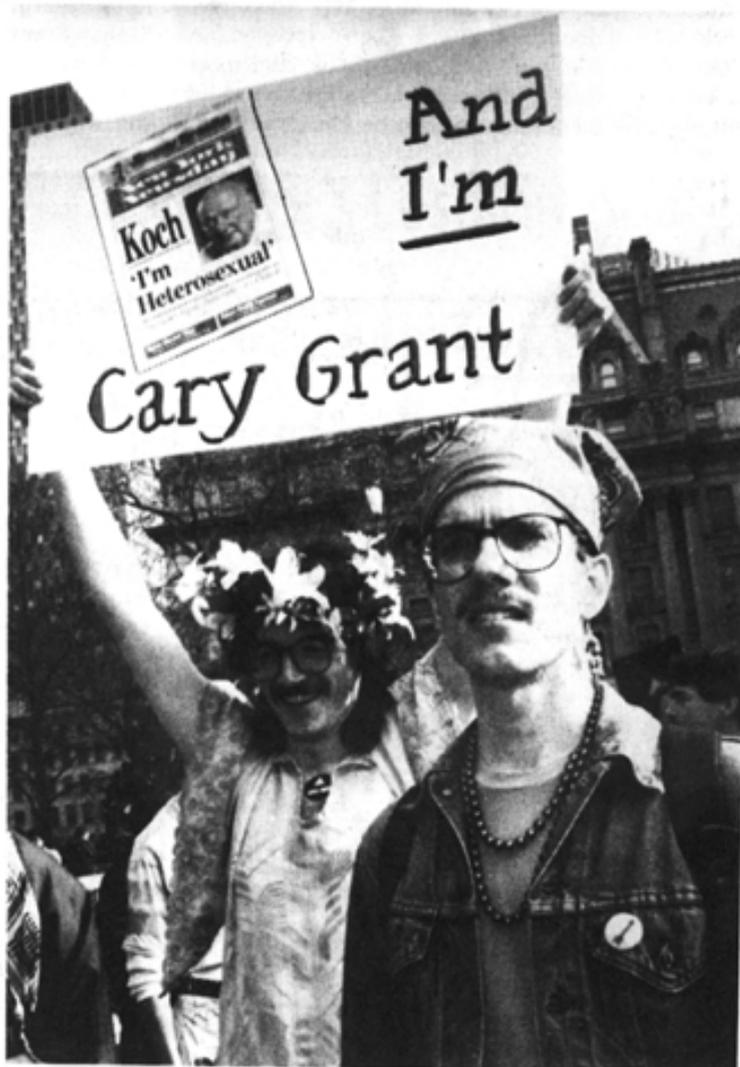
Koch alienated progressives from the earliest days of his administration. Rothenberg declined to support Koch's reelection in 1981 not because of any issues specific to the lesbian and gay community, but because the mayor "was insensitive to people who had the greatest needs in this city." Koch's tax giveaways to corporations and developers and his anti-union stands made him a hero in the city's recovery from near fiscal collapse, but his policies were devastating to the city's poor.

A former Koch-appointed commissioner of a city social service agency, who prefers not to be identified, recalls

a meeting of the commissioners of all the city agencies, led by then Deputy Mayor Robert Wagner, Jr. (who is now President of the Board of Education). It was just months into the new administration, spring 1978, and the commissioners were preparing budgets in the midst of the fiscal crisis. Wagner described a deliberate strategy for fiscal "recovery": cutback on needed services in poor areas—like health care, police, fire and sanitation—to the point where "people would go back to the South and to Puerto Rico." By the 1981 campaign, most labor unions and progressive organizations, including many lesbian and gay groups, supported Koch's opponent, Brooklyn Assemblyman Frank Barbaro.

There was also growing frustration over Koch's seeming stagnation on gay civil rights issues. "Gay rights were not number one or in the top five or ten issues out of a list of 100," says David Fleischer. "They were more like number 99." From the start Koch had supported a proposed City Council gay human rights bill. As a candidate, he had told lesbian and gay groups that any mayor who made it a priority could pass such a bill within six months.

The majority leader of the council, Tom Cuite, opposed the bill and year after year used his influence to kill it. Yet when the 1981 elections rolled around, Koch backed Cuite's re-election. Not until 1986, just two months after Cuite's retirement, did gay rights legislation reach the floor of the City Council and pass. The threat of Koch campaigning against him and other council homophobes might well have defanged Cuite and guaranteed our rights years earlier. Instead, recalls Democratic Party district leader candidate Philip



SETTING THINGS STRAIGHT
ACT UP's March '89 City Hall attended by over 3,000 people.

Photo: T.L. Litt

Reed, "He [Koch] passed up every opportunity to make a substantive contribution to our community, and in fact he was playing politics as usual."

While Ed Koch and Frank Barbaro were battling it out, AIDS made its debut. At that time it was impossible to foresee the degree to which it would change all of our lives. But as more and more gay men were struck and as our community was forced into action, Koch ignored our crisis. Larry Kramer recalls a telling story about his first and last encounter with the mayor. It was in 1982 at a farewell party for departing Cultural Affairs Commissioner Henry Geldzahler, held at the restaurant Odeon. Kramer asked to be introduced to the mayor, which he was.

"I began my spiel—I was much calmer then—and as soon as I uttered the word—I don't even remember if it was called AIDS yet—his lackeys escorted me away and told me the mayor did not wish to discuss that." Many a leveler head than Kramer has come to his conclusion that the mayor's head is stuck in the sand.

From the earliest days, Koch refused to even meet with the Gay Men's Health Crisis. When he finally did, he agreed to only the non-fiscal AIDS requests. To this day Koch has refused to commit the kinds of dollars which his own advisors say it will take to provide basic services to the growing population fighting for their lives.

Jan Carl Park protests that "if you look at the figures, it's a good picture." But the Committee on AIDS Funding, comprised of AIDS Service Organizations, put forth a budget request of \$41 million—a paltry sum out of the city's \$27 billion annual budget. They arrived at their request not by creating a "wish list," but by conservatively pricing the services outlined in the city's own strategic plan for AIDS. Less than half of their request was funded. In addition, most of the city's touted AIDS fund increase this year actually consists of funds which were budgeted last year

and weren't spent. The money is simply being carried over in a classic smoke and mirrors act.

GMHC's diplomatic Robert Peterson says, "It's like trying to put out a raging fire with a water pistol." ACT UP is more direct when it chants, "murderer" in confrontations with the mayor.

Park believes lesbian and gay voters will "keep AIDS in perspective." But for most of us, AIDS has superceded other issues and creates the perspective from which the rest of the Koch record, whether in the area of human rights or in the area of social services, is viewed. In 1985, Carol Bellamy challenged Koch in the mayoral race, and lost big. The single group with whom she did better than Koch, according to a *Daily News* exit poll, was lesbian and gay voters. The erosion of Koch's support in our community was evident then, and has only continued. Lesbian activist Vivian Shapiro, a former board member of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, voted for Koch even in 1985. "I will not support him now," she says. "There's a part of him that would like our community to disappear."

Likewise, Eric Sawyer not only voted for Koch in 1985, but contributed

funds to his campaign. Sawyer is a real estate investor, and saw Koch primarily as a friend to real estate and a sound political investment. His lover's death from AIDS in 1986 woke Sawyer up to the political realities of AIDS in New York City and "the lack of leadership on the mayor's part." Sawyer now spends his time investigating the lack of city AIDS services.

His story is not uncommon. One effect which AIDS has had on us, as a group, politically, is to demonstrate without a doubt what many of us—at least what many of us gay, white men—had previously failed to comprehend: we are an expendable population, as much so as those that Robert Wagner, Jr. had suggested might have to be driven out. And the result of this rude awakening is that our community is increasingly taking a liberationist approach to politics. Dave Taylor credits ACT UP with a large part of this transformation, and notes, "Progressives are dominating the political scene now."

The Dinkins campaign sees gay and lesbian votes as potentially pivotal. According to Dinkins field organizer Leslie Cagan, a lesbian, "We think that the lesbian and gay vote can make a significant difference."

Philip Reed makes the more general observation that "no minority mayor of a major city has won without the support of the lesbian and gay community."

But the story of Ed Koch over the past 12 years leaves us with an important lesson. Many in our community stayed loyal to Koch until 1981, until 1985, and some even until now, because he says he supports us. Let's call this the Koch Rule: As lesbians and gays, our loyalty to candidates and elected officials must be completely secondary to our imperative to survive and gain visibility and empowerment. Finally, it seems that our group perception of Ed Koch has caught up with the bleak reality of his record. Koch's once-solid base of support among us has dwindled to almost nothing. ▼

Is He Or Isn't He?

Certainly it is homophobia which made this an issue in the first place. And certainly, at this point, the reality of Koch's sexuality couldn't be more beside the point.

But Hizzoner himself says he isn't. "I'm a Heterosexual," he proclaimed in headlines earlier this year. Simply the fact that he's felt a constant need to assert that he is not gay has influenced both perceptions and policy. "That [Koch is gay] was and is the general perception whether he is or not," says openly gay Democratic Party district leader candidate Philip Reed. "That brought us some hope and ultimately profound disappointment."

And AIDS policy? Because of the rumors which had haunted his election campaigns, "Koch was obviously not about to start championing funds for a homosexual disease," wrote Randy Shilts in his history of the early years of the epidemic, *And the Band Played On*.

But Koch probably has the closet vote. "Closeted people see him as one of their own," says Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights activist Andy Humm. He describes their thinking as follows: "He's single, and whatever he is, he's very discreet about it. And that's me."

—Sandor Katz

WHY I HATED K IS A

by *Larry Kramer*

In 1981 I helped to start Gay Men's Health Crisis. In 1981, I made my first telephone call for help to the mayor of the city my many friends were dying in. In 1981, I made my second and third and fourth and fiftieth phone calls for help to the mayor of the city my many friends were dying in. For you see, I never—not in 1981 or 1982 or 1983—got the mayor and I never got the mayor's Liaison to the Gay Community, Mr. Herb Rickman, and I never got the mayor's Commissioner of Health, Dr. David Sencer, and I never got *anyone*.

And I started to become the furiously angry man I am now known to be. I hate and loathe Ed Koch with every fiber of my being and every ounce of energy I have.

And so should every single gay man and lesbian in New York City. And so should every person touched by AIDS in New York City—gay, straight, white, black, hispanic, man, woman, child.

When the man I loved died in 1984 (and GMHC still had not received support from the mayor of the city our many friends are dying in) I vowed on his death bed that I would do everything in my power to discredit Ed Koch—to shout at every possible minute what a monster Ed Koch is, what a lethal hypocrite Ed Koch is, what a murderer of my many dying friends Ed Koch is.

I don't know why people think I am exaggerating when I say that Ed Koch is the one person in America most responsible for letting the AIDS epidemic get out of control.

I don't know why people don't believe Dr. Mathilde Krim when she says that AIDS is an epidemic that could have been contained. And that everything that happened was predictable from the very first moment.

When someone in a family gets sick, doesn't the parent try to make him better? This parent certainly doesn't let the sick kid get worse and worse. But that's what Ed Koch did.

When a transmissible virus starts sweeping through the

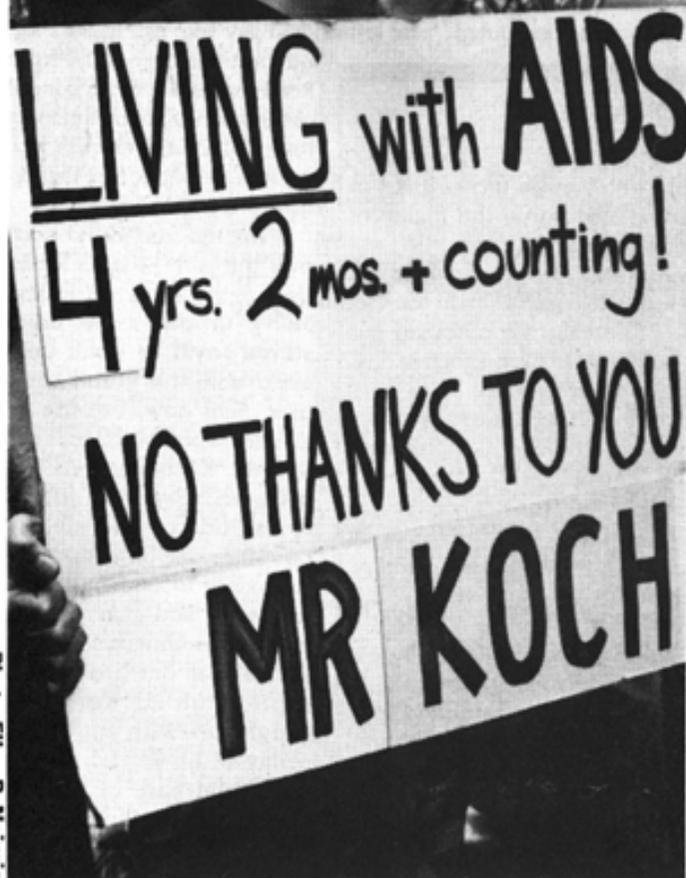


Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

THINK KOCH PIG

city streets like a plague, doesn't the highest elected official of that city have an obligation to educate his citizens to get out of the way? This highest elected official certainly doesn't see to it that all attempts at education are forbidden completely. But that's what Ed Koch did.

When an epidemic gets so bad that tens of thousands of people are dying and there are no hospital beds and insufficient amounts of medicine and bodies are piling up in doorways, shouldn't the mayor of the city—finally—try and save his citizens? This mayor certainly shouldn't lie to his people and tell them there is \$40 million coming to them at last when in fact there is already a \$2 billion deficit and there is about as much chance as a poor Black kid becoming president that any of this \$40 million is going to see the light of truth. But that's what Ed Koch did.

It is astounding what a flagrant liar he is and what an inept official he is and what a crooked politician he is (189 of his staff have been indicted) and how everyone knows all this and still he has not been turned out of office and indeed stands a good chance to win again. It is almost as if people in New York really believe you have to be crooked and ruthless to succeed in New York. That's probably why people are not going to vote for David Dinkins, who, by all rights, should be Mayor, and everyone knows should be Mayor.

How much worse must everything be before we give someone new a chance? Each year has been worse than the year before. More lies and more corruption and more government by press conferences and more smarmy acts of contrition and more announced programs that never materialize and more deaths from AIDS.

More lies and more deaths and fewer friends in this city my many friends are dying in.

