

# MY COMRADE

SUMMER 1993

\$3.00

**RUPAUL, THE MEDIA &  
THE GAY CONNECTION**  
**\*A SPECIAL REPORT\***



# OUR PAGE FIVE GAL



\*She's Girlina, the hot new gal on the scene, turning it out on New York's dancefloors.

Matter of fact, she's studied jazz, ballet, tap, and taught African dance.

\*Girlina speaks fluent slang. Some of her favorite expressions: "Trust sugar.

I was living for it.

I gave him nooch.

Tangy. Kiki. Cutting up.

Good glamour!"

\*Girlina has a modern outlook: "I don't believe

in men's or women's clothing. Bullshit, if it looks good, whirl in it!

If I was going to see the president I'd still wear something cunty."

Photo by Michael [REDACTED]  
Make-up by Lia [REDACTED]



**Back to our roots!**

With the 70's revival going strong will Farah's feathered hairdo be the next big thing? Get rich, invest in curling irons now!



**QUEENLY FASHIONS**

Natasha Twist makes an eye-popping fashion statement in her skimpy halter. Watch out Natasha, someone's trying to pinch your precious pearls!

# CARD STORE HITS THE DUST



The gay community of Greenwich Village is in shock over the closing of The Paper House, a store specializing in greeting cards and party goods. In a neighborhood where greeting card stores enjoy enormous popularity many residents were unable to ever recall a card store going out of business

Although concerned, the community seems confident that The Party House's demise was an isolated incident and an exception to the neighborhood's booming greeting card store industry.

While The Paper House on Greenwich Avenue was one of the Village's premiere greeting card stores, featuring four lengthy aisles plus several free-standing displays, some experts felt that the store had failed to modernize its card selection and also placed too much emphasis on funny hats, balloons, cartoon-character napkins and other party items. While most other card stores in

the area offer large selections of X-rated cards, The Party House had clung to a more traditional assortment.

Greenwich Village has New York City's highest ratio of greeting card stores, with one for approximately every fourteen residents. The high proportion has been directly linked to the area's large concentration of homosexuals, who according to consumer studies are one of the nation's largest purchasers of greeting cards.

The greeting card stores are also an important part of the Greenwich Village economy, employing dozens of people, and attracting countless tourists from around the world.

Future plans for the site, one of the Village's most prominent retail spots, are still undecided, but according to sources, several different investors have already approached the landlord about opening a brand new greeting card store.

## Are You Creative?

MY COMRADE Magazine seeks "talent": writers, ad reps, editorial assistants, nude models, etc.

Join Our Happy Family.



## OLD WIGS NEVER



**DIE!**

...They just get recycled. Today, RuPaul wears the hair of Sabrina (left), star of the 1967 documentary, "The Queen".



*My Comrade's*

# Washington

**Washington** really is beautiful and adding a million or so dykes and fags made it all the lovelier.

Thongs came out of the woodwork for April 25th's massive march and rally, and a few die-hard queens even got dolled up for the occasion:

**Miss Understood, Hedda Lettuce, Psychotic Eve, Antony, Johanna Constantine, etc.**

Film director **John Waters** was there, and so was sex maverick **Annie Sprinkle** and New York politician **Ruth Messinger** (but not together). And on the **Christopher Ciccione**-designed-stage (oooooh) such notables as **Cybil Sheppard, Judith Light** (of "Who's the Boss"), **Jesse Jackson, Martina Navratilova**, and **RuPaul** whipped the crowd into a frenzy. The weather was gorgeous, even hot, and the next day you could tell who went to DC by their lobster-red foreheads, prompting **Ebony Jet** to suggest a benefit for "The Washington Burn Victims".

According to the grapevine, presidential spokesperson **George Stephanopoulos** is dating **Hillary Clinton's** hairdresser, but **Mr. C** himself chose to skip the rally which was rather tired, Miss Thing. But with all the gaiety and carrying on, who really noticed?



# Scrapbook

WASHINGTON  
Our  
Nation's Capitol



In Photos: Randy & Girlina, Adam & Charles, Abe & George, Miss Understood, Candace & Andre, Captain America, Protesters

Photos by Paul



The next day The New York Times ran a cool editorial:



## Washington — by Way of Stonewall

The modern gay rights movement started a quarter of a century ago, when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a cross-dressers' bar in Greenwich Village. The incident led to three days of civil disobedience, much of it by men in drag.

Stonewall convinced gay men and lesbians that they were under attack and that they needed to organize for political action and demonstrations, like the one last weekend in Washington.

