

OBITUARY SUBMITTED TO QW MAGAZINE BY RANDY WICKER, MARSHA'S ROOMMATE ON WEDNESDAY, 7/8/92.

Marsna P. Johnson, black transvestite survivor of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, Andy Warhol model, internationally acclaimed entertainer with the Hot Peaches Review, Anvil icon & a legendary ~~hooker~~ ~~panhandler~~ ^{prostitute} on Christopher Street & the West Side Highway was found floating in the Hudson River at the foot of Christopher Street late Monday afternoon, July 6th.

Marsha, a much beloved fixture in the Village for many years, was wearing men's clothing & had apparently drowned three or four days earlier, thursday 7/2 or friday 7/3. The body was so badly decomposed that surviving family members - brother & sisters, Robert, Jean & Norma Michaels of Elizabeth, N.J. - were not allowed to view either the body or photos thereof for identification purposes. *Fingerprints were used & the remains then cremated.*

While foul play has not been ruled out, Marsha - whose given name was Malcolm Michaels Jr. - just before disappearing early thursday morning, 7/2, gave bouquets of flowers to close friends & family members, disposed of his personal belongings & commenced displaying the excessive religiosity which had been the harbinger of ^{his} previous psychotic episodes.

During ^{her} ~~his~~ last breakdown during the fall of 1991, Marsha described seeing his long deceased father "in the water on the bottom of the river." Although certain Marsha was incapable of intentional self-destruction, Randy Wicker & George Flimlin, with whom Marsha had lived in Hoboken since 1980, theorize Marsha once again thought he saw deceased loved ones in the river or floating on the clouds above & simply walked ^{toward} ~~to join~~ them. Anyone with information is urged to call 212-255-1439.

*Footnote
7/10/92* AS LEAFLETS WERE POSTED AROUND THE VILLAGE, SEVERAL PEOPLE CAME FORTH SAYING THAT THEY HAD SEEN MARSHA ALIVE ON JULY 4th, THE DAY OF THE TALL SHIPS. UPON DISCOVERING THAT EDGARDO "WILLIE" MEDINA HAD BEEN ATTACKED THE EVENING OF JULY 4th & PUT IN THE HOSPITAL (ST. VINCENT'S) IN AN APPARENT BIAS ATTACK BY A GANG OF YOUNG MEN, THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY "THEORIZED" THAT NO FOUL PLAY WAS INVOLVED IN MARSHA'S DEATH BEGAN TO CHANGE THEIR MIND EVEN THOUGH NO SIGNS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE WERE EVIDENT DURING THE FIRST STAGES OF THE AUTOPSY. VILLAGER REPORTER CLAUDE SOLNIK WANDERED AROUND THE AREA ON 7/10 & WAS TOLD BY SEVERAL OF THOSE AROUND THE AREA THAT SOMETIMES HARASSERS CAME BY AND "PUSHED PEOPLE INTO THE WATER FOR THE FUN OF IT." EVERYTHING IS STILL BEING INVESTIGATED.