

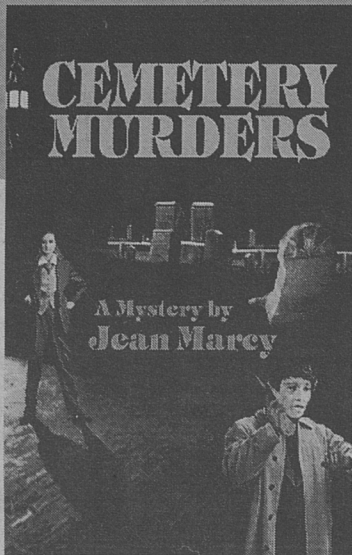
news and reviews

# A&E

## Cemetery Murders

by Jean Marcy

REVIEWED BY  
DONNA FREEMAN



I really am a masochist, you know, because I truly love a good mystery novel. And I keep trying to find a fabulously well-written one amongst the racks belonging to lesbian fiction. One good thing I can say about this latest *piece de resistance* is that there is not enough of anything that is good. Sorry, I can't help myself. Seriously, the book was entertaining enough to keep me awake and provide diversion from the stresses I have found myself under. Beyond that, I am still disappointed and remain in search of the perfect lesbian mystery novel.

*Cemetery Murders* did have many good points. One of those is not the choice of partner for Sarah Lindstrom, lesbian police detective in this novel. Her partner, Detective Neely seems very similar to the straight, middle-aged, nearly incompetent, but really kinds nice male partner of a Detective Kate Delafield from another author's mystery series. But in this mystery, Det. Neely is practically invisible, barely more than a cardboard cut-out in a shooting range. Why is it that lesbian mystery writers believe the strength of their lesbian detectives lies solely on the incompetence of their straight male partners? What are they trying to prove?

Det. Lindstrom, affectionately called the "Ice Queen", is not much better. At least her character is two dimensional instead of one. What little we do see of her tells me she is a controlling, judgmental, inhuman bitch whose idea of a personal life is the occasional fuck to relieve pressure. Not particularly someone I want to get to know. If the author had expanded this mystery to include more personality for her characters, maybe I'd feel differently.

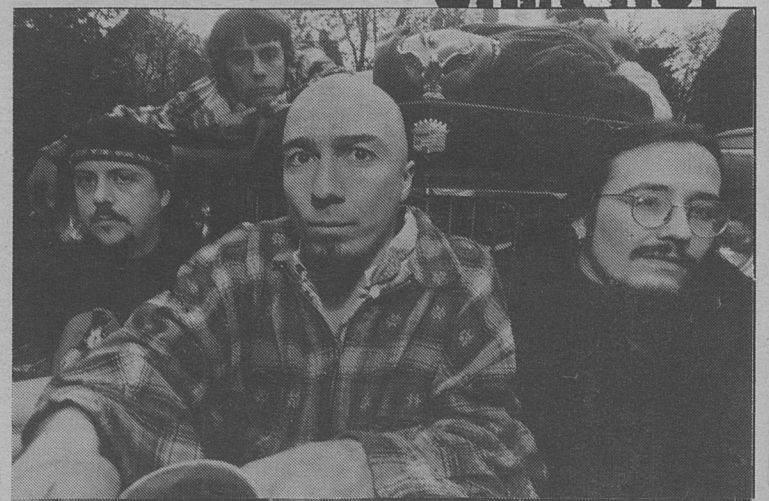
Meg Darcy at least gives us a glimpse of the three-

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## Burlington's Biggest "Bad Boy" Reveals All: An Interview With Andrew Smith of CHIN HO!

BY MICHAEL C. ALBERO

Imagine... it is a freezing winter night in the heart of downtown Burlington. Christmas has just concluded and everyone is anxiously awaiting the arrival of a promising new year. The holiday season is still in vibrant bloom and thriving in many places throughout the city, including Club Metronome, where tonight's featured act, "Chin Ho!" is performing to the pleasure of a sold out audience. Perhaps it is the rhythms of the music or maybe it is the thick, smoky atmosphere; however, there is an uncontrollable feeling of excitement in the air. Sensing this intoxicating mixture, one band member abruptly breaks from the stage to become a part of the unruly crowd. He does not join them though, rather he floats on top of them, "crowd surfing," enjoying the madness which he has helped to create. As the many hands explore every part of his body, he continues to drift in the direction of the sound board, when suddenly the awareness arises that he must return to the stage in order to finish the song in progress. Glancing downward he tries to direct the throng of arms that now support him, but his attention is diverted by two familiar, awestruck faces. Immediately, despite the dim lighting and thrilling tinglings pervading his body, he warmly greets these people. "Hi mom! Hi dad!" It was then that Andrew Smith, an openly "out" lead vocalist and co-founder of the band "Chin Ho!" achieved the success for which he had been striving, and a "budding" career began