This march was Ozzie and Harriet compared with the Stonewall days or even with the annual gay pride parade in New York. As The Los Angeles Times's Bettina Boxall wrote:

"They wanted to show to America that they were 'regular' people, the kind that live next door, go to work every day and pay their taxes. While the

march included the exotic — some bare-breasted women, transvestites and people clad in leather gear — for the most part, the demonstrators were conventional, orderly and well behaved."

"Ordinary" and "The People Next Door" were mantras of the weekend, as though the right of full citizenship depends on how one chooses to dress. It doesn't. And it's a dangerous idea.

The fixation on "normalcy" is understandable given how gay Americans have been demonized in recent years. But the measure of a just society is not how it treats people who look like Ozzie and Harriet. That's the easy part. A just society must offer the same full citizenship to the flamboyant dressers in last weekend's parade as it does to those who looked "just like the people next door."



**SPECIAL  
REPORT**

# Queens and the media

**The increasing popularity of drag queens in mainstream culture has generated an onslaught of media coverage. Which queens are receiving the most press? And which queens deserve it?**

**The scene:** The Todd Oldham Fall '93 Fashion Show. The crowd: Anna Wintour of Vogue, Steven Meisel, Boy George, Debbie Mazar, Fred Schneider, Sylvia Miles, Russel Simmons and hundreds of other fashion junkies have all converged for this huge media event.

The show is fashionably late and the room is buzzing with excitement, when suddenly a commotion comes from the back of the room. There she is, towering above the masses, making her way to a front row seat, the pop-star-drag-queen-sensation, RuPaul, radiant in hot pants and pigtails.

The paparazzi goes crazy, and a film crew rushes to her for an interview. The audience bursts into applause and Ru waves and smiles, basking in the limelight. It's a perfect star entrance.

Suddenly it's showtime and the world's most glamorous models hit the runway - Christy Turlington, Kate Moss, Giselle, Tyra, Roshumba - and half of them acknowledge Ru. Of all the models the best received is drag-queen-mannequin, Billy Beyond, and it's Billy that Todd chooses to walk with, arm-in-arm, down the runway for the show's finale...

There is nothing, repeat nothing, 99.9% of drag-queens enjoy more than media attention, and Billy and Ru have each just received a major dose, their image sure to appear on television screens and magazines around the world, helping to confirm their status as top media queens.

But media queens aren't easily satisfied. As soon as the last flashbulb pops an uncontrollable urge begins for even bigger and better press coverage. Media attention

is a highly addictive, never-ending pursuit, but its rewards make it all worthwhile: press clippings, video reels, fame, adoration, groupies, and invitations to even more media events.

RuPaul is of course the reigning media queen, having pulled ahead of the pack back in late '92 when Ru's smash single, "Supremodel", began climbing the charts. Since then Ru has appeared in countless magazines, been profiled on "Entertainment Tonight", performed on "Joan Rivers" and two brilliant appearances on Arsenio Hall.

Seducing the media is RuPaul's specialty. She talks in sound bits and is easily quotable. She knows which public appearances will generate coverage (like the Todd Oldham show) and once there she works the room like a seasoned pro. An avid follower of the media herself, RuPaul has shrewdly studied her idols (Dinah Ross, Cher, etc.) and learned proper "star behavior".

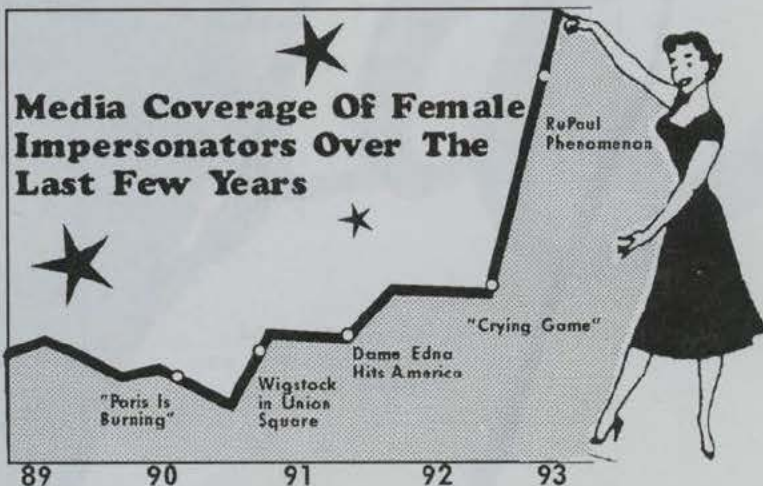
Ru's ascent into stardom puts her firmly at the top of the media queen chart, and with her new album and hit single, "Back To My Roots", RuPaul is well-poised to remain there for quite some time. But the media chart is fickle and in constant rotation, and a year from now its order could be completely changed. Nine short months ago,

RuPaul was a relative unknown headlining at The Pyramid, so who knows which obscure guy-in-a-dress might be next.