How can every rational, sane, compassionate human being not hate and loathe Ed Koch with every fiber of your being and every ounce of energy you have? ▼

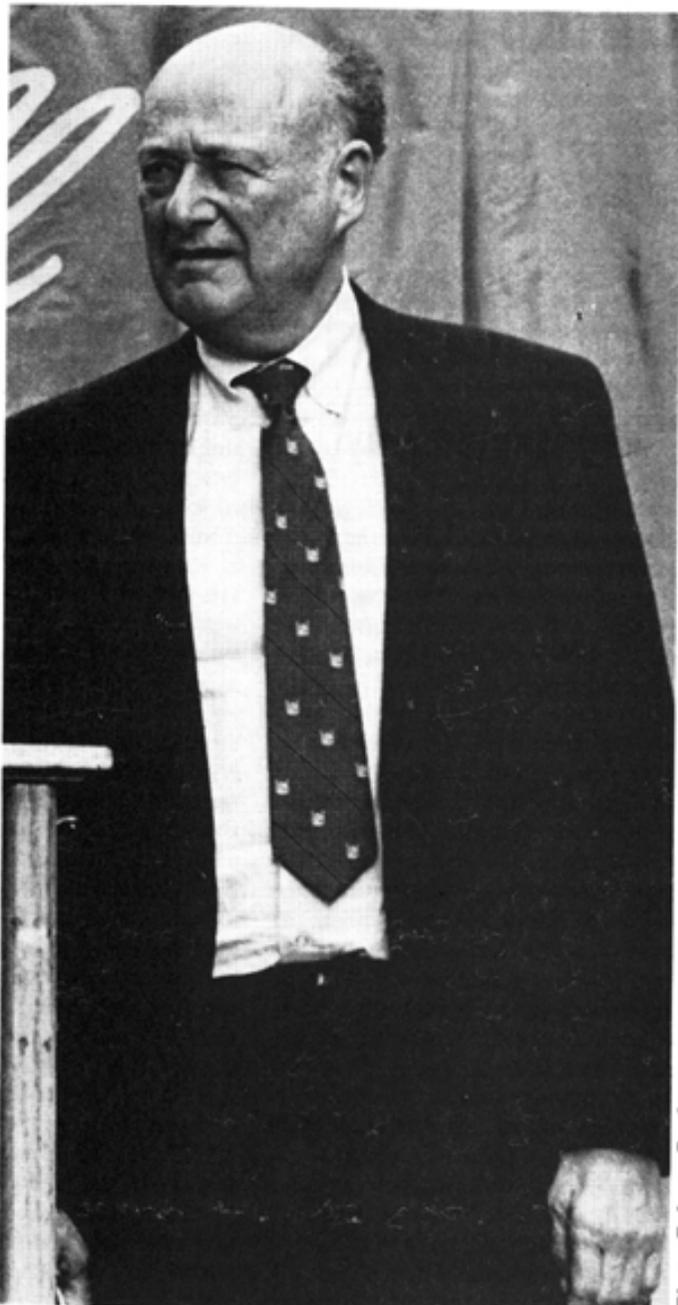


Photo: Roberta Raeburn

Why is David Dinkins Our Candidate?

by David Kirby

It's no secret: Living in New York is becoming more difficult every year. Our city is caught in a nightmarish web of interrelated crises—their crude reality slaps us in the face daily, as if we needed further reminding that City Hall has failed us miserably.

You can try to ignore the problems, but they will catch up with you. Open a paper, turn on the news, walk down the street: Crisis and catastrophe await you. We have the homeless crisis and its parent, the housing crisis. The crisis in education has aggravated the drug crisis, which in turn is fanning the fires of the AIDS crisis. In the meantime, people are being beaten or murdered in the streets because someone else didn't like their skin color, or their sex, or their sexual orientation.

Call it the hate crisis.

Sound alarmist? Perhaps, but think how the city will look four years from now, if we don't throw out the folks who allowed this situation to simmer and fester over the last 12 years. While Ed Koch partied and his underlings pilfered, our city—our city—became



poorer, sicker, more addicted to drugs and far more dangerous.

Yes, we are angry. We are disgusted at the way the poor are largely left to fend for themselves. We are frightened to walk down drug-infested streets. We are sick and tired of being sad, of watching our friends and lovers waste away with disease—often without proper health care, housing, nutrition.

But this year, 1989, we can end the dark days of neglect and indifference. We can begin speaking of hope, renewal, healing. We can vote for David Dinkins and get this city back on track. As lesbians and gay men—and as New Yorkers—we have an obligation to make certain that Dinkins is our next Mayor. We owe it to ourselves, and to the poor, the sick, the drug-addicted, the young, the disabled, and everyone else who needs someone fight for them—and not against them—at the pinnacle of municipal power.

David Dinkins' long ascent to empowerment in many ways mirrors that of our own community. In the late 60s and early 70s, he was on the streets very much like our own. David Dinkins knows what it's like to suffer discrimination and bigotry. He has lived with

they joys and pains of a community struggling to earn the respect and power it rightly deserves. David Dinkins has always spoken out—from the heart—against bigotry and hatred, racism, sexism, anti-Semitism and homophobia.

"I am so proud of you," he often says with a warm smile after addressing lesbian and gay groups. "The lesbian and gay community is a vital part of my efforts to unite this city."

He means it. Dinkins has traditionally hired large numbers of lesbians and gay men to fill key positions at the Manhattan Borough President's Office and, before that, at the Office of the City Clerk. He has endorsed and worked with gay candidates, and appointed openly gay and lesbian members to Manhattan's 12 community boards.

"When it comes to lesbian and gay issues, David Dinkins is light years ahead of the other candidates," says Alan Fleischman of the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats (GLID). "David has been the leader in the fight for our community. But he never had to be pressured to do it, he knew it was right." And in a few days a bilingual, tabloid-sized piece of literature will be mailed to

hundreds of thousands of voters. Its second page is devoted to "David Dinkins' Agenda for Change"—an eight point list of the most pressing issues in the city: "Crime, drugs, education, housing, economic development, environment, reproductive rights and lesbian and gay rights."

Dinkins has taken time to educate himself about AIDS, and as Borough President, has fought for more city funding of AIDS-related programs. Over the last three years, Dinkins and his competent staff negotiated over \$1.7 million into the city budget for AIDS education and services and his office provided the seed money for the first city-wide mass media AIDS education campaign.

"Public AIDS education must be explicit, and it must be culturally and linguistically appropriate to the communities at risk," Dinkins said at a July mayoral AIDS forum sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Dinkins' work on AIDS concerns goes way beyond education. He supports scatter-site housing for homeless persons with AIDS (PWAs) and has promised to reserve two units of every renovated city-owned building for housing PWAs. He has also sought more funds to provide services for HIV-affected, including health and mental health services, outpatient treatment centers and other support services. He pledges to seek more funding for groups such as GMHC, the AIDS Resource Center, People with AIDS Coalition, God's Love, We Deliver and the Community Resource Initiative — which was formed to rapidly test experimental drugs inside the HIV community. Dinkins has also expressed concern on numerous occasions about AIDS among women and children. He recognizes that most cases in New York are now among I.V. drug users and their sexual partners.

But IV drug use and AIDS has cost Dinkins some support among certain activists. He does not endorse needle exchange programs, and even opposes the distribution of bleach kits for drug users to clean their works.

"To me, free needles is the same as free drugs. I can't accept that we should surrender on this issue," Dink-

Vito Russo:

"I certainly trust him more than anyone else. He puts himself in touch with the PWA community."

ins said at the AIDS forum. "What I want is to get people off drugs, period. We should spend our time on things like treatment-on-demand, which is so limited in New York."

Still, support for Dinkins is strong among AIDS activists and PWAs. "I certainly trust him more than anybody else in the field," says Vito Russo, a writer, AIDS activist and PWA. "He occasionally drops by the PWA Coalition to visit. But it's never a planned event, there's no one from the media, as if he were campaigning. I appreciate it because he puts himself in touch with the PWA community more than anyone, and thus he understands the issue more than anyone."

Dinkins has spoken out as much on women's issues as he has on lesbian and gay issues. He supports full reproductive rights, equal pay for equal work and the ERA. He has helped fund programs for prenatal care, day care and battered women and children. He supports community-based women's health projects. As such, Dinkins has been endorsed by NOW-New York and the New York Women's Political Caucus.

"Dinkins is sensitive to women's issues; he has come a long way," says Joyce Hunter, a lesbian activist. "I still think he could do better on women's issues, but he's far above the others."

He has appointed women to many key positions, including his current chief of staff and community services director, and his former deputy borough president and press secretary.

Nobody had to tell Dinkins that the lesbian and gay rights bill (which the City Council finally passed in 1986) was a critical piece of legislation. Year after year, Dinkins would trudge down to City Hall with the rest of us for the annual ritual of having the bill rejected. But Dinkins, like us, refused to give up. By coincidence, the bill was passed just three months after Dinkins took office.

Now, he has turned his energy to legislation in Albany and Washington, vowing to fight until lawmakers there

understand that discrimination is an unnecessary evil. Dinkins supports the anti-bias bill in the state legislature, which would set stiff penalties for those convicted of hate crimes—including

lesbian and gay bashing. "I will make my position clear to the leaders in Albany: Homophobia maims and kills. Stop the violence. Pass the bill," he said recently.

He also supports including gay and lesbian history and culture in public school courses. "We don't have to love each other, but we *ought* to learn to understand each other," Dinkins likes to say. "We can help young people transcend the fear and ignorance that lead to homophobia, racism and sexism."

On the issue of domestic partnership, few leaders have gone as far as Dinkins. He was the first city official to recognize domestic partnership among his staff, and supports the right of unmarried partners to inherit leases in rent-controlled, rent-stabilized and city-owned buildings. Dinkins also believes that domestic partners of city employees should be entitled to spousal benefits.

Of course there are issues on which Dinkins has had disagreements with some in the lesbian and gay community. In addition to the aforementioned controversial needle exchange programs, Dinkins has disappointed some gay and lesbian leaders on the issue of legalized gay marriages. Though he supports our right to adopt children or give them foster care, Dinkins does not back formal, legal marriage for lesbians and gays. Dozens have met with him on this issue, yet he remains steadfast. "I'm simply not ready to change my mind on gay marriages, but I am open to keep talking about it," he recently told a small group during a meeting.

But in general, most lesbian and gay activists believe Dinkins is the most representative of our issues of all the candidates—that he will fight for our civil rights. Says Vito Russo: "I'd like to turn the tide in this city, to transform it from a barracuda pit to a place where people listen to each other. David, who is intelligent and articulate, can do that. I can't think of any reason not to vote for him." ▼



Obviously Dixie Foam Bedding has decided there's a huge mattress-buying lesbian market out there just waiting to be tapped.

—M.S.
Photo: T.L. Litt



We're so happy to see that The Cubby Hole, the most popular dyke bar in town, has a "sandwich-of-the-month" named after it at the Store 24 at Greenwich and Sixth Ave. We figure Bonnie must be a sister.

—M.S.

Photo: T.L. Litt



OUT OF MY HANDS

BY BRADLEY BALL

Dear Brad:

I thought I liked him but I was never sure how he felt about me and so I just waited for something to happen. But nothing ever did and when finally I said something he said he'd never really given it any thought one way or the other and would have to get back to me. Somehow I know that when and if he does I'm not going to come out so well. I used to have reliable instincts about these things but now I'm no longer sure. Frankly, I don't know if I could stand to go through all of this again with one more person. What now?

—Square One

Dear Square:

To be quite honest, all of the good things came to an abrupt end early in

1988 and that's just the way it is.

Dear Brad:

It's about 3:00 am on a particularly evil and terrifying night and everybody I know hung up on me when I tried to call them and I honestly don't know where else to turn or what it is I think I want somebody to tell me that I haven't already said to myself in one way or another. Maybe all I want is some kind of comfort, quick or cold or otherwise, which is not the sort of thing one can simply demand or even purchase at this or any time of night and, of course, there is no easy comfort. There is only endurance but right now at this unendurable moment I cannot even believe in, let alone hope for that and...oh, but what's the use? What on earth could

you possibly say to me, given the limitations of this forum, that would make a difference, assuming you'd even bother to print my letter and even if you did that's quite a while to wait and whatever ineffable comfort I think it is I need, I need right this very minute. Besides, what if what they say is true and all these letters are made up? If that's the case then so is *this* letter which makes this dread completely imaginary or else it means that I'm you or you're me and if I can't help myself then you can't help me or yourself or whoever either one of us may be.

—Lost in the Stars

Dear Lost:

I felt exactly the same way one night in Montreal at the Chateau Champlain when room service was closed and the pay-per-view channel was showing *Frantic* for the hundredth time and I'd pretty well cleaned out the mini-bar in the room (a course of action I was later to regret when presented with my room charges). Fortunately I always travel with a copy of Jean Anouilh's *Medée* close at hand and turned to this familiar passage: "Beasts of this night! I utter with you your obscure scream. I accept like you, without wanting to understand any more, the black command...I put out the little light. I give the shameful signal. I take upon myself, I assume, I claim. All that is hunting and killing tonight is *Medea!*" Who can help but feel strangely uplifted by these words? I found the momentary solace that I need but, of course, that work is now out of print so you'll just have to come up with your own solution.

Confidential to Sally P.:

You should wear green. You wore green the last time, the time you were happy. ▼

"Peek-A-Boo" II

Mary Martin
 Claudette Colbert
 Steven Jobs
 Desi Arnez Jr.
 Prince Albert of Monaco
 Richard Chamberlain
 Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski
 Maryland Congressman Ron Dyson
 Maryland Gov. William Schaeffer
 Fran Leibowitz
 Johnny Mathis
 Julie Andrews
 Blake Edwards
 Diane Sawyer
 Mike Nichols
 Suzanne Pleshette

Sir John Gielgud
 Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield
 Lily Tomlin
 Jane Wagner
 Dolly Parton
 Sandy Gallen
 Walt Disney head Michael Eisner
 20th Century Fox head Barry Diller
 Geffen Records head David Geffen
 Republican Nat'l. Committee
 Chair Lee Atwater
 Alexis Smith
 David Cassidy
 Marlene Dietrich
 Kristie McNichol
 Fannie Flagg

—compiled by the OutWeek staff
 and various contributors



By: Michelangelo Signorile

I'd like to meet this maniac Donal Henahan who wrote the *Music View* column in last Sunday's *New York Times* so that I could smear his face with some sweet, creamery butter (I'll explain this tactic later). In an obsessive column in which he discusses an article titled *Franz Schubert and the Peacocks of Benvenuto Cellini* (written by Maynard Solomon and appearing in the spring issue of *19th Century Music*), Henahan's homophobia rages out of control. The article, of course, speaks of Schubert as a gay man. But before even reading about it we immediately see the hatred of the *Times'* headline writers who came up with these ditties: *The Dark Side of Schubert* and (on the jump page) *Some Disturbing Things About Schubert*. Then we get to the column and learn that Henahan, who seems to think that *visibility* is unimportant, doesn't feel the public should be told that any great artists were gays or lesbians. But he does acknowledge that people are being brought out of the closet anyway and that it might be "reasonable" in this case since the composer was "an enthusiastic homosexual [whose] sexuality could have had something to do with his feverishly prolific output, his drastic swings of mood and his tragic death by syphilis at age 31." Eat shit!

• • • •

After two months, Liz Smith (*Daily News*) has finally discovered Charles Busch and *The Lady in Question* (or rather his publicist has finally gotten Liz to nibble on an item). But, once again Liz says some stupid, incorrect and embarrassing

things in her twisted attempt to analyze culture: "AIDS effectively put the quietus onto the fun of camp. But somehow Busch has managed to rise above the times." Sorry, Liz, but if you woke up and actually got out of that ivory tower you'd know that "camp" (*your* word for fags in drag) is at an all-time high — probably *directly due* to the oppression and homophobia surrounding AIDS. Lypsinka, Jeffrey Essman, Everett Quinton, Ethyl Eichelberger, Bruce Hopkins,



Wigstock have all recently garnered huge doses of "mainstream press," much of it within your own newspaper. Do you read Liz? Or is it perhaps that "AIDS has put a quietus" not on the the *occurrence* of "camp," but rather on *your* reporting of it? After all, there are more important things to write about like how wonderful Gayfryd Steinberg and her million dollar birthday parties are, right?

