

NEW YORK'S  
LESBIAN  
AND GAY  
NEWS  
MAGAZINE

# OUT WEEK

## BETTY RULES

*Maggenti on the Future Queens of Pop*



*Susie Day Shocker!!*  
**Are Heterosexuals  
Taking Over the World?**

**PLUS...**

- Harrington on Medical Apartheid
- Chesnut on Quincy Troupe  
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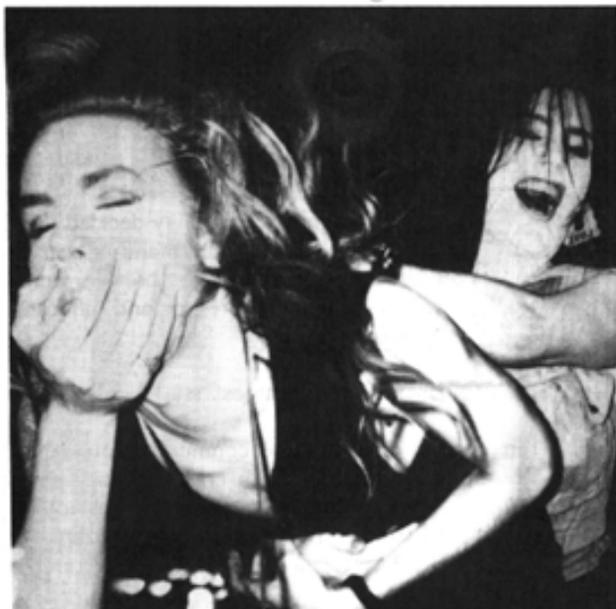
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The group **BETTY**  
photographed by TL Litt



#### THAR SHE BLOWS!

Party people Miss Guy and Shannon (above) reacting to Rudy Giuliani's homophobic remarks this week. For more on "Nightmare Rudy" see page 44. More pix of nightlife people start on page 62.

Photo: Erich Conrad

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# Outspoken

## Don't Drink Coors!



Once upon a time a community decided that it wasn't going to purchase a certain brand of beer any longer because it was clear that the brewers were blatantly participating in the oppression and suffocation of that community.

The company suffered great losses.

Ten years later, that same community found itself in the midst of an overwhelming health crisis in which tens of thousands died — directly due to governmental neglect induced by the very same hatred those brewers and their kind espoused. Then came the company's glossy, Hollywood p.r. campaign.

Recently an *OutWeek* reporter ordered a beer at the Village gay bar Julius' and was promptly served a Coors. God's Love We Deliver, AmFar, the Gay Rodeo, Lambda Awards of Philadelphia and Northern Lights are among a handful of AIDS and/or gay and lesbian organizations which have of late had Coors sponsor fundraising events or have accepted direct contributions from the company. The national gay news magazine, *The Advocate*, has recently begun accepting advertising from Coors, as have Long Island's *Equal Times* and *Wilde Side* and Los Angeles' *Frontiers*. *Equal Times* has decided, as it recently stated, that the Coors boycott is over. So has God's Love We Deliver's Buddy Noro.

Since when do a few people in the community suddenly decide what's right for the entire community? How can anyone say the Coors boycott is over simply because he or she has decided to take money from the company, accepting Coors' claims about how the company is now different? And why do those individuals taking the money consistently tell us that Coors has changed while there is overwhelming evidence pointing in the other direction?

A recent *OutWeek* investigation (issue 2, July 3, 1989) of the Coors Foundations' 1987-88 tax return reveals a \$100,000 donation to the Heritage Foundation, a right-wing "think tank"; \$150,000 to the Free Congress Research and Education Foundation, led by Reagan advisor Paul Weyrich; \$80,000 to the Christian Broadcasting Network University, run by televangelist Pat Robertson; \$25,000 to the Rocky Mountain Billy Graham Crusade; \$20,000 to Morality in Media and \$50,000 to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation.

"That's only the beginning," says Chip Berlet, who studies the far-right as a researcher for Political Research Associates in Cambridge. "Much of [the Coors] family money goes to neo-nazi groups funneled through front organizations. They still have a reactionary, even white supremacist view of America. Every beer bought is like buying a gun for these people."

And for every charity dollar accepted from Coors, 100 dollars goes toward killing us. Don't believe the hype. Keep the boycott alive... ▼

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# Letters To The Editor

To The Editor,

I enjoyed your first issue, and I hope that you make a go of it. We need a good gay weekly that actually gives us the news. By all means, cover AIDS and any other health problem that warrants it, but there is a lot of news that we just don't get at all in the *Native*.

Good luck.

Sincerely, Frank Lilly  
New York

*The writer served on the Presidential Commission on HIV.*

To The Editor,

From 1986 to early 1988, I was a contributing writer for the *New York Native*. The majority of the work I published in that magazine were book reviews, written at the suggestion of then-Editor, Patrick Merla, a sensitive and intelligent author and journalist. When Mr. Merla left *The Native*, I decided that my "departure," so to speak, was also called for. I had no desire to be associated with a publication that had long since abandoned common sense, not to mention any sense of journalistic ethics or responsibility. I wrote and demanded that my name be removed at once from the masthead. (Ironically, then and only then did I receive payment for the half-dozen or so pieces I'd written.)

I commend Ann Guidici Fettner not only for her article "Going For The Gold" (July 17, 1989), but also for her sanity and commitment to solid, factual and compassionate reporting on AIDS and HIV-related concerns.

*OutWeek* is one of the best things to happen in the New York gay and lesbian community for some time. Can any one of us ever again seriously consider reading *The Native*? What was once a respected—and

respectable — voice in the gay community has become nothing if not a purveyor of the worst sort of yellow journalism. We must not encourage Charles Ortleb and his potentially murderous and dangerously misguided theories.

Sincerely,  
David Craig Austin  
New York

To The Editor,

Bravo on a well-written publication for New York's gay society. I find your journalism refreshing as opposed to a lot of the trash that's being published today.

There are a few spaces containing the phone sex ads which could be utilized with still more fine writing on issues concerning gay New York, yet I understand the need for them. Hopefully, in establishing yourselves you'll be able to delete those advertisements.

We need an informative, intelligent and reputable magazine to stand by. There's plenty of smut in other tabloids. Good luck with future issues.

Sincerely,  
Martin Dayne  
New York

To The Editor,

I am enclosing two gift subscriptions to *OutWeek* for two friends of mine, both of them women. I don't generally take women to boys' bars or boys' events, and I don't give them boys' magazines. So by doing this I'm showing some trust in what your editorial in the first issue says about your commitment to rectifying the despicable *Native's* neglect of women. But the only way I think you can make good on that commitment is to get women on the editorial staff, and at the highest levels. This shouldn't have been a boys' venture to which the girls may or may not be invited to join later. It should have been girls and boys together from the beginning. But since it wasn't, please get some women on board.

Sincerely,  
Douglas Crimp  
October Magazine

To The Editor,

I agree with Neil Goldberg (Letters, 7/10/89): we should riot again soon. However, he falsely contends that the recent queer riot should not have targeted Ty's and other bars - that our real target is the het world.

My joy increased immeasurably when the riot hit Ty's. The bars are a haven for those who have no other outlet for being gay and lesbian, those who are closeted, those who are not in the movement. Bars are segregated by gender, age, race and class. The ugly or different lose in the cruising competition which is most intense at the bars.

Bars weaken us as lesbian and gay people. Some bars spit on our community, pouring Coors and playing Donna Summer. The aesthetic at men's bars is masculinity; gender role violations are punished, not praised. Segregation in the bars mimics the heterosexual world which oppresses us, and forces those in bars to oppress others. For some, bars can be an empowering escape from the heterosexual world. But for most (who go only to bars), they fail miserably.

Imagine, for a moment, that all bar patrons joined the lesbian and gay liberation movement. Millions would swell our ranks. And the het world would have to listen because we would be millions of people, too many to ignore. The rights and equality that would follow would come from gay and lesbian empowerment, not heterosexual sympathy.

Those men in Ty's who came out when we yelled, "Out of the bars and into the streets," were justly cheered; they declared their commitment to liberation. They refused to hide in their protected enclave; they CAME OUT! When Ty's and all bars empty out at the call of liberation, we WILL overthrow heterosexism.

Sincerely,  
Darren Rosenblum  
New York

*OutWeek* welcomes letters from its readers. Please mail all correspondence to:

Letters to the Editor  
*OutWeek* Magazine  
77 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10010

To The Editor,

Your brief "Safer Sex Guidelines" (page 64 in the 7/10 issue) doesn't explain why rimming is dangerous. Please do so.

Sincerely,  
S. Treimel  
New York

*Editor's note: According to GMHC, rimming transmits fecal material containing blood, which holds the highest concentrations of HIV. In addition, rimming can transmit serious intestinal infections and parasites as well as Hepatitis B, an extremely dangerous disease which had begun to seriously impact on the gay community prior to the AIDS epidemic and is still a major threat to our health. Rimming can be enjoyed, however, by using a sheet of plastic wrap, which prevents direct contact.*

To the Editor:

Marching is by its nature a political act. Heritage of Pride views New York's annual Lesbian & Gay Pride March as one of the most important

political statements that our community makes each year. We proudly trace our roots not only to the Stonewall Riots, but to the great, peaceful civil rights marches of the '60s. Indeed, we believe that Gay Pride in New York is the largest annually scheduled civil rights march in the world and state so in our ads.

Heritage of Pride thanks *OutWeek* for its excellent coverage of this year's Pride events and welcomes a new voice for our community. I am writing you simply to clarify some misconceptions reported here and elsewhere, and to address a few other issues which may be of interest to your readers.

The annual Lesbian & Gay Pride march has had a city permit since the very first one in 1970. In fact, obtaining a permit was one of the major achievements of that first year. From 1977 to 1984, however, the organizers were unwilling to continue marching on Sixth Avenue, so we defied our permit and crossed over to Fifth Avenue. We fought hard and finally in

1985, the city relented and issued the current Fifth Avenue permit. Our triumph is symbolized annually by the lavender line painted along the march route.

Heritage of Pride is non-partisan. We do not invite any elected officials or candidates for office. We do welcome anyone willing to come out in support of the lesbian and gay community. In light of the twentieth anniversary, we made an exception and invited former Congresswoman Bella Abzug, the first politician to publicly support us back in 1971.

Since 1977, a special women's contingent has been the first regular section in the line of march, with additional preference given regularly to women of color such as Salsa Soul Sisters. Salsa Soul was also one of three groups honored by Heritage of Pride on the banners hanging over Fifth Avenue. These banners proclaimed Lesbian & Gay Pride & History as well as highlighting milestones in the movement starting with

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# LAKERWOOD

by Daniel  
Sotomayor

I DON'T THINK I REALLY WANT A RELATIONSHIP. I HAVE THIS PROBLEM WITH INTIMACY.



I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.



JUST PRACTICING.



© SOTOMAYOR 2-9

# Historic Talks Held on Community Drug Trials

## *Conference at Columbia U. Brings Together Feds, AIDS MDs and PWAs*

by David Kirby

NEW YORK—A small miracle happened the weekend before last at Columbia University: warring factions that have battled for years over the testing and approval process for promising new AIDS drugs sat down for three days of unprecedented peace talks.

People with AIDS (PWAs), their physicians and AIDS activists from around the country held honest and often surprisingly candid discussions with their commonly-perceived enemy: government agencies such as

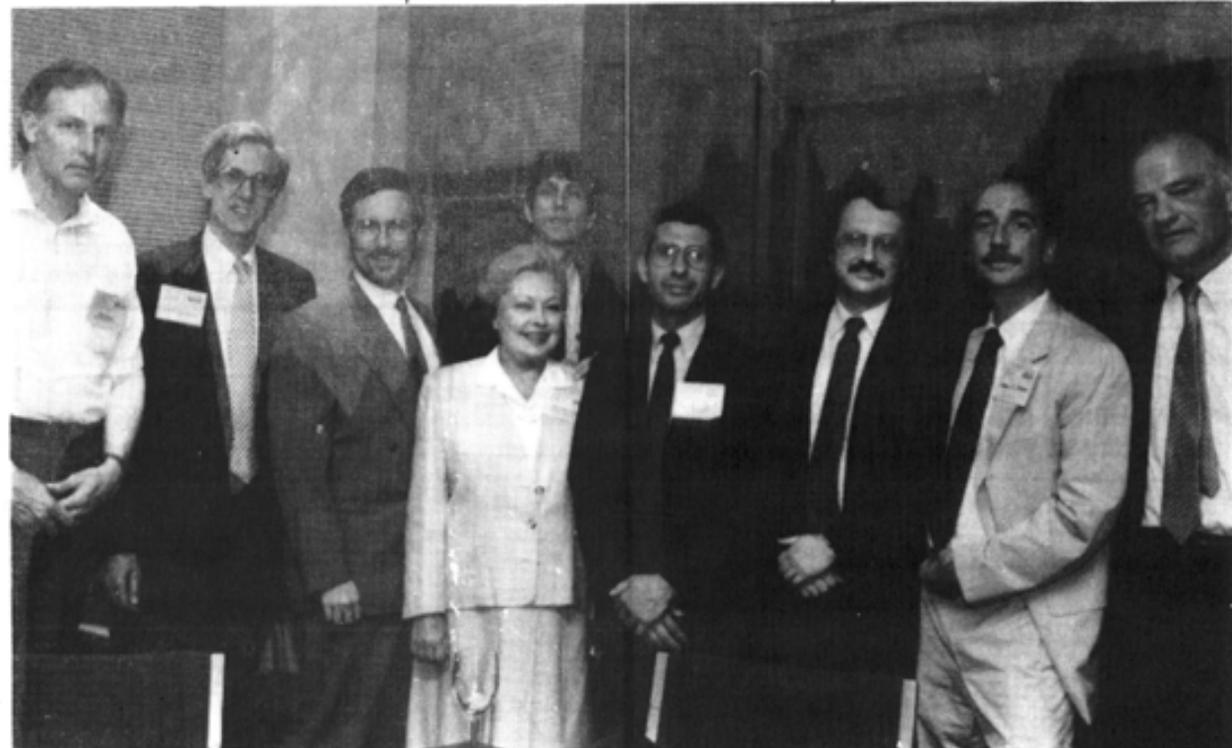
the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and several pharmaceutical giants—including Burroughs-Wellcome, the monopoly manufacturer of AZT.

They came to argue, refine and ultimately promote an idea that is bringing hope to the HIV-affected community. The idea—community-based testing of the new AIDS drugs—has been pushed by AIDS activists for several years. But only in

recent weeks have the government and drug industry come to see it as a viable alternative to traditional methods.

The idea is radical because it allows those most affected by the epidemic to take an active and positive role in the search for a cure to AIDS.

The 160 participants from 26 cities came to hash out the intricate problems of conducting community-based clinical trials (CBCTs), which empower PWAs and their doctors to initiate and conduct their own large-scale testing of new drugs.



**AIDS BIG WIGS AT COLUMBIA CONFERENCE**

*Left to right: John James, Stuart Nightingale, Bopper Deyton, Michael Callen, Mathilde Krim, Anthony Fauci, Samuel Broder, Don Abrams and Burton Lee.*

Photo: Jane Rosett

The goal is two-fold, but simple:

- To accelerate the testing of new drugs for safety and efficacy and then win quick FDA approval to market those that work (or might work) and,

- To potentially treat thousands of patients who otherwise might not have access to any AIDS therapy, while gaining valuable knowledge about dozens of new drugs that have not yet undergone large-scale human testing.

The conference addressed many problems inherent in conducting community-based trials, and raised far more questions than it answered. The *New York Times*, covering the event on Sunday's front page, said participants were in a "conciliatory and self-congratulating mood." Not everyone liked the *Times'* rosy assessment, but few denied that something positive came out of this extraordinary conference.

It was, as event organizer Michael Callen said, a "historic occasion." Despite the disagreements, suspicions of motives and years of mutual animosity, actors in the drama for the first time sat down together and took a crucial step toward greatly expanding the quest for new treatments.

The conference, which was held from July 7-9 at Columbia's School of International Affairs, was sponsored by the New York-based Community Research Initiative (CRI) and San Francisco's County Community Consortium (CCC), the nation's two leading groups in developing community-based trials of new AIDS drugs. The event was underwritten by the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), NIAID and several pharmaceutical companies.

#### Are community-based trials better?

There was surprising consensus during the meeting that community-based trials will be an important tool in testing new drugs, and in many cases are preferable to traditional trials normally conducted by the government, pharmaceutical companies or large universities.

Growing demand for new trials is outpacing the traditional institutions'

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## A Clinical Trials Primer

Clinical drug trials of any type are not easy to run. Extra care must be taken in community-based trials to guarantee that patients' needs are met, which is, after all, at least half the reason for community trials in the first place. The following is a primer of some of the more pressing ethical and technical issues involved in trials of AIDS drugs.

### Controls

Controls are as basic to clinical research as drugs are to medicine. They are usually necessary for collecting accurate data, because they give investigators something with which to compare effects of a given substance. But are these controls always essential when the patients are facing life and death situations? Is it possible to investigate a new drug, without denying many of the test patients access to that drug? Most AIDS activists believe so, and have stepped up debate over several types of controls.

**PLACEBOS:** The notorious sugar pill everyone learns about in biology class. Because they are inert, placebos are ideal in many clinical trials: half the subjects are given a drug, the other half receive placebo. These two groups are chosen at random and patients are seldom told which substance they are taking (a process known as "blinding"). But how ethical is it to let one group receive treatment, and live, while others receive a placebo, and die? A 1986 trial of the antiviral AZT gave 20 patients the drug and 20 patients placebos. Six months later, 19 people on placebo had died, while only two on AZT died.

In life or death cases, placebos are immoral, and unnecessary, according to AIDS activists. When CRI and CCC successfully tested aerosolized pentamidine to fight PCP, a pneumonia associated with AIDS, no controls were used. Everyone took the drug, and most people benefited. There was no need—nor time—to test one group against another.

One other problem with placebos is that patients can find out if they received the drug or the inert substance by having their medication analyzed in a lab. No one knows exactly how many patients manage to find out, but doctors estimated that 10-20 percent in any experiment somehow discover the truth.

**ACTIVE CONTROLS:** Currently the preferred method among most AIDS activists, including ACT UP, active controls give group A one type of drug, and group B another type. No placebos are used and everyone receives some form of potential therapy. These controls are nearly as effective as placebos in testing the efficacy of a substance. Most active-control experiments today use AZT and ddI (dideoxyinosine), a promising anti-HIV drug.

**CROSSOVER CONTROLS:** Again, no placebo is used. In this case, group A would switch from, say, three months on AZT to three months on ddI. Information is then obtained by comparing patient reactions to the two drugs.

**WAITING LIST CONTROLS:** In an experiment testing a popular drug under great demand, doctors can enroll their patients on waiting lists, and compare their data with those who are receiving the drug. Although this is less preferable to active-controls, it is often more humane than using placebos, because everyone will receive treatment as soon as possible.

### End Points

How long should an experiment last? If there is a clear and proven benefit (or adverse affect) on patients, how much clinical evidence is needed before taking the next step toward approval? Again, the '86 AZT case is illustrative. Dr. Donald Armstrong of Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center said doctors should look for an "early warning of significance" during trials. "Yes, we have to show efficacy. But did we have to go the full six months to know that 19 patients on placebo would die?" Armstrong asked.

The design of any protocol, then, must include trial "end points." But

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## News

# Community Based Trials to Seek Minority Involvement

## Conference Panel Discusses Access

by David Kirby

NEW YORK—Until now, community-based trials have largely been the domain of middle-class, gay white men, and there were a preponderance of white men at the conference itself. Despite efforts by organizers to include underrepresented groups at the event, very, very few attended.

During a roundtable discussion by physicians on Friday, doctors said the next major goal of CBCTs must be increased involvement of other patients, including women, Blacks, Hispanics, IV-drug users, prisoners and hemophiliacs.

"The lack of minorities at this conference shows how far we have to go. Minorities and drug users are now the most heavily affected populations in New York," said Dr. Bernard Bihari, the CRI's medical director.

The numbers speak for themselves. Bihari said that less than ten percent of CRI's patients are Black and Hispanic, even though these groups make up more than 30 percent of New York's gay population. Although nearly half of all AIDS cases in the city are IV-drug users, only two to three percent of CRI's patients fall into that category.

"There is a lack of minority doctors. There is a lack of education and drug treatment in the community. Recruiting the underrepresented will be a difficult task," he said. CRI recently hired a minority outreach coordinator.

Jim Eigo, of ACT UP/NY, told the conference in an impassioned speech that Blacks made up just nine percent of the subjects in all federal AIDS trials, although 33 percent of all PWAs are Black. "It will be the role of community trials to involve these groups that have not had access to testing new drugs," he said. Eigo also pointed out that too few people of color

have access to primary health care, the normal conduit for enrolling patients in a drug trial. "They don't visit private doctors who would get them into a protocol. National health care is therefore crucial before full minority participation can become a reality," Eigo said.

But there are other problems in recruiting patients from these populations. Dr. Bruce Soloway, who works at the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Family Practice Clinic, said many minorities "are not really interested in clinical testing. They don't want to be guinea pigs, they don't want to continue the victimization of minorities."

This negative "guinea pig" image came up again during an emotional panel discussion on minority participation in trials. LeBaron Moseby, a Black PWA and member of CRI/Boston, called federally-sponsored drug trials he underwent in Houston and New York "sheer hell."

Moseby, who launched some of the angriest and most pointed rhetoric of the relatively tranquil conference, looked straight at the table where the FDA officials sat and said: "Black people don't want your tests, we don't want to be your guinea pigs. We just want the drugs—give us the drugs and we will find out which one cures AIDS."

Carmen Royster and Katrina Haslip, PWA in-

mates at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, in Upstate New York, said prisons were the perfect testing grounds for new AIDS drugs—provided that strict measures are taken to prevent the atrocities committed against inmates in past trials of other drugs.

"We want to start trials at the facility. 18.8 percent of the prisoners are HIV positive," Royster said. "We have the data, but no people power. We need doctors and researchers to come and monitor trials."

IV-drug users have been excluded from community trials for a number of reasons. John Robles, of the Association for Drug Abuse and Treatment (ADAPT) said many addicts "don't even know they are HIV positive. Like other advocates for drug users, Robles said addicts "need their drug problem treated first—with methadone—and then they can move on to their HIV problem. But we don't have the people, the facilities, the money, to get addicts into methadone programs, let alone drug trials," he added.

Finally, Christopher Pitkin of the National Hemophilia Foundation

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NUMBERS SPEAKING FOR THEMSELVES Photo: Jane Rosett  
Dr. Iris Davis of Brooklyn's Bushwick Medical Clinic.

# The Limits of Trust

## Building Bridges with Former Enemies

by David Kirby

NEW YORK—It was no easy feat bringing together so many hostile parties in the war on AIDS. The fact that so many officials from the federal government and the major pharmaceuticals even showed up demonstrates how far community-based testing has come in such a short time.

The community organized, it

### NEWS ANALYSIS

protested, it yelled and screamed so loud and for so long that, finally, the supposed powers that be simply had to listen.

"Six years ago we were trying to expedite new drug approvals in the face of an epidemic. Now, at last, there is a new camaraderie on the part of the FDA, NIH and so forth," said Dr. Marcus Conant of the University of California at San Francisco. "But that camaraderie was forced from below. It is the response to our pressure, our efforts."

Ron English, a CRI board member and leading community fundraiser, told *OutWeek* that government and industry leaders "now want to work with us because they see us as a united force on the national level. If they saw us as weak and divided, they would try to walk all over us."

"But they need our help," said English. "PWAs don't trust the major institutions, they only trust their own."

Few would deny that cooperation with the government and industry is absolutely essential if new treatments are to be found. Community-based programs will have to work closely with the FDA to make sure all tests meet government standards, and that the data will be acceptable to government scientists. By keeping the FDA accurately informed, final approval of new drugs will be all the more speedy.

The drug companies can also play a big role. They have already

financed several community-based trials. "Normally, we get the drug, plus enough money to cover all operating costs and even some overhead," English said. Pharmaceutical companies hold an important key: they spend millions a year developing new drugs that need to be tested. Again, they need PWAs (for subjects) and PWAs need them (for money and drugs).

"We in the drug industry realize



#### UNEASY ALLIANCE?

CRI's Joseph Sonnabend (left) and NIAID's Anthony Fauci at conference dinner on Friday. Photo: Jane Rosett

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# News

that we must work with the community, we must be involved, and we must be open to changes," said Sandra Lehrman of Burroughs Wellcome. "You who work in community trials have a sense of urgency, as compared to the academic and business world. Our perspective is sometimes colored by not having full-time contact with patients."

Their perspective is "colored" by far more than simply not visiting with Joe PWA, but Lehrman's remarks were a far cry from the demeaning and counterproductive rhetoric that was coming out of the drug giant's mouth just a few months ago.

The tentative and fragile alliance has already led to some direct results. During the Columbia conference, CRI members held a series of behind-the-scenes meetings with Ellen Cooper and other FDA bigwigs. The direct-dialogue approach worked.

According to English, the Belgian company Jansen was about to open an experiment with CRI to test the effectiveness of diclazuril against cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal

AIDS-related illness, but the plan was delayed by several "unacceptable" restraints placed by the FDA.

