

Reviews

A Funny Time to be Gay, edited by Ed Karvoski, Jr.

Simon & Schuster, \$12.00 paperback

Reviewed by Bruce Johnson

Gay men and lesbians have always had a place in the entertainment industry. That, however, is not readily apparent due to the large number of gay entertainers who remain closeted throughout time. Welcome to the 1990's, in which, according to comedienne Lea Delaria, "It's hip to be queer."

In his book *A Funny Time to be Gay*, Ed Karvoski, Jr., offers a sensational compilation of gay and lesbian humor from the 1970's through the current decade. Contributors include Michael Dane, Danny McWilliams, Barry Steiger, Scott Silverman, Judy Carter, Suzanne Westenhoefer, Robin Tyler, columnist Ms. Behavior, and more. They reflect the diversity of the gay and lesbian community as they carry their joyful message: "We're here, we're queer, get used to laughing along with us."

Many gay and lesbian comics address social issues and fight for gay rights through their own routines. For example, Robin Tyler tells of a man who once screamed at her, "I think they should take all you queers and put you on an island," to which Robin replied, "Oh, but they did, darling. They call it Manhattan."

Danny McWilliams, talking about medical waste washing ashore in New York, quipped, "Twenty years ago I had an appendix removed. I found it at Jones Beach. Thank God I didn't have a sex change!"

Michael Dane, a bisexual, relates, "I keep telling myself I'm not queer. It's just that all the men that I fall for are."

Bill Maher, host of ABC-TV's "Politically Incorrect," said of Karvoski's collection, "This is the sort of book that all of America — gay and straight — should be reading." According to actress Whoopi Goldberg, "There's not a closet big enough for this book."

A Funny Time to be Gay provides the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities with role models who convey the message that it's OK to be proud of ourselves and our identities. What a refreshing change from society's homophobic diatribes! The comedy routines presented offer something to which virtually everyone — gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or straight — can relate. I highly recommend this book to all who need some inspiration along with a good dose of knee-slapping humor. ▼

Size Queen, "Pimps, Pumps, and Pushers."

Twisted America Records, 1997.

Reviewed by Alex Corey

First it was RuPaul and "Supermodel;" then along came "Diva" by Club 69. Dance queens everywhere strutted their stuff, lip-syncing glamorously as the house beats pounded. Attitude was everything. Self-indulgence was de rigeur.

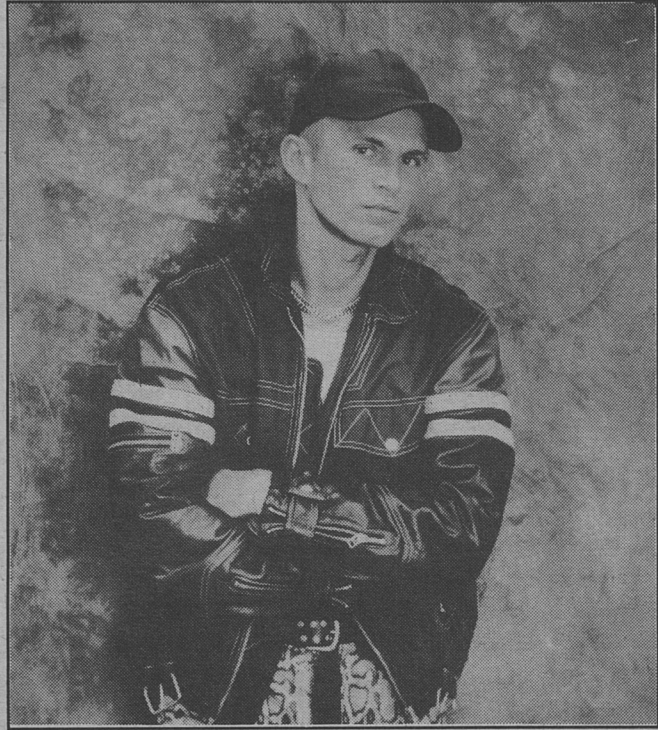
Then came the "Macarena," and everything changed. Overnight, dance floors changed from Fassbinder fantasies to Brady Bunch sing-a-longs. Hets and breeders everywhere grabbed their asses and swiveled their hips alongside their queer sisters and brothers. DJs shuddered in revulsion. Club owners threatened suicide. Democrats everywhere lost what little shreds of self-respect they had left.