• • • •

Perhaps more insidious, though, are some remarks from *The New Republic's* Fred Barnes which Liz Smith includes in the same column. In a highly irresponsible manner, she quotes Barnes' dangerous rantings that drug abuse is not a major problem in America today without making *any* critical comment other than that these are "unusual ideas." And though she sits on the fence, it's obvious that Liz agrees with Barnes but is afraid to say so. According to Barnes, as quoted by Liz Smith, all the hype about drug use is "the result of a relentless media emphasis...Politicians have followed the press in talking nonstop about drugs. It's also the result of something else — GOOD TIMES.

"People worry about drugs because there isn't something better to

fret over. The economy is in its seventh year of growth. There aren't significant foreign troubles to speak of. But just let the economy slip into mild recession, and the national worry over drugs will vanish." Nothing better to fret over? MY COMMUNITY IS BEING MURDERED!!! A MILLION PEOPLE ARE INFECTED WITH A VIRUS THAT HAS KILLED 100,000, YOU ASS-HOLES!!!

• • • •

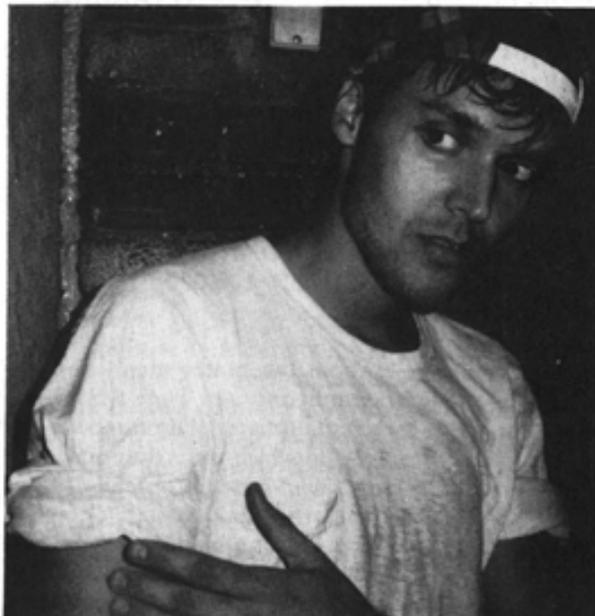
About the butter mentioned in paragraph one. On Page Six (*New York Post*), Richard Johnson reports on an event in which yours truly attended a party and "shoved a plateful of butter on [artist Mark Kostabi's] face." Not true! It was a big *tub* of half-melted butter and it wasn't shoved but rather "squished." And I'm not sure what we should do to Johnson for writing, "Signorile is an editor at *OutWeek*, a magazine that caters to homosexuals." Maybe we should all *cater* his next party? (When I spoke to him afterwards he chuckled that he thought I said "a lesbian and gay *nude* magazine, rather than *news* magazine. Ha. Ha. Ha.)

Kostabi deserved much more humiliation than that for the violence and death he has courted and perpetuated since he made those horrible, homophobic, AIDSphobic remarks in *Vanity Fair* a few months ago. On Page Six he says of me: "A man who resorts to violence is a man who has run out of ideas." Without getting into a debate about what is "violent" and what isn't (and whether or not dairy products fall into this category), I would like to point out that this man who says I've run out of ideas is the very same artist who hires people to *think* for him.

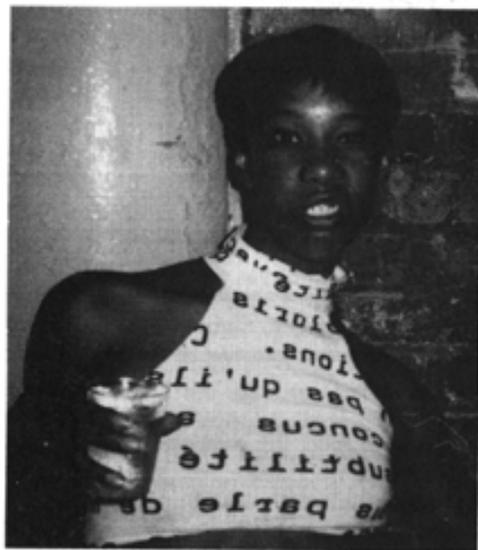
But back to the action. Everyone should begin coming up with strategies for "Hotel Bar Zaps." They're immensely effective. You attend social events where these monsters will be. Tell all of the paparazzi and the gossip columnists what you plan to do. And then, presto! The embarrassed idiot sits there with goop on his or her face, while flashbulbs are popping and reporters are jotting down notes. You quickly exit. The next morning you fax all of the media your statements and demands.

Social Terrorism

Photos by *Erich Conrad*



NOTHING UP MY SLEEVE
David LaChapelle



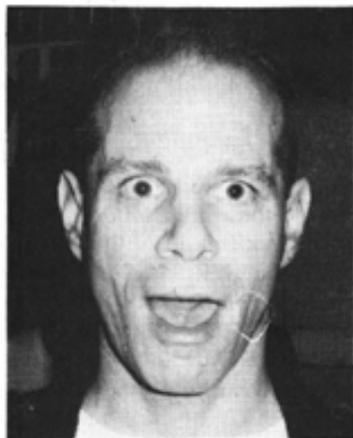
WHATDYA MEAN YOU CAN'T READ MY SHIRT?
Cherne at MK



SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS
Pop Tarts Fenton, Charlie and Randy at the Cat Club



OOOOO! WHAT A LOVELY BREEZE
Poet Barbara Patterson Lloyd at Mars



WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
Filmmaker Charles Atlas at the My Comrade party



DON'T EVEN TRY IT
Reno Dakota at the My Comrade party



GEE, THAT FEATHER TICKLES
Doris of F.A.D. Magazine at Cat Club



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MY ETCHINGS?
Tommy Saeli



BLOW IN MY REAR AND I'LL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE
Barbara Streisand at Love Machine



WISHFUL THINKING?
Scott Lifschits at the My Comrade party



FATAL DISC-TRACTION
DJ Dany at the My Comrade party



NO NATASHA, ACT FRIENDLY!
Finnbar and Simon at MK



THE NECKLACE IS GONE
Phoebe and Mark at MK

JOIN UP

by David Kirby and Gabriel Rotello

We hear through the gay grapevine that many new groups are following in the activist footsteps, or march-steps, of that pioneering organization, ACT-UP. Maybe you haven't heard of them yet, but they're out there, getting ready to piss-off your straight friends by "going too far," and possibly disturbing the peace in your very own neighborhood. Just to keep you from getting too confused at this proliferation of pissed-off pansies and livid lesbians, here's a handy guide to the new groups.

Drag queens are kissing off the opposition in: Drag Reigns In Every Social Situation, or **DRESS-UP**.

Psychophants in the fashion industry are snubbing old friends at meetings for: Someone Unimportant Calvin Knows, or **SUCK-UP**.

Nonpolitical, anti-ACT-UP fags are throwing beach parties in Provincetown for: Stop Homos from Upsetting Teadances, or **SHUT-UP**.

Faaaabulous models are learning to vogue for their rights in: Posing Is Nirvana, or **PIN-UP**.

Radical anti-breeders are asking that pertinent question: Why Are Kids Everywhere?, or **WAKE-UP**.

Sex workers and their 'paying companions' have finally organized: Prostitution And You, or **PAY-UP**.

Compulsively clean roommates who've had it up to here are fighting back with: People Into Clean Kitchens, or **PICK-UP**.

Busy queer yuppies who just don't have a minute for anybody else's problems are finally getting together: Time Is Everything, Dear, or **TIED-UP**.

Gay and lesbian overeaters have formed: Food Equals Death, or **FED-UP**.

Stingy decorators are self-empowering in: Furniture Is Extra, or **FIX-UP**.

Inexperienced lesbian mothers with uncooperative turkey-baster babies are fighting back with: Single Parents In Trouble, or **SPIT-UP**.

And finally, everybody with some kind of neurotic problem — which is almost everybody we know — seems to be joining: Let Overwhelming Obsessions Suddenly End Now, or **LOOSEN-UP**.

OutWeek wishes the best of luck to all the above organizations, and invites them to list in our community directory.

SHUT UP

FIX UP

SUCK UP

Ten Reasons Why I Can't Date You

by Mona Feigenbaum

My friends tell me that I'm way too picky, that I should lower my standards and I'd be getting some all the time. But it's not really a question of standards, or that I'm such a gift (well, you could do worse...), but there are certain physical things, call them uh—uh—elements of style if you will that turn me off at face value. Nothing to do with looks per say—believe me, this girl Mona could always use some self-improvement—rather it's tone and intention that often make me run the other way. I guess you could say they are little things that say a lot. And while beauty is only skin deep (yeah, yeah, yeah), clothes often do make the (wo)man. In other words, here are ten highly superficial reasons why I can't date you

1. Leather pants—especially when you shouldn't, and most people shouldn't.
2. Boots over your pants, particularly over your leather pants. Further penalty points if those boots (or that leather) is of some unnatural color, such as red.
3. Acid-washed jeans—wear them and I won't even talk to you.
4. An outfit too conspicuously "Gap."
5. Attitude for no apparent reason—unless of course, you're still in high school, and in that case you can have lots of attitude *and* wear red leather boots over acid-washed jeans...you've got me.
6. It is way too obvious that you're a power lifter.
7. "But I'm mature for 23" is a phrase in your vocabulary.
8. You tell me you're "nutty."
9. You're 5' 8", and 5' 2" without your hair.
10. You ask me out to dinner and suggest that we go to Caramba's and drink "Blue Whales."



PRIORITIES.

GAP

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OW 12

Theater

Privates' Lives

Privates on Parade. A play with music by Peter Nichols. Music by Denis King. Directed by Larry Carpenter. Presented at the Roundabout Theater Company, 100 E. 17th Street.

by Michael Paller

The vision of British playwright Peter Nichols is bitter and bleak, but there is joy and a kind of wholeness in it, too. By combining conventional, even melodramatic, stories with musical hall jokes and songs, and pastiches of Hollywood production numbers, Nichols produces deep and resonant emotional experiences. They take us directly to the heart of the dramatic matter—a heart which almost always alternates with breath-taking speed between unbearable loss and unbreakable hilarity.

Nichols doesn't use pronouncements to make his opinions clear. He is both too humble and realistic to feel superior, and God forbid he take refuge in the last resort of hypocrites and fools, the moral high ground. Rather, he unleashes his characters in extravagant situations, and lets them behave, sing and dance as they will.

The New York premiere of Nichols' 1977 *Privates on Parade* (a title which can be taken in any one of several ways) admirably reflects the play's humanity. Larry Carpenter, the director, sees to it that each character is a human being, not a cartoon. For all its music hall humor, there isn't a cheap moment: every laugh is earned—and so, too, is the anger.

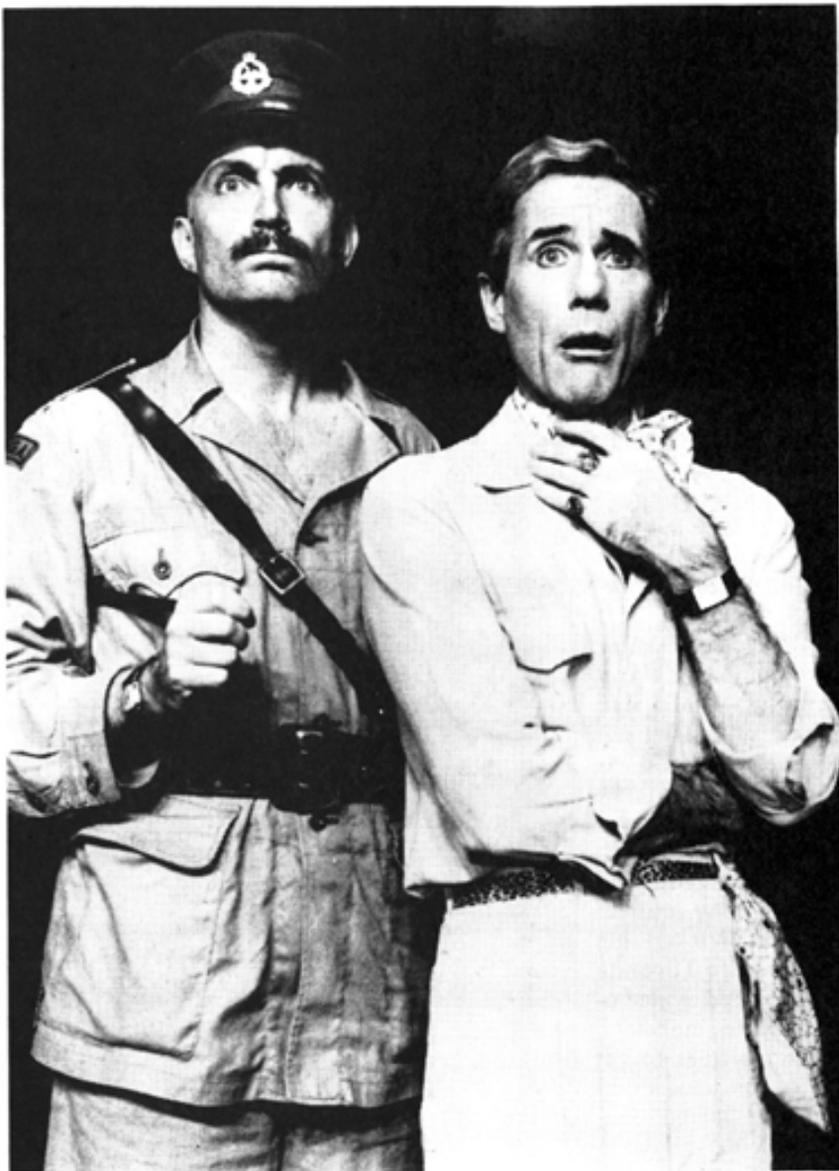
The story is a rite of passage: in time of war, a soldier grows from callow youth to man. British Private Stephen Flowers (Jim Fyfe) arrives in the Malayan Peninsula in 1948, during

the British effort to hold the Communists at bay in the Pacific. He's attached to an entertainment unit led by Acting Captain Terri Dennis (Jim Dale), who is a raving queen and proud of it. The unit has been touring Singapore, but on the orders of its commanding officer, the dense Major Giles Flack (Simon Jones) it is about

to become bait to lure the guerrillas from the jungle.

As Flowers, Jim Fyfe is wonderfully befuddled, whether face to face with a stripped-down Dennis as they discuss the birds and bees, or at the naked mercy of Sylvia Morgan, the troop's Welsh-Indian song and dance

See PRIVATES' on page 74



PRIDE PARADE
Simon Jones and Jim Dale

Photo: Martha Swope

Film

The Cookie Crumbles

Cookie, directed by Susan Seidelman. Distributed by Warner Bros.

by Maria Maggenti

It was only a few years ago when Susan Seidelman managed to break into the Hollywood mainstream with films that portrayed women as sassy, sexy, centered and sometimes even a bit subversive. She seemed so full of promise; a young female director with an irreverent point of view and an original visual style. However, the my-dick-is-bigger-than-yours school of filmmaking seems to have sent Seidelman careening off course in her latest venture, the ill-conceived and often sloppy new release *Cookie*.