"They were terribly inconvenient for PWA's, who would have had to visit the clinic three times a week. They also said that no one on DHPG [for ganciclovir, which prevents AIDS-related blindness] could take part in the trial," English said. "Both those restrictions will now be lifted."

Community-based groups have already opened direct talks with the drug companies. For example, Hoffman LaRoche was about to terminate its own testing of DDC, a powerful new antiviral that could be used as an alternative to AZT. "But a community-based group on the West coast proved the drug's viability during a trial," English said. "Based on that data, Hoffman has now agreed not only to renew testing, but to expand it. They are the only company currently funding human studies of DDC, and only because they listened to us."

Still, there is a cry for caution, for guarding our trust, for not being duped.

"We have to be very careful and remember that many of these people,

despite what they say, have in no way earned our trust," Larry Kramer, the playwright and outspoken AIDS activist, told *OurWeek*. "I'm personally hopeful, but I try to tell everyone that hope is one thing, deeds are another."

Like many government critics, Kramer said he still doesn't trust people like the FDA's Ellen Cooper. "She, more than anyone else in this whole drama, controls all the cards of power. She has not been kind to us in the past. As far as I'm concerned, the jury is still very much out on her."

David Barr, an attorney and ACT UP member, said the new working relationship with government and industry "is the natural product of this whole process. They now realize that we were right, that we beat them at the credibility market."

"We should continue to work with them as much as possible," Barr said. "But we must not let up pressure."

"We must always remind ourselves: Just because they allowed us in the room, doesn't mean we should trust them. We must always have our own agenda...we must never give any ground." ▼



**WHITE HOUSE MEETS OUR HOUSE**

*Dr. Burton Lee (left), personal physician to President Bush, with his wife, Ann Lee, and AmFAR's Mathilde Krim.*

Photo: Jane Rosett

## News

# Small Town Passes Mystery Gay Law

by Rex Wockner

MUSCATINE, IOWA—The city council in this Mississippi River town (population 23,000) passed a gay rights ordinance July 6 by a four to three vote.

The ordinance bans discrimination in housing, employment, credit and the offering of services. It will take effect July 20 unless Mayor Don LeMar intercedes with a veto.

No gays or lesbians lobbied for the measure, which was initiated by the city's Human Rights Commission. The town has no gay organization or meeting places.

"I really don't know what I'm going to do," LeMar said after the vote. "I could sign it tomorrow, but I'll probably wait the whole 14 days to give the public time to comment."

LeMar said he didn't know if any "homosexuals" had been present during the council debate since "they don't wear a badge like Blacks, Hispanics or other minorities."

According to Human Rights Commission member Beverly Delveau, Muscatine has never received a complaint of discrimination based on what the ordinance calls "affectional preference."

But commission co-chair Kory Darnall told reporters that the town needed to take action before such discrimination occurred.

The commission discussed the proposal for a year during meetings that Darnall says "couldn't have been more open. There was no clandestine effort to push this through," she said.

City Council member Gayle Sayles spoke in favor of the ordinance on the evening of the vote, saying, "Lack of tolerance for others' rights threatens all our rights."

Council members Larry Kemp, Jerry Amerine and Jeanette Phillips also voted for the measure, saying that sexual orientation is a civil rights issue, not a religious or moral concern.

After the ordinance's second reading in June, Concerned Citizens of Muscatine (CCM) began a campaign opposing the change.

CCM co-chair W. Floyd Scott told the Muscatine Journal that the new law could mean that "a church, school or youth organization could be forced to hire a person who practices and promotes homosexuality, incest, adultery, sadism or prostitution to work with children."

But Laura Dollieslager of the Human Rights Commission said Scott's comments distorted the ordinance by "promoting untrue stereotypes and giving an incorrect impression that illegal behaviors would become legal."

Muscatine is not the smallest town in the United States to pass a gay rights measure; that distinction is believed to belong to Alfred, New York.

But according to Urvashi Vaid of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, "it's pretty amazing nonetheless."

Iowa City, a university town, is the only other Iowa city to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination.

Across the Mississippi in Illinois, however, five cities—including Chicago—have passed gay rights ordinances, and neighboring Wisconsin has a state-wide gay rights law, the only such law in the U.S.

—Filed from Chicago



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## News

# House Slashes Arts Budget

## *Furor Grows Over Mapplethorpe Photos*

by Gabriel Rotello

WASHINGTON—The House of Representatives, reacting to the growing furor over a publicly-funded homoerotic art exhibit, slashed the budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) on July 12th. The amount cut, \$45,000, was exactly the amount the Endowment had budgeted to support an exhibit by the late Robert Mapplethorpe, as well as another controversial show by Andres Serrano. Public debate has raged around the Mapplethorpe exhibit since it was cancelled by Washington's Corcoran Gallery, which cited public pressure and fears of a funding cut-off if it displayed the gay artist's work.

"It's outrageous that members of Congress are willing to sacrifice the first amendment for the sake of political expediency," Urvasi Vaid of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) told *Out-Week*. She characterized the budget reduction as a "fine imposed on the NEA" and called it "absolutely without merit."

Vaid said that homophobia was at the root of the controversy. "The Mapplethorpe show was targeted because of its explicitly gay, its interracial, and its explicitly sexual content," she said. "This kind of controversy doesn't accom-

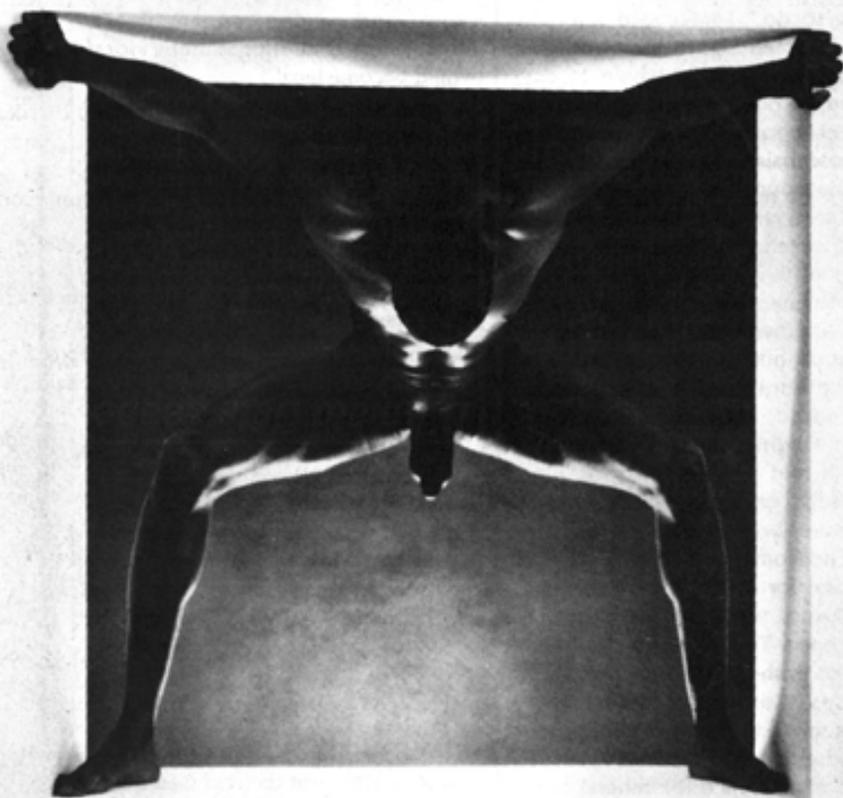
pany art that depicts nude women."

The amendment cutting the budget passed by a vote of 361 to 65. Representative Dana Rohrabacher, (R-Calif.), led a floor fight to kill the NEA's entire budget. The Democratic leadership came up with a counter

plan to cut the \$45,000, a small fraction of the endowment's total \$171.4 million appropriation, as a symbolic gesture. The amendment will go before the Senate in August.

Many House members who defended the endowment nonetheless spoke against the Mapplethorpe show. Charles W. Stenholm, (D-Texas), who introduced the \$45,000 cut, told the *New York Times* that "it sends the appropriate message without shooting and hitting everything in sight."

Leaders of the lesbian, gay and arts communities disagreed, noting that any budget cut will have a chilling effect on the future funding of any controversial art, particularly art



**ART OR SMUT?**  
Thomas, 1986 by Robert Mapplethorpe.

of a homoerotic nature.

Congressman Ted Weiss was the only member of the New York delegation to vote against the amendment. In his floor statement, the Manhattan Democrat called the idea that there is no shortage of private support for the arts "a patently false assertion. I invite anyone who disagrees to visit the hundreds of artists in my district who are finding the search for funds to be a nearly impossible quest." Weiss said the Congress was "starting down a dangerous path" in criticizing and fining the NEA, and stated that "there are countries around the world that have standards of acceptable and unacceptable art. We call them totalitarian."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) issued a statement that said, "We condemn the House vote both as a blatant display of anti-gay bigotry and as a threat to free expression generally. With museum curators everywhere now under constant threat of having their aesthetic judgments reversed and punished by Congress, our art world cannot help but be sapped of its vitality."

In an interview with *OutWeek*, GLAAD director Craig Davidson noted that "the most immediate effect is to cause museum curators throughout the country to start self-censoring in a very dangerous way. They'll now avoid anything controversial and specifically gay-related. This now goes way beyond the individual case of Mapplethorpe."

Award-winning playwright and novelist Larry Kramer told *OutWeek*, "This is a setback and a slap in the face, and another fight that we have to add to our never ending fight. Public funding affects art in this country a great deal. If you see how little gay stuff is financed on any of the public television stations, it's appalling."

"We need a long-term plan around this issue," said NGLTF's Vaid, "We were obviously unable to stop the momentum that built up" around the Mapplethorpe censorship, "but this is dangerous. The fear in the arts community needs to have a political focus." ▼

—Filed from New York

## D'Amato Gets Zapped

NEW YORK — While over 100 supporters picketed on 7th Avenue, carrying signs which read, "No censorship of the arts!" 25 angry artists paid an unannounced visit to Republican Senator Alphonse D'Amato (R-NY) at his office near Penn Station at lunchtime on Wednesday, July 12. They demanded a meeting with the Senator to discuss his outspoken support of art censorship following the controversy over the work of Robert Mapplethorpe and Andres Serrano.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), a federal agency, has been the target of recent attacks by conservative members of Congress for providing financial support for the two artists' work, which some members of Congress find offensive.

D'Amato began the protest on the Senate floor by railing against Serrano's *Piss Christ*, a photograph of a crucifix submerged in a glass of the artist's urine. According to a *Los Angeles Times* report at the time, D'Amato "characterized the photo as 'garbage' and a 'deplorable, despicable display of vulgarity.' He then tore up a copy of the exhibition catalogue, dropped it on the floor, and jumped on it."

Other Congress members have expressed similar outrage over a retrospective of the work of Mapplethorpe, a gay photographer who died this year. Many of Mapplethorpe's pictures portray nude men, many in sadomasochistic or homoerotic situations.

In a July 11 meeting which fueled the demonstration, organized by an ad hoc group of artists, Inverna Lockpez, the president of the National Association of Artists' Organizations (which is funded in part by the NEA) said, "Money is the way this country talks to the world: economic sanctions, cutting endowments, no allowance. But we're taxpayers. It's our money, too."

Legislators are claiming that the NEA controversy is not about censorship, but about how taxpayers' money gets spent. In a letter to Hugh Southern, Acting Chairman of the NEA at the time, 106 members of Congress wrote, "This matter does not involve freedom of artistic expression — it does involve the question of whether American taxpayers should be forced to support such trash."

"Of course it's about censorship," said Martha Gever at the Tuesday night meeting. Gever, the editor of the film and video monthly magazine *Independent*, which is funded in part by the NEA, added, "What arts activists need to address is the centrality of public funding to culture."

"Art existed long before endowments, and if they take away our funding we still have the streets," said Avram Finkelstein, a member of the artist/AIDS activist collective Gran Fury, whose art projects often appear on the streets of New York.

But resistance takes many other shapes. A gallery space on Lafayette Street is currently running a show called "Erotophobia." In direct response to the NEA controversy, gallery owner Simon Watson scheduled two evenings of video and film programming by and about Mapplethorpe. One film, called "Robert Having His Nipple Pierced," involves a constant voice-over by rock singer Patti Smith, and delivers on the promise of its title. The screenings, which were packed, included a letter-writing campaign to senators and members of Congress to express outrage at the repression and censorship currently afoot in Washington. Watson provided envelopes and stamps.

D'Amato was not in New York on the day of the demonstration. Reached later for comment, John Sitalides, a spokesperson for D'Amato's office, said, "The



ART ATTACK AT AL'S

Photo: Margot Kingon

continued on page 70

# NY Les/Gay Lovers are "Family"

## State High Court Issues Historic Ruling

By Jim Whelan

ALBANY—The New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, has ruled that two gay men living together as lovers constitute a family, and should therefore be accorded succession rights to a rent-controlled apartment when one partner dies.

The "decision is a groundbreaking victory for lesbians and gay men," said William Rubenstein, the American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who argued for plaintiff Miguel Braschi in the case *Braschi v. Stahl Associates*. The 4-2 ruling was hailed by many gay rights advocates as the biggest step thus far toward legal recognition

of lesbian and gay relationships in the United States.

In the majority decision, Judge Vito J. Titone wrote, "the term family...should not be rigidly restricted to those people who have formalized their relationship by obtaining, for instance, a marriage certificate or an adoption order." He further pointed out that "the intended protection against sudden eviction should not rest on fictitious legal distinctions or genetic history, but instead should find its foundation in the reality of family life. In the context of eviction, a more realistic, and certainly equally valid, view of a family includes two adult lifetime partners whose relation-

ship is long-term and characterized by an emotional and financial commitment."

Braschi shared a one-bedroom, rent-controlled apartment on East 54th Street with his lover, Leslie Blanchard, for more than a decade. Blanchard, who held the lease to the apartment, died of an AIDS-related illness. Stahl Associates, the real estate firm which owns the building, initiated eviction proceedings against Braschi shortly after his lover died.

Evan Wolfson, a staff attorney at

the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which filed an amicus curiae brief on behalf of Braschi, declared that the high court had "examined the reality" of how people live, and concluded that the millions of Americans who do not fit into the stereotypical family living situation are entitled to equal protection under the law. The decision is a "powerful tool in widening the opportunity for equal treatment for lesbians and gay men," he added.

According to Tom Duane, a spokesperson for the Tenants Unity Coalition, and a candidate for City Council, the decision is a major victory for the tenant community because it is "far reaching in defining non-traditional families." Duane also said "gay families are as loving and valid as anyone else's...that's what this case is about, and the courts recognize that."

Duane also predicted the Department of Housing and Community Renewal will improve the rent-stabilization code to protect domestic partners living in rent-stabilized apartments from eviction as a result of this decision.

At a press conference at City Hall on Monday, July 10, Mayor Edward Koch expressed support for the Court's decision, and for improving the rent-stabilization codes to reflect its ruling.

The mayor noted that only the state legislature can affect such a change in the rent stabilization code, and that he has urged the state senate to do so in the past.

The Braschi decision may also be applied to a host of other legal and civil rights areas where gay and lesbian rights advocates are currently at work, pointed out the ACLU's Wolfson.

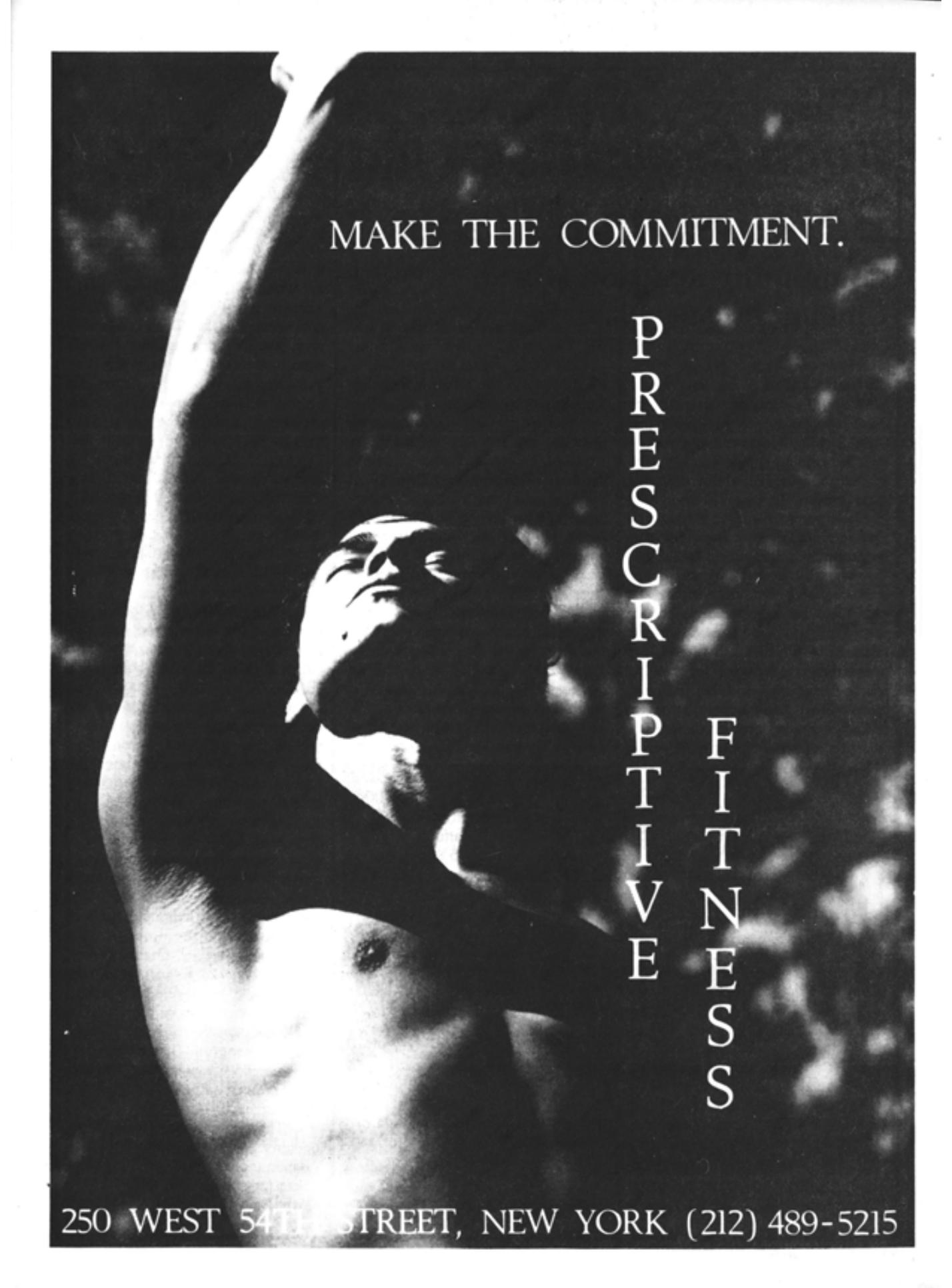
For instance, the New York State Supreme Court has heard arguments and is currently deliberating *Gay Teachers Association v. New York City Board of Education*. In this case, gay New York City public school teachers are trying to secure health

Continued on page 74



AS VALID AS ANYONE'S RELATIONSHIPS

Gay City Council Candidate Tom Duane of the Tenant's Unity Coalition. Photo: Jerry Casciano



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# Koch Okays Gay Bereavement Leave

## Community Reaction Mixed; Giuliani Attacks Plan

By Mark Chesnut

NEW YORK — Mayor Edward Koch has proposed an executive order that would grant bereavement leave to gay, lesbian and unmarried heterosexual city employees whose domestic partners die. The move is being welcomed by many in the lesbian and gay community as an important step toward getting the same benefits and coverage that are available to married heterosexuals. But some also claim that there are other reasons behind Koch's proposal, and have criticized it for not going far enough in establishing economic benefits for the life partners of gay and lesbian city employees. Koch has said that in order to extend economic benefits to a wider group of people, funding

would have to be taken from other areas in union contracts.

"It's clearly a hopeful development for gay people," declared Tom Stoddard, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, pointing out that Koch's proposal could influence future decisions in the public and private sectors. As an example, Stoddard cited a current case, *Gay Teachers' Association v. New York City Board of Education*, in which gay teachers are suing the Board for health insurance benefits for their lovers. Trial Court Judge Karla Moskowitz has requested an additional briefing on the *Braschi v. Stahl Associates* case (see story p. 16), in which the Court of Appeals decided that the surviving lover of a man

who died of AIDS could stay in the rent-controlled apartment that they shared for over ten years.

But many are asking why Koch waited until just before the mayoral elections to talk about domestic partnership. "Nobody brought it to my attention," said Koch at a press conference on July 10. "This is a relatively new concept." Dave Taylor, an openly gay Democratic candidate for city council, feels that Koch's timing is an attempt to win back the gay votes that he seems to be losing. "This clearly shows the power of the gay and lesbian vote in New York," Taylor said.

Yet Koch has taken pains to emphasize that most of the people who will benefit from this new plan are heterosexual. "This has nothing to do with gay rights," he told the *New York Times* on July 10. Koch also repeated his stand against endorsing gay marriages.

Jan Carl Park, one of the mayor's liaisons to the lesbian and gay community, said that the executive order, which at this time is still being drafted, should be issued within the next month. The next step in achieving equal recognition for same-sex couples in the workplace, according to Park, would be to negotiate with unions about health insurance and spousal equivalent rights.

The concept of domestic partnership benefits has brought objections from some conservatives, who fear the move will cost the city too much money. Rudolph Giuliani, a Republican mayoral candidate, led one of the most vocal attacks on the proposal. Giuliani's press secretary, Charles Perkins, told the *New York Post*, "At a time when the city has severe budget problems and we need more cops, it seems highly questionable to expand benefits under a program that appears to include college roommates." Giuliani's attack prompted Koch to accuse him of "gay-bashing."

"The cost argument is not a particularly good one against it," Tom Duane, another gay Democratic candidate for city council, told *OutWeek*. Duane said that there would be no



SHOWING THE POWER OF THE VOTE  
City Council candidate Dave Taylor (l.) marching with his lover Cliff Flanders.

sudden increase in cost, and that relatively few people would sign up for any new benefits at first. Duane believes some closeted gays and lesbians in the city workforce would not want to come out, regardless of new benefits. He also pointed out that in many couples, both partners have jobs that provide their own benefits.

"The statement that the city will support a proposal on health insurance coverage for domestic partners is a step forward," said Desma Holcomb, who sits on the steering committee of the Lesbian and Gay Labor Network, an organization of gay union activists. But she feels that Koch is trying to "placate taxpayers who would be upset about cost increases as a result of expanded health coverage, and playing on this fear to squelch any further progress on the issue. "Their condition that someone else's benefits be cut in order to finance giving benefits to domestic partners is a divide and conquer strategy, a way of making the proposal self destruct," she told *OutWeek*. Noting that Koch plays up the fact that it might cost millions of dollars, she added, "That's another way to kill a proposal."

She also charges that Koch has played down his influence in any negotiations about health care. But she says that the mayor has more clout than he claims. Lesbian and gay city workers are currently trying to organize a gay committee within District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which could play an important role in further discussions.

"[Koch] has already said he will make health care a priority. And that's all he can do," said Hudson of the mayor's office. "We can go to the city and prioritize the issue, but we have to negotiate with a lot of unions. Hudson claims that because some unions may place greater importance on domestic partner issues than others, it is not a simple task.

As for Koch's influence on union agreements, Hudson said, "ultimately, we could say we won't approve any contract that doesn't have [domestic partnership benefits] in it. But that would be tough." ▼

## S.F. Domestic Partners Bill Faces Repeal

by Keith Clark

SAN FRANCISCO—When this city's newly enacted domestic partners legislation went into effect July 5, a loose coalition of fundamentalist Christians and Roman Catholic clergy, with an assist from Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum, filed petitions with 27,122 signatures to force the law onto the November ballot for a public referendum that temporarily suspends the new law until it comes up for a general vote.

The suspension order came from the city attorney's office on Thursday, July 6, following a dispute between Supervisor Harry Britt's office and city attorney Louise Renne over when repeal petitions had to be filed. Renne's office determined the new legislation was to have taken effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 6 instead of the widely reported date of July 5.

Renne said, "What we've determined is that the ordinance is suspended unless and until, one, the registrar (of voters) decides petition isn't valid, or two, the voters in November pass the ordinance."

The petition drive was headed, at least formally, by long-time lesbian/gay rights opponent the Rev. Charles McIlhenny of First Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and by Rabbi Lionel Feldman.

In order to qualify, valid signatures of 18,000 registered city voters are required. The registrar of voters office is not expected to complete verification before mid-July. With over 27,000 signatures, few people expect the petition to fail to qualify.

Due to a printing error, domestic partners registration forms were unavailable at the county clerk's office when the law was incorrectly believed to have gone into effect on July 5. Over 20 couples showed up at city hall to register that day. In the meantime, the petitions were filed that afternoon, causing the legal dispute to erupt between Britt's office

and the city attorney.