Perhaps Sissy Fit will grace the cover of Us. Or Hedda Lettuce will be schmoozing with Jay Leno. Or Kabuki will land her own sitcom. The speculation is endless, but in the meanwhile each and every queen is doing their best to climb the media chart.

But obtaining top status is much more than just jumping in front of any old camera. The top queens are top because they have that "something extra". The press has always been attracted to beauty, talent and originality, and it's the queens that possess those qualities who have the best chance for media stardom. An outrageous look at a hip party is great for a few snapshots, but ultimately it's the well-developed act or persona combined with strategic publicity and photo-ops that gets the major press.

RuPaul has worked hard for her fame, and the rewards have been incredible: a video library and an entire filing cabinet of press clippings, plus some incredible memories. Like right after her first Arsenio taping, when in full drag she was chauffeured, in pure Hollywood glamour style, across the Paramount lot in the back of a golf cart. Where to? Why, another media opportunity, this time with CNN.



# top media queens



## Suzanne Bartsch

Pin-up girl of The New York Times Style Section; European & American fashion magazines, Michael Musto's column, profile on her and boytoy, David Barton in Vanity Fair.



## Lypsinka

Has the hardest working press agent in town. Her new Off-Broadway show has triggered a major publicity crunch. Cover of "U", Advocate interview and photos, Genre fashion spread.



## RuPaul

Winner and champion. "Arsenio", "Joan Rivers", "Entertainment Tonight", MTV: in depth profiles by The New Yorker and Details; articles in Sassy, Interview, Entertainment Weekly, the list goes on and on and on.



## Jaye Davidson

A most bizarre case of a publicity shy drag queen, even passed down chance to be escorted to Academy Awards by Madonna. But extensive coverage of "The Crying Game" puts Jaye in 2nd place.



## The Lady Bunny

Her press coverage increases greatly at Wigstock time. Most recent press: full page in Interview, Face Magazine, Harpers Bazaar, "Joan Rivers Show", Vanity Fair and Daily News profile on her now closed clubnight "Poop"



## Joey Arias

Appeared on "Joan Rivers" and "Geraldo" wearing the same outfit: a "man-bra"; cover of Thing magazine; paparazzi shots, especially in The Paper.



## ChiChi LaRue

West coast based so she's not as well covered by major magazines, but lots of California press and national gay media. On "Joan Rivers" twice, also Robin Byrd.



## Lady Miss Kier

Constant appearances in fashion articles; European & Japanese press. Two years ago Kier topped the chart, almost surpassing RuPaul's current success.



## Billy Beyond

Major mileage as model for Todd Oldham. "Entertainment Tonight", Allure, Vanity Fair, Village Voice, European fashion magazines.



## Mathu & Zaldy

Press darlings and RuPaul's stylists. As a couple in Allure, Mirabella, The Paper, Italian Glamour; Zaldy solo on "Entertainment Tonight"



In a secretly recorded phone conversation with Arsenio Hall, Eddie Murphy revealed that he was hot to trot for pop singer RuPaul, and nearly fell to the floor when Arsenio had to tell him that the leggy 6'4" stunner was actually a man!

**Eddie Murphy:** Yo, Arsenio!

**Arsenio Hall:** Eddie my man, what's

# Eddie Murphy in shock-- "RuPaul is a *WHAT?!!*"

up? You in L.A.?

**EM:** No, I'm in Jersey. Nicole and the kids are at her dad's place.

**AH:** Hey hey hey, while the wife's away the Eddie do play. Or now that you got hitched are you the faithful loving husband?

**EM:** Hey, I might be married, but I'm not stupid. And that's why I was wondering, do you know how to get in touch with that singer you had on your show recently, you know, RuPaul?

**AH:** Yeah, I might know, but that singer you're talking about ain't necessarily a woman.

**EM:** You mean all that talk is true? I thought all that shit about her being a man was just a bunch of PR bullshit. When I saw her I said, damn now that's one fine lady... How do you know for sure? She don't look like she got no dick.

