

Out on the Town



With Liz and Sydney

by Liz Tracey and Sydney Pokorny

Liz: Channel 69's Fourth of July was a celebration of national proportions—the best place to celebrate (or bemoan) the state of Gay and Lesbian America. In keeping with the holiday spirit (which in some neighborhoods consisted of walking down streets which resembled combat zones to wait out the evening's stupidity) the show was "Gay Love American Style." The premise went like this: A lesbian alien from Mars (the planet, not the club) lands in Tompkins Square Park, while TV reporters **Linda Simpson** and **Katy Crocodile** seeking fag and dyke responses to the question, What is Gay Love? unwittingly interview the alien and discover a sister from another planet.

Katy Crocodile is our new fave lesbian. In addition to helping with the shows at Pyramid and appearing as the only sane lesbian in most of them, she has also done performances with her friend **Shelly Mars**. (Look for Katy at '69--the one in the sequined dress who isn't a man.)

Sydney: It looked like *paparazzo*, promoter and consummate host **John Simone** was holding court as he sat at the head of the dinner table. He later decreed that his birthday party reminded him of a Fellini film. The rather subdued event at MK seemed more like a **Luis Bunuel** flick—you guessed it, the *Discreet Charm of the Paparazzo*. Dinner guests included John's good friends among them, the noble **Quentin Crisp**, a smattering of press and various performers. Among the performers, **Suzanne Goulet**, a real woman **Liza Minnelli** impersonator who carries around a mannequin head with a Liza wig (the new 'do) and sings "Losing My Mind" in front of a backdrop-video of the tune. A "distant cousin" of **Robert Goulet**, she just returned from Barbados, where she "did Liza for six months" and became certified in scuba rescue. (Hmm...I wonder who is losing her mind.) Never one to judge, cable tv star **Robin Byrd** invited "Liza" to be on her show—"Who could pass up a topless Liza look-a-like in a kiddie swimming pool?"

We asked Robin about her scandalous party for Sandra Bernhard's *Without You I'm Nothing* in Los Angeles. The Star reported that the party spontaneously turned into a "sex orgy" and included a



MARIA AT QUICK!

Photo: Liz and Sydney

shocked **Drew Barrymore**. Robin said *The Star* report was inaccurate (no surprise). The party was not an orgy and Drew was not on stage with strippers, although the 16-year-old recovering addict admits to being a Byrdwatcher. The tabloid also neglected to mention that the party was a benefit for AmFAR and misspelled Byrd's name. The reported "orgy" is nothing compared to her plans for her August 18 benefit for the Community Research Initiative at the Ice Palace on Fire Island, which will include hunky men (for the boys) and busty women (for the girls). At dinner's end, Robin got up from the table to "smother" John. Our host jokingly protested as she pushed his face into her chest.

Liz: Maria, the **Madonna** of Hong Kong, performed at Quick! last Thursday to great, if puzzled reception. Sydney and I had assumed that she was going to

sing Madonna songs a la *Chinoise*, and when, instead, Bizet's aria *L'amour d'un oiseau*.. commenced with a decidedly salsa beat in Cantonese, we were not disappointed. A member of one of Hong Kong's big pop bands, Grasshopper came on stage to dance with Maria and created a small melting pot in the heart of Tribeca. Her final number, "People" (the **Patti La Belle** song, not **Barbara Streisand's**), won the audience when it was prefaced with a call for "unity among all people." Her appearance was part of a tour of Hong Kong pop stars that climaxed at the Palladium.

Sydney: A promo party for that shrill, neo-punk, house-music version of "I am Woman"—"I'm a Bitch" by **A Bitch Named Johanna** and featuring moans by **Wendy Wild**—was held by the Panty Girdles crew at Quick! The singer, the moaner and something known as the Voguing Nation filled the tiny stage and performed the X-rated version. "I'm a Bitch," a song (as performance art) that can never be performed in Florida is a streetwise feminist track about sexual liberation that tells it like it is: ("Ladies, at all times you carry a condom"). Another recent record release and the dance hit of the summer which has yet to have a promo party, is **Deee-Lite's** "Grove Is in Your Heart/What is Love?". Touted as the next big group to spin out of the club scene, Deee-Lite includes **Lady Kier**, deejay **Dimitry** and **Towha** and has performed everywhere from Wigstock to BoyBar. Clad in retro '70s/B-Boy fashions, their music is a "dee-lightful," dee-groovy" mixture of house, hip-hop and Laugh-In.

Liz: The first anniversary of Love Machine was a sight to behold—a dance floor so jammed it took two hours for us to be able to walk around freely. While the toilet-paper throwing so popular in its first weeks wasn't resuscitated for the party ("bathroom tissue" is now kept under lock and key), the crew (**Larry Tee**, **Lahoma Van Zandt**, **Ru Paul** and

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Kenny Kenny) was there to jog your memories about what was so fun in the first place—perhaps the steamy, hormones-on-feet effect of the club. Standing in a back stairwell, a hundred shirtless men and women in bras walked past us, and our assemblage was on cruise control (as in "Control yourself!"). As sparklers were lit during the second show to celebrate both the anniversary and the Fourth of July, Lahoma recited her version of the Bill of Rights: "We have the freedom to have as much safe sex as we want on the piers, and to watch as much sex as we want on Channel J. And remember: This country was founded by men in wigs!"