Britt aide Jean Harris said she was unsure if the supervisor would take any legal steps to challenge the city attorney's ruling. According to Harris, repeal petitions are normally required to be filed before a law goes into effect. City attorney Renne's office disagreed, however, and said the petitions could be filed on the day the law took effect.

Despite the repeal petitions, Britt's office remained optimistic that voters would approve the domestic partners law which was signed by Mayor Art Agnos on June 5 after unanimous approval by the Board of Supervisors May 22. Harris cited an April 27 *San Francisco Examiner* poll that showed 58 percent of those surveyed in the city favored the new law with 35 percent opposed and 7 percent undecided.

Harris said, "People in all walks of life who support this legislation are going to come together and say the right wing is not going to come into this town and drag us around by the nose."

Political consultant Harvey Hukari was less optimistic, however, and predicted that if opponents of the law focused on "the economic impact and what this says about where families are in San Francisco, then they have an opportunity to win."

What is unclear in all these political predictions, however, is to what extent the city's large lesbian/gay community will rally behind the new law now that it's under attack. Both the *Bay Area Reporter* and *San Francisco Sentinel* gave the legislation only ho-hum editorial support when it was enacted, calling community reaction to it "lukewarm" and a "non-issue." Even the *Examiner* poll, while showing 78 percent of the city's lesbians and gay men were in favor of the law, also showed 17 percent of the community here opposed it.

Perhaps even more damaging has

continued on page 74

## News

# AIDS Activists Shut Down D.C. Gov't Building

### *Small Demo Causes Huge Disruption*

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—A band of 25 demonstrators from the local direct action group OUT! (Oppression Under Target) effectively blocked two entrances to the District of Columbia's government building, disrupted a district council meeting and lined the hallways of the building with reams of red tape. The July 11 protest was called in response to the District of Columbia's handling of its AIDS budget. Thirteen demonstrators were arrested.

Members of the gay and lesbian activist organization have charged that the local government has not spent as much as half the money it has set

aside for local AIDS allocations this year. Due to local regulations, all monies unspent by the end of the fiscal year must be returned to the government. The activists have charged that the government is purposely delaying the approval of several AIDS contracts in order to ease the strain on the District's overburdened budget.

At a June 29 hearing before the District Committee on Human Services, members of the area's AIDS organizations and Roger Doughty, president of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. testified that a number of agencies have properly submitted funding proposals to the District government,

proposals which have not yet been approved.

"Nearly two million dollars in AIDS contracts are sitting there, awaiting award," Doughty stated in his testimony. "Even if every one of these contracts were to be awarded today, there's no way the money could be spent in the time left. Contracting delays have rendered the District's budget completely meaningless. There's absolutely no excuse for the foot dragging and budget manipulation of this government."

District Health Commissioner Reed V. Tuckson has publicly conceded that there have been hold-ups in the AIDS funding process and has pledged to help remedy the problem, but in conversation with at least one reporter has added that more district residents die of heart disease, suicides and homicides than die of AIDS.

At 9:30 on the morning of the demonstration, visitors and district workers were entering the building and passing through the building's metal detector when one OUT! member delayed the line by repeatedly

going through the detector walk-through with metal in his pockets. At that point, five demonstrators at each of the building's two main doors stood outside the doors and clamped them shut using an unbreakable bicycle lock. The demonstrators then chained and locked themselves to the lock, held up banners and began chanting, "No more business as usual!" to the dismay and amusement of District workers trapped inside and outside the building.

At 9:40 a.m., police officers arrived and began taping off the streets adjoining the door and ordering all reporters and camera operators to stand across the street, out of sight of the demonstrators. Inside, police likewise ordered all those in

*continued on page 49*



**NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
*OUT! member protests D.C. AIDS funding delays.*

Photo: Patsy Lynch



**BOSTON** — An angry Independence Day abortion-rights rally at the Federal Courthouse turned into a spontaneous, illegal march through the streets of Boston, and ended in a violent conflict with police, according to *Gay Community News*. Organizers of the rally estimated over 1,500 people, including many gay men and lesbians, attended. There were two arrests. Similar demonstrations were held in cities around the nation, as the country reacted to the Supreme Court's narrow decision in *Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services*, which will return the decision to restrict access to abortion in various circumstances to the individual states. — Andrew Miller

Photo: Marilyn Humphries

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# Mass Wedding in Copenhagen?

## "Large Reception" Planned for 100 Les/Gay Couples

by Rex Wockner

COPENHAGEN—As many as 100 gay and lesbian couples may turn up at the mayor's office October 1 to get married. That's the day a new law takes effect making Denmark the first nation in the world to grant full equal rights to homosexuals - including the right to marry.

"It will be a major wedding with a large reception here in our cafe," said Dorthe Jacobsen of Landsforeningen For Bosser Og Lesbiske, the National Danish Organization for Gays and Lesbians. "We don't know what it will be like because the rules aren't made yet, but we expect it to be performed the same way as a civil marriage."

At the center of the mass wedding will be 74-year-old Axel Axlil and his 67-year-old lover of 40 years, Eigil Axlil. Axel is said to be the first

person to publicly come out of the closet in Denmark—in 1948. He was fired the very next day from his job as an accountant in an auto body shop in Denmark's third-largest city, Aalborg.

"We have been together 40 years, and in all these 40 years we were waiting for this situation," said Eigil. "Now we find we are as good as all other people. We are very glad we can do this."

The two men adopted the same last name in 1955. "Axlil' is the first two letters of Axel's first name and the last three letters of my first name," Eigil said. "We wanted to tell all people that we were a couple."

Between now and October, Danish activists plan to continue work on a snag in the new law which prevents gays and lesbians from adopting children.

In withholding that right, authori-

ties argued that all adopted babies in Denmark come from Third World nations that would not approve of placement with homosexuals.

But Jacobsen says the issue extends beyond foreign babies, to children from previous heterosexual relationships and children that gay and lesbian couples conceive through non-traditional means.

"We may get this solved," she said. "It's important because of children you could call your own. Gay and lesbian partners should be able to adopt each other's children."

The only other snag in the new law prevents gays and lesbians from having church weddings in the state Lutheran church. Jacobsen says religious authorities "are very strongly against" the new law and that activists will not pursue the matter for the time being.

Civil weddings in Denmark are legally identical to those conducted in churches.

Gay and lesbian activists in Sweden and Norway have announced plans to descend on Copenhagen October 1 to join the Danes in their celebration.

—filed from Chicago

# Swedes May Follow Denmark on Marriage

## Would be Second Nation to Legalize Gay Unions

by Rex Wockner

STOCKHOLM—Following the lead of Denmark, Sweden is expected to become the second nation in the world to legalize gay and lesbian marriage.

Swedish prime minister Ingvar Carlsson met with the national gay group Riksförbundet for Sexuellt Likaberättigande (RFSL) in May and said that the new Danish legislation "constitutes a strong argument in favor of a similar move in Sweden."

The process of changing the law in Sweden will be slow, however. As one activist explained it, "Swedes like to set up committees and study everything." But activists say they are confident the change will happen.

"I'm very careful not to put words in the Prime Minister's mouth," said RFSL president Hasse Ytterberg, "but he agreed totally that the law in Denmark is a strong argument for Swedish legislation to follow."

"Our greatest hope," Ytterberg continued, "is the fact that Swedes hate to be considered prejudiced. It's the most ugly thing a Swede can be, and Sweden has traditionally played a very leading role in the Nordic countries."

Ytterberg said lobbying will begin in earnest in the Fall because "Sweden shuts down totally in the summertime. We intend to just keep nagging on these basic questions and get them raised in Parliament again and again," he said.

The Swedish media has stepped up its editorializing in favor of gay marriage since Denmark changed its laws May 28.

"The liberal—which means non-socialist—newspapers have been criticizing the government for not taking radical enough measures to give gay couples the possibility to live stable

lives," Ytterberg said. "That is quite a challenge to the social democracy of this country because this sort of thing has traditionally been in the social-democratic field."

Gay, lesbian and unmarried heterosexual couples in Sweden already have some basic rights not afforded by other nations, including tax breaks, inheritance rights and access to social services.

"But it's the lowest possible level of official status between two people," Ytterberg said. "It gives you certain very basic minimum rights."

Last year Sweden became the first country in the world to extend domestic partnership rights to gay men and lesbians.

—filed from Chicago.



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# Unrest Continues in Tompkins Square Park

by Keith Miller

Echoing last summer's scorching August unrest, media attention is once again intensely focused on Tompkins Square Park in the East Village, as riot police and park officials continue to engage in a tug-of-war with the homeless and their supporters. Last year, a demonstration against a park curfew ended in a full-scale riot that left scores injured, as journalists captured police beating demonstrators on video tape.

Parks Department officials said that the trouble again began to brew early in June of this summer when a group of homeless living in Tompkins Square erected shelters in the south and west areas of the park. Reacting to this shantytown, and to others like it around the city, the Mayor's office put into effect a new city law which prohibits building structures in city

parks. On July 4th, approximately 5,000 people gathered in Washington Square Park, where the Homeless Clients Advisory Committee planned to burn the American flag to protest the plight of homeless people. This group clashed with a gang of skinheads who called the group "faggots and Communists" and chanted "burn the flag and we'll burn a fag." The police shut down the park at 6 p.m. and the two groups marched to Tompkins Square Park where they were peacefully dispersed. En route, however, skinheads reportedly trashed the offices of the Anarchist Switchboard on 9th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues.

On Wednesday night, July 5th, in a torrential rainstorm, 10 policemen were hurt and 31 people were arrested as 100 police in riot gear swarmed Tompkins Square Park and razed the

tattered village of wooden structures and cloth tents that Deputy Parks Commissioner Alan Moss called a "cover for drug dealing and prostitution." The strategic maneuver was extremely well planned, and relied heavily on plainclothed troops. "The police have more savvy, which is scary," protester Garance Ruta told *OutWeek*. "They shine spotlights into the eyes of the crowd, then two plainclothes cops grab someone and drag them behind the police line where they instantly disappear. No one can see who was arrested, who arrested them or what is happening to them next."

On Thursday, July 6th, the riot police gathered again and swept the park of the structures that had been rebuilt. 200 to 300 angry and confused people were displaced from the area as parks workers tossed unattended possessions into garbage trucks. By Saturday, July 8th, in a seemingly unending circle of tear down, rebuild, tear down, tents once again bloomed in the park. Early in the afternoon, a group of 100 protesters gathered in front of the East Fifth Street police station before moving on to Tompkins Square. Then, shortly after 6:30 p.m., riot police and park workers appeared and pulled down the re-erected tents. Protesters scurried to erect several more tents which, at 9:00 p.m., officials promptly removed.

By Sunday, July 9th, the tents had reappeared. At 9:00 a.m., several dozen police and park rangers shrieked a wake-up call on whistles rousing the 50 or so people sleeping in the park, and quickly removed their temporary structures. The police evacuated the park at 11:00 a.m. and soon thereafter, the structures reappeared. "We will keep it up...until the message is out that you can't build structures in the park," said Deputy Chief Charles Reuther of Patrol Borough Manhattan South. Keith Thompson, a 32-year-old homeless man and park resident for the past year said, "It doesn't matter if they keep taking them down. We're just going to keep rebuilding them." ▼



**TOMPKINS TUG OF WAR**

*Police evicting a homeless man from the East Village park.*

Photo: Peter LeVasseur

## In Our Own Hands

# Lesbian Health

by Risa Denenberg

**T**he right wing is gaining previously lost ground in its present promotion of the sexual values of marriage, monogamy and forced motherhood. In the early 1970s, if a doctor presumed to ask me what I used for birth control, I simply replied, "I sleep with women." In the feminist clinic where I worked as a lay-health worker, I felt free to inform clients of my lesbian preference and politics. In fact, I was often vocally arrogant that my list of health problems had nearly disappeared after turning to women for sex. For me, sex with men had resulted in an illegal abortion, birth control blues, many pelvic infections, and herpes, as well as physical abuse and partner-rape.

In those days, the women's liberation movement was flexing its muscles and gaining turf for all women. Now, as we are on the threshold of losing access to abortion services, lesbians have again become increasingly faced with obstacles and barriers which can destabilize, interfere with and undermine our health.

Women's health care in the U.S. has been the bastion of sexism. Some reforms have occurred under the pressure of an activist women's health movement. But all women suffer the effects of sexism in health care. Still, for lesbians, the heterosexist model is imposed over the sexist treatment that all women are subjected to.

Heterosexual assumptions pervade most health care settings. No questions about sexual preference exist in the health histories we fill out. We are asked instead about our birth control method (which also presumed that if we do sleep with men, birth control is still our responsibility). We are tested for infections that are

unlikely to pass by woman-to-woman sex. Speculums are pushed into our vaginas without any knowledge of what we allow or desire to penetrate us there. Bisexuality is not considered at all.

The specific needs, questions and concerns of lesbians are rarely raised in such settings. Lesbians can and do pass certain infections back and forth, particularly yeast, trichomonas and chlamydia. Herpes and warts can also be transmitted. But to address issues

**NYC is fortunate to have two health care facilities that are lesbian-oriented — The St. Marks Women's Health Collective and the Community Health Project.**

of prevention and effective treatment, a grounded knowledge of lesbian sexual practice must exist. Sadly, our community itself lacks this basic data; certainly practitioners have no idea what we're doing sexually unless they ask and we tell. There are also gaps in medical information. Can the HIV virus be transmitted woman-to-woman by sex? Does chronic fatigue syndrome affect lesbians disproportionately? Lesbian invisibility hides these questions and stands in the way of finding answers. Lesbians may have specific mental health concerns related to past or present sexual abuse, battery, eating disorders, substance use, body image, sexual difficulties or internalized homophobia. Lesbians often lack resources and access to health care services.

The response to the lesbian client is often heterosexist, even violent. For example, last year at St. Vincent's

Hospital a lesbian was harassed, beaten and arrested by hospital security guards because she was trying to advocate for and support her lover who had been raped and was seeking medical care in the emergency room. Other responses include crude and ignorant remarks, probing the lesbian client for irrelevant details of her sex life, pressure to have sex with a male practitioner, or an undue tendency to perform gynecological surgery and refer lesbians to psychological services. Lesbians are also refused services, such as artificial insemination, by many doctors.

The NYC area is fortunate to have two health care facilities that are lesbian-oriented. The St. Marks Women's Health Collective and the Community Health Project serve lesbians, both with limited hours and number of appointment slots. The situation is much more dire in most communities. Often there is no way, other than word of mouth, for a lesbian to even hear about an informed, gentle or supportive practitioner. Even feminist-oriented clinics, such as the one I worked in, often relegate lesbian

health care to a special night and commit the bulk of their resources to heterosexual women's issues. Additionally, very little has been written to inform or empower lesbians in matters of health.

Lesbians have been at the front of women's liberation and health activism for many decades, often invisibly. Lesbians have been fighting for reproductive rights, against coercive sterilization, within the AIDS activist movement, and around many other critical issues. As repression becomes an increasingly present feature of our daily lives, lesbians are being shoved backward and are having to redouble our efforts to remain visible, alive and proud of our accomplishments. We must continue to push for our own issues of access, and with others in fighting all forms of heterosexism, sexism, racism, classism and other repressive attacks. ▼

## Political Science

# Medical Apartheid

by Mark Harrington

**"People think they dis my person  
By stating my skin is darkly packed  
I know this so I point at Q-tip  
And he states 'Black is Black'"**  
—De La Soul, "Me Myself and I"

In the bad old days, poor people and people of color were the most likely to be treated as guinea pigs in scientific studies. The most notorious was the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. Beginning in 1932, this United States Public Health Service (PHS)-sponsored study observed the progression of syphilis in 399 African-American men in Alabama for four decades. They received no treatment whatsoever for their syphilis.

This provided "useful scientific data" on the course of untreated syphilis. It also led to neurosyphilis, blindness and early death in some of the men. The PHS scientists justified this study at the outset because treatments for syphilis were lengthy, expensive and didn't always work. They lost this excuse after 1945 when penicillin became available as a quick, cheap and effective treatment for syphilis. Nonetheless, this cruel, genocidal study continued until 1972.

This was far from the only ethical lapse in clinical studies. During World War II, the U.S. Government sponsored extensive trials seeking new drugs for dysentery, malaria and influenza. They sought treatments for diseases which American servicemen were likely to encounter in the war



overseas.

Dysentery trials took place in retarded residents of an Illinois institution and at the New Jersey State Colony for the Feeble-Minded. Psychotic backward patients were infected with malaria by University of

Chicago researchers to see how effective various malaria treatments were. Juvenile offenders and retarded people in Pennsylvania were exposed to an influenza vaccine and then injected with the influenza virus. Some, those in the "control" group, were just infected with influenza with no vaccine. The *New York Times* of March 5, 1945, hailed these abuses as proving "just how completely this is everybody's war."

After these abuses were publicized, clinical trials started to be regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Potential subjects were required to be informed of the potential risks and benefits of participating in clinical trials. All studies had to be approved by an objective Institutional Review Board

(IRB) to ensure that subjects were adequately protected.

These reforms reversed the demographics of people in and out of trials. Where previous studies had used institutionalized people, poor people and people of color, now they

tended to use patients who were well-educated enough to sign the informed consent forms, and who had doctors affiliated with the prestigious medical schools where most research takes place.

The reforms had another effect. While they were designed to protect human research subjects from unethical treatment in trials, they also quarantined outside the drug testing system the disadvantaged people they were supposed to protect.

The result is that today, in New York City, where 33 percent of the people with AIDS are African-American, only 9 percent of those participating in federally-sponsored trials of new AIDS drugs are African-American. The same discrepancy exists with women (85 percent of women with AIDS are women of color) and with Latinos.

The *de facto* racist nature of today's clinical trial system, when well-connected, well-educated white gay men have access to promising new treatments for AIDS, and poorly-educated, economically deprived women, children and people of color are allowed to get sick and die without access to new AIDS treatments, cannot be solved by reforming the drug testing system alone. It requires a thorough overhaul of the nation's entire health care system. For people cannot get into clinical trials, which are the avant-garde of the health care system, if they lack the most basic access to health care of any kind.

The solution to resolving America's medical apartheid is to establish community health clinics in all neighborhoods which lack adequate health care. Today, poor people use municipal hospital emergency rooms to obtain primary health care. They have no other option. Mayor Koch's policy of slashing hospital budgets and closing hospitals is just one symptom of the overall decline of health care in America. And now, New York City is proposing to close its budget gap by expropriating a \$30 million surplus (obtained by slashing staff and services) from the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation.

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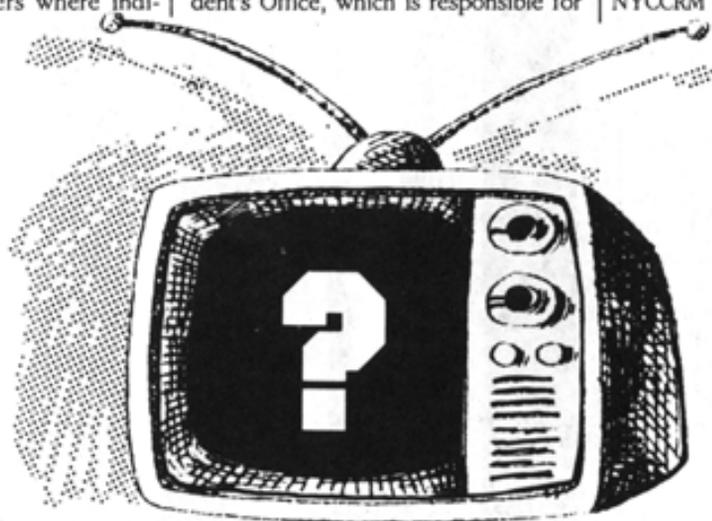
## The Whole World Isn't Watching

Television has long been criticized for its one-sided element: communities have no feedback and the "what you see is what you get" mentality prevails. Cable broadcasting promised a way out of this unbalanced state of affairs. Cable television's scaled-down technology and increased channel capacity offered programmers and consumers the chance to see more diverse types of TV reflecting a wider range of opinions. And then there was the issue of cable access, where individuals—(supposedly) anyone—even lesbians and gays, could make a TV program and have it aired.

Unfortunately, Manhattan's cable access facilities (these are literally mini-production centers where individuals and groups can go to access low-cost, high quality equipment to make their own TV programs) are found to be wanting. When cable franchises were awarded to Manhattan Cable and Paragon back in 1970, several promises were made to the Manhattan community concerning public access. These included universal service (all areas were to be wired with cable), diverse programming, and Public Educational and Governmental (PEG) access. Twenty years later these minimum promises remain unfulfilled. Harlem, the Lower East Side and other underprivileged areas remain largely unwired. Both cable companies are owned by American Telecommunications Corporation, a division of Time Inc., ensuring homogenous program-

ming. Manhattan's public access facilities remain underfunded and understaffed. The PEG possibilities are still largely unexplored due to lack of promotion by the cable companies.

NYCCRM, the New York Citizen's Committee for Responsible Media, is an advocacy group seeking to change the direction of cable access. Containing a wide range of interests and opinions, from cable programmers to media activists, the committee recently held a series of discussions and workshops at Downtown Community Television (DCTV), explaining the who and how of public access and critiquing the current situation. The group is being taken seriously by the powers that be: the Borough President's Office, which is responsible for



establishing an independent access corporation to oversee the set-up of community access facilities citywide; the Bureau of Franchises (whose director is appointed by the Board of Estimate) and the Office of Telecommunications, the two agencies which actually oversee the franchise review process; and the cable companies themselves, whose franchises are up

for renewal this fall. Representatives from these and other controlling agencies were present at NYCCRM's public forums, a healthy indicator that some pretty powerful people understand the link between who controls and regulates cable technology in NYC and who's allowed to actually appear on the screen.

When the cable franchises come up for renewal this fall, they will do so amidst a storm of complaints from the public about poor service, bad reception and inadequate access. NYCCRM members plan to meet with the aforementioned governmental agencies to offer their input. One highly contested issue will be the companies' failure to live up to the minimal Equal Employment Opportunity standards. The companies have yet to respond to inquiries from the Bureau of Franchises regarding the matter.

The lesbian and gay community must become part of the cable franchise review process, working with NYCCRM to ensure that censorship of lesbian and gay programming will not take place. If our input does not become a regular part of the agenda of these independent and government-controlled groups directing cable TV policy, we can rest assured that our interests will be lost amid the clamor of "minority" voices being spoken for. Invisibility is not just a passive state of being, it is a weapon wielded against whole communities by controlling groups: in this case programmers and marketers who decide who is to be seen and heard on cable TV. Hopefully, lesbians and gays will join with NYCCRM and others in coalition to fight for genuine public access in Manhattan. This means better service, well maintained, affordable facilities, and especially fair and equitable distribution of cable itself, including those "hard-to-reach" areas. ▼

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**L**ook at your paycheck. Did the government take out again for non-lethal aid? Is the crime rate going up in your neighborhood? Do you think your phone is being tapped? Have recent Supreme Court civil rights decisions caused you pain? Are you worried about the deficit? Acid rain? The Greenhouse Effect? U.S. foreign intervention? Would you agree that there is a Problem?

You know what the Problem is, don't you? Heterosexuals. I have evidence.

Everywhere you go, there they are. Walking. Talking. Kissing. Eating. Drinking. Buying things. Going wee-wee. Disgusting. I even saw one vote once. After it came out of the little booth, it winked at me and said, "Hubba hubba."

I've been watching them for years, now. Oh, they start off innocently enough. As babies, straight people are often quite cute. Many of them, however, tend to cry all night and drool a lot—the first signs that something is not right.

As heterosexuals grow older, they watch TV for hours; afterwards, they

# OUT OF CONTROL

*Commentary by Susie Day*

go outside to play. Boys build toy skyscrapers and run choo-choo trains through tiny tunnels, while girls look on and make little mud doughnuts. Then they all go into their houses and eat red meat.

And it doesn't stop there. Many of them learn to read, in order to keep up with the latest heterosexual thought and fashion catalogues. Soon, all they think of is getting a place of their own and holding down a job, so that they can procure members of the "opposite" gender with whom they can have frequent and pleasurable sexual relations.

AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE IN THE MESS WE'RE IN TODAY!!!

I admit they had me fooled for a while. At first, they appeared to be just another harmless majority group.

They stayed in their place. The media portrayed them favorably. Heck, weren't we all "just people?"

Then things started to get bad. My application for modelling school was turned down; they wanted someone whose posture was a little "straighter." Several of my friends were "laid" off of their jobs. A nuclear family moved into our neighborhood—and rents skyrocketed.

So I began to look around. I realized that what I had been watching was part of a carefully orchestrated plan. "They're taking our jobs," I thought, "buying up acres of land on the QT; forming heterosexual corporations; merging. They can teach in our schools, work out in our gyms—and there's nothing we can do about it."

Or was there? I got some facts.

- Did you know that heterosexuals comprise at least 90 percent of the population?

- Did you know that the earth is now groaning with over 50 billion straight people, each of whom wants, *above all else*, to "survive"?

- It therefore follows that at least 90 percent of all muggers, thieves, pick-pockets, slumlords, fascist dictators, and

people who don't have to spend any time in jail for their part in the Contragate scandal are—HETEROSEXUAL!!! And more are appearing every day!

Why has this been allowed to continue? Do we want our art criticized, our food processed, our weaponry assembled by this type person? Think! I did.