**AH:** I know man, believe me I know.

**EM:** What, you trying to tell me you messed around with her?

**AH:** (Laughs) Not yet! But remember those one-way mirrors we have

installed in the dressing rooms?

**EM:** Oh shit!

**AH:** Man, you can not judge a book by its cover. She is 100% bonafide male.

**EM:** Shit, that is fucking incredible!

That's twice I've been fooled, man. Did you see "The Crying Game"? What's her name?

**AH:** Jaye Davidson. We're working on getting her for the show. Why, you want to date her?

**EM:** Get outta here, man! I just fucking wish that RuPaul was a lady. Hey, why don't you give me her number anyways.

**AH:** Eddie, you are a freak.

**EM:** Fuck you man, I got some movie projects I'm working on and there might be a role for her, I mean him.

**AH:** Hold on, I'll get the number, but I can't promise anything.

**EM:** There's no harm in trying. I get some alternatives if she don't work out. You ever here of this place, Edelweiss?

**AH:** Hey Eddie - Sashay, sashay...

**EM:** Shante, shante, shante!

## Amazing Fact

An autograph by RuPaul worth seven cents in 1991 has more than **tripled** in value and today is worth almost a quarter!

## Is RuPaul Bigger than Divine?

### Top Grossing Drag Queens of 20th Century:

- 1) Boy George
- 2) Divine
- 3) Dame Edna
- 4) Sylvester
- 5) Dustin Hoffman as "Tootsie"
- 6) Flip Wilson as "Geraldine"
- 7) Dana Carvey as "Church Lady"
- 8) Craig Russel
- 9) J. Edgar Hoover
- 10) RuPaul

### Top Grossing Transsexuals:

- 1) Christine Jorgenson
- 2) Rene Richards
- 3) Amanda Lear
- 4) Tula

### Top Grossing Homosexuals:

- 1) David Geffen
- 2) Merv Griffin
- 3) Calvin Klein
- 40) Billie Jean King





MC readers  
want to know:

# Which Witch is Which?

Don't Be Fooled By These Queens' Sound-Alike Names - Mistaking One For The Other Could Cause Big Problems!

**Chi Chi LaRue** is a porno director and cabaret performer in L.A.

**Chi Chi Valenti** is MC and promoter of the clubnight, Jackie 60

**Biggest Similarity:** Both work with cocksuckers.

**Biggest Difference:** Ability to breastfeed.

**Afrodite** is the new Miss Boy Bar

**Aphrodita** is the recently crowned Queen of Manhattan

**Biggest Similarity:**

Illusions of grandeur.

**Biggest Difference:** Eight inches.

**Lady Bunny** organizes Wigstock

**The Goddess Bunny** is a wheelchair-bound-transvestite-dwarf-cult-figure living in L.A.

**Biggest Similarity:** Feakish appearance.

**Biggest Difference:** The Goddess Bunny is a better dancer.

**Shequita** assists and performs for party promoter Lee Chappel

**Sheniqua** performs at Boybar and also goes by

Sheila

**Biggest Similarity:** Big feet.

**Biggest Difference:** Sheniqua's IQ is over 50.

**RuPaul** is the chart-topping pop singer

**Baby Ru** go-go dances at The Cha-Cha Lounge and Glitz

**Biggest Similarity:** Bouts of whoreish behavior; fierce tucks.

**Biggest Difference:** Blackmail photos of Baby Ru not worth anything.

**Rita Menu** performs often at The Crow Bar and Stingy Lulu's Restaurant

**Rita Hayworth** was a glamorous movie star of the 40's

**Biggest Similarity:** Alzheimer's

**Biggest Difference:** Rita Menu is much older.

**Black Lips** is a theatre group that performs at The Pyramid

**Lypsinka** is currently starring Off-Broadway

**Biggest Similarity:** Combined age of Black Lips members equivalent to Lypsinka's

**Biggest Difference:**

Lypsinka able to appear on stage without holding script.

**Fuschia** is a promoter with Limelight and USA

**Misstress Fuschia** is a club promoter from Miami Beach

**Biggest Similarity:** Both into domination

**Biggest Difference:** One charges, the other doesn't

**BrendaGoGo** is co-hostess of the cable show "On Patrol"

**Brenda Sexual** was co-hostess of "The Brenda And Glenda Show"; retired to Florida

**Biggest Similarity:** Low ratings

**Biggest Difference:** Who cares?

**Lahoma Van Zandt** is a hostess at the Limelight

**Granny** was a character on "The Beverly Hillbillies"

**Biggest Similarity:** Actually, Lahoma and Granny are the same person. Have you ever seen them in the same room together?