But even as most Americans followed Al Gore's lead and fondled their butts to the beat, Club 69's Paul Rauhofer took on the name Sizequeen and whipped up "Walk!," an impetuous and fierce track that blended the best elements of "Supermodel" and "Diva" with a few references to "I'm Too Sexy" thrown in for good measure.

The song shot high on the hit list in clubs, but never quite stayed in orbit. Perhaps the success of the "Macarena" symbolized club culture's inevitable boredom with catty catwalkers. Seen from this angle, "Walk!" was trite and passé. Been

there done that, girl — next!

And so, as a follow-up to "Walk!," Rauhofer/Sizequeen has released "Pimps, Pumps, and Pushers," a full-length disc just bustling with beats. Alas, there's



Paul Rauhofer, a.k.a. Size Queen

not much here that one can't find on his legendary Club 69 release "Adults Only." Even raunch-promising titles like "Horny" and "(that body made for) Sin" only recall the past glories of tracks like "Let Me Be Your Underwear."

The cover art (sorry, no buff bods this time) certainly won't grab the attention of the discriminating disc-buyer, either, what with its sleazy

cigarette-smoking hooker flashing her wares in the night. No matter how good the CD sounds on the stereo, it just won't look good on the coffee table, and that's bound to be a turnoff for the modern gay man — you know, the one who now claims an interest in classical music because of the shirtless studs pictured in the liner notes these days.

Still, if you're living in denial and are in desperate need of something, anything, to combat Macarena madness, Sizequeen's bound to be a sure fit. Flip up the thermostat, slip in the disc, strip down, and let the deep house beat take care of your pre-summer blues. Within minutes, it'll feel like 1994 all over again. ▼

Log Cabin Club Republicans Honor Senator Jeffords

by Paul Olsen

WASHINGTON DC — Vermont Senator James Jeffords was recently honored by the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Log Cabin Club for his work promoting gay and lesbian civil rights in the 104th Congress. Jeffords, a Republican, has represented Vermont in the U.S. Senate since 1989. Prior to his election to the Senate, Jeffords served in the U.S. House of Representatives, as Vermont's Attorney General, and as a State Senator from Rutland County.

The Capital Area Log Cabin Club of Washington, D.C. presented Jeffords with its annual Walt Whitman Award at a reception attended by more than 100 Log Cabin Club members and guests. As Chair of the District of Columbia Subcommittee, Jeffords was cited by the group for his successful defeat of House attempts to repeal the District of Columbia's Domestic Partnership Act and to restrict the ability of unmarried couples to adopt.

"Senator Jeffords demonstrated through his leadership that Republicans are in fact concerned with equal rights for all citizens," said Log Cabin Board member Carl Schmid at the award ceremony.

Although Jeffords no longer chairs the District of Columbia subcommittee, Capital Area Log Cabin members expressed optimism regarding his continued leadership as Chair of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) and federal HIV/AIDS programs. In the Senate, Jeffords has been one of the primary co-sponsors of ENDA, which lost by one vote in the Senate last fall.

Gay Republican Log Cabin Clubs began in California in 1978. Nine clubs formed a national federation under the name Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) in 1990. LCR currently maintains 57 chapters in 28 states; the group does not have an active chapter in Vermont. ▼

The Gay Guy's Guide to Love by Ken Hanes Crown, \$8.95

Reviewed by Bruce Johnson

Every gay man, no matter what age, can always use some sensible advice concerning love, dating, sex, and communication. Ken Hanes offers 500 wise and witty sayings to guide not only first-time lovers, but also long-term companions. Above all, he stresses the importance of learning to believe that love is possible between two gay men.

Throughout the book there are many "instructions" that could also apply to heterosexual couples. Most of it boils down to following the Golden Rule — i.e. treat others with the same dignity and respect with which you wish to be treated. Given the high failure rate of straight relationships, it is undoubtedly even more important for gay couples to view their relationships seriously. Keeping the lines of communication open, along with a willingness to compromise, is vital to any relationship.

Ken Hanes present this material in a very straightforward yet non-threatening manner. Moreover, he advises gay men to be realistic in their expectations. While this advice is valuable to anyone, it is especially important for those of us who are just getting started in a relationship. This book provides an informative as well as witty guide, one which I recommend very highly. ▼

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