Through careful, inductive reasoning, I have discovered that there is a vast conspiracy of Militant Heterosexuals who seek totalitarian control of the ENTIRE WORLD. They want to make everyone *like they are!* And you thought it was the CIA...

Recent studies have shown that when heterosexuals go out on dates, they maintain certain rigid sex-role stereotypes. This is NO ACCIDENT. Their behavior is being constantly monitored by their Militant Heterosexual president, Big Breeder. "Big Breeder is Watching," is a standard admonition to the nonconformist straight person. You can imagine the terror it invokes.

Occasionally, some unfortunate soul snaps under the pressure of lifelong programming. People like this can be seen shuffling about their lawns in bedroom slippers, mumbling incessantly the three fundamental credos taught to them by the Breederhood: (1) Freedom is Marriage; (2) War is Winnable; and (3) Ignorance is a Nice Home in the Suburbs.

Soon, if *we* are not careful, we will be like that. Pod people. They're waiting, you know—just waiting for a few more of us to go over to their side.

You see, heterosexuals are required to date as often as they can. They form sexual alliances with everybody—EVEN homosexuals!!! Yes! HETEROSEXUALS TRY TO RECRUIT DECENT GAY MEN AND LESBIANS INTO THEIR DEPRAVED "LIFESTYLE." And they're succeeding!

More and more hapless victims are appearing every day. Sales of homoerotic videos have plummeted, while increasing numbers of gay men are bringing home such films as *A*

*Man and a Woman* which they watch for hours with ghastly expressions of sated catatonia on their faces. More than one lesbian has found a funny little "drain stopper" in her lover's knapsack, which, upon closer questioning, was revealed to be a diaphragm.

Oh, yes. There may be some good heterosexuals. High-minded lib-

• Burn their records. How many copies of "This Girl is a Woman Now" must be destroyed before the world feels safe again? Let's find out!

• Close their sports complexes and shopping malls, notorious heterosexual "hang-outs."

• Urge them to seek professional help. Remind them that this is for their own good. Also remind them that it is

a great opportunity to develop socialized medicine.

• Feel free to come up with your own solutions. Or draw from the successes of others. How did Sigourney Weaver get rid of the Big Mother Space Alien, for example?

## 90 percent of all muggers, thieves, pickpockets, slumlords and fascist dictators, are — HETEROSEXUAL!!!

erals who endeavor to take responsibility for their shortcomings and discourage foul play amongst their peers. But would you want Alan Alda to marry *your* lesbian lover?

Ignoring the Problem won't make it go away. Here are some suggestions for direct action:

If all else fails, ask them to think about the crime rate and the deficit; about Supreme Court decisions and the Greenhouse Effect. Give them an ultimatum: do they want to be part of the Problem, or part of the solution? Then get them to give you their paychecks.



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# BETTY RULES!

by Maria Maggenti

Style and Substance,  
Beauty and Brains,  
Cultural Activism at its Whacky Finest

**F**or all the political successes of the feminist movement in the 1970s, feminist cultural activism has rarely surfaced into the mainstream of American society. There is the committed alternative community of women's music which provides a supportive artistic and economic environment for female performers, but its cultural impact on the world at large is decidedly limited. At the other end of the spectrum there is that oft-changing pantheon of female rock and pop stars whose worldwide visibility is matched only by their capacity to turn every sexist stereotype about women performers into a cultural imperative.

In between, there isn't really that much to choose from. Oh yes, Tracy Chapman or Suzanne Vega or Michelle Shocked, some might say. But there still aren't many places for the adventurous and demanding girl or boy to go to get good music, good looks and good politics with just the right amount of irreverent, even bitchy and sexy, verbal and musical moxie.

Unless of course one has a chance to see, hear and experience one very big exception to all the rules—the whacky and sassy trio, Betty. Or, as their press packet modestly states, "Betty: Three women ... a couple of songs."

Betty, three women and a couple of songs, is indeed an understatement.

Bitzi and Amy Ziff, twin sisters, and six-foot-one-inch tall Alyson Palmer (aptly referred to as a "Glamazon") arrived in New York just six months ago from Washington, D.C. where they established a large and diverse following in three years of live performance. They've played for everyone from Mayor Marion Barry to the Gay Bowlers' National Convention ("Halloween 1987," says Alyson, "men ran up and put money in our cleavages") to the National Pro-Choice March on Washington this March.

Betty was born on Valentine's Day in 1986 and has since traveled all across the United States and through the British Isles including a month long gig at the South Bank Theatre in London last winter and a show at the

famous Edinborough Theater Festival last summer. They are featured artists (along with Ethyl Eichelberger) on the HBO television series *Encyclopedia* where they wrote 27 songs and recorded everything in 11 days. Their diverse audiences—gay, straight, Black, white, old, young, women, men and little kids—and their grassroots support is the envy of any political organizer. And all this without a recording, a manager, an agent, a business manager or a public relations firm. They do all their own business in addition to their creative work, though New York became the city of choice when they realized that ultimately, to do everything they want to do ("A record contract, an Off-Broadway show, an On-Broadway show, a film, more songs"), they had to get more professional support.

I go through the press packet to try and find a way to describe them and what they do. The packet is replete with clippings from the *New York Times* ("an amusing litany of erotic innuendo from a postpunk fem-

inist perspective") to the *Jewish Herald* in England ("Bon bons for beautiful, bawdy Betty") to the *Washington Post* ("Wordplay with showers of trademark tight [but twisted] harmonies") to something I couldn't read because it was in Russian. Every set opens with "I'm a Girl Watcher," a fast and funny version that immediately introduces Betty's sophisticated harmonies ("tight as spandex," said *Variety*) and a *capella* finesse with just a hint of their trademark hilarity and erotic suggestion. Their work has been called "rockapella," though they've recently taken on "raucousapella" to describe their special (no, really, I mean *special*) combination of intricate harmonies, electric bass, keyboards, cello, percussion and cabaret style cross-talk creating a whole that is dizzily greater than the sum of its parts.

To see them waltz (Amy), saunter

(Alyson) and swagger (Bitzi) on stage one can easily imagine what it would be like if Wigstock were a girls-only event. All three women have hair that defies both gravity and fashion

## Women can be strong and sexy, volatile and vibrant, vulnerable and entertaining. No holds barred!

logic—curls, curls and more curls in shades of blonde, deep brown and burgundy respectively. But it isn't their trademark hair or their very good looks or their sexy exuberance that ignites the stage. It's actually their music. Bitzi says they're the *Guns 'n Roses* of cabaret though their sound is decidedly more heavy "mental" than heavy metal. *Bar Talk Duets* could also be heard as *Bartok Duets*, the full meaning of which is slyly developed

as the three of them do a slithering and swollen go-around of typical one night stand pick-up questions. In *Fun Girl* (for people who need people) Barbra Streisand fans are treated to a

rollicking and rocking compilation of every song from *Funny Girl*. And then there's the musical version of Lewis Carroll's *Jabberwocky*; a very funny *It's Gotta be Sodomy* in honor of the Supreme Court; *Go Ahead and Split Mr. Amoeba Man*, complete

with scientific explanation; and woven in between, around and within all of their original songs there are the three of them, laughing, bantering, dancing, rocking out and completely engaging the audience in a tantalizing web of Betty-ness. This isn't just singing, crooning and swooning—this is a total show.

To see three strong, sexy women on stage (two Jewish women and one Black woman, no less, in these racial-



THE "GUNS AND ROSES" OF CABARET  
Bitzi and Amy Ziff and Alyson Palmer of Betty.

Photo: T. L. Litt



Photo: T.L. Litt

ly divided times) pulling the world apart and putting it back together again with their voices, their cello, drum machine, electric bass and clever lyrics certainly cuts a wide swath across the dismal late 1980s entertainment landscape. For heaven's sake, Bush is President, the flag is close to flying on the Constitution, and Madonna has decided that wearing a collar and sipping from a bowl of milk like an animal is a form of women's liberation. So where the hell did Betty come from?

I recently met with Betty in their East Village apartment on the hottest day of the year to drink papaya juice and ruminate on women, music, New York and, of course, Betty herself. Or, themselves.

"It's rained every day since we moved here," says Bitzi of the burgundy curls and delicate gold nose ring. "But grey skies are gonna clear up!" asserts Alyson, whose beauty is more than just a bit distracting. In New York, they've played at The Knitting Factory, The Bottom Line, Mars, The Gay and Lesbian Pride Rally and PS 122 among other venues. Aside from enthusiastic audiences, New York has created the possibility of meeting other women performers and having a peer support network. Washington D.C. isn't exactly consid-

ered the entertainment capital of the world (unless one considers the Oliver North hearings). "But," says Amy, "you know, in D.C. with all the politics and repression, there's really nowhere to turn but to creativity and expression. It was actually a very vibrant and supportive place for us as performers." Even in New York one finds fans from D.C. and Betty has a particularly large following in the gay community and among women of all kinds. "We're standing up for all kinds of identities

## **Madonna has decided that sipping from a bowl of milk like an animal is a form of women's liberation.**

hopefully...as gay women, bisexual women, straight women and for men too, the main thing is that women can be strong and sexy, volatile and vibrant, vulnerable and entertaining. No holds barred!" explains Amy.

Seeing Betty live one knows there are no holds barred. "We love entertainers. We love people who get up there and put on a show," says Alyson.

"Go for it," interrupts Bitzi.

"No holds barred," interjects Amy. "Don't just get up there and sing 'cuz anybody can just get up there and sing, don't just get up there and just play your instruments, but get up on stage and say, 'For the next hour, I'm gonna make you forget about everything in your life except fun,'" continues Alyson.

"And we'll take you away," adds Amy, "no holds barred."

This summer Betty will be taking people away from ordinary life all over the country. In addition to a three week run at the Berkshire Theater Festival (July 7-22) where they will be performing a midnight show ("it's the first time they've ever done that," exclaims Glamazon Alyson) and writing the music for Caryl Churchill's "Cloud Nine," Betty will also be in Boston, Provincetown, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Chicago and back to New York for the Women in Jazz Festival. In addition to all the performing, Amy has just finished a book which includes some of the groups lyrics as well as her on-stage monologues (the women-in-prison-movies routine has got to be seen to be believed), and the three of them are scouting for the right producers and a recording contract, not to mention a backer for their film.

Betty isn't easy to peg—they don't fit into any one category, which is their charm and their power. But is the world ready for Betty? The three of them together, just being who they are, provide a vision of the future which people would never expect to find in the entertainment world. Oh and add a couple of songs—maybe a blues version of "Petticoat Junction" or a propulsive list of titillating taboos with electric bass—and one gets the feeling of some kind of magic. ▼

*Betty will be performing at Mars in New York City on July 30, Nighthstage in Cambridge, Mass., on July 29th and at Town Hall in Provincetown on August 29th. For more information on Bettyrules Productions, including t-shirts and the mailing list, write to: Bettyrules Prods., P.O. Box 1319, New York, NY 10011.*

## WHERE TO BUY OUTWEEK:

### NEWSSTANDS:

#### MIDTOWN--WEST SIDE

42nd St. & Broadway SE

IRT Mezzanine 42nd St. & Broadway SE

BMT Mezzanine Uptown 42nd St. &

Broadway SE

40th St. & 7th Ave. SW

40th St. & Broadway SW

39th St. & Broadway SE

42nd St. & 6th SE

42nd St. & 5th NE

42nd St. & 5th NW

42nd St. & 5th SW

57th St. & 6th SW

57th St. & 6th SE

Subway Mezzanine 57th St. & 7th SW

56th St. & Broadway SE

55th St. & Broadway NE

55th St. & 7th NE

Smoke Scene 54th St. & 7th NE

53rd St. & Broadway NE

44th St. & 7th NW

Port Authority Lobby 8th Ave

42nd St. & 8th Ave SE

#### UPPER WEST SIDE

8th Ave. bet. 52nd-53rd

57th St. & Broadway NW

60th St. & CPW NE

66th St. & Broadway NW

69th St. & Broadway SE

71st St. & Amsterdam SW

72nd St. & Amsterdam SE

72nd St. & Broadway SW

72nd St. & Amsterdam SW

74th St. & Broadway NW

Candy Store, Broadway bet. 76th-77th

79th St. & Amsterdam SW

83rd St. & Broadway NW

86th St. & Broadway SE

86th St. & Broadway NW

75th St. & Amsterdam

90th St. & Broadway SE

99th St. & Broadway NE

110th St. & Broadway NE

Subway Downtown 116th St. & B'Way SW

104th St. & Broadway NW

96th St. & Broadway SW

93rd St. & Broadway, midblock W

Columbus bet. 86th-87th

Columbus & 75th St. SE

74th St. & Columbus SE

72nd St. & Columbus SE

Candy Store, 69th St. & Columbus W

Columbus bet. 68-69 E

54th St. & 9th Ave SW

9th Ave. bet 42nd-43rd St.

#### LOWER EAST SIDE

12th St. & Third Ave

2nd Ave bet 9th-10th St.

2nd Ave. & 9th St. SE

3rd Ave bet 9th -10th St.

Lafayette & St. Mark's SW

St Mark's & 2nd Ave SW

2nd Ave. & 5th St.

1st Ave & 1st St. NW

Civilization 78 2nd Ave

Ave A & 7th

23rd St. & 3rd SW

24th St. & Lex NW

22nd St. & Broadway SE

Park Ave South St. & 21st

3rd Ave. & 20th St. NE

#### WEST VILLAGE

Paper And Things, Bleeker between 10th St.

& Christopher

Alternative Card Shop, 85 Christopher St.

Greenwich Magazine, Hudson & Perry

Buscamp, 54 8th Ave.

Village General, Horatio & 8th Ave.

Chelsea Papers, 8th Ave. & 18th St.

La Boom, 23rd St. between 8th St. & 9th Ave.

7th Avenue between 23rd St. and 24th St.

Pisces, 7th Ave. & 22nd St.

7th Ave. between 15th St. & 16th St.

Subway, 7th Ave. & 14th St. SW

220 W. 14th St.

90 Greenwich Ave.

60 Greenwich Ave.

130 7th Ave.

113 7th Ave.

Sheridan Square Island

Parsley Sage, 7th Avenue & Barrow SE

Sullivan & Houston SW

6th Ave. & 3rd St. NE

164 W. 4th St. at 6th Ave.

6th Ave. & 8th St. SW

138 W. 10th St. off Greenwich

6th Ave. & 11th St. NE

488 6th Ave. & W. 12th St.

110 University Place

Hudson News, 753 Broadway

#### EAST SIDE MIDTOWN

27th St. & 3rd Ave. NE

2nd Ave. bet. 34th-35th St.

34th St. & Lex SW

34th St. & 5th SW

42nd St. & 3rd Ave. SW

42nd St. & 3rd Ave. NE

32nd St. & 5th Ave.

32nd St. & Broadway PATH

34th St. & 6th Ave. SE

34th St. bet 5th-6th Ave

36th St. & Broadway NW

36th St. & 6th Ave. SW

28th St. & Lex NW

28th St. bet Lex-3rd Ave.

33rd St. & Madison SW

37th St. & Madison NW

42nd St. & Madison NE

40th St. & 3rd Ave NE

59th St. & Madison SW

53rd St. & 2nd Ave. SE

50th St. & 2nd Ave. SE

2nd Ave. & 48th St.

3rd Ave. & 49th St. NW

3rd Ave. between 50th St. & 51st St.

53rd St. & 3rd Ave. SW

57th St. & Lexington SE

54th St. & 1st Ave. SW

#### UPPER EAST SIDE

1st Ave. between 57th St. & 58th St.

Cosmos Stationery, 58th St. & 1st Ave. SE

Lexington between 90th St. & 91st St.

86th St. & 3rd Ave. NW

86th St. & 3rd Ave. SW

3rd Ave. between 91st St. & 92nd St.

Laurie's Card Shop, 91st St. & 3rd Ave.

Lexington & 96st. St. NE

Lexington between 79th St. & 80th St.

Lexington between 63rd St. & 64th St.

Franky's 1st Ave. between 60th St. & 61st St.

1st Ave. between 62nd St. & 63rd St.

1st Ave. & 66th St.

1st Ave. etween 68th St. & 69th St.

1st Ave. & 71st St.

1st Ave. between 73rd St. & 74th St.

1490 1st Ave.

79th St. & 1st Ave. NE

York Avenue & 79th St.

1st Ave. & 82nd NW

S&M Grocery, 1st Ave. between 86th St. &

87th St.

Don Diego Tobacco, 1st between 86th St. & 87th St.

2nd Ave. & 94th St.

2nd Ave. between 88th St. & 89th St.

86th St. & 2nd Ave. SE

86th St. & 2nd Ave. NE

86th St. between 2nd Ave & 3rd Ave.

2nd Ave. between 83rd St. & 84th St.

2nd Ave. between 82nd St. & 83rd St.

79th St. & 2nd Ave. NE

2nd Ave. & 72nd St. NW

Neo Boutique, 2nd Ave. & 72nd St. SE

2nd Ave. between 69th St. & 70th St.

2nd Ave. between 60th St. & 61st St.

59th St. & 3rd Ave. NE

60th St. & 3rd Ave. NW

3rd Ave. between 71st St. & 72nd St.

3rd Ave. between 78th St. & 79th St.

3rd Ave. between 83rd St. & 84th St.

#### BOOKSTORES:

Coliseum Bookstore 57th St. & Broadway NW

Shakespeare Books 81st & Broadway SW

Papyrus 114th St. & Broadway

St. Mark's Bookstore 12 St. Mark's Place

Wendell's Bookstore, 8th Ave. & 12th St.

Spring Street Books, Spring between

Thompson & W. Broadway

A Different Light, Hudson St. at Perry

Oscar Wilde Bookstore, Christopher St.

**IF YOU DON'T SEE IT, ASK FOR IT.  
IF THEY DON'T HAVE IT, BUG THE SHIT  
OUT OF THEM.**

# ON BEING BALDWIN

**OutWeek's Mark Chesnut talks to Quincy Troupe About the Lives, Loves and Losses of James Baldwin**

*by Mark Chesnut*

**Q**uincy Troupe was a friend and colleague of James Baldwin, who visited Baldwin at his home in St. Paul-de-Vence, France in November of 1987. There Troupe conducted what would be the final interview with James Baldwin before cancer took his life later that year. This interview is included in *James Baldwin: The Legacy*, a book edited by Troupe that brings together interviews and critical essays by Baldwin's peers.

Talking with Troupe gave me an insight into some of the difficulties James Baldwin faced as a black, homosexual man living in a society that would not accept him for everything he was. Even more important perhaps is the more subtle homophobia that is apparent in many of Troupe's statements, painting an unsettling portrait of Baldwin as a man who was not even understood by some of his own closest friends. It also serves as a reminder of how little straight society, even people we may know personally, really understand us.

**Mark Chesnut:** It must have been hard for you to do that final interview since you knew it would be the last interview with James Baldwin.

**Quincy Troupe:** Yeah, it was hard because Jimmy was a good friend of mine and it's always hard when a good friend dies, but beyond him being a great friend of mine, he was also a great spirit—a great spirit—not just for African American people, but for American people and the world because the message that he always carried—very clear, very healing, an ultimately healing message. And so when you know someone that great is going to die and not be around any-

more, it's a very sad occasion.

**MC:** What was his main message?

**QT:** I think his main message was that the world, especially the United States, had to heal its racial wounds, at the core, rather than putting Band-aids on it—that's like putting Band-aids on cancer. So you don't want to put Band-aids on cancer—you have to take it out and ultimately if you dig it out, there's a healing process that takes place, and we will become one nation, rather than a nation of factions and divided situations that we have now. So I think that message was a very good one. And beyond that, injustice in the world, you know, war,

inhumanity to man, inhumanity in the way men treat other men, the way people treat other people, I think that he was talking about a very soothing, loving relationship that should happen and I think he was right.

**MC:** When you did that final interview, how did you decide what you wanted to talk about with him, what he would talk about when he had such a full life and he did so many things?

**QT:** I knew Jimmy very well so I knew some of the things that he liked and some of the things he felt strongly about. Also, I tried to give him questions that he could really deal with because of the nature of the illness and because of how weak he was, and wouldn't tax him too much. I got a lot of questions together, but because he was ill I couldn't ask them all. I think it was important to ask him about the present condition in America. The way it is now. Since Ronald Reagan was the President, that included him. I thought it was very important to ask him about Toni Morrison. I thought it was very important to ask him to talk some about Miles Davis and Norman Mailer. I thought it was very important to talk about what the whole movement that had come into being since he had left, the whole idea of yuppies.

**MC:** He did not like the idea of yuppies.

**QT:** No, he didn't like the idea—he didn't like it at all. And that includes black *and* white yuppies. Some people call them buppies, some people call them yuppies. What's the

difference? White or black, it's a young urban professional. It's not so much that he disliked them, it's that he disliked the attitude that they brought to the whole thing.

*MC:* And what was that attitude?

*QT:* Well, he felt that they were just in for money, just for money. And advancement, and this whole thing, they weren't going to bring anything to America, they were just greedy. And that's basically what he thought. And it turned out to be true. I think that's what Tom Wolfe talks about in *Bonfire of the Vanities* and Sherman, that character he has in there, Sherman is the personification of that image. Just out for himself, that whole thing. And that's what Jimmy did not like.

*MC:* How open was James Baldwin about his homosexuality? I know he did some interviews where he addressed this, but it was not addressed very frequently.

*QT:* Well, I'll say this about Jimmy, when I first met him, I knew right away he was a homosexual.

*MC:* Did he tell you?

*QT:* I could tell, but I had been around a lot of homosexuals because I'd been in the arts and you have a lot of people like that in the arts and so it never bothered me—because I'm not—it never bothered me that that's what a person was as long as that's what they were, you know, and they did something. So it didn't bother me at all that he was that way. I had grown up with a couple of guys who lived across the street from me in St. Louis who were homosexual. It's kind of a strange thing because when you're growing up you say "what is this, what's happening with those guys, why are they like that? Why do they walk like that?" That's a normal kind of reaction when you're growing up and you see everybody else doing something else. But after a while you get to a point where they were nice people, they were alright with me, you know what I mean, and that was it. So I had grown up with these two guys and so when I met Jimmy and others who were homosexual after that, it didn't bother me as much as it bothered everybody else. I've always believed that people have a right to

do whatever they want to do. What they want to do. So with Jimmy, Jimmy wasn't the kind of person who came up and flirted with everybody, he didn't flirt with everybody, he didn't come up and just do that, he had whoever he was with and he was with that person and that was it. So therefore a lot of people didn't know it. Because he never approached them. He never approached them in a public way. He always came with who he came with and that's who he was with. And he left with them. In public he wasn't the kind of person that showed all that kind of affection to somebody in public. He didn't do that. But the people who knew him well knew it. He was not someone who wanted to try to hide it, now. He didn't try to hide it. He didn't talk

about it that much, he thought it was part of his private life.

*MC:* Did he ever ask for or demand acceptance from you or anybody else based on his homosexuality?

*QT:* No. Because the people that he was around, like for example myself, we never gave him any grief, we never brought it up. We never said, "Listen, you're this way, so therefore you're this." We'd never say anything like that. I mean, I don't know about other people, but I know I didn't. And I know Toni Morrison didn't. Most of the people who really admired him, who were close to him didn't. Baraka didn't. Miles Davis didn't. So, I would imagine that he did get some grief from some people. But he didn't get it from us, so therefore



**THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE**

*Baldwin with Lucien Happersburger in Switzerland.*



#### LIVING THE DREAM

**Charlton Heston, Harry Belafonte, James Baldwin and Marlon Brando during the 1963 March on Washington.**

he didn't have to do certain things.

**MC:** In the *Village Voice* interview with Richard Goldstein, he identified himself as a homosexual, but not gay. And Goldstein wrote that Baldwin traced much of his acuity and pain to the nexus of racism and homophobia. Do you agree that that brought him a lot of pain?

**QT:** Yeah. I think it brought him a lot of pain. I think one of the reasons he left the United States was because of the fact that a person who was Black, who was radical, who was homosexual—at the time, in 1948, 1949, that was just ridiculous. That was a ridiculous configuration. To have a person who's Black, radical and homosexual, I mean that's ridiculous, that's far out front. So I think that the pressures he got were just too much for him, at that point.

**MC:** When did Baldwin leave the United States?

**QT:** 1948.

**MC:** And was it because it was impossible for him to be Black, gay, and radical in this culture?

**QT:** That's right.

**MC:** How did he find France?

**QT:** France was a little better. Paris was a lot better. It's hard to explain. I lived in Paris. And the French people are a lot more tolerant of things like that. They understand it. They're a little bit more civilized than we are. They're not as macho as we are. This country is a very macho country. And those kind of things they

**He left the United States because a person who was Black, who was radical, who was homosexual—at the time, in 1948, 1949, that was just ridiculous.**

just thought they were aberrations, here.

**MC:** When I was reading *Giovanni's Room* that made me wonder how much of that story, which takes place in France, was based on his own experiences. Do you have any idea?

**QT:** I know some of it was based on his own experiences because of the fact that he told me. I don't know

how much. I know he wrote it up in the mountains of Switzerland at his friend Lucien Happersburger's house whom he was having a homosexual relationship with at the time. And at that time that's where he wrote the book at. Lucien is a Swiss painter who I met when I was there.