The plot is simple and not particularly engaging—Mafia dad (Peter Falk) is let out of the slammer and has to deal with his feisty illegitimate daughter Cookie (Emily Lloyd), his still passionate and long-suffering mistress (Dianne Wiest), his brassy wife (Brenda Vaccaro) and a plethora of Mafia mobsters, as he struggles to get out of the underworld and "go straight." Seeing as how Italian-Americans seem to be setting Hollywood's

imagination on fire recently, this plot line isn't surprising. What could Italians be doing in New York anyway except eating pasta, yelling at each other and oiling the wheels of that macho Mafia machine day in and day out? Perhaps co-writer Nora Ephron developed the script while taking the train out to Easthampton one weekend in between her many Hollywood writing gigs and promptly forgot

about it until the next mortgage payment was due on her fabulous house. Thus, in place of true humor, tired ethnic stereotypes are trotted out to try and bolster an obviously unfunny and often confusing script. This is one of those movies where the sheer sound of an Italian name is supposed to make a person guffaw.

Peter Falk plays an aging Italian gangster with all the finesse and polish of a true ensemble actor. However, his sense of comic timing and his feeling for understatement are continually challenged by the crowded voices of Vaccaro, Wiest and Lloyd who are reduced to a trio of squawking, bitchy, gum-chomping wenches. This is a particular disappointment in the case of Emily Lloyd, the young British actress whose film debut two years ago in *Wish You Were Here* displayed a kind of irrepressible originality, wit and defiance rarely seen by women in film. Instead of setting her loose, Seidelman lassoes Lloyd's natural buoyancy by making the character Cookie into an ersatz version of Madonna in *Desperately Seeking Susan*. What is it with oversized, overdecorated black leather jackets anyway that are supposed to make us understand a girl's character? Unfortunately, aside from some loud chomping of chewing gum and a few barely audible sentences by Lloyd in a tough Queens accent, we get nary a



COTTON CANDY CRIER
Dianne Wiest



ERZATZ MADONNA
Emily Lloyd

glimpse of exactly who this grumpy, suggestive young woman is supposed to be in relation to the wobbly plot. Is it something about being a girl, something about being the daughter of a former Mafia bigwig, something about not fitting in with the rest of the gals in the neighborhood, something about wearing a black leather jacket every day of your life?

While Cookie attempts to "go straight" by working as her dad's chauffeur, her dad is navigating the murky waters of friendship and rivalry created during his years in the slammer. Enter the driven, ambitious district attorney, loosely modeled after Rudy Giuliani, who is also trying to capture Falk in a web of deceit. However, it seems that Falk is ready to throw all that crazy stuff away and start over with the love of his life Dianne Weist (his mistress, Cookie's mom), a cotton candy blonde who

cries constantly and yet is really the only sympathetic character in the whole film. She is also the only one who can elicit laughter without compromising one's sense of compassion. But who can help old Papa out of the mess he's in? Certainly not his rebellious ne'er-do-well daughter Cookie. But what a surprise! A couple of car chases and costume changes later, it looks like the little Cookie is really just a chip off the old block. Cookie, with her fifth grade vocabulary and Jayne Mansfield figure, is the only one who can save her dad's life. And save it she does in a series of film sequences that are so sloppy and poorly shot that it made me wonder if Seidelman had ever considered using that high technology cinema technique called storyboarding. Despite the feeble attempt at comic scenarios and the omnipresent "Italian" music that greases the action, there is no

development of the characters or the plot nor is there a climax. Every scene just sails along clumsily bumping into the next. Before you know it, Dad is free and Cookie has shorn her black leather jacket for black stockings, a boyfriend and who knows? Maybe a life of love and crime.

Thus, it seems that the point of the picture is to have dad and daughter somehow build a bridge over their troubled waters and learn to love and respect each other (though Dad hasn't helped out once in Cookie's whole life and Cookie is mostly an immature reprobate who likes Saturday morning cartoons and driving the limo onto the sidewalk). But what are such small details in a film about those passionate, crazy folk we call Italians? Nothing except that once again Hollywood creates an abyss where before there was nothing but teeming reality. ▼

Music

Prospecting the Park

I may have short hair, but I ain't no dyke

by Victoria Starr

Women, music. Women in music. Women's music. No matter how these two words are associated, the images that come to mind seem to have a sort of knee-jerk narrowness to them. Let's see, there's the woman with the guitar who sings touchy-feely, earthy songs. There's the sexy disco diva, and the skimpily clad rock bitch. There's the back up singers, and the sixties style "girl group" (or eighties style if it's the Roches). And that just about sums it up. Which is why it is with great curiosity that I watch the various ways in which people in the music industry deal with the concept of women making music. Last weekend was no exception.

The scene is Prospect Park, home of the greatly appreciated *Celebrate Brooklyn* performing arts series, which boasts as being "the longest running outdoor performing arts festival in New York City." A series of free performances that draw from the wide variety of cultural backgrounds, this series is, overall, a fine opportunity to see a range of performers who may not fit so easily into the larger, more commercial music/dance/performance art scene. The method is to have each weekend represent a different style of performance art, with themes ranging from a "Pop Music" weekend to Shakespeare, from "African-Caribbean" to classical. This year's series included *Native American Visions*, and a vaguely titled *Women's Festival*. Starting to get the picture?

Notice the weekend was not called *Women's Music*, as I had originally misread it to say. Not that it mattered, since I attended the show with the security of knowing that with a title like *Women's Festival*, nearly half of the Park Slope dyke population would show up anyway. But

"women's music" or not (some of the weekend's acts could fall into that category, while many of the others absolutely could not), the weekend was just one more example of the inherent contradictions in trying to define a woman's space in musical performance.

The first thing I noticed was how surprisingly segregated the weekend seemed to be. While I can surely appreciate that some musical styles naturally compliment each other, it was glaring that Friday night featured all white performers, while Saturday night featured all black performers. (I am neither familiar with the bands who performed Sunday, nor did I attend the show). This type of concert production

does little for inter-neighborhood relations, a criticism which holds true for the entire series, despite the producers' attempt to cover all the bases. And while no law says that the series must embroil itself in the local political scene, a whole dialog could be drawn around the concept of publicly funded cultural activities, not to mention the questions around how to best use our limited public green spaces.

Enough said about the production of *Celebrate Brooklyn*, which is, above all, exciting. Less exciting, however, were Friday night's acts, as the evening's artists helped to drive lesbian visibility back a good decade or two. Again, this was not "women's music" (which has its own very limiting focus at times), so there was no reason to expect to find anything lesbian about the show. There is, never-



"STOP COMBING YOUR HAIR!"
Hattie Gossett

Photo: Ana De Orbegoso

theless, the simple fact that Park Slope has largest lesbian community on the East coast, a fact which made these woefully heterosexual (or extremely closeted) women very nervous. So much so, in fact, that the usually charming and ever-so-witty Christine Lavin felt compelled to reaffirm her involvement with men no less than three times during her set, and that's not even counting the lyrics to her songs. The second act, a comedy act inappropriately named

Bad Attitudes, simply chose to ignore us, singing a parody about the sodomy laws as if they only affected gay men. On the other hand, the band should have been named Bad Taste, since nearly all of their humor was just that. Which means that by being ignored, we fared better than the ethnic groups they chose to portray. Add to this their macabre urge to tell violent children's stories, and it becomes frighteningly apparent what can happen to the minds of

women who have been upper class housewives for too long. In keeping with the music/comedy vein, I would have much preferred the sexually ambiguous trio Betty, or the hysterically feminist duo Cathy and Moe. But hey, I didn't produce the show. Besides, I knew that Sister Carol and Hattie Gossett, with her special guests Edwina Lee Tyler and Jacque Dupree, would more than make up for it on Saturday. ▼

Pricked up Ears and Dancin' Feet

by Andetrie Smith

Usually when black folks perform it means moving, dancing bodies. Racism has denied that it also means herstory/history: ourstory. As East German playwright Heiner Mueller said years ago that the reason he always read Black American literature was because it was the only American literature with a sense of history. The second night of *Celebrate Brooklyn's* "Women's Festival" (8/26/89) was herstory and irration, with poet Hattie Gossett performing works from her newly-published *Presenting Sister No Blues*, and Reggae DJ Sister Carol, skanking the audience into ceremonial oneness.

Before Ms. Gossett performed, she elaborated on the herstory of dreadlocks, explaining that they were an international phenomenon worn variously by the indigenous peoples of the Amazon rain forest, of the West Indies, of New Zealand, as well as the Rastas. She then launched *Dreadlock Office Temp/Labor Relations #5* with its roots woman heroine who puts the ignorant, more bourgeois blacks, like those in the play *The Colored Museum*, to shame. "Just stop combing your hair she tell them." Echoing the character ten or eleven times loudly, we suspect that most of Hattie's spokeswimmin are herself. In the second poem, *Bruddab the Dreadlocks Don't Belong to You*, she quickly slides from hair freedom to wimmin freedom: "No, da wimmins don't belong to you." I remember hearing a Rasta brother sing: "First come woman then come man." Some people know their herstory.

Gossett's chanting was inauspiciously backed up by musical greats: renowned African percussionist Edwina Lee Tyler, Jacqui Dupree of the womanist duo Casselberry Dupree, drummer David Pleasant, and Craig Rivers on sax. With Lee on the balofone, Dupree sang synchopated echoes to Gossett's lead. The set, which was produced by J Casselberry, was tight and polished, showing in Gossett's work both technical virtuosity and a command of black oral presentation. And we were even treated to Gossett's highly renowned rendition of the late Pat Parker's *Movement in Black*.

See PROSPECT on page 78



ROCKIN' BROOKLYN
Reggae DJ Sister Carol

Photo: Ana De Orbegoso

Books

Getting Off

Serious pleasures: lesbian erotic stories and poetry anthology by Sheba Feminist Press, \$9.95.

by *Jacquie Bishop*

"When they pick up one of the lavender dildoes and ask me what size they should get, I turn to them look them directly in the eye and ask them 'well, how many fingers do you like inside of you?"

—former manager of Eve's Garden

Good lesbian erotica is almost non-existent when compared to the amount of bad lesbian erotica published on a regular basis.

Good lesbian erotica is like a crush on a woman: it makes you squirm, it makes you wet, distracts you throughout the day while giving you fantasies to masturbate over at night.

Sheba Feminist Publisher's new book, *Serious pleasure: lesbian erotic stories and poetry*, provides women with some of the best vanilla "jack-off material" since the first three copies of *On Our Backs* appeared in New York in 1986. The Sheba Collective gives its readers a roller-coaster ride of fast and furious fingers in our cunts (sorry girls no one makes a fist), "I remember how she'd fuck/me like a train/inexorably on & on/like the cannonball run..." [Storme Webber: *Like a Train*] and slow brazen seduction: a visiting college lecturer by a twentyish year old student: "I'll seduce first then you can seduce next, just to keep it egalitarian" [Jewelle Gomez: *Water With the Wine*].

We have freeze frame images of fingers, tongues, legs, hair and breasts intertwined. We do not have

bondage, S/M, boys or roles so we settle (although a little rough playing in Jewelle's *White Flower* does whet the appetite). The Collective gives us the opportunity to read European lesbian writers unfamiliar to this reader. I've learned that wanking is bopping

(as per Cyndy Lauper), and that anonymous sex is great whether it's happening in the Duchess 2 or in a rainstorm in an unfinished garden in the middle of a London Dormitory Complex. I was relieved to read that no matter where you live not everyone is getting some and we are all taking drastic measures. In Bernadette Halprin's *Box S217*, the protagonist does what many of us are forced to do after months of not "doing it": check out the personals, reject the personals, read them again, realize there is no one that you're interested in but there might be someone interested in you so you *send* a personal.

The characters are Black, white, tall, short, just a little plump and quite athletic; some have accents, others have straight hair, nappy hair, green, blue and brown eyes. Some of

the poetry is traditional (yes there is a feeling of women running through the lavender fields nude), while there is an instructional piece on how to seduce your lover into using a cucumber when you've forgotten

See GETTING OFF on page 74



STEAM LOCOMOTIVE
Storme Webber

Photo: T.L. Litt

Books

Schoolboy Dreams

IDOLS by Dennis Cooper. Amethyst Press \$8.95

by *Gabriel Rotello*

At a recent demo in Provincetown, a marcher carried a sign that read: "Legalize Butt Fucking." This prompted a stinging backlash from local lesbians and gays, during which a leader of the gay business guild told the press that what enraged him most about the sign was the fact that it spoke of legalizing anal intercourse without also mentioning condoms.

That exchange bespoke much about the state of the erotic these days, where even the most basic political affirmation of sexuality is often couched in hesitancy or fear or both; where desire becomes a political act, and we are asked to calculate the natural impulses that define us as gay men.

It's therefore even more than usually refreshing to open *Idols*, Dennis Cooper's raucous, real, joyously raunchy and unapologetic paean to ageless teenage queerlust. Cooper speaks as directly to erotic gay sensibilities as Cavafy, but his references are less Byzantine and more David Bowie. Read these poems and be reminded of hot high school nights and that straight classmate you pined for at the prom:

*Cocks didn't matter then.
It was ass we dreamed of, smooth as our ideas.*

Cooper is clear about his tastes as they existed when these poems were written, sometime between childhood and the age of AIDS. He transforms his personal assortment of teenage idols, hustlers and high school heroes into the essences of a suburban erotic elite, and brings us willingly into his fantasies. Liking a certain direct style in his men:

*...bello spoken straight
to a kiss, handshakes right to the
body.*

he disdains restraint, saying of a sexually picky comrade:

*...My friend can wait if
he wants to. I'm hungry and I'll eat.*

Cooper's voice would have none of Provincetown's decorum. At one point he virtually interrupts a poem to exclaim:

... "Fuck!"

*A great word needs to be
yelled.*

But sexual freedom is less his point than sexual conflict, particularly the conflict between his objectivization of young men's bodies versus his unrestrained romanticism, a romanticism that's as capable of hopeless crushes as a teenage girl's. He's ambiguous about the sexual excess of the 70s, saying of boys at the baths:

*...We stink
to the lowest heavens, talk like dime-novels,
and we eat from each other like cannibals,
piss snob cannibals who'll only eat caviar.*

Yet he celebrates sex like a punk bacchante, and a sense of humor infects even his most self-absorbed musings.

Idols is a lyrical, musical, provocative book of verse. In an Author's Preface, Cooper writes that he penned these poems between the ages of 16 and 25, and that he's now "far away" from the feelings they express. Let's hope that if that's true, there are other young poets who will be inspired by his poems to respond with honest, unrestrained voices of their own. We need them. ▼

MY TYPE
for Mike Roberts

Looking through some
photos tonight, over
five years of partners,
I see a long string of
Mikes, ruddy and sane.