Lady



Goddess



Menu



Hayworth



Afro



Aphro

## Media Ownership Best Assurance of Regular Coverage says Trannie

By Linda Simpson

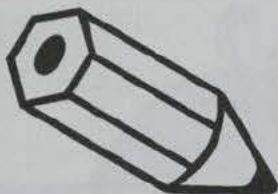
Which TV shows and magazines are drag queens most likely to appear in? "On Patrol", "Cooking With Ruby", "The Brenda & Glenda Show", Fertile La Toyah Jackson Magazine, Dragazine, MY COMRADE, and that's because they're all drag queen owned and operated. Yes, drag queens are invading

the airwaves and publishing industry, making stars out of their crossdressing editors and correspondents. I know because I speak from experience.

As editor of MY COMRADE I have been profiled by some of the world's most prestigious magazines like Honcho and All-Male. Also, after appearing weekly on Channel 35's "Party Talk" I now swear

by the power of television after hundreds have approached me to say they watch me religiously.

If you're a queen interested in mass exposure on a regular basis I suggest you too get your own TV show immediately. Just make sure it's not opposite mine (Sundays, 11-Midnight), OK honeybunch?



# QUIZ: do you have what it takes to be a top media queen?

**You're being interviewed by Vanity Fair. What information should you not divulge?**

- A) Your sex life
- B) Your tucking secrets
- C) Your seething jealousy of RuPaul's success
- D) Your crack addiction

**You're on the Donahue Show and an audience member asks what bathroom do you use? You reply:**

- A) The men's room
- B) The women's room
- C) Fuck you, smart ass!
- D) All of the above

**You're invited to a high-profile movie premiere. Who do you bring as your guest?**

- A) Your agent
- B) Your hairdresser
- C) Your best friend
- D) A starfucker

**You're booked for Arsenio. Who do you hope the other guests are?**

- A) Roseanne Barr and Luke Perry

**B) Catherine Deneuve and Mel Gibson**  
**C) Two bland has-beens, all the better to make you appear more fabulous.**

**While talking to Arsenio you sense he may be sexually aroused. What do you do?**

- A) Giggle and play with your hair
- B) Spread your legs slightly and rub your thighs
- C) Stare at his crotch and smack your lips
- D) Whisper "I want to fuck you" as he asks you a question

**"The Richard Bey Show" calls and says they're looking for contestants for their "Homely Drag Queen" contest. You:**

- A) Slam down the receiver
- B) Ask if there's any pay involved
- C) Give them Mona Foot's number

**You're invited to an important Hollywood shindig. Who do you try to meet?**

- A) Swifty Lazar
- B) Jackie Collins
- C) The cute Mexican barback

**You're really in the big leagues now and you meet Michael Jackson. What do you say?**

- A) Where's Brooke?
- B) Does that disease effect your entire body?
- C) Hi LaToya.

**Which is your best way of being mentioned in Homo Xtra?**

- A) Buying an ad
- B) A bribe of chocolate-covered doughnuts
- C) Kissing ass
- D) All of the above

**Match the drag queen to the magazine they would most like to appear in:**

- |                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Dog Weekly      | Flotilla |
| Hustler         | Lahoma   |
| Modern Maturity | Hattie   |

## RUPAUL vs THE SUPERMODELS

*Neck & Neck for Media Coverage*

(Chart for first half of 1993 - Includes feature profiles only, not paid modeling assignments)

1. Claudia Schiffer
2. Cindy Crawford
3. Kristin McMenamy
4. Naomi Campbell
5. RUPAUL
6. Kate Moss
7. Christy Turlington
8. Linda Evangelista
9. Niki Taylor
10. Grace Jones

## Yasmeen: "TV's A Turn-Off"



Supermodel Yasmeen doesn't like sharing the catwalks with female impersonators. On "Entertainment Tonight" Yasmeen yakked that she finds she-male models "An insult to women's beauty. I don't think I have to compete with men..." Yasmeen darling, no one could ever compete with your flawless looks. It's your personality that stinks.

## How To Score Yourself:

Score 10 points for each question you answered with an A, B, C or D. Multiply by six, divide by three, then add the year you were born, take two aspirin and call us in the morning.