**MC:** *Giovanni's Room* caused quite a stir, especially from the publishers. That was the book they wouldn't publish originally in the U.S.—he had to go to England to sell it. What sort of reaction did the Black community in the U.S. have regarding *Giovanni's Room* and Baldwin's treatment of homosexuality?

**QT:** Well, I think Black people are very conservative. And especially about issues like homosexuality. Nobody wants to—a lot of people basically for the most part don't want to admit that it exists. And that goes back to Africa—you go to Africa right now, you can't find anybody who will admit that there is any homosexuality in Africa—or the West Indies. But there is. So that's just a part of the Black community. So the book, I don't know for certain, because it was published in 1948 and I was born in 1943, but I would imagine that when it came out that there was a very, very negative response, and it was probably controversial, nobody probably wanted to talk about it and those people who did like it probably wouldn't admit it at that time, just like other Americans. But especially in the Black community it is like that.

**MC:** It seems also in the book *Giovanni's Room* there is very little positive representation of the gay community. It seems in general that he picked up more on the negative or painful side of being gay. Do you think he found any pleasure in his sexual identity at all?

**QT:** I wouldn't want to say for him, but I would imagine he did because he was a joyous person. But you have to understand, you're talking about 1948 again, you're not talking about today. 1948 was a very painful time for homosexuals. You weren't

talking about being in the closet, you were talking about being under the basement. Underneath the basement floor.

**MC:** Like going to a mental hospital or going to prison.

**QT:** You were talking about going to prison—you were talking about a criminal act. You were considered crazy. So it wasn't anything that was joyous, it was something that was painful. I mean, now, you could say it could be, it probably is joyous for a lot of people, but for James Baldwin, again, I'll go back to the whole thing of being Black, radical and homosexual, it could not have been joyous. And he was considered ugly. I never considered him ugly, but other people did.

**MC:** Physically ugly?

**QT:** They considered him physically ugly, Black, radical, homosexual, and a writer.

**MC:** So he didn't have much in his favor in 1948.

**QT:** He had nothing in his favor. And he was poor. And he didn't have a college degree. You can add up all kinds of things, you know, he'd been left on the street by his father. So, you know, there's all kinds of things in that equation, so it couldn't have been a joyous thing for him. It couldn't have been a joyous thing to be *living*. Period. I mean, in 1948, it was not joyous for many Black people to live. Just if you weren't homosexual. If you were just living in the United States. It still isn't. But it was less joyous then. Now add that on top of all those other things. I mean, if every Sunday you went to Church, went to work every day, did not have a police record, worked hard, did everything you were supposed to do, were an Uncle Tom, it was still a pain in the ass to be a Black person in the United States. Now add on top of all that other stuff. So he left. It was painful for him. It had to be. He talked about it a lot, but it had to be real painful. And that's where a lot of his work came from. However, in his lived life, in his relationships with friends, he was a joyous person. He was beautiful. He had great fun. He was a joy to

be around. We all miss Jimmy. We miss being around the joyous person that he was. He was a great person to be around. He had a lot of fun, a lot of laughs, a lot of big lies—we call them stories, tall tales. He told some great lies. Everybody loved to be around Jimmy and talk to him, so we all miss him. So he never let whatever it was he felt about being what he was get in his way of anything. But I know in 1948 it had to be painful.

**MC:** Did he ever have a long-term relationship with anyone?

**QT:** Lucien Happersburger. He had a great relationship with him. He was the love of his life, I think. And then Lucien, Lucien was on both sides of the equation, so then Lucien decided he was gonna go with this woman. And he went with this woman.

**MC:** When was this?

**QT:** I'm not sure exactly when it happened, but there's a picture of them in the book.

**MC:** This relationship took place in France?

**QT:** They met in France.

**MC:** How long were they together?

**QT:** I really don't know, they were together for a while. But that was someone he really liked. Lucien was a great person. I liked Lucien myself, as a person, when I met him. He lives in Switzerland now. A lot of fun he is, a great person.

**MC:** Do you think in his final

years, James Baldwin was pleased with what he did during his life, with his writing, with his success?

**QT:** Oh yeah. I think he was pleased. I think he was pleased with a lot of things. He was not pleased with the fact that because of his stance and because of the way he was, the American public and the American publishers began to neglect him as a writer—they refused to give him publishing contracts.

**MC:** In his final years they neglected him?

**QT:** Yeah they did. They were tired of hearing what he was talking about. They had said we had moved beyond all of this.

**MC:** Did he ever feel he was fully accepted as a Black, as a radical, as a homosexual, as a writer?

**QT:** I would probably think not. I mean, for example, Gore Vidal is a homosexual and he's a radical and he's a writer, and he's a *white guy*, and he's fully accepted. But I don't think James Baldwin was accepted, and James Baldwin was a greater writer than Gore Vidal, and Gore Vidal has said that. But James Baldwin is not accepted. And if that's the case, you have to look at it in terms of race. Because they've both got the same kind of resumé's, the only difference is one is white and one is Black. And so Gore Vidal makes millions and millions of dollars, buys villas in Southern Italy,



**A JOY TO BE AROUND**

**Baldwin, (2nd frm left) with Quincy Troupe (center) in 1985.**

goes all over the world, and gets million dollar advances on his books. Baldwin didn't.

*MC:* So you think that Baldwin's problems came more from racism than from homophobia?

*QT:* Yes. I think so. A lot of it came from racism. And the fact he said what he said, the way he said it, and when he said it. Gore Vidal has said some really penetrating things too about this country, and nobody wants to pay attention to it. I mean, we're a country that really, like I said, likes to put a Band-aid on cancer. We don't want to dig it out. And I use those examples because they're both really good writers and they're both homosexual and they're both radical. And one was famous long before the other—Baldwin was famous before Gore Vidal was.

*MC:* Maybe the fact that Vidal came into being a little bit after Baldwin helped Gore Vidal. It was already almost chic to be gay.

*QT:* Baldwin opened the door so that he could come in.

*MC:* He was taking a chance being who he was in 1948.

*QT:* He was. He was out front. But like I said, it's always the messenger that they slay. You bring the message to them first and you make them stand up and look and they get mad with you. Then everybody else can come and say it later but they're mad with your ass.

*MC:* How was Baldwin's reception in the Black community, given the community's conservative background regarding homosexuality?

*QT:* Well, I think that with Jimmy, that's the strange thing with Jimmy. People love James Baldwin. Black people love James Baldwin, and I guess because of the fact that he wasn't all the way out there hitting on everybody. He wasn't running around hitting on little kids, he wasn't running around hitting on everybody. He had his person with him. He was always himself. And he was speaking out about the issues that concerned African Americans. He was putting his life on the line, going down to all those marches. So you couldn't say nothing about that—you have to

admire that. If you were conservative, and you might not like the guy because he was homosexual, but you're not putting your ass on the line, and he's out there walking that picket line for your ass, then you've gotta have some respect, 'cause you ain't doing nothing. And most people who dislike homosexuals, what is it that they dislike about them anyway? They think, well these guys are weak, they won't fight, they're sissies.

*MC:* They believe stereotypes.

*QT:* Right. And here's a guy

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***Black people are very conservative about homosexuality. People don't want to admit that it exists.***

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who's not like that. Here's a guy who's gonna take the police blows. He's cursing out the police. He's got his finger in their face. You have to say, wait a minute.

*MC:* When was it that he said, "I may be homosexual, but I'm not a faggot?"

*QT:* Well, I ain't gonna tell you who he said that about, he's a good friend of mine. But that's what he said.

*MC:* Baldwin said that to someone who said something bad about him?

*QT:* Yeah. But he wasn't talking about him being a homosexual. He was talking about something else. And he just kept putting him down about this, that and the other thing. But it didn't have anything to do with homosexuality. And so Jimmy told me, you tell your friend, I might be a homosexual, but I ain't no faggot and if he keeps saying that shit about me, I'll kick his ass, or I'll have somebody else kick his ass. That's not the image of what you think a homosexual person is. And James Baldwin was not that image. So therefore in the Black community, Black people saw him as just a person who was homosexual who was just an ordinary person. Because he never came in and tried to seduce anybody. Like I said, he always had whoever he was with

with him. So people knew. So, unlike some people I know, I know some homosexuals, friends of mine, even though they know I'm not homosexual, they're constantly hitting on me. Even when I'm with my wife. It can be just like a woman who's hitting on me. It's the same thing. You know, I'm with a woman, I'm with somebody, why you doin' this to me? So he never made anybody uncomfortable. And that's what I like about James Baldwin, and I think a lot of other people like that about him.

*MC:* When you were putting this book together, how did you mean to represent James Baldwin, what sort of an angle did you want to get with the book?

*QT:* I wanted to get every angle of James Baldwin. That's why I included the interview with Richard Goldstein. I sought out a piece like that, as a matter of fact, I asked a lot of people to write about his homosexuality. I asked them to do that, because I felt it was a very important part of his life. And nobody did it.

*MC:* Why was it hard for you to find that sort of piece?

*QT:* I commissioned some pieces. And I asked them specifically to write about that part of his life. But they wouldn't—they were a little afraid to. I don't know why. And so then I had to go out and find Richard Goldstein's piece. I had to search through all these pieces.

*MC:* Had you read that interview before?

*QT:* No, but I was looking for something like that, and somebody said, "you know Richard Goldstein did a piece on his homosexuality," and I'd met Goldstein, I think once, I'm not sure. Anyway, I called him on the phone he said, "Yeah," and I said, "well, could you send it to me," and he said, "sure" and I said, "we're gonna pay you," he said "you're gonna pay me?" I said, "Yeah." So we gave him what we gave everybody else. So, but I wanted that aspect of his life in this book, as well as all the other things that he was involved in.

*MC:* If James Baldwin were alive right now, what do you think he would be doing?

*QT:* Writing. ▼

# Obituaries

## Writer Gary Baker, 27, Founded *LAN Magazine*

Gary Baker, writer, journalist and editor, died of AIDS-related complications on July 3, 1989. He was 27 years old and lived in New York City. He was surrounded by his family at their home



in Tucson, Arizona when he died.

Gary was a 1984 cum laude graduate of Columbia College, where he published award-winning fiction in the *Columbia Review*. In 1986 he became one of the founding editors of *LAN Magazine*. Though diagnosed with AIDS in early 1987, he was named its editor-in-chief that same year. He remained active in publishing, and continued to edit the magazine until the very end; under his leadership *LAN* became one of the more widely distributed personal computer publications in the world.

It was Gary's ideal to continue leading a full and productive life, and through numerous improvements and setbacks in his physical condition, he never allowed his illness to up-stage that dream. His professional zeal was an inspiration for his colleagues and to other people with AIDS. He was also an active supporter of the PWA Coalition, Body Positive and GMHC.

Gary had completed a series of novels at the time of his death, the most ambitious of which dealt with the theme of universal plague, an obvious parable for AIDS.

He is survived by his mother,

Mrs. Jean M. Baker of Tucson, his brother, Andrew J. Baker of Washington, D.C. and by many close friends and colleagues. A memorial will be held at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 208 W. 13th Street, Sunday July 30th, at 2 p.m.

## Robert Wren, Gay Scholar and Activist, Dies at 61

Robert Wren—a gay scholar, activist, and writer—died June 11 in a plane crash in Hawaii. He was 61.

Wren was professor of English at the University of Houston. He served on the steering committee of the North American Man/Boy Love Association, and was an informal advisor to the gay and lesbian student group at the University.

After earning a doctorate at Princeton in 17th century drama, Wren built a reputation as a scholar of African literature. For a time he lived in Nigeria, where he sponsored a number of youths through college.

Under the pen name "Robert Cambell," Wren wrote short gay fiction. An anthology of his work, *Singularities*, was published by Acolyte Press, Amsterdam, the week he was killed.

Toward the end of his career, Wren became interested in the history of sexuality. He left unfinished a book about homosexuality in 18th century England.

Wren and 11 others died in a crash of a Scenic Air Tours flight from Hawaii to Maui. Wren was visiting the University of Hawaii in preparation for a Fulbright fellowship in Indonesia next year.

## Bob Damron, of *Damron's Address Books*, was 61

Bob Damron, creator of *Bob Damron's Address Book*, died June 20 of AIDS-related complications. He was 61. Damron's gay guide differed from others in providing lists of cruisy toilets, interstate rest stops, public parks and other such places where gay men meet for anonymous sex. As such, the book contained listings for hundreds of smaller cities and towns with no overt gay life. Damron also owned several West Coast gay bars, including the *San Francisco Eagle*. He died in the family home in L.A. where he lived with his brother.

—Rex Wockner

## Writer Geoff Mains Dies

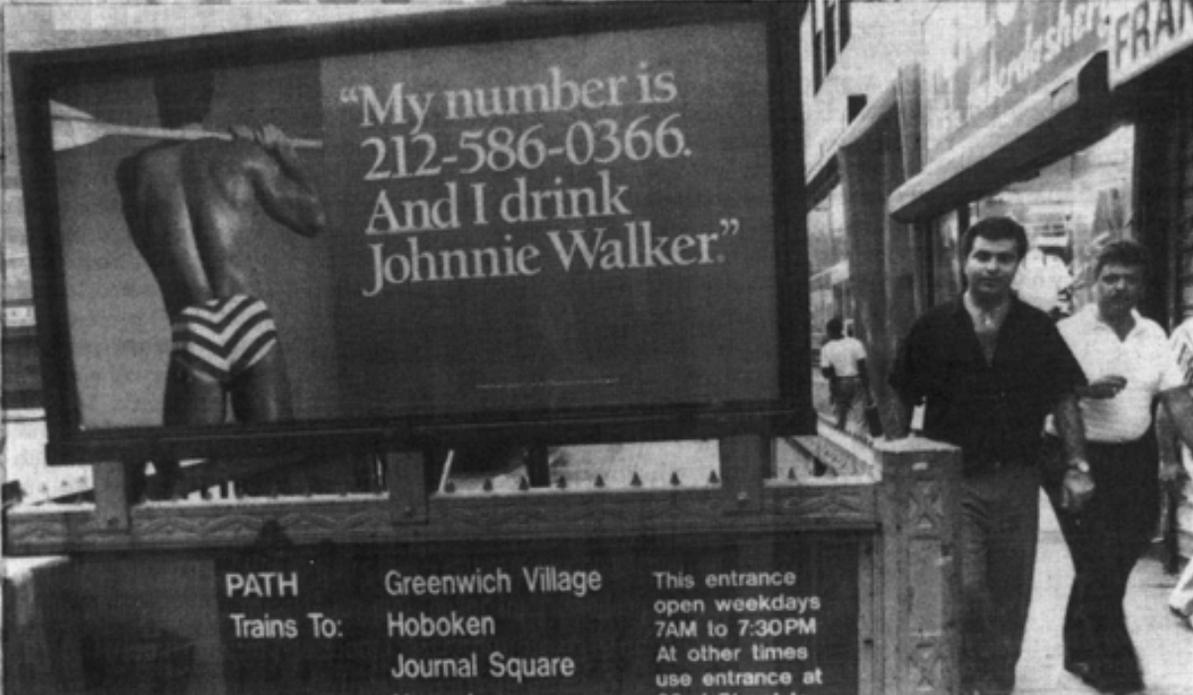
Geoff Mains died this week of complications from AIDS. It was a useless death, but not a wasted life. He was a contributing member of society, a giver, a person who should have had the opportunity to continue serving, but that opportunity was not to be his.

He was an environmentalist, with a PhD to prove it, and a writer with three books to his credit. The last one, *Gentle Warrior*, The Knights Press had the privilege to publish. One thing that kept Geoff fighting these last few weeks was to see this book in print, to know that his ideas, beliefs and philosophies would live after him. Twenty four hours before his final unconsciousness, his copy arrived and he knew the pride of accomplishing what he had set out to do.

Geoff himself was one of those gentle warriors, part of the leather community in San Francisco. He believed in the touching, caring kind of love that everyone needs. And men being men - masculine, tough, funny, all the things a man, a human being, can be.

—Elizabeth G. Gershman

## Look Out



PATH  
Trains To: Greenwich Village  
Hoboken  
Journal Square  
Newark

This entrance  
open weekdays  
7AM to 7:30PM  
At other times  
use entrance at  
2nd Street

**J**ohnny Walker's new advertising campaign first appeared a few months ago, raising more than just eyebrows when the ads mysteriously cropped up in abundance in the West Village and Chelsea. The subway billboards depicted two hunky, sweaty men relaxing after a tennis match, sitting close and suggestively gazing into each other's eyes. The copy read, "He plays hard. And he drinks Johnny Walker."

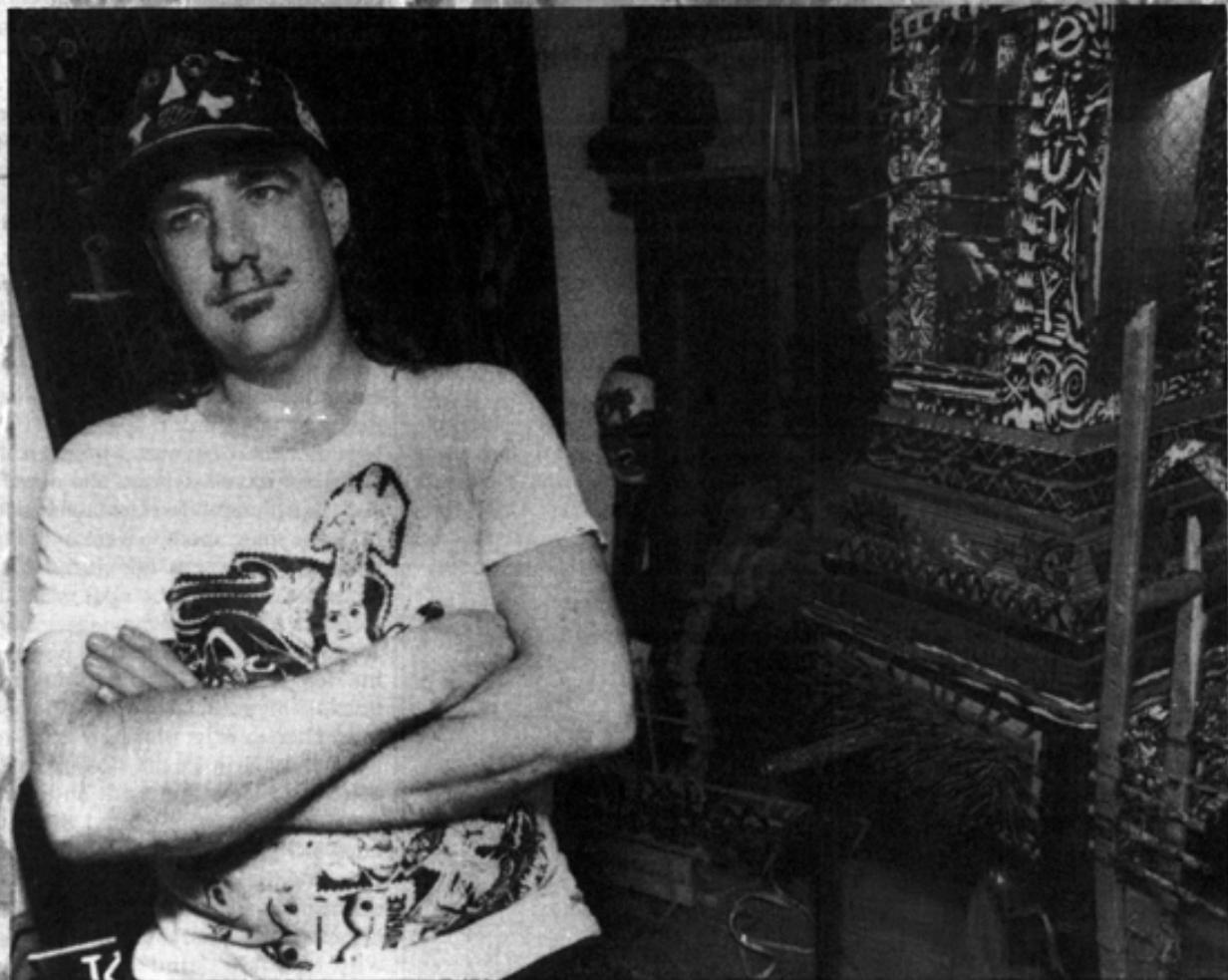
In the Madison Ave. ad rags, Schieffelin & Somerset Co., the makers of Johnny Walker, denied that the campaign was targeted to gay men.

*Now comes the second ad of the campaign, featuring a hot body in a swimsuit and a phone number. When OutWeek called the number we got a recording: "Hi, I'm Tom. I like sipping my Johnny Walker while I watch the surf from Fire Island. I like Off-Broadway plays and strolling in Washington Square... Maybe we can mix well together."*

*It's obvious that the company spent millions to target the seven bourgeois, heterosexual women who like strolling through Washington Square, going to Off-Broadway shows and sipping Johnny Walker while watching the surf from their houses in The Pines, right?*

*—Michelangelo Signorile*

## Look Out



**I**n his fun and funky Essex Street emporium, Clayton makes smart, hip hats that wind up on the cover of *The Face* and on the heads of nightclubdom's trendiest. But when he's not frantically making chapeau, he's manning his video camera, chronicling the goings-on of Tompkins Square Park, the police, the homeless and people with AIDS on the Lower East Side. Clayton is the videographer put in jail for refusing to turn over his tapes

after the Tompkins Square Park police riot last year. Since then, he's spent much of his time in and out of jail and court. Constantly championing the rights of the homeless, he once burst into a meeting held by the 9th Precinct on the fate of homeless PWAs living in the park ("It's genocide! If they can't build a small plastic shelter, they'll get sick and die!"), and was arrested for trying to document the proceedings with his camera. More recently, he was arrested after trying to burst into

Mayor Koch's inner office at City Hall.

Says Clayton: "I was always told if you have a problem, take it to the mayor. So that's what I was doing!"

—Michelangelo Signorile

## OUT OF MY HANDS BY BRADLEY BALL

*Dear Brad,*

This problem could have multi-million dollar consequences so I am unable to use real names. I work for the nation's leading weekly news-magazine which recently announced its intention to merge with a major communications corporation. In the past month, however, another communications corporation has initiated a hostile takeover of my company. Additionally, a large electronics conglomerate has also attempted to take over my company. Curiously, my ex-lover is employed (albeit in a low-level position) at the nation's number one television network (which is

owned by this same electronics conglomerate) and has business dealings with both of the aforementioned communications corporations. I just can't help feeling that somehow he's behind all of this. You see, he never really got over our break-up in 1984 and it would be just like him to try to thwart my company's peaceful merger with another company. If I am right in my suspicions, how can I convince him to accept our separation and to let everybody get on with their new lives?

—Mr. T.L.

*Dear Mr. T.L.:*

How sad it is when a relationship goes awry and a couple begins using their companies as pawns. Obviously your ex-lover still holds a lot of unresolved feelings for you (and I suspect

you have some for him as well). In order to conclude this situation once and for all to everybody's satisfaction, why don't you take him to a very expensive restaurant and propose a generous cash settlement? I'm also positive that he will accept those terms without enmity and will leave you and your corporation alone.

*Dear Brad,*

Like so many people I never thought I'd be writing to you, but this problem is so strange I'm not sure where else to turn. Every night when I come home from work I could swear that everything in the apartment isn't exactly where it was when I left. Lydia, my roommate, says she doesn't notice anything different but she said the same thing about that noise in the walls last year. I'm convinced that while we're out of the apartment all day, the furniture is moving around and when it hears us coming home it hurries back to its position but, because it's furniture, it doesn't remember exactly where to go. I've tried to catch it in the act—like I'll pretend to leave for work and then come right back in—but I think it knows I suspect something. Not so coincidentally, I tripped over the ottoman last night. Lydia says I'm acting crazy but even she can't explain why I couldn't find my mother's brooch yesterday morning and then it was right on top of my dresser where I'd looked only about a hundred times. Does any of this sound plausible to you or do you think it's poltergeists?

**BOTHERED**

*Dear Bothered:*

Put your mind at ease. This is a childish prank of those elves who were supposed to be at my apartment working on this column last week while I was on vacation. We are, unfortunately, embroiled in a wage dispute at the moment. (I guess they think I'm being paid in precious gems which is, most assuredly, not the case.) I've spoken quite sternly to their representative about this. He apologizes for including you in their little attention-getting caper and promises to leave you and Lydia alone until this arbitration is satisfactorily concluded.

## Nightmare of the Week



*"It's an ill-conceived political give away," said ill-conceived political nightmare Rudolph Giuliani, the fag-bashing, queer-baiting mayoral candidate. He was referring to Koch's plan to grant bereavement leaves to gay and lesbian couples and unmarried heterosexuals. We're going to need bereavement leave if this succubus gets elected.*



By Michelangelo Signorile

**W**hen great events crash upon our consciousness and demand an explanation cooked on short order, the menu never runs beyond three choices: the loud official version, the low murmur of the few who dispute it and the whispers of the gossips. Gossip is generally closer to the truth than either of its competitors, and its explanations are almost invariably the more persuasive.\*

This quote is ripped off from Murray Kempton at *Newsday*. I realize that the whole idea of beginning such a column with a quote is an idea ripped off from Liz Smith (but hey, she's done some ripping off in her time, too) but I find it necessary to drive the shit espoused in this quote home to readers who tend to trivialize gossip.