They look like his
brothers or cousins.
When Mike moved away
he flew off to London,
but I followed him

into the subconscious,
that most foreign land,
using the map of
his looks, warm and
worn, to find dark-

headed guys each time.
And when I haven't
seen a resemblance
I've held love
at arm's length,

my skin tattooed there
with a cold warning,
its mind as set as
Danger's, says, Dennis
plus Mike forever.

Dennis Cooper

BARNEY FRANK from page 12

class madam, with several women he employed as bisexual prostitutes.

"The girls turned to me and said, 'You're just like her,'" Gobie told the *Post*. "That's when I realized I was in the middle of a developing story that could be worth something someday. I told them, 'Don't be surprised if you see me on TV.'"

Both of Washington's major dailies have reported that Gobie first approached the *Times* with the story and then went to the *Post* and WUSA-TV with the story, seeking to start "a bidding war" for "a better offer." Both

Media Whore?

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA — On August 28, the Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney's office stated that it will seek the dismissal of charges against a former Washington political consultant, the arrest of whom was aided by Steven Gobie. The state cited insufficient evidence as the reason.

The law enforcement officials had previously sought to arrest the man on charges of soliciting sex from a 13-year-old girl, based on a conversation between the man and Gobie.

— Cliff O'Neill

Gobie and the *Times* deny any money changed hands.

Gobie has now returned to his apartment in the predominantly gay Dupont Circle neighborhood and is reportedly writing his story.

"I think I'll just slap a book together," he told the *Post*. "[*Mayflower Madam*] Sydney Biddle Barrows made in excess of a million. I thought *Capitol Offenses* would be a nice title."

Gobie is still advertising his "massage" services in the latest edition of the *CityPaper*, a local alternative weekly.

The ad reads: "TOTAL PLEASURE — full body massage will make you feel it. Young, handsome masseur avail. by appt. Greg." But the phone number listed is no longer in service, and the new number is unlisted. ▼

IRS continued from page 18

Ultimately the federal tax code issue, and with it perhaps the fate of domestic partner legislation in this country, must be decided in Washington DC. The House Ways and Means Committee is now examining several proposals to change or delete portions of the new tax code that have a profound impact on how domestic partner legislation and private sector benefits may fare. But no one is speculating about what the outcome in the committee is likely to be.

An aide to Rep. Dan Ros-

tenkowski (D-IL), who chairs the committee, said, "It's very controversial and unsettled. Anyone trying to predict what's going to happen with the new tax code is just making a wild guess at this point. There are lots of political pressures on both sides of the issue."

In the meantime, the new October 1 tax code regulations may have provided fundamentalist and conservative opponents of domestic partner laws with their most potent fiscal argument yet against such legislation. ▼

—filed from San Francisco

OUT TAKES from page 29

11th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews. Many conference participants belong to congregations affiliated with the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Acceptance of homosexuality varies widely within the various branches of Judaism, organizers said. Orthodox Jews are currently considered "unapproachable" on the issue, while conservative, reform and reconstructionist congregations exhibit varying degrees of acceptance of gay and lesbian people.

The reconstructionist and reform movements have ordained openly gay rabbis, according to conference co-chair Norman Sandfield of Chicago's Congregation Or Chadash.

"There are so many rabbis that are coming out on our side," Sandfield said, "that like in the gay movement in general, there is very positive change."

Sandfield said gay Jews experience significant emotional overlap between their being lesbian or gay and being Jewish. "Beatings, hatred, misunderstanding, the Holocaust, discrimination—all of those issues you could substitute the word 'gay' or 'lesbian' without changing any of the rest of the language," he said.

Although religion plays a significant role in the lives of many who attend the annual conference, organizers acknowledged that for many gay/lesbian Jews, the primary identification with their Jewishness is on a socio-cultural level.

Among those providing entertainment during the conference was Jewish leather-dyke, comic-singer Lynn Lavner.

"I think that if there was ever an audience that is cut out for me," Lavner said, "this is the one. We have so much in common that it's like a homecoming for me when I play for gay and lesbian Jews." —Rex Wockner

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Obituaries



Nathan Kolodner, Past President GMHC

Nathan K. Kolodner, a volunteer, Board member and past President of the Board of Directors of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, died of AIDS-related causes at his home on Monday, August 28, 1989. He was 38 years-old.

Starting as a volunteer at GMHC in 1983, Mr. Kolodner became a tireless advocate for people with AIDS. He used his experience as a leading art dealer and Director of the Andre Emmerich Gallery to organize an art auction at Sotheby's, an event that was the world's first million dollar AIDS fundraiser.

In 1986, Mr. Kolodner became President of GMHC's Board, and helped to oversee the growth and diversification of the agency's programs. He focused political efforts on building a coalition of AIDS organizations. "We must stand strongly united as one force so that public officials can understand the strength of the whole AIDS community," he once said.

Mr. Kolodner also presided over an expansion plan that culminated in the agency's purchase, renovation and move into its present six-story headquarters. "We've had to accept what we could not accept early on—that AIDS is here for a while. The building

is a hard pill to swallow. But we've made a commitment to be there for people with AIDS and I'm proud that GMHC will be here for anyone who needs it, now and in the future," he said upon its opening.

"Nathan epitomized the very best qualities that humankind can offer," said GMHC's Board President,

Joy Tomchin. "His dedication, selflessness and understanding were inspirational to all who worked with him. We needed a hero and he was ours."

[Mr. Kolodner's career of volunteerism and good works began early in his life. As a student at the Baltimore Friends School he was awarded the Forbrush Award for Humanitarianism. He went on to graduate magna cum laude from Brandeis in 1972 with departmental honors in sociology, and did graduate work at New York University in 1974 in sociology and fine arts.] He began work at the Andre Emmerich Gallery 15 years ago and for the past 10 years has served as the gallery's director, representing such artists as David Hockney, Al Held and Helen Frankenthaler, among others.

Mr. Kolodner was also a member of the Board of PS 1 (The Institute of Art and Urban Design). He received numerous awards, among them the National AIDS Network "Americans Who Care" award in 1987, presented at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.; and the Samuel and May Rudin Community Service Award in New York City in June 1989.

He is survived by his lover, Rene Amrein, his mother, Ferne, his brothers, Kirk and Kenneth, and his grandmother, Rose Kandel.

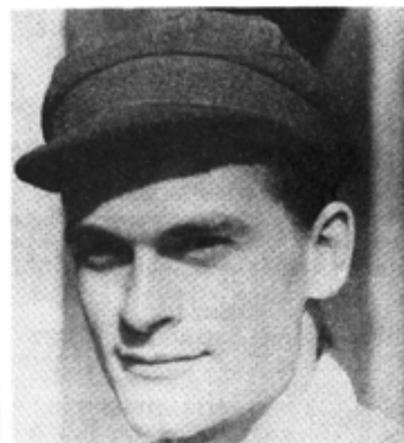
Memorial contributions can be made to the Gay Men's Health Crisis. A memorial service will be held next month in New York. ▼

Eric Bemisderfer, Artist

Eric Bemisderfer, an artist who worked as preparator on numerous museum exhibitions, died June 26 in his apartment in Brooklyn of AIDS-related complications. He was 29.

Bemisderfer had been an art preparator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. In 1983 he was appointed assistant registrar and preparator at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, and installed the American Pavilion for the 1984 Venice Biennale. He had also installed the Jasper Johns exhibition at the last Venice Biennale.

During the past decade he had shown his work at the Now Gallery, Public Image Gallery, the Wall Gallery, the Emerging Collector and, most recently, at the E.M. Donohue Gallery. The Fusion Arts folio, to which he contributed, was acquired



by the Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. He is survived by his parents Robert and Alice Bemisderfer, brothers Tim and Kurt and sisters Evelyn and Jennifer.

A memorial service called "A Celebration of Life" will be held Thursday, Sept 14, 7 p.m. at Friends Meeting House in Manhattan, 219 E. 15th St. and Rutherford Place. Videotapes of the artist will be shown, and refreshments will be served.

Contributions in his name may be made to HEAL, P.O. Box 1103, Old Chelsea Station, N.Y., NY 10113. ▼

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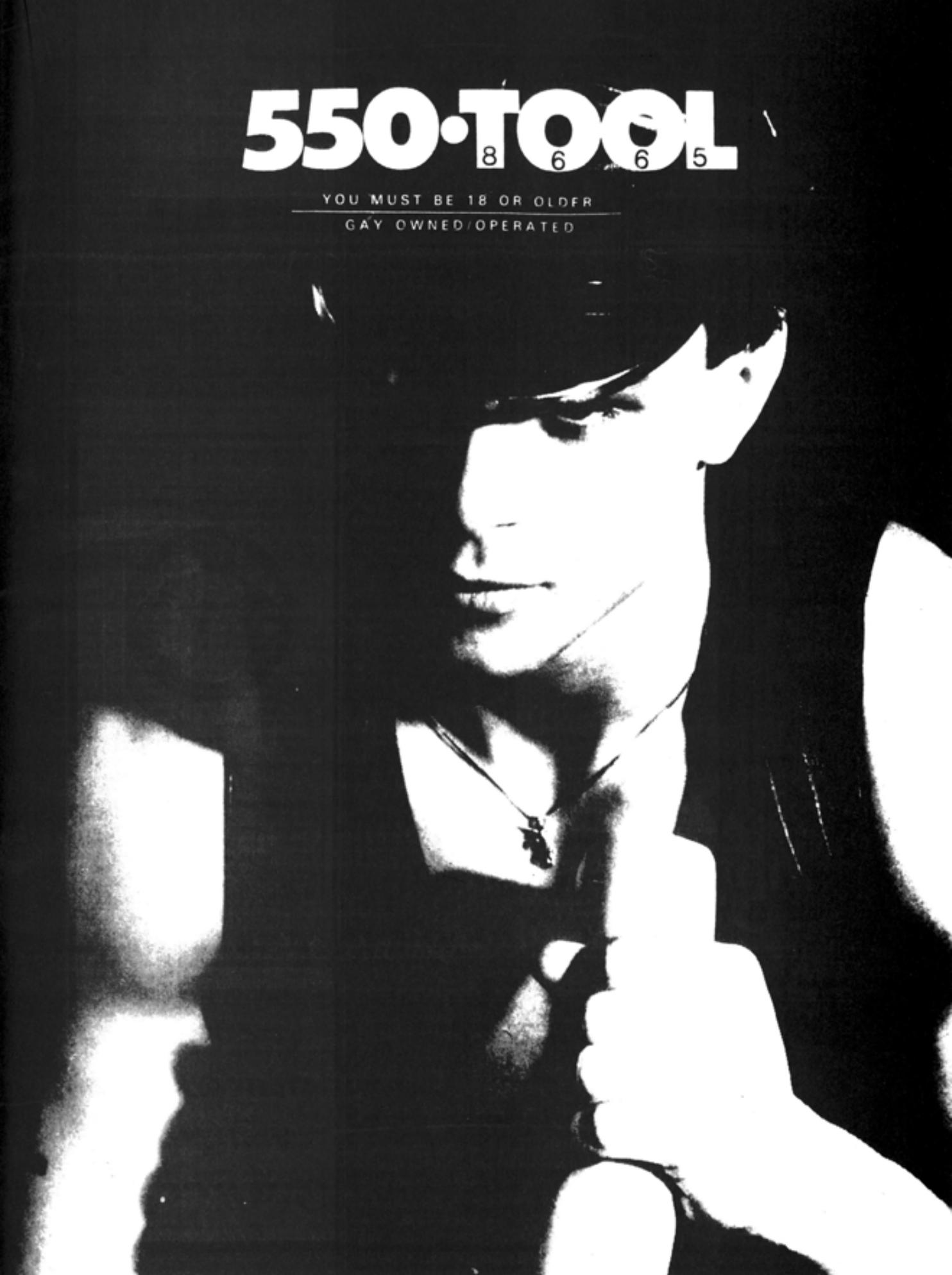
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GWM, ITALIAN, 25
Good-looking, nice guy looking to make friends. Live on L.I., work on Wall St. Want to meet other nice guys who are interested in a sincere, discreet and caring friendship, lunches, dinners, movies, walks, hanging out, or just doing nothing together. Would like to hear from all-any age, race. Married, bi o.k. too. Write with photo and phone--you've got nothing to lose--pen-pals o.k. P.O. Box 483 Wall St. Station, New York, NY 10268.

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ARE YOU JUICY?
Seek creative, joyous, spunky, intelligent man of any race. I am 35, 5'10 1/2", long brown hair. I like perf, arts, ideas, talking, books, gym. Write with ph/ph to David, POB 291, NYC, 10011.

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GWM, 30 years old and look 30 years old, 5'5", 130 lbs., good face and body, brown hair-balding, brown eyes, HIV+, creative bright healthy sex. Have usually been a bottom but don't have to be. Drug and alcohol free--except cigarettes and coffee. I am looking for an intelligent, masculine man-30 to whatever--for dating and romance. No drugs or heavy drinkers. Photo or honest. *Outweek Box 1105*

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EXHIBITIONISTS

GWM, photographer seeking men who like to show off and pose for nude photos. Fees paid. Send nude snapshots and don't be shy. **NATIONWIDE.** I'm well-hung and gorgeous. Box 294, Franklin Park, NJ 08823.

FEMME OF CENTER

GWF, 47: Guinevere seeks Lesbian Lancelot to bring me dragons to play with. Are you butch of center non-smoker/drugs? Love animals? I will answer all responses. *OutWeek* Box 1114

COMPANIONSHIP

GWM, 34, 5'11", 180, brown hair, eyes, must., good lkg. I'm sincere and passionate, seeking same. Enjoy movies, museums, shows, prof. sports, music, nature, massage, sex. No time for egotistical people. Don't care if you're muscular or in shape. Prefer must., 30-60, but not nec. Reply w/photo. Please don't respond if not sending photo. P.O. Box 269, 70-A Greenwich Ave. New York, NY 10011.

MANHATTANITE,

B/W/M, 21. I'm clean-shaven, sensual, w/fuller hair, interests still basic 4 now (punk/R&B/rock, the Village, occas. x-dress) seeking very similar guys (mainly white/Oriental) from 16-23 w/natural looks not so male-ish. Non-smoker/non-addict helps. A letter and photo from you could spark a good friendship for starters. *OutWeek* Box 1126

FRIENDS WANTED

We are two German boyfriends in the late 20's, with many interests, handsome, smart and uncomplicated. We are looking for new friends in the age between 25-35 years. New York area preferred. We live in the southern part of West Germany. Please reply with photo to: Peter K. Siebold, P.O. Box 1503, D-7012 Fellbach, West Germany.