## Where to best spot drag queens in NYC:

- Suzanne Bartsch Pary ● Wigstock
- Night of 1000 Gowas Ball ● Limelight
- Stingy Lulu's ● Pyramid
- Unemployment line ● 14th Street

# The Gay Connection

## An Era of Opportunity: Drag queens aren't just camp, they're the new gay leaders

**Glory Be**, America has "discovered" drag and it's great. But in all the hullabaloo something seems to have been strangely, purposely neglected - The Gay Connection.

MTV loved RuPaul's "Supermodel". A pretty queen singing about models is dandy, it's just when they start kissing each other like in Madonna's "Justify My Love" that MTV starts banning them from the airwaves.

Film critics adore drag's suspense value in "The Crying Game", but has any one of them mentioned the "gay angle" of the movie?

The media heralds the new, appealing DQs as "non-threatening", beautiful to look at, but basically non-sexual.

Drag queens it seems are finally reaping the benefits of pop culture, but in the process they're being cleansed of their homosexuality and neutered for mass consumption. Once again the innovations of gay people are in danger



of being co-opted and their origins forgotten.

Well it's certainly obvious one might argue that most drag queens are gay. But for millions of people perhaps it isn't that clear. (Remember, the general public was shocked that Liberace was a fag). And it's up to us to teach them that drag is more than throwing on a dress.

And no, that doesn't mean that every queen in the spotlight has to make it a constant, heavy-handed issue that they're gay, but in these times a closeted drag queen is old-fashioned and irrelevant. While drag is silly and camp it is also tied in with the harsh realities of

oppression that all gay people face, and hopefully the new drag stars will use their celebrity to highlight (ala Liz Taylor) social causes and issues, and inspire and educate their audience.

Already a few jaded souls are suggesting that drag is over, it's time to move on to some new "trend". We don't think so.

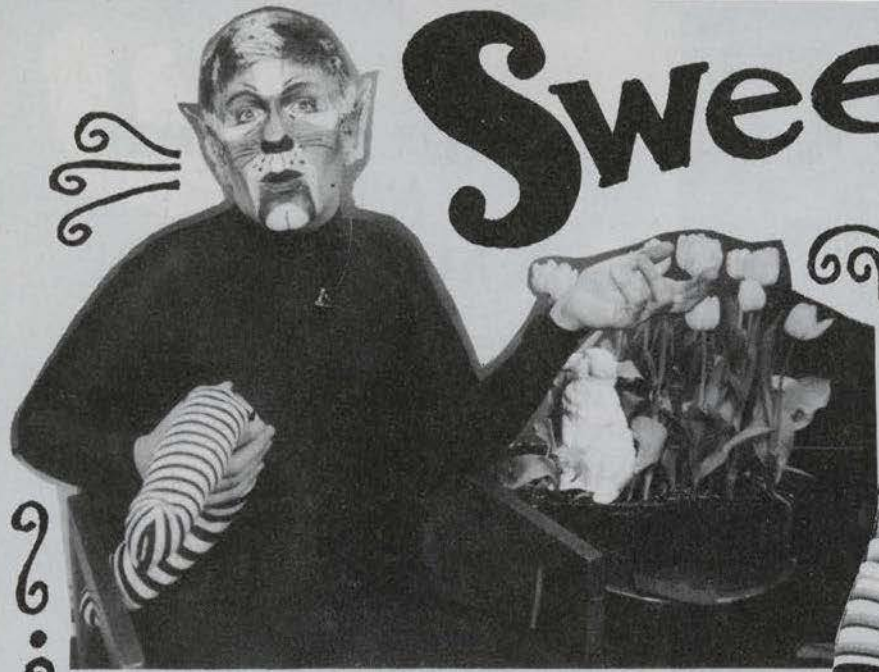
Instead of waning in energy as mass acceptance increases, drag has continued to be enlivened by infusions of new energy and talent. What we're seeing today is just the tip of the drag iceberg. The drag revolution has begun.

But if drag queens in their

quest for power and fame leave their gay brothers and sisters behind, left on their own to fight discrimination and violence, it will be a hollow victory indeed. Drag queens have always been the prophets and the vanguards of the gay movement and today their status is greater than ever, and so are their options.

If they choose to, drag queens can transport us all to a higher ground. And they can remind the world that drag is about breaking down sexual barriers, rejecting conventional roles, subverting "traditional values", and that drag in all its loveliness is about, goddamnit, being gay!

# Sweet Memories



HAPI PHACE ON PARTY TALK

MIA PROMOTING "KATZ" AT LIMELIGHT

DESIRE AT BIGTOP AND BERTON  
FLLOYD



CLARE SCANDELL

DE BARGE