Gossip is controlling this country!



But let's get back to Liz. Oh, let's! Last week I was oh-so-excited because Liz's office called to say that Liz was sending a letter (yes, I thought it quite strange too — her office *calling* to say she's *sending* a letter. Much like when the palace calls to say the queen will be contacting you, don't

you think?). But that was a week ago, and as yet no letter has arrived (it was not a crank call because I called her office back to confirm that they had just called me to say that Liz would be sending me a letter. Maybe I should send a letter saying I'll be calling to say that I'll be sending a letter which will ask why Liz's office had called to say she'd be sending a letter. No? Or maybe we should just forget all of this letter/telephone shit and fax everything). From what I gathered in the conversation with her "office," Liz wanted to "respond" to something I'd written about her. Well, as I can remember, there were only two things in this column about Liz Smith. One



whole column dealt with Liz's decision that Sandra Bernhard and Madonna aren't really muffing, but are simply *pretending* they are dykes. In another column I wrote about how Liz had, nine years later, suddenly come to the realization that AIDS is a major health crisis facing America today.

I would speculate that Liz was not contacting me about the Sandra/Madonna-lesbian item much the same way one doesn't stir up muddy water one has to drink.

Perhaps then, Liz was calling/writing about the AIDS item. In fact, from a recent item in her column, I'd say that Liz is suddenly walking on egg shells a bit regarding AIDS. She writes about *Esquire's* choice for "Woman of the Year," Allison Gertz, saying, "the beautiful 23-year-old whose story was recently in *The New York Times*. (She contracted AIDS the same way everybody else has — accidentally — but there is no denying her story is poignant. Yes, let's get the

politics of it right here into the record. Every single AIDS sufferer's story is just as poignant!)" Aside from the use of AIDS "sufferer" (we'd like to see person with AIDS), I'd say Liz's analysis, especially for Liz, is pretty politically correct (I mean *Esquire* had to wait until it found a rich white woman with AIDS, while there have been thousands of women of color with AIDS? — but that's another column).

But actually, all of the speculating is useless. I've no idea why Liz was writing or calling or faxing or whatever, because she never followed through. Was it all just a threat? Some ploy to put a scare into me? What kind of a sick game is this?

Now, if I had received the letter, and especially if it weren't (as I imagine it wouldn't be) for reprint, then I'd not have said a word about it (and obviously wouldn't have written any of this). But since it didn't arrive as promised, I feel compelled to discuss it.

Goddamnit, Liz! Where's the fuckin' letter! Just send me that letter!

Not to stay on Liz's case, but be weary of items in her column which read, "Many readers want to know about the movie Kevin Costner is filming in South Dakota..." The translation of such items many times is: "I owe something to Kevin Costner's publicist, since he gave me a hot piece of dirt, so I'm mentioning Costner and his new film as a payoff."... *Newsday's* "Inside New York" column reveals some big changes and shake-ups at the *Times*: "New carpeting! This was deemed important enough to merit a memo from executive editor Max



continued on page 68

# Of Dykes and Sacred Cows

by Liz O'Lexa

**T**he Random House Dictionary defines a "sacred cow" as "any individual, group or organization held in such high popular esteem as to appear exempt from *all*, even justified, criticism." Herewith are some of those never-before-challenged lesbian sacred cows.



1. Crew cuts: No lesbian has ever told another that she looks like a marine gone A.W.O.L.; because it's ok to look like a man as long as you're rejecting The Man's standard of beauty.

2. Goddess symbols: Hey, we're in touch with the power of the Matriarch if we can recognize all the symbols that signify "female" and can draw little labyrises on our personal computers.

3. Possessions valued solely for their portability: Goddess knows, with all the homophobia lurking around in the world, we couldn't dream of living in one place too long.

4. Futons: Although they're worshipped for their portability, Lesbian Invisibility is the result of futons, because they allow the world to believe that women don't really do anything in bed since no one ever hears the bedsprings creak in a lesbian household.

5. Therapy: We know that the patriarchal, homophobic world has done a number on our heads, and the only way to deal with it is to shell out a third of our weekly salaries to the local lesbian therapist, who is, of course, the only person capable of dealing with all this oppression we face, and who will not screw us over.

6. Anger: Tread lightly, for the politically aware, morally superior lesbian is *angry*, though the less-aware lesbians who might slip up and get happy once in a while shouldn't take it personally when they're given a litany of reasons to get angry.

7. Coming out: Think about it, how do we *know* you're really a lesbian if you're not out...?

8. Being coupled: Same as above.

9. Bisexual bashing: In this case, we *know* they're supposed to be lesbians, but they're the enemy until they're converted and repented.

10. Going back to school: Once you've done your level best to subvert the patriarchy, it's ok to join it by learning to play by its rules, acquiring



its knowledge and becoming part of the professional system you used to hate, because then you can share the skills you've learned with your sisters, for an appropriate price.



11. Barrier-free, sign-interpreted events: Hey, the point is to be *accessible*, so it doesn't matter if the event itself actually has anything to say to mobility- or hearing-impaired women, and it *really* doesn't matter if they can't afford to attend.

12. Politically Correct behavior: We wouldn't be a legitimate subculture if we didn't have our own set of reactionary, strangulating rules to live by...

13. Politically Incorrect behavior: ...And if our subculture really *is* distinct and legit, then we have to ostracize those who refuse to fit in.

14. Lesbian Standard Time: We can't oppress our sisters by demanding that they be on time, which is a patriarchally-revered value just like responsibility, respect for other people's schedules, and consideration.

15. Separatism, but not Separatists: Although some insist that separatists are insufferable bitches to work with, we should all agree that separatism is a praiseworthy step toward building a more egalitarian, matriarchal world.

16. AI children: This may be a more recent sacred cow, based on the premise that lesbians have the Goddess-given right to fulfill their natural female role as childbearers, but it's been around long enough for everybody to know it's more cool to have a kid via turkey baster than a kid via a previous marriage.

17. Meetings: It's the process that counts, not the fact that more than ten dykes in the same room can *never* make a decision...

18. Consensus: ...Because it's every lesbian's sacred duty to impede decisions on the basis of her own personal hurt feelings, and we have to take care not to contribute to one another's oppression.

19. Downward mobility: Shopping at the Goodwill and working a minimum-wage "movement" job is still cool if your daddy is leaving you a significant chunk of change in his will, and if you've deliberately chosen your lifestyle as a political statement rather than remaining lower class all your life after having been born that way.

20. Birkenstock and Reebok shoes: Those lesbians brave enough not to be downwardly mobile are finding it "fashionable" to reclaim the middle-class roots of the women's movement by wearing expensive though politically correct designer brand names.



21. Sobering up in Twelve Steps: Hey, we can't change this disgusting world we live in, but we can push all our sisters on the wagon by telling them they're powerless, then turning them on to a Higher Power (which is, of course, going to make everything all right in the next world or life, not this one).

22. Writing in anti-grammatical forms: Real lesbian feminists don't edit, they just assume that if something is incomprehensible it's beyond the scope of their experience.

23. Pot lucks: Goddess knows it would scandalize the world if we started appearing en masse in restaurants, so we cluster in each others' homes to indulge in foods we'd never make at home, and pass around gos-



sip we'd find scandalous in any other setting.

24. Back packs: Lesbians always look like they're running away from home because we know we can't leave all our personal papers lying around in this impersonal, homophobic world, so we have to carry them around with us at all times, which makes us feel terribly important.

25. Softball: Competition, assigned positions, uniforms and lots of sweating—this is the lesbian community at its finest. ▼

—Reprinted with permission from *Lesbian Contradiction*, Summer 1989.

## A lifeline for every gay person trapped by addiction

At least 3 out of 10 gay Americans are alcoholics, and still more suffer from other forms of chemical dependency. Now, at last, there's a practical handbook for dealing with this problem: a step-by-step guide written by a gay recovering alcoholic, addressing the specific needs of lesbians and gay men.

*"Wisdom that can help each of us."*

—Don Clark, author of *As We Are*

*"I hope this book's healing glories will reach millions."*

—Ned Rorem

# ACCEPTING OURSELVES

*The Twelve-Step Journey of Recovery from Addiction for Gay Men and Lesbians*

**SHEPPARD B. KOMINARS**

 **Harper & Row**  
San Francisco

# Uncharted Territory

by Michelangelo Signorile

The following chart should serve as a useful tool for all those boys pondering that mind-wrenching question: "Should I seek a political faggot or an apolitical faggot as a lover, friend, fuck-buddy, etc.?" *OutWeek* hopes the chart will help male readers make a firm decision.

	Political Faggot	Apolitical Faggot
<b>POP ICONS:</b>	Madonna, Prince, Michele Shocked, Salt N' Pepa, Tracy Chapman, De La Soul, Phranc, Indigo Girls, U2, Hapi Phace	Madonna, Streisand, Summer, Ross, Stacey Q, Exposé, The Cover Girls, Belinda Carlisle, Sybil Bruncheon and various singers on the cabaret circuit, such as Sharon McKnight
<b>HABITATION ASPIRATIONS:</b>	Fighting to obtain legal rights to homestead in abandoned building on 141st Street and Edgecombe Ave	Wants to move to Chelsea but his lover is thinking they should opt for Hoboken, Brooklyn Heights or Caroll Gardens
<b>BATHROOM READING:</b>	<i>OutWeek</i> , <i>The Voice</i> , <i>My Comrade</i> , <i>Drummer</i> , <i>October</i> (Z, if very political)	<i>OutWeek</i> , <i>The Voice</i> , <i>My Comrade</i> , <i>Playguy</i> , <i>Interior Design</i> , <i>HG</i> , <i>Architectural Digest</i> , <i>Vogue</i> , <i>Italian Vogue</i> , <i>Details</i> , <i>GQ</i> , <i>M</i> , <i>Vanity Fair</i> , <i>Esquire</i> , <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , <i>W</i> ( <i>Redbook</i> , if very apolitical)
<b>BRAGS ABOUT:</b>	having three lesbians as close friends	knowing the entire score to "Merrily We Roll Along"
<b>IN THE CLOSET:</b>	15 pairs of ripped jeans	15 white button-down shirts for nights at Don't Tell Mama
<b>CELEBRITY SCHMOOZING:</b>	knows Rollerena personally	vaguely remembers Rollerena
<b>WON'T EAT:</b>	Red meat, grapes, food from any supermarket in buildings owned by Helmsley-Spear.	Anything in any restaurant east of 2nd Avenue south of 14th Street
<b>NIGHTCLUBBING:</b>	Mars (but doesn't dare tell anyone since the activist community had, at some point in the past, decided that the club's door policy might be racist), The Copa, Spike, The Bar, Tracks	Mars, The Copa, Boy Bar, Red Zone, Love Machine and any West Village bar
<b>NEWSPAPERS:</b>	religiously scours <i>New York Times</i> every day, though he thinks it is "another liberal organ designed to serve rich white men who claim to espouse causes on the left but whose true agenda is to further inflate corporate America while people of color, gays and lesbians, women and the poor suffer at the hands of an oppressive, fascist, racist, sexist, agist, homophobic government."	likes the <i>New York Times Magazine</i> because "the print doesn't come off on your fingers."
<b>CONTRADICTIONS:</b>	wears black leather jacket knowing full well that millions of innocent cattle are being slaughtered each year so that he might wear their hides in order to give a rise to a would-be trick.	does Ecstasy on the nights he doesn't go to the health spa.
<b>GUILTY ABOUT:</b>	Being white, middle class and/or male	being consistently late for restaurant reservations.
<b>GETAWAYS:</b>	worked on coffee plantation in Nicaragua over Christmas	went to Venice, with day cruise to Corfu
<b>VOTED FOR:</b>	Jackson, Green and Bellamy	forgot to register
<b>WILL VOTE FOR:</b>	Dinkins	Dinkins

continued from page 20

the hall away from the door, but were less successful.

After all ten of the demonstrators were arrested, the bolt still held the door closed. Although the door handles to which the bolt was attached could be taken off with a screwdriver, the police called the fire department to dismantle the door. About ten minutes later, one OUT! member handed the key to the bolt to the police.

Later, inside the District Council chambers, OUT! members disrupted a Council meeting, while other members wandered the halls of the building, taping flyers on the building's wall, windows and doors with red tape. Silently, and with little attention, they placed big red tape crosses

across doorways, stairwells and elevator doors.

Secretaries were startled as they emerged from their offices to find themselves being photographed behind the red tape exes. After ten minutes of taping, two D.C. police officers ordered the demonstrators to stop, one of them angrily breaking through the tape with his billy club.

The officers then dragged OUT! members Aimie Zourn and Shaun Burger down the halls and down the stairs, one police officer smacking Burger on his buttocks while tugging him down the marble steps.

"Spend the AIDS money!" they chanted as they were dragged. "Spend the AIDS money!"

Television crews quickly descended from the Council chambers to interview the demonstrators who passionately explained why they were there. Sweaty and visibly shaken, Burger quietly told a television reporter, "Yes, we want to be arrested. People are dying."

After ten minutes, the two were lifted off the floor and carried to a holding room, where they remained until more officers, again wearing rubber gloves, arrived to take them away.

The initial ten protesters were charged with violation of a disorderly conduct statute, a minor violation. Charges on the other three demonstrators were not available at press time.

# LAKELWOOD

by Daniel Sotomayor



## Film

# Friends and Lovers

by Tim Allis

### When Harry Met Sally...

Directed by Rob Reiner. Written by Nora Ephron. Distributed by Columbia Pictures.

**T**here's something cloying about the ads for this film that is guaranteed to keep most of my friends away. "Can two friends sleep together and still love each other in the morning?" they ask, sweetly, coyly, dumbly. I'm not sure what's least appealing—the question, or the way it's asked, which presumes a universal yes or no. "Can two

friends love each other and still sleep together in the morning?" would have been as legitimate.

Anyways, that's too bad because it's not a bad film, and it's about people, not rats, not bats. When Harry (Billy Crystal) met Sally (Meg Ryan) at Michigan State, he was on the prowl and she wore lots too much eye shadow because it was the mid-'70s. They shared a ride to New York, he tried to sleep with her and psychoanalyze her, and failed. She formed a thorough dislike for him, and they said goodbye, apparently forever. A few years later they meet again, and again, until the inevitable happens. Their separate lives dovetail with each other until what was the least likely scenario — their

being happy together — becomes a viable if far-from-storybook outcome.

Rob Reiner, who has proven himself an exceptionally sensitive and inspired director, particularly with *Stand by Me* and *This is Spinal Tap*, here enters Woody Allen territory, a world of semi-neurotic wannabe love birds being funny-sad-funny to a Gershwin tune. His partner is Nora Ephron, who wrote the screenplay and who seems to know all about New York and our neuroses. In counterpoint to Reiner's more valentine-like approach to love, she has not lightened up on the potential horrors of coupling, giving Crystal a dead-on tirade about divvying up tacky possessions after a break-up. To her credit, most of the time the dialogue sounds like those smart conversations we think we have in real life. As Sally's match-making friend, Carrie Fisher is a hoot, a great smart ass, total New York—but wait a



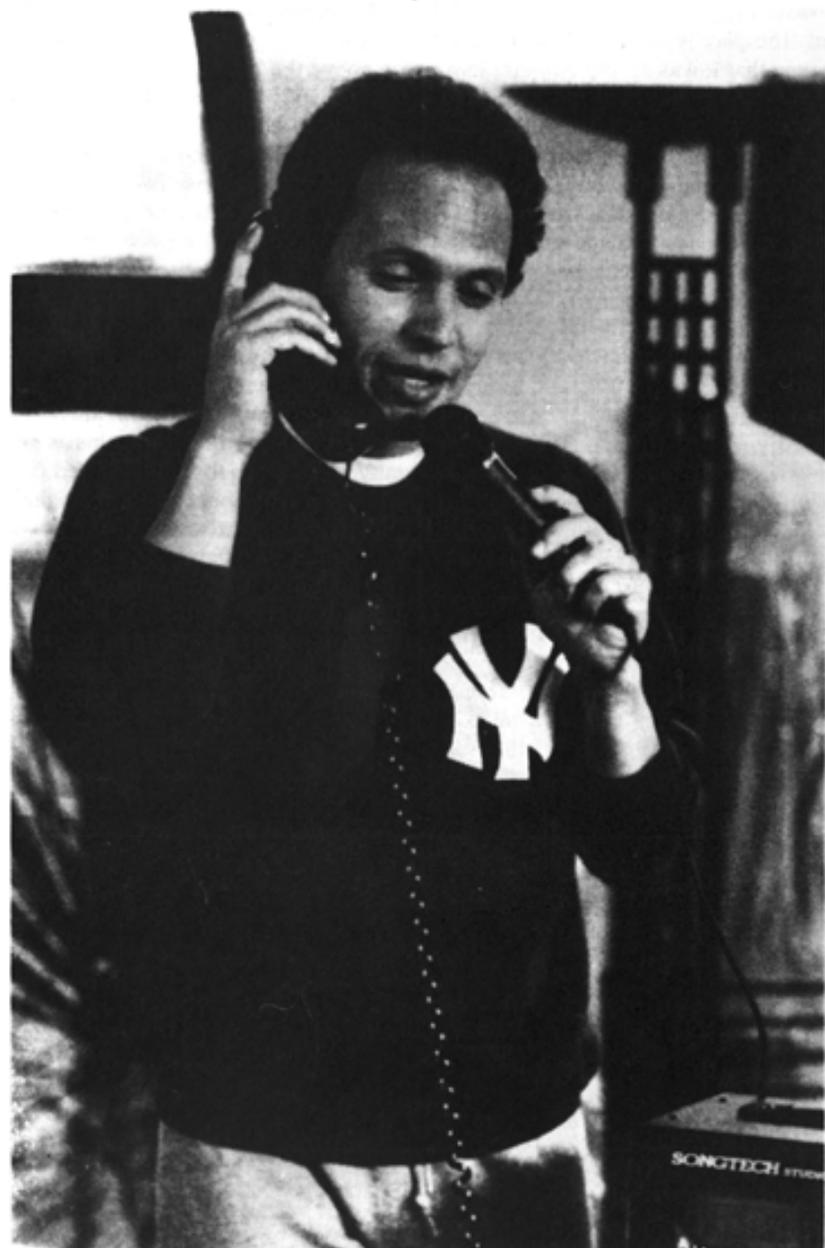
**NOSHING IN WOODY ALLEN TERRITORY**  
*Carrie Fisher, Meg Ryan and Lisa Jane Persky.*

minute. Would she really (even in the early mid-'80s) pull out a rolodex of bachelors and negotiable married men at a girls' lunch?

Unfortunately there are too many little leaps of common sense in a movie that sets itself up as emotionally realistic. Personally I find it hard to imagine Sally falling for Harry, largely because I don't think Billy Crystal makes for a romantic lead. We're to believe his countenance compounded with his bullish-

ness actually wins over this lovely woman? And Meg Ryan *is* lovely; funny and wise and pretty. Watch her.

The movie's brush strokes are bright, the finished canvas is pleasing but uninspired, and the frame—old couples telling the story of how they met and fell in love—is cute, sometimes too cute. I'm not heartily recommending this movie, but it's better than its ads. And at least people *talked*. ▼



**EMOTIONALLY REALISTIC?**

*Billy Crystal as a romantic lead in "When Harry Met Sally..."*

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# Theater

## Deadly Performance

by Terry Helbing

**Orient Beach**, a play by Donald Kvares, Theta Theater Company, Terry Schreiber Studio, 83 E 4th St.

**D**onald Kvares may have written over 55 plays and be one of Off-Off-Broadway's prolific playwrights, as his program bio states, but if *Orient Beach* is any indication, he neither knows nor has learned very much about playwriting.

Set in a Long Island beach home, the play concerns a speech teacher and his sculptress wife who are expecting a visit from her porn star brother and his current girlfriend and co-star. Hubby doesn't like brother's way of making a living, and the girlfriend decides to put the make on her host, much to the wife's disgust.

That's what passes for dramatic conflict, but Kvares' characters are so inconsistent in their behavior, and the playwright demonstrates so little grasp of the basics of his alleged craft, that the plot makes little difference. The first act passes from sunset through dinner to bedtime in the space of about 20 minutes, while the female porn star orders her boyfriend out of her bed one minute, and then sits on the beach and complains that he's not fucking her the next. The two women scream at each other in the first act and then go skinnydipping together in the second. Kvares seems not to care a whit for dramatic staples like character

and motivation, or perhaps he's just too busy being prolific to look back at what he's written on the previous page.

His sloppiness and lack of ability become truly dangerous, however, when he attempts to tackle what the press release calls "the moral and ethical aspects of sexual conduct, particularly in today's awareness of the devastating results of promiscuity" [sic]. The play is set in 1982, and you assume that it was simply written then and that no one was gullible enough to produce it until now. While that actually may be true, the reason for the time frame becomes apparent when the porn-star-brother sleeps with a homeless teenage girl who's been wandering around the property, periodically delivering monologues to the audience. From the blotches on her arm, we are to conclude that she has Kaposi's sarcoma (an opportunistic infection of AIDS), which she supposedly contracted from an ambisexual friend, and has now passed on to the porn star, as if the condition were as easily transmissible as the clap. Kvares' treatment of those "moral and ethical aspects" the press

release mentioned consists of a couple of screaming scenes filled with medically inaccurate information. A much more skillful writer might present such scenes to demonstrate the deplorable situation of people who behave in such an ignorant and prejudiced fashion, but here, they simply reflect the playwright's own ignorance and prejudice.

Frequently with plays as bad as this, critics like to say that the actors rose above the material, but that's not the case with this cast. The performances are so bad that the Terry Schreiber Studio, which has apparently rented their space to this company, might be wise to insist on protecting its reputation with a program disclaimer disavowing any connection to the production.

A horrible, dated, badly acted play with medically inaccurate information that fosters ignorance and prejudice—why would anyone bother to produce such a work? That this is a vanity production becomes patently obvious when you see the playwright sitting in the first row of the performance, happily guffawing at lines that no one else finds funny. ▼



**"THE DEVASTATING RESULTS OF PROMISCUITY"**  
Gisela Bruckner and Michael Philip Del Rio in *Orient Beach*.

## Books

# Restoring Us To Sanity

by Eva Yaa Asantewaa

*Accepting Ourselves: The Twelve-Step Journey of Recovery from Addiction for Gay Men and Lesbians* by Sheppard B. Kominars, Ph.D. (Harper & Row)

Statistics tell a grim story: One out of every ten Americans is chemically-dependent. Among gay men and lesbians, the number rises to three in every ten. The health-conscious '80s have shone a harsh light on addictions and compulsive behaviors, revealing the steady erosion of lives both celebrated and commonplace. But there's been hope, too—a virtual growth industry of treatment programs, therapists, support groups, and an abundance of recovery materials (from official Twelve-Step program literature to mass market self-help books and tapes).

Of course, gays and lesbians, people of color, and others marginalized by society must search long and hard for self-help books that acknowledge their existence and particular needs. Fortunately, a major publisher—Harper & Row—has made one effort towards correcting this imbalance. *Accepting Ourselves*, by Sheppard B. Kominars, Ph.D., is frank talk from a compassionate insider.

In 1976, Kominars nearly died in a freak accident, and then he got hooked on drugs and alcohol he used to dull his pain. Married for over 20 years, a father of three, eventually he found hope for survival in honesty with himself and with others, the overturning of denial. With the support of other men and women like himself, he would come out as chemically-dependent—and as gay.

*Accepting Ourselves* discusses each of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous that help millions of alco-

holics remain sober and moving along the challenging path of recovery one day at a time. Just as the ideas and practices of AA and the Al-Anon family groups have inspired numerous spin-offs (Narcotics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous, to name a few), Kominars' clear explorations of the steps and useful suggestions can be adapted for use by lesbians and gay men recovering from any addictive/compulsive condition or from the trauma of a childhood in a dysfunctional family. Lovers, friends, and family of recovering gay men and lesbians also need the sensitive insights of *Accepting Ourselves*.

Isolation, self-hatred, denial, living in a lie—all fuel chemical addic-



**CLAIMING THE GIFT OF YOUR OWN LIFE.** *Accepting Ourselves* author Sheppard B. Kominars.

tion and compound the damage wrought by compulsive behaviors. Internalized homophobia—irrational shame for who he is, guilt for what she has done—sends the addicted gay man or lesbian back to the drug or behavior of choice for consolation, for numbness and forgetting. Merciless criticism of himself and others alienates the addict from the very people who could offer the most genuine support—other gay men and lesbians who know each curve and bump of the road. In the programs, they say, "We will love you until you can love yourself"—a crucial love in a society that hates and oppresses.

At the meetings, one can release

long buried anger, admit confusion and fear, and ask for help. Kominars shows how the steps lead the recovering person from arrogant self-will to surrender and trust in something greater than the isolated self. At this point, the addict may begin to look at her "defects of character": Kominars wisely renames them yesterday's "survival tactics" which may not serve today's recovery. As the steps continue, they encourage taking responsibility for oneself and one's actions, becoming committed to a relationship to spirit and to the community of one's peers.