METAPHYSICS?

eth material? GWM, 6'2", 165, cute, br/bl, 29, seeks fair-haired peer int. in same, plus art, politics, fun, E. Vill. Let's create a reality together, w/music. Ph/ph, please. Bruce—all answered. *OutWeek* Box 1128

UNCUT DOCKERS

GWM 39, 5'8", looking for large overhang to accept my fat 8" tool. I am not a body builder and you need not be one either. If you want your foreskin worshipped this ad is for you. Please reply to *OutWeek* Box 1129

OCTOGENARIAN

In excellent physical condition, seeks company of GWM (18 to 30). Reasonably secure financially and psychologically, political activist who is interested in sincere, loving relationship (platonic or otherwise) with GWM well-versed in the arts, world traveler who has been an active participant in the joys and sorrows of most of the 20th Century. Short bio and optional photo would be real nice. Cheerio. *OutWeek* Box 1130

HIV+BOTTOM

Attractive GWM, 33, Br/Br, slim, glasses. Seeks: Dominant, handsome GWM, 28-40, who can satisfy the fantasies I have alone at night. Must be smart, financially secure and not uptight about his or my antibody status. Companionship and more desired. Let's explore together. *OutWeek* Box 1131

ORANGE COUNTY, NY

GWM, 31 yr., 5'7", chunky, brown/green, Italian/German bottom, tired of all Br/S, bars, games, etc....likes outdoors, quiet nights and good conversation—seeks intelligent, affectionate, good-looking man between 25 & 35 yrs. with same interests for friendship & possible relationship. Serious please only reply—Call John (914) 986-1523. Sunday-Thursdays. After 6p.m. only.

WORK MY BOTTOM OVER WITH ME

In long slow sessions. He's hot Italian BB, 30's. I'm 30's, lanky and hung. If you're attractive, hung, verbal and ready, send photo/phone to P.O. Box 150, Prince Station, NYC 10012.

NIPPLES AND PECS

GWM, 40, 5'8", 200 lbs., extremely oral loves to suck on nips, pecs, and tits. I worship the male chest. Send photo and phone: Box 20446 London Terrace Station, New York, NY 10011. My hot, wet mouth is waiting for you.

A FINE CATCH

and still not hooked. Clean-cut GWM, 32, 5'10", 145, developed mind and body, lusty and lustful yet warm and caring, masculine not closeted, seeks lasting companionship. Photo/phone to *OurWeek* Box 1134.

GWM, WASP, 26

180 lbs., 5'11", Br/Bl, healthy, masculine, well-built, looking for young, muscular (18-28) guys for hot safe-sex (condoms). I like to be both dominant and submissive. Face-fucking, role-playing, butt-fucking, let's get it on! Also into three-somes, light bondage, trying new things. No drugs, no pain. Send note about yourself: photo appreciated. In-shape and young necessary. *OurWeek* Box 1135

SERIOUS MOONLIGHT

GM, 36, 6", 145, in shape, attractive, creative, monog. radical seeks non-smoker for wild romance. Let's howl. P.O. Box 1251, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013.

NEED A SPANKING?

Attractive guy, 43, 6', 160 lbs., will put you across his knee, pull down your pants--and underpants--and spank your bare bottom till you promise to behave. Am into fantasy--not pain. Good with beginners. Box 1316 FDR Station, NYC 10150. Seek trim guys only.

TEN GAY/BI MALES

seek like, trim, masculine, health-conscious, gregarious for monthly meetings in midtown

hotel suite. Send note and SASE: P.O. Box 6653 FDR, NY, NY 10150

SUBMISSIVE, HEALTHY

GWM, 170 lbs., 6 ft. I want to be your pussy. Especially big, musc. men. Age and looks unimportant. P.O. Box 1075 Cooper Station, NYC 10276.

QUIRKY LESBIAN

GWF, 27, would like to meet very bright, funny woman who possesses natural femininity. Older women, please don't be shy. Please send photo, not because I'm picky but because I thoroughly enjoy fotos of folks I don't know. I'm not being facetious. I'm fascinated by that which is traditionally considered boring, i.e. staring at the ceiling, reading phone books, calling pre-recorded messages and dialing international operators. Loathed *When Harry Met Sally*....Write to *OurWeek* Box 1151

TOP GUN

Boy wanted 18-25 by GWM-170 lbs., 5'11", Br/Br, clean-shaven, smooth, Italian. I have most everything I could want except you. Enjoy NYC, travel, gym, dining out and fun times. If you are young and hot, write to Joey, P.O. Box 1040, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. Photo and phone please. No games and noone over 30

PLAYMATES WANTED

Butch-fem couple in Manhattan, ages 40 & 35, seeks lesbian sin

gles or couples for wild fun and adventure. Join us for fantasies, erotic games, light bondage. No drugs, no pain. *OutWeek* Box 1020

GWF, 28, BARBARIAN

Romantic Rocker, Pagan, Slim, 5'3 1/2", with wild sense of humor and deep blue eyes seeks feminine GWF, slim 18-25, intelligent & sensitive, under 5'2" who likes rock, NYC, Bugs Bunny and Metaphysics. I like to lead but I don't like to push. Foto optional. *OurWeek* Box 1013

DEFINITION

Progressive hunk (34, 6', 175) with post-modern affectations seeks supple articulations of body and thought--or at least former--with brawny friend(s). I enjoy dancing, activism, safe hot sex, cycling, sun, beauty, grace & all the usual stuff. Send photo and the rest to P.O. Box 1366, NY, NY 10025. Photo returned, if requested.

MILDLY KINKY

GWM, 52, attractive, 5'10", 145, versatile, seeks hot sex, fun, relationship, friends, enjoys politics, activism, conversation, walks, travel, movies, much more. P.O. Box 173, NYC 10023.

**Personals
Continued
on
Page 69**

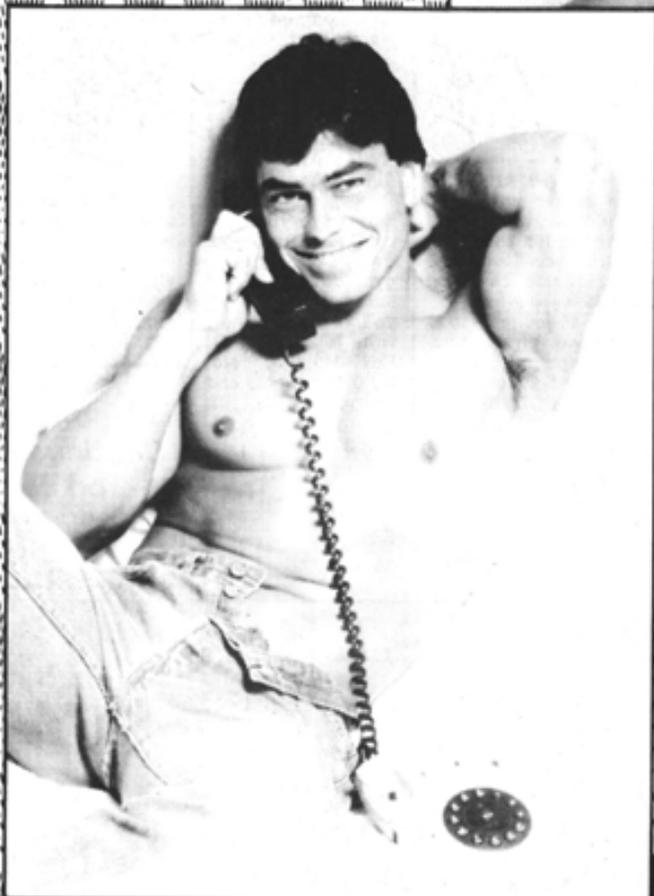
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OutWeek reserves the right to end this offer at any time without notice

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FOR YOUR SAFETY, NO STREET ADDRESSES ARE PERMITTED IN THE PERSONALS SECTION. OUTWEEK BOX #'s OR P.O. BOXES ONLY.

CLASSIFIED RATES:

FIRST INSERTION: \$30 for the first seven lines (including a bold headline) and \$2 for each additional line. Please conform your ad copy to the grid.

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Run this ad for _____ additional issues @ \$15 per issue (1 to 15 lines) = _____

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Charge my Visa / Mastercard. Acct #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

STUDENT NEEDS HELP!

Ivy League student, gay activist, writer, really nice guy--may not be able to afford tuition. Ideas, patrons, suggestions...write soon to: AMR, 76 Undercliff, Millburn, NJ 07041.

GWM, ITALIAN, 25

Good-looking, nice guy looking to make friends. Live on L.I. work on Wall St. Want to meet other niceguys who are interested in a sincere, discreet and caring friendship, lunches, dinners, movies, walks, hanging out, or just doing nothing together. Would like to hear from all-any age, race. Married, bi, o.k. too. Write with photo and phone-- you've got nothing to lose--(penpals o.k.) P.O. Box 483 Wall St. Station, New York, NY 10268.

DADDY ENEMAS!!

Ass-play tool Safe, gentle, sensual and erotic! I cater to shy, curious guys & beginners too. Get ready for the red, bulging bag, hose and nozzle-briefs down, bottoms up! All questions answered! Ph/ph. Rick P.O. Box 45 Caldwell, NJ 07006. Cum on, try one soon!

SEEKING GREAT TOP

Tall(6'4"), goodlooking bottom seeking tall top for fun times, definite adventure and passion! Me:30's, clean-shaven, brown hair-green eyes,185,gym shape, prof. You:30's-40's, in shape, attractive, non-smoker, and passionate! Zip your letter, photo, phone to: *OutWeek Box 1045*

GB & BRITISH

GBM, age 30, 5'11", 135 lbs., lonely in NY seeks GWM top with or without moustache. Honesty is more important than looks. No games or drugs. Write Box 149, NYC, NY 10185.

NEW TO NYC AREA

GM Puerto Rican 27, 5'11", 210 lbs., enjoys music, quiet evenings and cuddling. Looking for friend to show me NYC, send photo and phone number to *OutWeek Box 1156*.

REGULAR GUY

GWM, 38, seeks simi lar fun relationship. Average looks/build, decent, stable, shy. Like theatre, classical music, blonds. Closet Romantic, more turned on by chest size than cock. Honest letter and photo (a must!) to P.O. Box 3182, Ridgewood, NY 11386.

DHB-DECENT HUMAN BEING

Wants to share happy times and not so happy ones with another DHB. Not into

drugs/smoking. I've been told I'm handsome, caring, sensitive, sensual and hot. I'm 6' /172 / LtBr / LtBr, 33, trim, smooth, mus-

cular build. Prefer GWM 20-28, "boyish" and cute and wants to grow. Enjoy good conversation, museums, beach, workouts at gym, off B'way plays and safe hot love-making. Send detailed letter with photo/ age/ phone. Box 5432, Flushing, NY 11354. This may be our chance for a great future together.

SUPERHUNG W/M,

35, good looks, average build, looking for guys hung super long or thick for safe fun. I'm in midtown and am very discreet. Scott, Box 6559, NYC, NY 10163.

EAT, EAT, EAT

and eat some more. I'll feed you to your heart's delight. We will watch your belly and tits grow to perfection. Has this been your dream or fantasy? I will make it happen. I have alot of experience in this area. Answer today with photo and phone and detailed letter. You have everything to gain. Serious replies only. P.O. Box 20053 London Terrace Station, New York, New York 10011.

QUIRKY LESBIAN

GWF, 27, would like to meet very bright, funny woman who possesses natural femininity. Older women, please don't be shy. Please send photo, not because I'm picky but because I thoroughly enjoy fotos of folks I don't know. I'm not being facetious. I'm fascinated by that which is traditionally considered boring, i.e. staring at the ceiling, reading phone books, calling pre-recorded messages and dialing international operators. Loathed *When Harry Met Sally...* *OutWeek Box 1151*

OCTOGENARIAN

In excellent physical condition, seeks company of GWM (18 to 30). Reasonably secure financially and psychologically, political activist who is interested in sincere, loving relationship (platonic or otherwise) with GWM well-versed in the arts, world traveller who has been an active participant in the joys and sorrows of most of the 20th Century. Short bio and optional photo would be real nice. Cheerio. *OutWeek Box 1130*

TO REPLY TO AN OUTWEEK BOX :

OutWeek Box # _____
77 Lexington Avenue, Suite 200
New York NY 10010

PIERS SONAILS

GMHC continued from page 33

GMHC— "First in the fight against AIDS," as they boast — will join the clamor as well.

GMHC has the facts. It has respect. It has been persistent in its lobbying efforts. But polite lobbying-as-usual isn't getting the needed bucks into AIDS services. The New York City AIDS Task Force projects that New York City needs to spend \$7.2 billion on AIDS over the next five years. GMHC's annual budget is \$12 million. No doubt it's worth GMHC's risking a few government grants to VOCALLY draw attention to the health care failures at every level of government—city, state and federal. GMHC must use its respected and powerful voice to demand the missing health care services which people with HIV disease need, just for what has become the *privilege* of fighting for their lives. ▼

HUMAN SACRIFICE continued from page 34

not been tested in people with AIDS. Other doctors, like Joseph Sonnabend of New York, used Bactrim as early as 1982 in PWAs. This may be one reason for the "mystery" of long-term survival in some of Sonnabend's patients, including activist, writer and singer Michael Callen.

Yet Dr. Fischl felt a placebo-controlled trial was necessary in people with AIDS. She randomly assigned 60 patients with Kaposi's sarcoma but no history of opportunistic infection to receive either two Bactrim pills a day or no treatment.

During 36 weeks of follow-up, *none* of the patients on Bactrim developed PCP. According to a summary of Fischl's findings in *AIDS Clinical Care* 1:4, August 1989, "TMP/SMX had a pronounced impact on survival: while 28 of 30 control group patients died during follow-up, only 18 of 30 patents re-

ceiving treatment died." Thus, it appeared that Bactrim may have helped prevent other opportunistic infections—such as toxoplasmosis, salmonella and shigella—as well.

Was this study ethical? Were those 28 deaths in the placebo arm necessary to prove Bactrim worked? Bactrim was already *proven* effective in *treating* PCP. The Hughes study had already *proven* its ability to *prevent* PCP in immunosuppressed children! Why did 28 *additional* people have to die of a *preventable* disease simply to "prove" Bactrim worked in people with HIV and PCP as well as in people with other immunosuppressed conditions?

They didn't. The study was cruel and inhumane. Yet it got by the scientific reviewers, the ethical reviewers, and the editors of the medical journals without a whisper of dissent. Something is very wrong when doctors, whose first loyalty under the Hippocratic Oath is to their patients, under the vow "Do no harm," sanction such outrages.

Yet they continue, day after day. Children with HIV have *no* approved treatments. The trials available for children are testing AZT with donated antibodies (immunoglobulins). These trials are *all* placebo-controlled. And, because a study of Bactrim has not been conducted in children *with* AIDS, many doctors refuse to treat children with AIDS with Bactrim prophylaxis.

The persistence of inhumane trials such as those of Dr. Fischl and of the shoddy treatment and mediocre trials for children with AIDS is a scandal we should move rapidly to expose and end. ▼

This article is based on research conducted by David Z. Kirschenbaum.

XEROXED continued from page 9

assumption that non-minority readers are better informed or non-users of IV drugs? Does the GMHC assume that PEOPLE OF COLOR DO NOT READ NEWSDAY, THE TIMES, THE VOICE OR OUTWEEK?

I strongly object to the "token" use of the Black and Latino advisory panel. Our express purpose is to provide a people of color perspective and not only were suggestions not given proper consideration, but only a tiny percentage of the panel were actually consulted because these were people who worked in offices with fax machines. The movement to contact the panel at the last minute is a painful example of how the GMHC views its minority panel. Why bother to have a panel? Is the

panel simply an affirmative action smoke-screen for GMHC racism?

What has been done is done. My concern is: a.) what will the GMHC do to prevent this from ever happening again? b.) What will the GMHC do to repair the damage their lack of ethics has done?