From the days of Bill and Lois Wilson (founders of AA and Al-Anon, respectively), recovering people have been finding spiritual nurturance, each in his or her own unique way. Not everyone takes comfort in traditional, patriarchal beliefs, nor is this required. Kominars quotes Helen K., recovering alcoholic:

"I do not have an in-quotes 'G-O-D'...when I take your hand and we connect with each other, then I'm stronger...I will not say that I am no good, and that I must be filled with another being in order to be good. Because I *am* good, and *you* are good. You are my God and I am yours...I need all the gay men and lesbians in these programs, because together we recover our spirit."

*Accepting Ourselves* is offered in the spirit of these healing, affirmative words. Kominars writes, "We are each remarkable because we have endured the devastation of addiction, and the daily struggle with recovery." He reflects, "We embrace each other for exactly who we are, the way we are." Noting that the crisis of AIDS has drawn our community together as never before, Kominars hopes that the example of the Twelve-Step programs will create greater acceptance for diversity within the overall gay and lesbian community. For Kominars, recovery has been the way back from victimhood and exile. To his gay brothers and sisters, Kominars extends an invitation: Come claim the gift of your own life. ▼

## Comedy

# Three on the Edge

by Jonn Wasser



**HAZELLE GOODMAN**

*Goldberg, Tomlin, and a dash of Wagner.*

**N**ew York City is awash with individuals parading themselves before microphones attempting the art of stand-up comedy. Few succeed. How often have you and yours ventured to a club, dropped several hard-earned bills and walked out feeling short-changed? Once seems more than enough.

It is therefore refreshing to locate three young and talented performers whose comedic dexterity and skill will keep audiences laughing in the aisles for a long time to come. Not all their material currently works, and each act demands a director's attentive touch, but watch out when these three eventually hit their stride.

Whether it's "Millie,"—a capitalistic Caribbean woman who's "Coming to America" to seek her fortune—or the girl who discovers that "Hair is Power," Hazelle Goodman creates heartfelt and witty characters. A deft combination of Whoopi Goldberg sprinkled with Lily Tomlin and a dash of Jane Wagner's feminism thrown in for good measure, Goodman's 60 minute set at Eighty-Eights includes wry social commentary and hilarious trips north of 110th Street.

With her expressive face and 360-watt smile, Goodman charms her way into the audience's heart. "Big is In" touches upon the joys of possessing a luscious bosom among other useful bodily parts. While Goodman's figure doesn't approach Dolly Partonesque proportions, it's to her credit that she's able to manipulate her agile body to such a degree that the skit emerges a winner.

Goodman packs an emotional wallop when she touches upon New

York's fallen angels. There's the blind woman searching for love, and Trisha, the inebriated mother who accidentally harms the one person she truly cares about. AIDS solemnly pokes in its ugly head as another mother helplessly struggles to come to terms with her youngest son's illness. It's a poignant characterization and deserves greater exploration. Additional audience exposure will no doubt help.

"Get a Grip," shouts Julia Brothers to the Nubians, her term for those religious cults who believe populating a subway station is their divine birthright. Nubians are not the only group with which Brothers finds fault. Her midnight monologue at the West Bank Cafe accosts New Age enlightenment groups, subletters and the health food maniacs who permeate our society.

An actress familiar to Off and Off-Broadway audiences, Brothers has recently switched gears and has begun developing an act. Tall, with medium length blond hair, Brothers doesn't approach the stage like many of her peers. She instantly takes command. Anger is the glue holding her together. No sooner has she settled herself on stage when suddenly the glue begins oozing, dropping its liquid solution on several well-known victims. No New York comic seems to ignore Donald Trump, but when Brothers places him side by side with the Reverend Al Sharpton, it's the billionaire's nightmare come-to-life. There's a wonderful bit when Brothers finds Ronald Reagan's face on the bottom of her frying pan. The evening's biggest laugh comes at political hopeful Ron Lauder's expense. I cannot divulge it here but suffice to say that it involves Lauder, the homeless and his mother's beauty care products.

Brothers is a keen observer and comedian but she'll need to better structure her act if she wishes to move into larger venues. The pacing seems more harried than hurried and the lulls arrive at awkward moments. Still, she possesses a remarkable talent which should serve her well in any medium she chooses to conquer.

I'm convinced there's a full-fledged comedian lurking inside Mark-Alan waiting to fully expose himself at

the proper moment. Alan's show at Eighty-Eights is a melange of versatile song-styling, wonderful ditties and hilarious impressions. The 1989 MAC Award winner for Outstanding New York Club debut for this show, Mark-Alan evokes memories of one's neurotic brother (real or imagined) as he makes his way onto the cozy stage. He's definitely at home in the spotlight and zigzags through his set making the transitions from ballad singer to comedian with graceful aplomb.

He's at his wry best conjuring up potential Broadway replacements: Tina Turner as a maniacal, foot stomping Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, an on-target Gwen Verdon returning to the "Chorus Line," and that dynamic, chart-topping duo, Willie Nelson and Julio Iglesias attempting to save *Chees* from an early close. He also receives chuckles singing a wonderful song concerning "Sy and Bee," two people who meet through a computer dating service.

Two serious ballads, Neil Sedaka and Howie Greenfield's "The Big Parade" and "You," both culled from Jane Oliver's "Chasing Rainbows" album, seem out of place in a witty evening devoted to both high and low-brow comedy.

Between the songs and routines, a slew of cartoon characters put in appearances alongside the venerable lady herself, Ms. Katherine Hepburn. It's a zany touch and Mark-Alan doesn't miss a beat. Once he trusts his comic talent, drops most of the ballads and adds new material, he'll emerge as a major contender on the cabaret scene.

*Hazelle Goodman can be seen 8:30, Saturday evenings at Eighty-Eights (228 W. 10th Street).*

*Julia Brothers performs Saturday evenings at The West Bank Cafe's mid-night show (407 W. 42nd Street).*

*Mark-Alan appears Friday evenings at 8:30 at Eighty-Eights (228 W. 10th Street).*



**GRACEFUL APLOMB**  
*Mark-Alan.*

## Performance

# Sinking Verdi

by John Wasser

**D**olly Levi returned to the Harmonia Gardens to a tumultuous ovation and a ten minute production number. Taking their cue from Mrs. Levi, those divine divas in *La Grand Scena Opera* have also decided to pay us a return visit. Led by the "traumatic soprano" Vera Galupe-Borszkh (Ira Siff), the company has decided to "sink Verdi" and other operatic composers at the Ballroom (253 W. 28th St.) until July 29th.

Like the divas they poke fun at and other "women" who have preceded them, *La Grand Scena Opera*

*Company* has come a long way since I first caught their hilarious act cons ago at the Duplex. The characterizations, especially Bruce Hopkin's gin-swiggling, baton-twirling hostess, Sylvia Bills, have been refined to a tee. The vocal performances are technically adept and their exaggerated gestures remain insanely accurate.

My favorite scene is a comical duet from Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. Two aging singers, Dame Emily Post-Morddum (Charles Walker) and Gabriella Tonnoziti-Casseruola (Keith

Jurosko) reunite with the help of our evening's hostess for one final operatic fling. The results are hilarious.

Although well-paced and expertly directed, the evening seemed a trifle lengthy. Siff and Company might ponder adding an intermission. This would make sense given their next logical step should be a full-blown Off-Broadway production. If Terrence McNally's "Lisbon Traviata" can move to the Promenade Theater this coming October, so too should *La Grand Scena Opera Company*. ▼



TRAUMATIC SOPRANO AND DEVINE DIVAS  
*La Grand Scena Opera Company*.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## HISTORIC TALKS continued from page 9

capacity to conduct them, according to many advocates for PWAs.

"These [community-based] trials are so essential because clinical research in an academic setting cannot handle the volume," AmFAR's Dr. Mathilde Krim, a leading advocate for more drug testing, told *OutWeek*. "The basic research they do is good, but there is a tremendous backlog of drugs, combinations of drugs and other options that have so far gone untested. The community-based groups will be able to do this."

In fact, community testing groups were responsible for the rapid approval of aerosolized pentamidine, an agent that can control pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) which kills more AIDS patients than any other opportunistic infection.

CBCTs have other advantages over traditional approaches to drug testing as well. They directly involve private physicians and PWAs in the designing, reporting and sometimes analysis of an experiment. Many PWAs have been distrustful of government and industry, making recruitment a real problem. "Establishment" scientists, often faced with a shortage of subjects and guided by motives other than curing AIDS, have been far too slow in testing new drugs, according to Krim.

Ron English, a board member of CRI, told *OutWeek* that CBCTs "are becoming competitive with large uni-



Conference organizer, Debbie Levine.

Photo: Jane Rosett

versities for testing new products. We are now taking funds that would have gone to those institutions. But there is one big difference between us: for universities, research is their business. They will drag out tests as long as possible. But we are people who want to go out of business," he said. "We want answers."

"There is a large pool of patients clamoring to be put on a testing program. They are the ideal basis for large-scale community trials," said Dr. Donald Kotler of St. Lukes Roosevelt Hospital.

"Many drugs that were being bandied about in 1982 are still being bandied about today. The scientific community has not been able to prove if these drugs work. Community-based trials could have done that by now," Kotler claimed.

### How a community-based clinical trial is conducted:

The notion of private doctors testing new products on their patients who have AIDS, ARC, or are seropositive is revolutionizing the way health professionals view clinical drug trials. But recent vows by the federal government and pharmaceutical companies to support community-based efforts will not go unchallenged by some sectors of the academic and research establishment, who for years have derided the concept. CBCTs must therefore follow a strict set of scientific guidelines, with an extensive network of checkpoints along the way, to ensure the experiment meets patients' needs while producing reliable data about the trial.

Conference participants laid out a detailed roadmap for successful trials during a session on Friday.

To begin with, they said all clinical trials must be governed by a protocol, designed by doctors (and often their patients), to test several aspects of any given product. Each protocol must be expertly written and must take into account dosages, adverse effects, length of the trial and so on.

CRI has a centralized clinic where many tests are conducted on-site, while CCC in San Francisco has a decentralized program, with individual doctors reporting to the consortium

on the status of their patients. Smaller cities with a lower incidence of HIV infection could adopt smaller-scale, even more decentralized protocols for testing drugs in their communities, according to conference participants. "There is no formula. Each community is unique and must design protocols that best suit their needs and abilities for testing a product," said Barbara Park, a management consultant hired by CRI.

Despite their differences, all programs have certain essential components in common. Every CBCT must have an administrator "to design protocols, coordinate data collection and assure the quality of the trial," according to Thomas Mitchell, administrator for the CCC. Each group must hire a project director, a medical director, a trial coordinator, a research nurse, research assistants and pharmacy technicians. Frank Busichio of CRI says that each protocol must also have a "work group" of three to six people "who have just one task: to focus on the experiment and nothing else."

All protocols must be submitted to an Institutional Review Board (IRB). IRBs can be set up within a community testing group, or the group may confer with IRBs of other institutions, such as hospitals affiliated with the program (CCC uses the San Francisco County General Hospital). It usually takes about two months for a protocol to be written, rewritten and approved by an IRB and ultimately, the FDA or state-level health agencies. During this process, doctors would be recruiting patients so that a large pool of eligible subjects is available when the trial begins.

Community-based groups must also consider legal matters: A good, "gay-sensitive" lawyer is essential to many programs, Busichio said. William Johnson, attorney for CRI, said he has worked to incorporate CRI and get its tax-exempt status, sought government agency licenses for certain trials, drafted the CRI's by-laws and wrote contracts for personnel and drug companies that provide the product to be tested. ▼

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# Pop Shots

Photos by Erich Conrad



**FRANK?! HE TOLD ME HIS NAME WAS HARRY!**  
Jo-Jo and Kurt ponder the nature of betrayal at Boy Bar

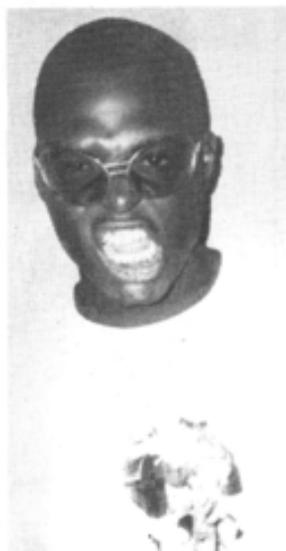


**SOMEDAY, WE'LL BE A FEATHER**  
Diandra at Love Machine



**READY FOR MY SPANKING, MR DEMILLE**  
Kathi Nichols looking for love at Love Machine

**YOU PUT  
YOUR LEFT FOOT IN  
YOU LIFT YOUR RIGHT FOOT UP**  
Dance instructor Chip Duckett (c.)  
and students at Mars



**MAKE MY GAY DAY**  
Tough guy Mona Foot  
at Love Machine



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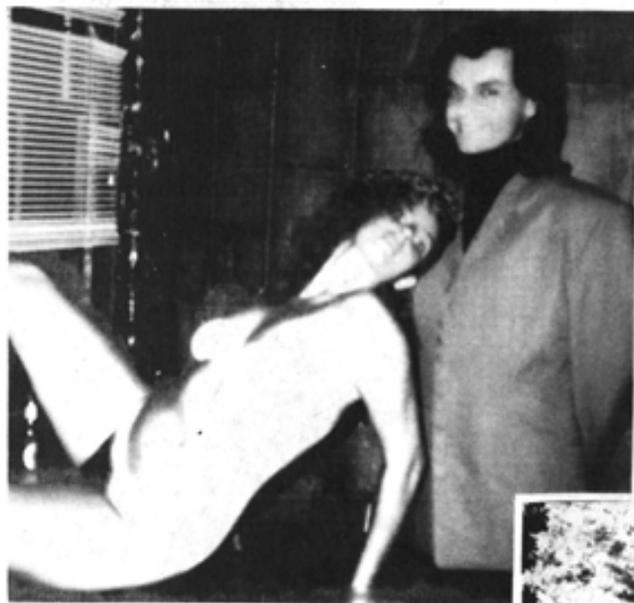
# Pop Shots

Photos by *Erich Conrad*



**HEY, HEY, WE'RE THE FLUNKIES**  
Monkee lookalikes Lovee, Sebastian  
and Anybody at Love Machine

**ZEE'S LEEPS,  
ZIS SKEEN,  
LIKE SILK,  
NO?**  
Party goes at  
Circus  
Maximus



**THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT**  
Video artist Richard Metzger  
and vision of loveliness at Mars



**SKY ROCKETS IN SIGHT**  
Members of Dee-Light voguing  
on St Marks Place



**OH AUNTIE  
FEM,  
IT COULDN'T  
HAVE BEEN  
A DREAM**  
Visionary  
James St James  
at Circus Maximus



**TAPE AT ELEVEN**  
Tribute to video artist Nelson Sullivan  
at the Alice statue in Central Park

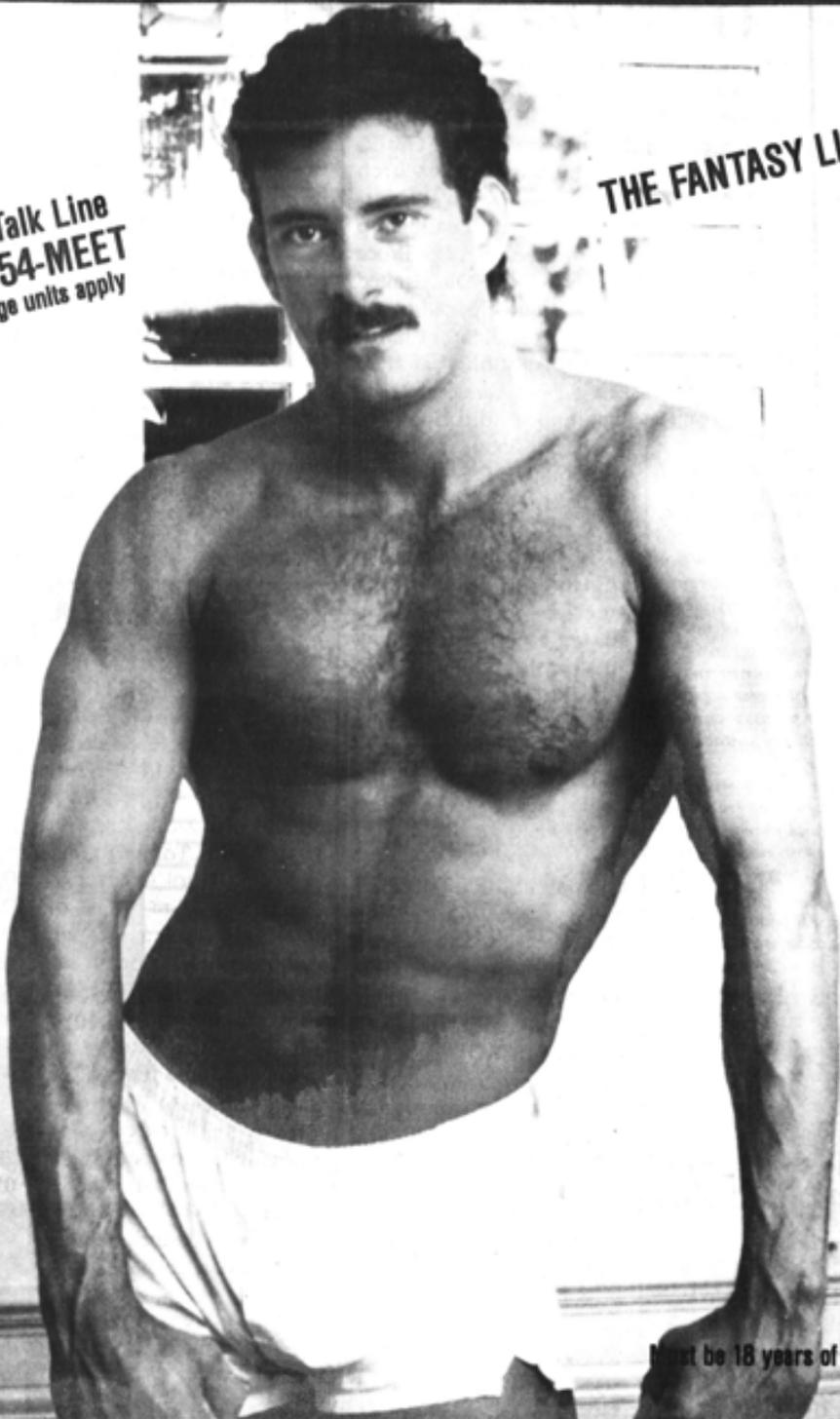
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# GOING OUT

## AN EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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call the GLSB daily, noon to midnight, 212-777-1800

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

Items must be received by  
Monday to be included in the  
following week's issue.

*(Editor's Note: This calendar is a compendium of anything in the Greater New York area that may be of interest to gay, lesbian and bisexual people. Items are generally not excluded on moral, philosophical, political or aesthetic grounds. However, commercial ventures, especially those with limited appeal or requiring large expenditures, are included at the discretion of the editor.)*

*Regularly held meetings of organizations will be listed when they are of interest to the public and when details about the programs are submitted. When sending an organizational newsletter, please identify which events should or should not be listed in these pages; otherwise, a private potluck dinner in an apartment may become a public affair. Please provide contact numbers which are suitable for non-members to call.*

*Finally, for all the mistakes, current and future, regarding places, times, and phone numbers, and for all the lives ruined by such errors, the editor begs forgiveness.)*

*(NOTE: All phone numbers without area codes are 212.)*

### TUESDAY

J U L Y 1 8

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
GAY & LESBIAN UNION  
and GMHC Mayoral Forum  
on AIDS/HIV in NYC; with  
David Dinkins, Richard  
Ravitch, Harrison Goldin

(confirmed); also invited are  
Edward Koch, Rudolph  
Guliani, Ronald Lauder;  
Richard Dunne, Exec. Dir.  
GMHC, will moderate; with  
Dr. Mathilde Krim, AMFAR;  
Dr. Ana Dumois,  
Community Family Planning  
Council; Louis Grant,  
Community Research  
Initiative; Debra Fraser-  
Howze, Black Leadership  
Commission on AIDS; Bruce  
Vladeck, Exec. Dir., United  
Hospital Fund; panelists will  
ask the candidates "hard-  
hitting questions;" at NYU  
Law School Vanderbilt Hall,  
Tishman Auditorium, 40  
Wash. Sq. South (corner of  
MacDougal); 7:30-9:30 pm;  
807-6664

CLGR Domestic Partnership  
Legislation, working  
meeting to develop  
strategies for introducing  
and passing city and state  
legislation to provide  
spousal rights to those who  
do not have the benefit of  
"legal" marriage; at the  
Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm;  
627-1398

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS  
Men Meeting Men  
Workshop; at the Center,  
208 W 13 St; 8 pm; free;  
807-6655, TDD 645-7470

CENTER STAGES goes to  
Largely New York, at the St.  
James Theatre, 8 pm, \$45;  
620-7310 (pay CENTER  
STAGE TICKETS, 208 W 13  
ST, NY, NY 10011)

HANDS ON Hand Jobs  
Party, "advanced techniques  
in the manipulation of the  
male genitalia;" at Cellblock,  
28 Ninth Avenue (below 14  
St); 9 pm - 2 am; BYOB;  
\$10

### WEDNESDAY

J U L Y 1 9

NEW YORK ADVERTISING  
AND COMMUNICATIONS  
NETWORK Annual Shorts  
Party, with "yards and yards  
of food—Manganaro's  
celebrated 6-footers;" and  
entertainment by the 3-  
Dollar Bill Theater  
Company; at the Center,  
208 W 13 St; 6:30 - 9:30 pm;  
\$10 members/\$12  
nonmembers; 517-0380

EAGLE BAR Movie Nite:  
Alien Nation; 1/2 price  
drinks from 10-11 pm; free  
popcorn; movie at 11 pm;  
142 11th Ave at 21st St; 691-  
8451

### THURSDAY

J U L Y 2 0

GREATER GOTHAM  
BUSINESS COUNCIL Forum  
of Openly Gay Candidates,  
featuring David Taylor,  
running for Ruth  
Messinger's vacated seat in  
District 4; Tom Duane,  
opposing Carol Greitzer in  
District 3; Tim Mains of  
Rochester, facing a tough  
re-election bid for an at-  
large seat; and Keith St.  
John, running in Albany's  
second ward to defeat an  
incumbent who reneged on  
a pledge to support  
Albany's defeated Gay  
Rights Bill; also appearing is  
David Eichenthal, who is  
seeking to depose  
incumbent Councilmember  
Noach Dear; at the Center's  
Network Room, 208 W 13  
St; 7 pm; 546-7475 (days) or  
Jerry 246-4100, 431-7220

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS  
Eroticizing Safer Sex  
Workshop; at the Center,  
208 W 13 St; 8 pm; free;  
807-6655, TDD 645-7470

CUCARACHA WAREHOUSE  
CABARET presents Holly  
Hughes, 429 Greenwich St,  
8:30 pm, \$6; 966-8596

DAVID JONES OPERA  
ENSEMBLE Arias for AIDS,  
Benefit Concert for GMHC,  
at Trinity School, 139 W 91  
St, \$10, reservations and  
info 749-4364

### FRIDAY

J U L Y 2 1

MEN OF ALL COLORS  
TOGETHER Racism,  
Homophobia, Loss and  
Love, an Evening of Poetry  
and Music; addressing  
important issues, members  
of the theater world and the  
lesbian and gay community  
will perform original works  
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DESCENT Meeting and  
Discussion: More gay men  
and lesbians have died from  
chemical dependency than  
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Cook, social  
worker/psychotherapist; in  
the Charles Angel/People of  
Color Room at the Center,  
208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 718/802-  
0162, 718/756-1548.

continued on page 68

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CALENDAR continued from 66.

## SATURDAY

J U L Y 2 2

**WOMEN ABOUT** Canoe camping on Mullica River, NJ; two days; 353-0073, 201/481-0440

**WOMEN ABOUT** Raspberry picking in Colt's Neck, NJ; 353-0073, 201/481-0440

**WOMEN ABOUT** Vegetarian dinner and miniature golf in Queens; 353-0073, 201/481-0440

**ASIANS AND FRIENDS** NEW YORK Trip to Stokes State Forest, NY; picnic in "a tranquil, beautiful, wonderful spot for barbeque, volleyball, swimming, hiking or just plain relaxing;" 595-0188

**GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION** Benefit party in Bridgehampton; with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and Grucci fireworks; 7 pm; \$100 up; 966-1700

**FAIRPAC Benefit Party:** The Pines Invades the Grove; at the Cherry Grove's new Ice Palace, DJ Warren Gluck, disco diva TBA; midnight; \$30 includes water taxis; 727-1291

**THE ANNEX** (next to CELLBLOCK) Hot Ash Party, for cigar-smoking men and their admirers; 673 Hudson St (btwn 13th & 14th St); 10 pm; 627-1140

**SPECTRUM DISCO** presents Debbie Jacobs, singing

"Don't You Want My Love;" and Roschelle Fleming singing "It's Not Over;" 802 64th St, Brooklyn (N train to 8th Ave stop in Bay Ridge); 718/238-8213

## SUNDAY

J U L Y 2 3

**WOMEN ABOUT** Storm King Art Center; 353-0073, 201/481-0440

**WOMEN ABOUT** Surprise hike; 353-0073, 201/481-0440.

### LETTERS continued from page 7

the Stonewall Riots in 1969—pretty radical stuff for the world's most famous thoroughfare.

For many years, the march has also had a special section for People of Color. In 1985, the National Coalition of Black Gays & Lesbians chose the Gay Pride march in New York as offering the best visibility for its first public outing. In 1989, nearly 20 groups marched in this section.

Sober Together is by far the largest single marching contingent and the AIDS-related groups now form the largest overall section in the march.

The idea of the lesbian and gay community rejoicing in its own existence was a revolutionary one in 1969; it still is in 1989. The individual participation of each and every person makes the march significant, both in our personal journeys toward liberation and in the struggles of our community — against AIDS and against the rising tide of anti-gay violence. Ours is a path without end; there will still be a need to march after AIDS is conquered and after everyone has come out. Every June we march to celebrate our history, to affirm who we are and to find the courage to shape who we may become.

In sincere love and pride,

Lester Pierce  
Executive Secretary  
Heritage of Pride, Inc.

### GOSSIP WATCH continued from page 45

Frankel. In it, Frankel hailed the arrival of the new blue rug that replaced the 'dirty' orange one trampled upon by staffers. Frankel also implored the troops to keep their desks clean since the simulated wood complements the new carpet so nicely." This is the man who runs the city desk at "the paper of record.".....Not always so astute, however, "Inside New York," on another day, wrote about Sukhreet Gabel posing nude for *My Comrade/Sister!*, calling it a gay magazine and expressing some surprise at why she'd be posing for gay men. They obviously didn't realize that the whacky mag is a gay and lesbian magazine, and that, as weird as it may seem, a lot of dykes want to catch a glimpse of Sukhreet (Query: How many lesbians actually *do* want to see Ms. Gabel in the raw?).....Sorry Jim Revson (*Newsday*), but your description of the organization People Taking Action Against AIDS just didn't seem to fit the name of the group: "Everywhere you looked, there were tents. There was a huge white tent for the live auction of furs, fashion and famous memorabilia, a smaller tent door for the silent auction and Bay Boutique, two drinks-and-eats tents and a blue band tent." Maybe the organization should change its name to People Taking Cocktails Against AIDS?.....

Note to William Norwich at *The New York Daily News*: Can't wait for you to come back from vacation. Miss dishing you. ▼

# CHP

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**TRIAL PRIMER** from page 9

when can doctors know if an experiment has succeeded or failed? Each case is different, and trial directors must closely watch for these "early warnings," especially if placebos are involved.

**Parallel Tracks**

Another concept promoted by ACT UP and others—and gaining favor with the NIH and the FDA—is the so-called "parallel track" system. Under this system, drugs that have been proven safe in clinical trials would be made available to AIDS, ARC and HIV-positive patients, even while the drugs are still being tested for effectiveness. Thus, parallel track patients could "provide a wealth of information on how a drug worked in the real world," according to a statement released by ACT UP's Treatment and Data Committee.

The system is ideal for many patients who do not fit into any of the rigorous protocols used in clinical trials. Often, people are excluded from trials because they are taking another type of drug. With the parallel track

they would not be excluded. This list of advantages is a long one. But using the parallel track would clearly benefit thousands of people while providing AIDS researchers with vital data on promising new drugs.

**Avoiding Tragedies**

In early July, a man with AIDS died while he was enrolled in an underground study of the antiviral GLQ223, better known as "Compound Q." Federal officials are investigating whether the drug, made from Chinese cucumber root, led to the man's death. Drug safety is essential, and must take precedence over even the most desperate demands of those who would try anything at all.

"We must be very careful. Even though the [compound Q] case is not surprising," said Dr. Armstrong. "PWAs often had to empower themselves every step of the way...right up to testing drugs themselves.

"But there must be strict guidelines, no coercion and totally informed consent in every protocol," he said. ▼

**MINORITY INVOLVEMENT** from page 10

spoke on the special needs and problems of that community. Pitkin, a PWA who unknowingly infected his late wife, said hemophiliacs "have not historically taken part in community-based trials." He said hemophiliacs often are eliminated from many protocols because they are also taking drugs to control their hemophilia.

"But now, we are pushing for change," Pitkin said. "Of the 20,000 hemophiliacs in this country, 10,000 are HIV positive. Of those, 1,000 developed full blown AIDS and 60 percent are dead." ▼

**D'AMATO** continued from page 15

Senator is opposed to censorship of any kind." Stalides said that D'Amato "supports full funding for the NEA," and that he did not support the House's cut in NEA funding. "He hopes the NEA will be able to review the process so that we don't have constituents offended in the future." ▼

—Catherine Saalfield

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- 2. USE A CONDOM DURING ORAL SEX.** If you don't, avoid placing the head of your partner's cock in your mouth. HIV-infected cum or precum can enter your bloodstream through cuts, tears or ulcers in your mouth.
- 3. USE DENTAL DAMS DURING ORAL-VAGINAL SEX.** HIV is present in some amounts in vaginal secretions, urine, menstrual blood, and infection-related vaginal discharge.
- 4. NEVER SHARE WORKS.** This includes needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers. If you must reuse works, clean them after each use with bleach, or in an emergency with rubbing alcohol or vodka, by drawing the solution into the needle three times and then drawing clean water into the needle three times.
- 5. AVOID FISTING, RIMMING, OR SHARING UNCLEANNED SEX TOYS.**
- 6. AVOID POPPERS.**
- 7. AVOID EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE.** Many people are unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
- 8. DON'T HESITATE TO:** Fuck with a condom, have oral sex with a condom. Play with, but don't share, clean sex toys, vibrators and dildoes. Enjoy massage, hugging, masturbation (alone, with a partner or in a group), and role-playing.

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**FAMILY** continued from page 16

insurance benefits for their lovers within the terms of Board of Education family health insurance plans.

The Braschi decision also comes at a time when Mayor Edward I. Koch is preparing an executive order to give municipal workers in domestic partner relationships bereavement leave rights. The executive order would serve to supplement the Court's ruling that long-term gay relationships constitute a family. Lee Hudson, director of the Mayor's Office for the Gay and Lesbian Community, said the Braschi decision will "influence a change in the definition of the immediate family, and the executive order gives further testament to the integrity of gay relationships."

Bernard Braverman, a person with AIDS living in Chelsea who has been fighting eviction from his own rent-stabilized apartment, greeted the Braschi decision with relief. "If I had to move to Queens or Brooklyn, I'd be up the creek," he said. Braverman was recently released from the hospital and is recovering from a bacterial pneumonia.

He has lived for 20 years in the apartment he shared with his lover, the leasee, who died in July of 1987 of an AIDS-related illness. Braverman's case is being decided in the Appellate Term of the State Supreme Court and according to Jim West, Braverman's attorney, the judge has held off awaiting the Braschi decision before deciding this case.

West was more cautious in his enthusiasm for predicted affects of the Braschi decision. The attorney said it "definitely gives us renewed momentum," and opined that the lower courts will regard the decision as a green light to rule in favor of tenants in these cases. But the battle is not over, he cautioned. "The landlords will fight this thing with everything they have," West said.

Judges Judith Kaye and Fritz Alexander joined Titone's decision; Judge Joseph Bellacosa wrote a separate but concurring decision. Dissenting were Judge Stewart Hancock, Jr., and Judge Richard Simons, who authored the dissenting opinion.

**SAN FRANCISCO** continued from page 19

been the clear opposition of another leading gay public official, health commissioner Jim Foster.

Foster, in testimony against the legislation, said he would have been forced into bankruptcy if he and his lover had been registered as domestic partners. Foster's lover of 12 years died of AIDS in 1985 and he told the supervisors his partner would have been ineligible for federal benefits programs if the two had been registered as domestic partners.

The economic questions Foster raised have left serious doubt in the minds of some lesbians and gay men over whether the new law is what they wanted or not. And community indifference to the law would be a clear disaster at the polls in November.

But even consultant Hukari conceded the fundamentalist and Schlafly attack on the legislation was "likely to inflame the gay community because they will...see it as an attack on their lifestyle."

*-filed from New York*

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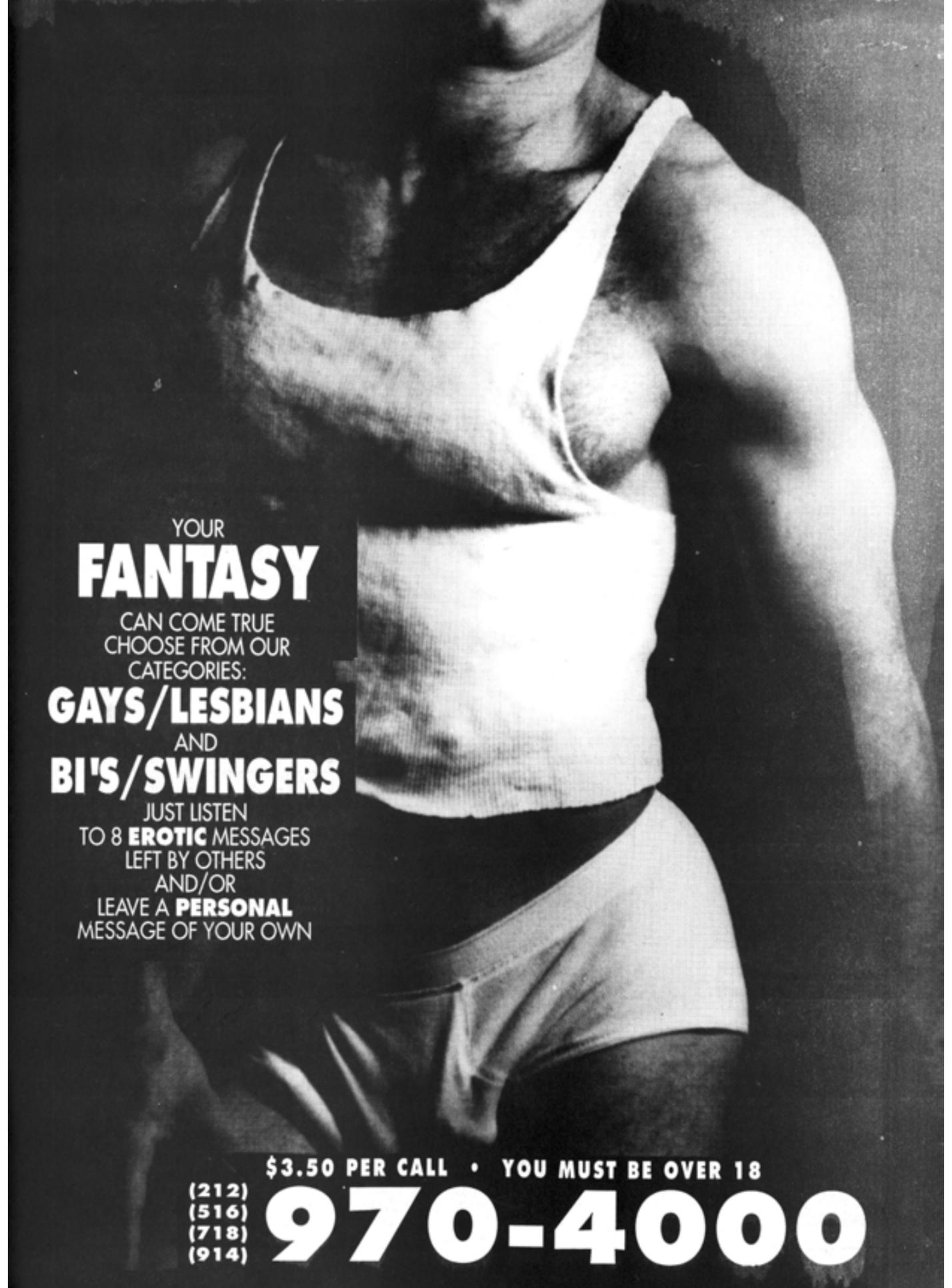
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CAN COME TRUE  
CHOOSE FROM OUR  
CATEGORIES:

**GAYS/LESBIANS**  
AND  
**BI'S/SWINGERS**

JUST LISTEN  
TO 8 **EROTIC** MESSAGES  
LEFT BY OTHERS  
AND/OR  
LEAVE A **PERSONAL**  
MESSAGE OF YOUR OWN

\$3.50 PER CALL • YOU MUST BE OVER 18

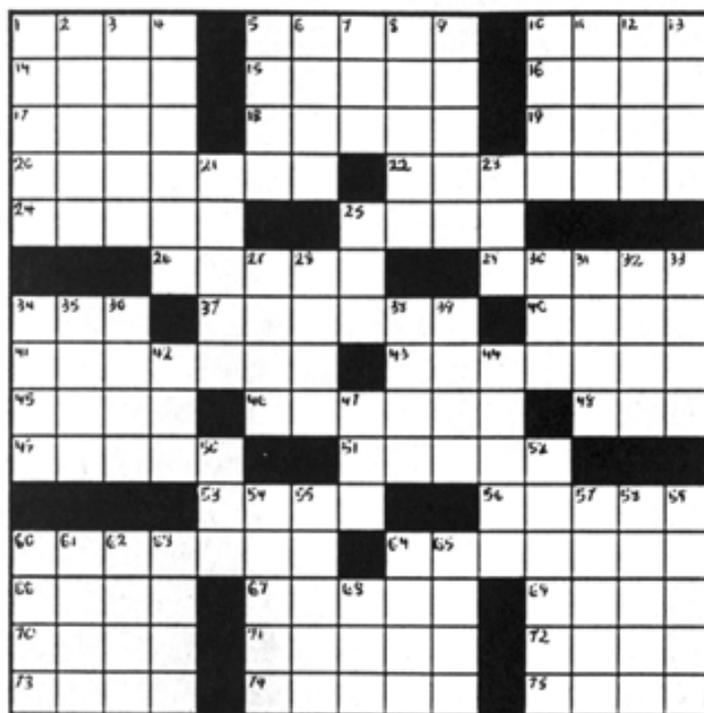
(212)  
(516)  
(718)  
(914)

**970-4000**

# Fag Flicks

by Phil Greco

Edited by Gabriel Rotello



6. Ogle
7. Eastern title
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Edwards
9. Prevent
10. Bird
11. Angle
12. Employer
13. Challenge
21. Lift
23. Increases
25. Pop
27. White and Dailey
28. *Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night*
30. Word with den & lock
31. Flower
32. Faction
33. Farm tools
34. Con
35. \_\_\_\_\_ *Like it Hot*
36. \_\_\_\_\_ sex
38. USA, comb form
39. Den
42. Compass pt.
44. Useful
47. \_\_\_\_\_ Bar
50. Archaic verb suffix
52. Word in Chinese menu
54. Lasso
55. Filmmaker Kenneth
57. \_\_\_\_\_-lilies
58. Foolish
59. Sagas
60. Facts
61. Enough: poetic
62. Baxter or Murray
63. Some Pleasure Chest items
64. Sea bird
65. Command
68. *Norma \_\_\_\_\_*

## SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S OUTWEEK ON SALE TUESDAY

### ACROSS

1. Detective
5. B&D type
10. Desirable man
14. E.g., Weena
15. Protection
16. Director Robert
17. Lock
18. Denoted
19. Hebrew letter
20. Gay movie, with 22 Across
22. See 20 Across
24. Indian princess
25. Johnny \_\_\_\_\_
26. Romanian gymnast
29. Pansy
34. Govt. agcy.
37. Hooligan
40. Comb. form from Ares
41. *Advise and \_\_\_\_\_*
43. Forster film
45. Uptown theater co.
46. Amen

48. Gay and Jane, for short
49. Brawl
51. Fragrant root
53. Server
56. \_\_\_\_\_ Arnaz
60. \_\_\_\_\_ *Venice* (2 wds.)
64. *The Boys in \_\_\_\_\_* (2 wds.)
66. \_\_\_\_\_ Domini
67. Concur
69. Happy
70. Star in 35 Down
71. Rends
72. Arm bone
73. Frightens
74. Common contraction
75. West and Quetsal

### DOWN

1. Exclude
2. Actress Massey
3. Punctuation mark
4. Young feline
5. Identical

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



HardCore To  
Domination OR  
Bondage UNDE  
HOT WAX Chains W  
HANDcuffs B&D L  
Glory Hole FIST  
Slave BOOTS FF  
MILITary Heavy t

ON D O E  
AUNCH B J To  
F' dding  
sters Har Core  
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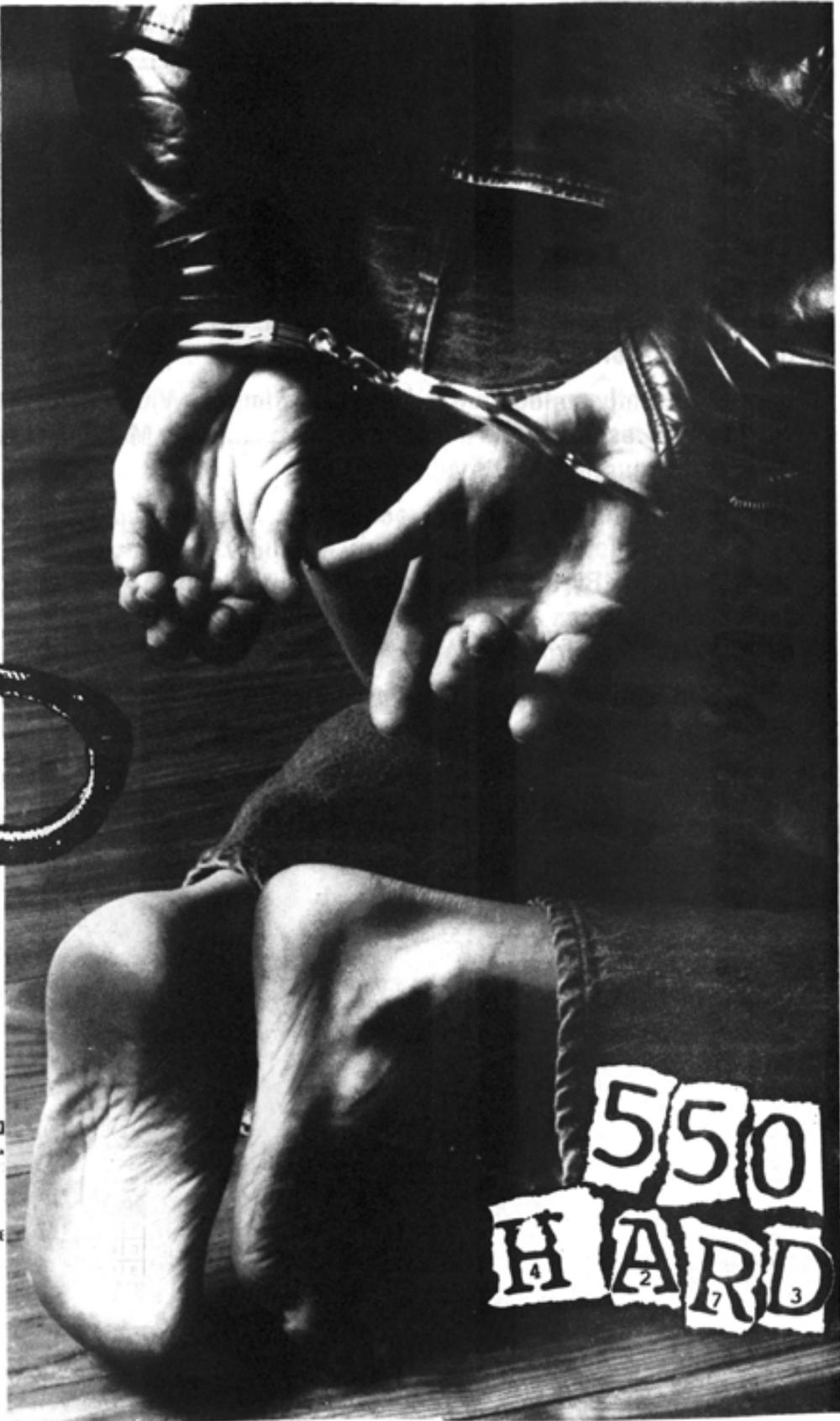
avy t  
Boots s  
Cuffs glory  
Cruise V  
raunt:  
submissions

WAX O  
uffs B&D L  
/ Hole FIST  
BOOTS FF  
ary

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(212, 718, 516, 914)  
H. B. J. T. O. N. T.  
king

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Mas: ar  
V D P. T.

The Ultimate in Har  
In HardcORE Ultima  
HARDCORE  
"Where THE TQmen  
Where THE TQmen an  
10¢ per minute/20-  
1st Minute 20¢/10-  
100% Gay Ownd/ope  
gay owned/operated  
CALL .CALL  
550HARD



550  
HARD

## Hot Shot *by Ericb Conrad*

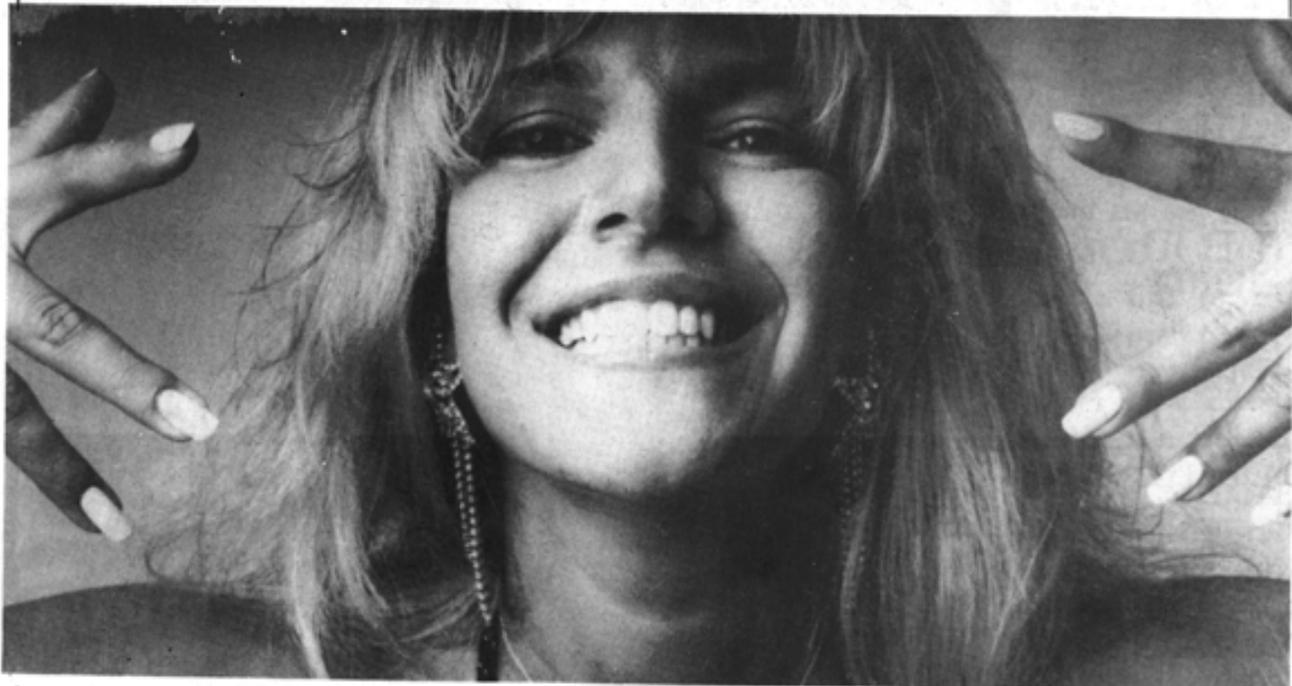
*Photos by Lizzerd Souffle*

**ROBIN BYRD**, the Barbara Walters of sleaze, is hosting a new show called "Men for Men" on Thursdays at 11:30 on Channel J. During the probably brief moment in time before the Reagan-Bushers black it out, gay men can watch their favorite porn stars cavort au natural on public access.

Byrd is currently on location in New York filming "Without You I'm Nothing" with world-class lesbian icons and bitchin' party animals Madonna and Sandra. Look for them in your neighborhood.

And as you media mavens may recall, rumors have swept the gossip pages linking Byrd in marriage to super wimp Barry Manilow. It seems the Liberace of bland proposed to Ms Byrd at Grace Jones' birthday bash and then confirmed it on the Tonight show. When asked to comment, Robin replied, "Read the papers." We'd rather watch the birdie.

Robin Byrd can be seen on Manhattan Cable, Channel J, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:30pm, Fridays at 1:00am and Saturdays at 11:00pm.



# Gay Cable Network salutes the 20th Anniversary of Stonewall.

*Turn on our programs every week  
on Manhattan Cable, Channel 23 (J)*

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**Thursdays****Pride & Progress**

10:30 pm

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

**July 27****The Fight for Domestic Partner  
Laws for New York City**

11:00 pm

**The Right Stuff**

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

**Sports in Los Angeles**

---

**Sundays****Men & Films**

11:30 pm

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

**July 30****Lee Baldwin gets shaved**

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**Mondays****Be My Guest**

10:00 pm

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

**July 31****Sybil--"Ed Norton" Visits  
Frankie--"The First Time We Made  
Love"**

---

**Gay Cable Network**

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Phone 212/477-4220

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