The GMHC had and continues to have opportunities to really improve their organization. Dealing with racism will ultimately help the GMHC better itself as an institution and remove some of the limitations in its outreach to ALL people...non-minority included.

I await your reply.

Aurelio Font

Member, GMHC Latino Advisory Panel

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GOING OUT

AN EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5

WNET-TV/13 **Innovation:**
"AIDS: Fighting for the Child-
ren," featuring Dr. James
Oleske and focusing on pediatric
AIDS; 9-9:30 pm (rebroadcast
Wed. 9/6, 12:30 pm; Sun, 9/10,
11:30 am)

FRIENDS OF TOM DUANE
Fundraising Party at Rogers
and Barbero, 149 Eighth Ave
(btwn 17 & 18 Sts); 5-7:30 pm;
\$89; 727-8150

TRACKS DISCO **September
Schedule** starts today, with the
club staying open on Tuesdays
and Fridays only; normal Tues-
day through Sunday schedule
resumes in October; 531 W 19 St;
627-2333

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6

WNET-TV/13 **Innovation:**
"AIDS: Fighting for the Child-
ren," 12:30 pm; see Tuesday,
9/5

NEW JERSEY BUDDIES **Volun-
teer Training**, St. Mary's Roman
Catholic Church, 17 Pompton
Ave, Pompton Lakes, NJ; 7 pm;
201/837-8125

GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE
AGAINST DEFAMATION **Month-
ly Meeting**; today and every first
Wednesday; at the Center, 208 W
13 St; 8 pm; 966-1700

GAY AND LESBIAN INDEPEN-
DENT DEMOCRATS **Pre-Victory
Celebration** with openly-gay
City Council candidates Tom

Duane and David Taylor; at the
Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 475-
0271

A DIFFERENT LIGHT BOOK-
STORE presents **Ken Mandel-
baum** and his video tribute to
the work of Michael Bennett,
coinciding with the publication
of his *A Chorus Line and the
Musicals of Michael Bennett*; 548
Hudson St (btwn Charles and
Perry); 8 pm; free (limited seat-
ing); 989-4850

EAGLE BAR **Movie Night: Last
Temptation of Christ**; 142 11th
Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-8451

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7

FOUNDATION FOR THE SELF-
HEALING AIDS-RELATED EX-
PERIMENT (SHARE) **Free Intro-
ductory Evening**, in anticipation
of the Sept. 20-24 **Who Heals**
program for discovering the
"healer within"; with Niro, found-
ing director of SHARE who
reversed her HIV status from
positive to negative, and Amitabh
(Robert Birnbaum, PH.D. in clinical
psychology UC, Berkeley),
transformational therapist and
healer; at 441 Lafayette St; 7:30-
9:30 pm; 460-8074 (also Wednes-
day, 9/13)

INTEGRITY/NEW YORK **Episco-
pal service and Labor Day
Reception**; at St. Luke in the
Fields, 497 Hudson St (btwn
Christopher and Grove); 7:30
pm; 718/720-3054

PYRAMID CLUB presents **Thurs-
days at the Queer-Amid**, with
host Ru-Paul, rock and funk
music by DJ Rick Sugden, special
acts **Low Meato** and **Tangella
Rocks**; 101 Avenue A (btwn 6 &
7 Sts); dancing from 10 pm - 4
am, shows at midnight and 1 am;
\$5; 420-1590

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8

LESBIAN/GAY ACTION COM-
MITTEE FOR DINKINS **David
Dinkins for Mayor Rally**, with
Ruth Messinger and others;
Stonewall Place/Sheridan Square;
6:30 pm; 977-8989

YALE GAY AND LESBIAN ALUM-
NI/AE **Weekend in Easthamp-
ton**, at a member's home;
member info 724-9113

THE ANSWER IS LOVING
**Women Talking Women's Talk:
Scapegoating**, focusing on fault-
ing, blaming, excuses, explana-
tions; led by Ruth Berman and
Connie Kurtz; Sheepshead Bay,
Brooklyn; 7:45-10 pm; \$8;
718/998-2305

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETH-
ER **C.R. Session: "Cock Size and
Penis Power: How I Feel About
My Own and Others"**; at the
Center, 208 W 13 St; 7:45 pm;
222-9794

GAY MEN OF AFRICAN
DESCENT **AIDS IN BLACKFACE**,
a discussion of Yale law profes-
sor Harlon Dalton's *Daedalus*
magazine article on the per-
ceived failure of the Black com-
munity to properly address the
AIDS crisis; Dalton, an African-
American member of the Nation-
al Commission on AIDS, will be
present to facilitate; at the Center,
208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 718/802-0162

A DIFFERENT LIGHT BOOK-
STORE presents **Mike Hippler**,
discussing the subject of his
book, *Mailovich*; 548 Hudson St
(btwn Charles and Perry); 8 pm;
free (limited seating); 989-4850

SHESCAPE PARTIES FOR
WOMEN **Vogueing Contest** at
Octagon this and four more Fri-
days, with the final on Oct. 6;
"contestants wear their most out-
rageous outfits and pose like
models while dancing to the
hottest hits," with a special
vogueing exhibition before the
contest; at Octagon, 555 W 33 St;
doors open 10 pm, contest at

midnight; \$5 before 11 pm/\$7
after; 645-6479

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9

CREATIVE FAIRES, LTD. **New
York Renaissance Festival**,
open Saturdays and Sundays
through Sept. 17; featuring *All's
Well That Ends Well* on the Globe
Stage, *Tales of the Decameron* on
the Harlequin Stage, and *Tales of
Robin Hood* and *The Queen's
Folly* which "unfold around you";
(736-4700), lv NYC 10:15 am, lv
Sterling Forest 6:15 pm; \$12
adults/\$10 seniors/\$5 kids age 6-
12; info 914/351-5171 (*Editor's
note: gays and lesbians have
been welcomed by the Festival's
press office even though homo-
sexuality was a capital offense
throughout this period*)

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

WOMEN ABOUT **Women's
Square Dance**; 353/0073,
201/481-0440

CENTERSHOWS presents
Daugherty & Field, cabaret
entertainers "known for their
weaving of witty repartee with
elegant singing," performing
From Bach to Rock, "taking the
audience on a madcap whirlwind
tour of the history of music-mak-
ing"; at the Center, 208 W 13 St;
8 pm; \$10; 620-7310

SPECTRUM DISCO presents **Cyn-
thia**, singing "Change on Me"
and "Endless Night"; 802 64th St,
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn (N train to
8th Ave stop); 718/238-8213

PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION
**Musical Revue Benefit: Rose
and Friends at the Palace**,
starring Rose Levine; at the Ice
Palace, Cherry Grove, Fire Island;
11 pm; \$20; 212/683-0919

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

CREATIVE FAIRES, LTD. **New York Renaissance Festival**, see Saturday, Sept. 9

THIRD AVENUE MERCHANT'S ASSOCIATION FAIR from 14th to 34th Streets, lots of home furnishings and antiques; 11 am to dusk; 684-4077

WNET-TV/13 **Innovation: "AIDS: Fighting for the Children,"** 11:30 am; see Tuesday, 9/5

SALSA SOUL SISTERS, OTHER COUNTRIES, MINORITY TASK FORCE ON AIDS, MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER and GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT **March in Harlem's African-American Parade**; meet at north end of Central Park, W 110 St/Adam Clayton Powell Blvd; noon; Bert 505-0506, Jean 718/387-2119

INTEGRAL YOGA INSTITUTE **Full Day Workshop for People Concerned about HIV Infection**, with discussions and instruction regarding emotions and health, diet and nutrition, Hatha Yoga, meditation and visualization, with vegetarian lunch; 227 W 13 St; 10 am - 5 pm; \$30; 929-0586

CENTER SPORTS goes to **Mets vs. Pittsburgh Pirates**; 1:35 pm; 620-7310

LESBIANS AND GAYS OF FLATBUSH **Farewell-to-Summer Barbecue**; 2-5 pm; 718/859-9437

HARLEM WEEK OF PRAYER ON AIDS **Vigil of Remembrance, Unity and Concern**, at Harlem Hospital, 6 pm

AIDS CENTER OF QUEENS COUNTY **Sunset Cruise on the Circle Line**; 42 St & 12th Ave; 6:30-9:30 pm; \$20 (to ACQC); 718/896-2500

FRIENDS OF TOM DUANE **Benefit Party** with entertainment by **The Flirtations**, at Private Eyes, 12 W 21 St; 10 pm; \$10; 727-8150

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11

GAY ACTIVIST ALLIANCE IN MORRIS COUNTY presents **Brian McNaught, author, *On Being Gay***, with thoughts on family, faith and love; at the Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown, NJ; 8-30 pm; 201/285-1595

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES TODAY!

YALE GAY AND LESBIAN ALUMNI/AE presents **Jim Seymour, expert on Tibet and China**, discussing Amnesty International and Chinese politics concerning Tibet and student activism (the Beijing massacre was 100 days ago today); at Columbia University's Earl Hall; 7:30 pm; member info 724-9113

WNET-TV/13 **"Other Faces of AIDS,"** examining the background and impact of AIDS in America's minority communities; 8-9 pm (also broadcast in Spanish, Saturday, 9/16)

CELLBLOCK 28 **Leather Party with Hands-On Productions**, safe-sex party; 28 Ninth Ave (below 14th St); 8 pm - 3 am; \$10; 733-3144

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13

HARLEM WEEK OF PRAYER ON AIDS **Individual AIDS Awareness Workshops in Harlem Churches**; info 862-5970

FOUNDATION FOR THE SELF-HEALING AIDS-RELATED EXPERIMENT (SHARE) **Free Introductory Evening**, in anticipation of the Sept. 20-24 **Who Heals** program for discovering the "healer within"; with Niro, founding director of SHARE who reversed her HIV status from positive to negative, and Amitabh (Robert Birnbaum, PH.D. in clinical psychology UC, Berkeley), transformational therapist and healer; at 441 Lafayette St; 7:30-9:30 pm; 460-8074

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PRIVATES' continued from page 51

lady (Donna Murphy), who obliges him with several lecture demonstrations. But then, every performance is strong and honest, including John Curry's tender Corporal Bishop who loves working-class Corporal Bonny (Ross Bickell) who loves him back (never mind that he has a wife and children at home); Edward Hibbert's insecure Aircraftman Young-Love; and Jones' Flack, a great flapping ostrich.

Then there is Jim Dale. He graces Dennis with his own limber humanity. Absent is any condescension or wink to the audience ("I'm not *really* gay"). In addition, we get deadly impersonations of Dietrich, Greer Garson, Noel Coward and Carmen Miranda. Asking for more would be too much.

The men who sleep with men treat their lovers better than do the men who sleep with women. The heteros representing the Empire, such as the homophobic Sergeant-Major Reg Drummond (Donald Burton), pimp for young male prostitutes and beat women, or, like Flack, spout the old

preties while sacrificing untrained "soldiers" on the altar of England. But even in this version (where the heteros behave more badly than in the original), treating gay people with respect is not what *Privates on Parade* is about. Rather, its meaning resides in Flowers' recognition that "it is bewildering to discover how many different sorts of people there are and how many different ways they have." For all its sadness and bitterness, Nichols' heart is a human heart. ▼

**If you need
to get it at
home, see
page 31.**

GETTING OFF continued from page 56

your toys. And there is humor. Barbara Smith shares with us the horrifying yet funny experiences of explaining to a customs agent "what's in the brown wrapper" and getting a vibrator stuck inside ("When something is stuck in a cylindrical container the impulse is to try and approach it from both ends—which is why I found myself with a finger up my bum," *Masturbation is for Wankers*). And yes there's tenderness, lovemaking, disgust, farting, cramping, confusion, seduction and even politics. There's a little of something for almost everyone.

The Sheba Collective publishes unsafe sex fantasies; but as a collective, they do take responsibility by including a safer sex guide for women. They also have included some of the hottest, cutest, funniest, politically incorrect sex, sex scenes, sex thoughts, sex acts to make this usually bored, hyper-erotized reader squirm, laugh out loud, get wet, get hot, get off. ▼

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MEN & WOMEN

MONDAY

Private Eyes 12 W 21 St. 206-7770 (preppie; male strippers, 2-4-1 till midnight)

TUESDAY

*Love Machine Broadway at 17 St. 254-4005 (at the Underground)

Tracks 531 W 19 St. 627-2333

WEDNESDAY

Club Lafayette 428 Lafayette St. (Scott Currie & R. Couri Hay)

Private Eyes 12 W 21 St 206-7770 (Dallas and Sanker's CLUB BAD)

Spectrum 802 64 St. Brooklyn 718/238-8213 (free admission all night)

THURSDAY

*Boybar 15 1/2 St Marks Pl 674-7959 (has a new wave drag show)

*Copacabana 10 E 60 St 755-0610 (last Thu. of the month has Susanne Bartsch party)

*Pyramid 101 Ave A 420-1590 (Queer-Amid)

Spectrum 802 64 St Brooklyn 718/238-8213 (free admission all night)

FRIDAY

*Boybar 15 1/2 St Marks Pl. 674-7959

Columbia Dances Earl Hall, 116 St & B'way 854-3574 (1st Friday of every month)

Funk, Inc. 428 Lafayette St.

Private Eyes 12 W 21 st. 206-7770 (preppies and young professionals)

Spectrum 802 64 St Brooklyn 718/238-8213 (m/f strippers)

Tracks 531 W 19 St. 627-2333

SATURDAY

*Boybar 151/2 St Marks Pl. 674-7959

The Center 208 W 13 St. 620-7310 (2nd and 4th Saturdays) resuming 9/23

Private Eyes 12W 21 St. 206-7770 (Club Chicago for Men, preppies)

Sound Factory 530 W. 27 St. 643-0728 (non-alcohol, House music)

Spectrum 802 64 St. Brooklyn 718/238-8213 (guest performer night)

SUNDAY

*Mars Westside Highway at 13 St. 691-6262 (Chip Duckett's "Mars Needs Men" night)

*Pyramid 101 Ave A 420-1590 (Hapi Phace and Drag + Variety Show)

Spectrum 802 64 St. 718/238-8213 (show; free admission)

EVERY NIGHT

Monster 80 Grove St. at Sheridan Square 924-3557

* (TVs welcome)

WOMEN

NOTE:

Party events are subject to change.

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Road, West Hempstead, LI 516/486-9516

THURSDAY

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Road, West Hempstead, LI 516/486-9516

FRIDAY

Bedrock (West Hempstead, LI)

Cheeks 2000 Long Beach Rd. Island Park, LI 516-431-5700

Octagon 555 W 33 St 947-0400 (Shescape, 645-6479)

Tracks 531 W 19 St. 627-2333 (last Friday of month)

Visions 56-01 Queens Blvd. Woodside 718/846-7131

SATURDAY

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd., West Hempstead 516-486-9516

Silver Lining 175 Cherry Lane, Floral Pk, LI 516/354-9641 (a.k.a "The Lining")

Starz 836 Grand Blvd., Deer Park, LI. 516/242-3857

SUNDAY

Bedrock (West Hempstead, LI)

EVERY NIGHT

Cubby Hole, 438 Hudson Street 243-9079

Duchess II, Sheridan Square 242-1408

All Phone numbers are area code 212 unless otherwise indicated.

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PROSPECT continued from page 55

If the blues has been a music of oppression, Reggae is thought to be a music of liberation. And so following dreadlocked African mother H. Gossett came Sister Carol, also in long dreads, with a red, green and gold outfit, highlighting her black, green and gold liberation sneakers. The Folk: black, pink, brown, yellow—Asians (I saw them)—Africans, Europeans, wimmin, men, children, gay people, straight people (but not too straight). Some of us were straining to understand the patois of this great toaster, but knowing that her words have significance our bodies gyrate. I & I get up from our seats, I & I skank in the aisles under the night sky.

Brooklyn is rockin' cause Sister Carol is one of our own, like so many transplanted West Indies folk, proud of her roots. She's our Black Cinderella, and children run up on the stage to touch her. But it's not worship, you understand. It's communication with how she know dem and is one with dem. I see men holding their daughters in a new way. They, like

my father, want their daughters and sons to survive the death that the system has cut out for dem, but the difference is that they are hearin' about how they, too, have contributed to this downpression. I see the men's eyes, they look at the wimmin in a new way.

And Sister Carol says drugs destroy your rhythms, you no reach your vital consciousness with cocaine. "No cocaine, no LSD, no speed, no slackness please." Sister Carol is a singer-educator. She sings of South Africa, having us chanting, call and response. Moreover, she does old-style reggae covers, which she updates and changes, subtle differences making for new interpretations. I don't always agree with her, but I know truth is not in the individual but in the dialogue, in the listenin' betwix and amongst wimmin, that shall create us.

One of the most important things about Rasta-Reggae for lesbian/gay people is its emphasis on history, which when taken back always becomes herstory—more truth, more freedom. That's what black people

have for all people—especially oppressed peoples—we your past and people of all colors together are our future. And as she says, "People are looking for who is going to be the next Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Bob Marley. I think this time they have to look out for a woman."

Her album is *Black Cinderella*, and so is she. But she needs no glass slippers. Along with us we're dancing our way out of the white house, back to self. When the head and the feet meet, the circle shall be complete. ▼

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Q: Confused about partylines?

A: ⁵⁵⁰⁻⁸⁸⁸

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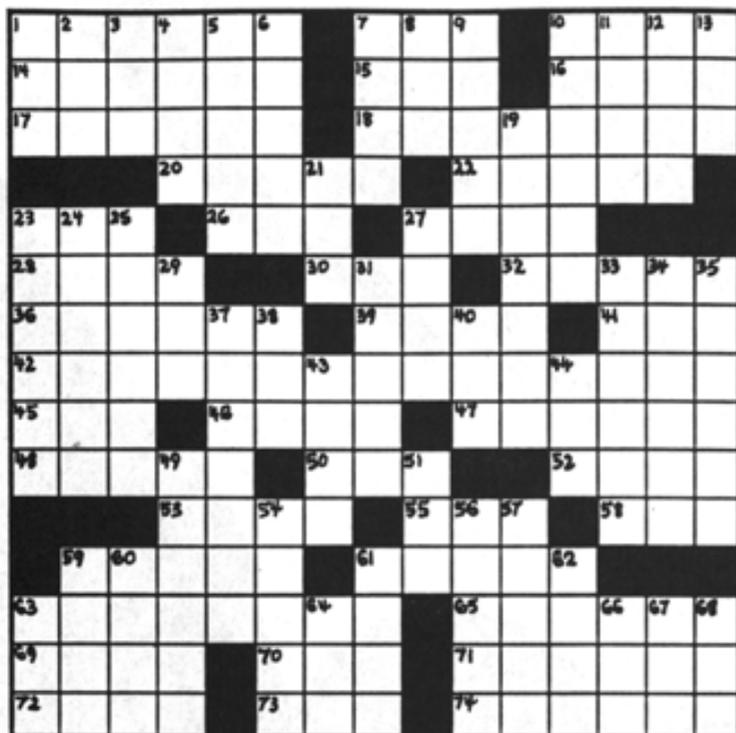
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YOU MUST BE OVER 18 • 5 MINUTES 51

OutWeek Crossword

by Phil Greco
Edited by Gabriel Rotello



7. Auntie _____
8. I _____ Camera
9. Bronte's Jane and kin
10. Country switcher
11. She _____ Him Wrong
12. Mr. Coward
13. Some
19. _____ of a Murder
21. By means of
23. Early Lesbian pub., The _____
24. Musical direction
25. Desert _____
27. High _____
29. Yoko
31. "I can't _____ satisfaction"
33. Jewish mo. or car co.
34. We _____ Drifting
35. Lesbian blues great Alberta
37. Georgia city
38. Andress film
40. Farm tool
43. Lesbian pub.
44. Vigor
49. Detestation
51. Link
54. _____ Elg
56. Mollusk
57. Bonheur's The _____ Fair
59. Femur, e.g.
60. Soprano Berger
61. Castrate
62. _____, Babylon
63. On the _____
64. Anais _____
66. Recede
67. Prefix: new
68. Alphabet letters

SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S OUTWEEK ON SALE TUESDAY

ACROSS

1. Plato dubbed her the tenth muse
7. Lesbian novelist Rita _____ Brown
10. Bisexual poet Millay
14. She wrote *Other Women*
15. Lesbian poet Lowell
16. *Waiting For The _____*
17. *As You _____ Me*
18. Lesbian blues great
20. Go
22. MTM's Georgette
23. _____-di-dah
26. _____ Amin
27. Catherine the Great
28. Mars: comb. form
30. _____ of consent
32. *The _____ Victim*
36. Frederics and a Roman goddess
39. Reverberation
41. Promissory note
42. Bisexual journalist
45. Approx.
46. _____ Ames
47. "Ma, he's making _____ me..."

48. _____ grass
50. "But _____ for Me"
52. Actor Michael
53. Prefix with body
55. Suffix with girl
58. Saul's uncle
59. _____ St. John
61. City or salami
63. Playwright Hansberry
65. Francis or Dahl
69. _____ of the *Thousand Days*
70. Naught
71. Miller who wrote 73 across
72. Margaret _____
73. *Patience _____ Sarah*
74. Home of 1 Across

DOWN

1. Weepy
2. Beer
3. Barnum's
4. Rock's Collins
5. "_____ go again..."
6. Hill nymph

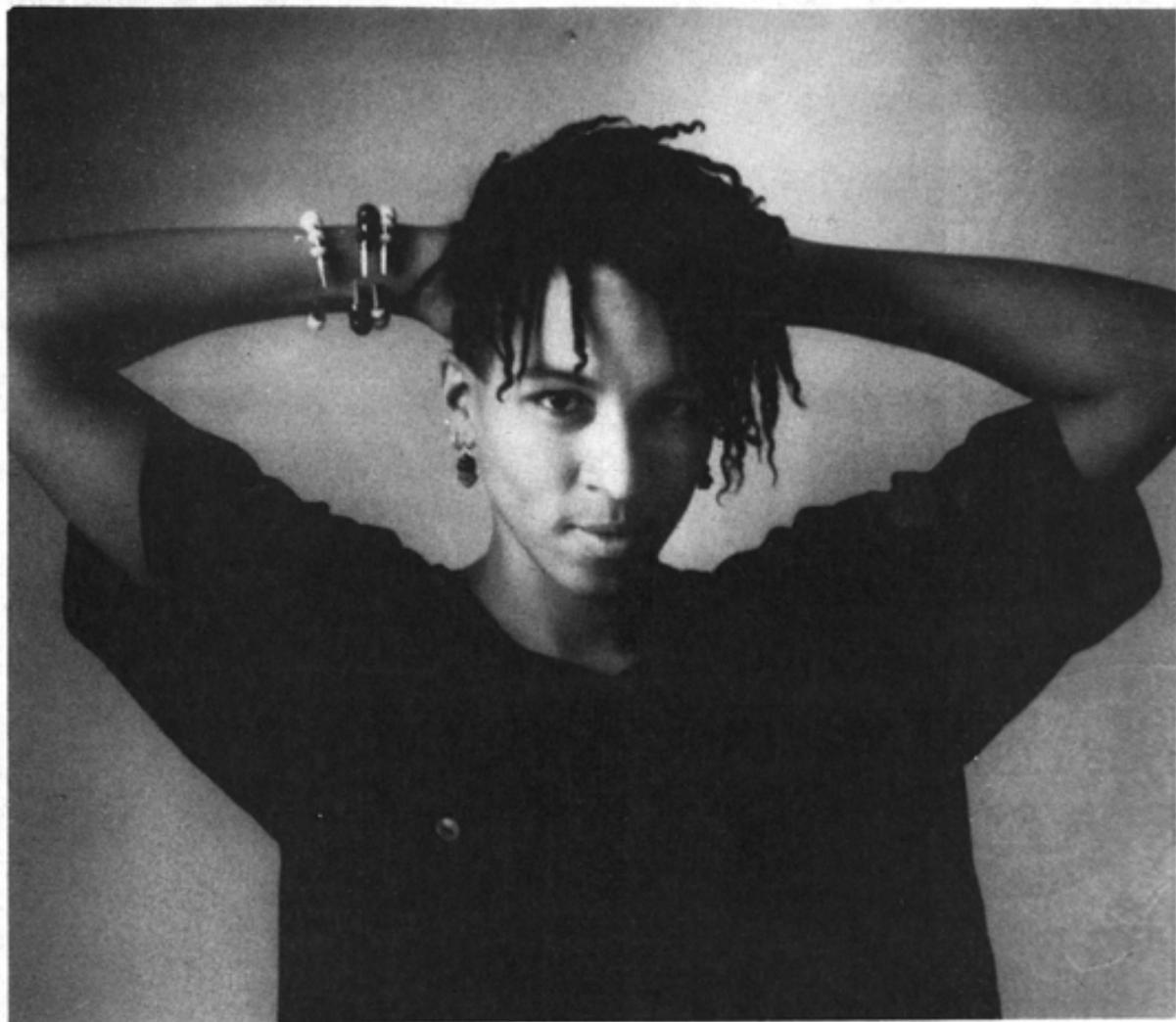
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

ISSUE # 11



Hot Shot *by Ericb Conrad*

Photo by Lizzerd Souffle



OZA, jewelry designer and political activist, was fresh from the "Day of Outrage" demo when I spoke to her. "I see a civil war situation in urban areas here and across the nation," she told me, saying she no longer believes in legislation to effect social change. A supporter of the "Guerrilla Art Project," Oza wants to use her art to make people realize the sickness in society, and to help find a cure.

Aside from her political activities, Oza spends her time as a production manager for the Pickny Players, a children's theater, and professes total, deep and lasting devotion to her girlfriend Ana. "I'm madly in love with Ana," she said, "We're totally jealous and possessive and it works."

Who ever said love was soft as an easy chair?

GCN

Gay Cable Network

Thursdays

10:30 pm

Pride & Progress

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

11:00 pm

The Right Stuff

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

September 7

Election Round-Up
with Andy Humm,
David Dinkins, Ed
Koch, Tom Duane, and
Dave Taylor

From Chicago:
Rudy Dannamore,
From L.A.:
Mr. Superman Contest

Sundays

11:30 pm

Men & Films

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

September 10

Jack Laughton Shows Us A Big
One—Plus Clips from *Texas
Tales* and *Joined* (The Siamese
Twins).

Mondays

10:00 pm

Be My Guest

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

September 11

Sybil Bruncheon Meets Josephine Baker

Episode #13
Trouble in Paradise



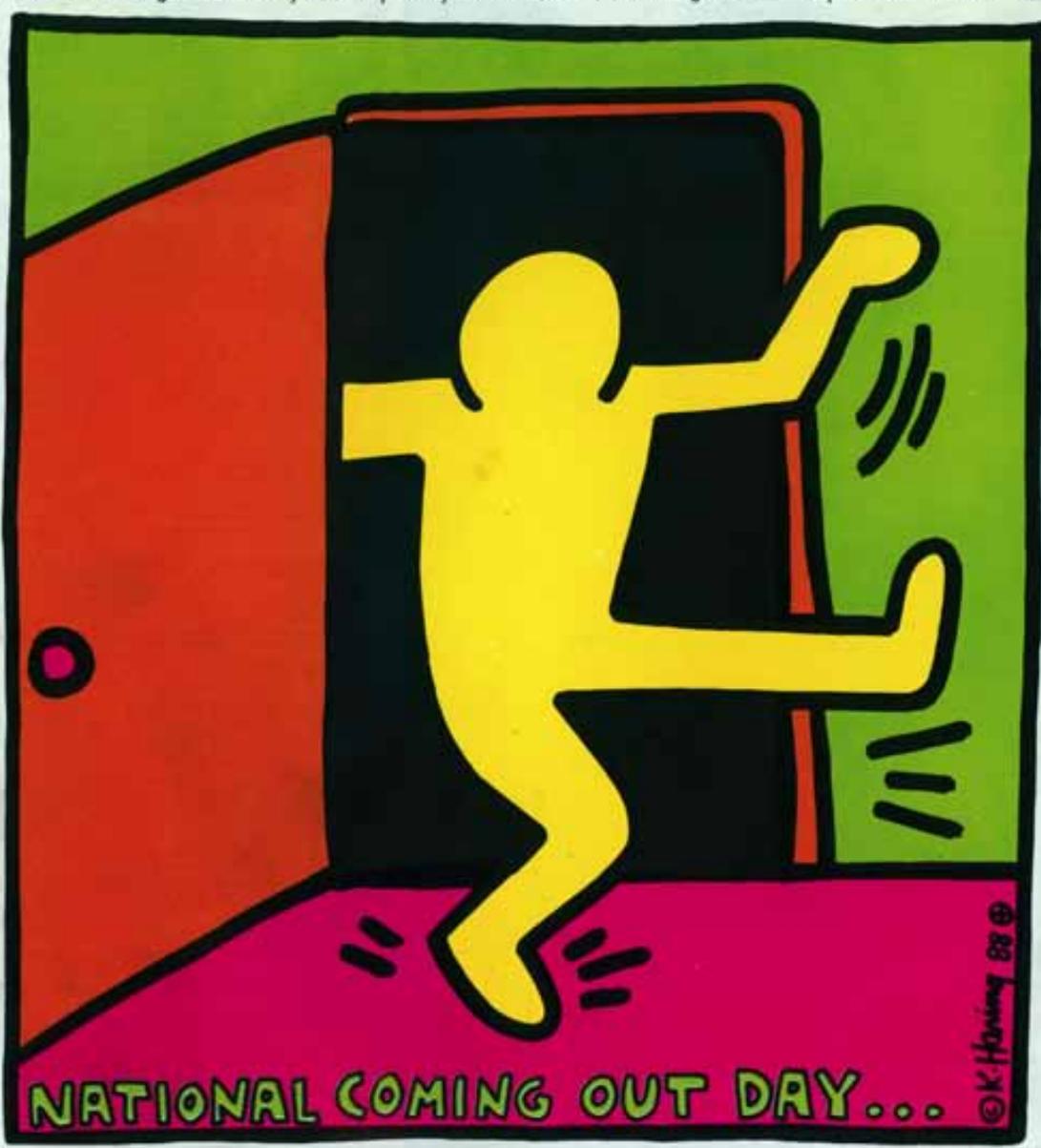
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