to blossom, despite the seemingly impenetrable obstacle of his sexual orientation.

Although success did not arrive until recently, Andrew's rise to the top of the local music scene began during his youth. "(When) my sister's fiancée gave me the first 'Clash' album, it started a fever that I couldn't control. My parents were big music fans and they gave me the Beatles' 'White' album..." Further inspiration was gained from the sounds of "Velvet Underground," whom Andrew sites as a major influence during the formation of "Chin Ho!"

The band began as the result of a relationship with David Morency, a guitarist and music major who first met Andrew while studying at Johnson State College. The two were roommates until Smith transferred to the University of New Haven, and eventually they discovered each other again; living on the same street in Burlington. During their period apart, David "had amassed numerous different tracks, which I wrote the words to and that is how we made the first 'Chin

Ho!' tape," said Smith. Yet despite producing the tape, Andrew felt he was lacking in talent. "I was also scared to death of people. The first whole year I had to get drunk to get on stage. 'Chin Ho!' sucked. Now I need that nervous energy. But then I was a drunk guy in a dress. I did it to antagonize the rednecks. There I was in a lemon-chiffon gown and singing Madonna to provoke people. It was the best way to get remembered, to get in their face."

Today it is no longer necessary for Andrew to focus all of his energy toward "getting in their (society's) face," as the band is well known throughout New England; a result of Smith's "outspokenness" and his firm belief that "every radio station assumes their average listener is dumb." Most recently in a major music publication, he stressed his displeasure with Burlington's alternative rock radio station, "The Buzz," concerning the lack of air-play for local bands. Also according to Smith, this

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# CALENDAR

## december

**1 MONDAY**  
GLITTER, World AIDS Day, "Philadelphia: the first major motion picture to deal with AIDS. 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Rhombus Gallery, College & Church Sts. in Burlington, 2nd floor. FMI call Steven Kopstein at 802-434-5653 or email: GLITTERvt@aol.

**2 TUESDAY**  
"Your Estate: How to Plan It," presented by Fletcher Allen Health Care Development Office, 10 am - 12 pm (7-9 pm on the 3rd), Sheraton Burlington Conference Center Amphitheatre. Register by calling 802-656-2887, \$15/person, \$25/couple.

**3 WEDNESDAY**  
"I Am What I Am" training for those working with g/l/b/t/q youth, 9 am - 4 pm, Hanover NH. FMI Planned Parenthood 1-800-488-9638

"Drag Kings and Subjects," written, directed, and performed by New York-based Diane Torr and co., 8 pm, Goddard College, Haybarn Theater, \$5.00

Danny Hoch community workshop, including issues of diversity and racism, 6 - 7 pm, American Legion Hall, Vergennes. \$5. To register call 802-877-6737.

**4 THURSDAY**  
Danny Hoch community workshop, including issues of diversity and racism, 7 pm, Plainfield Town Hall, Plainfield. \$5. To register call 802-229-9408.

VT PWA Coalition Public Policy Steering Committee meeting, 6:30 pm, VT CARES office, 73 Main St. Room 23, 2nd floor Montpelier. People with HIV/AIDS and service providers are strongly encouraged to participate. FMI, please call the Coalition at 1-800-698-8792

UMass Amherst, Amy Hoffman will discuss new book "Hospital Time - A Memoir of Taking Care of Friends with AIDS," 12:30 pm in Campus Center 803. FMI 413-545-4824.

**5 FRIDAY**  
Silent auction by Addison County Women In Crisis of 50 autographed books to raise funds for programs, 4 -

6 pm, Fire & Ice restaurant in Middlebury. Live music, cash bar and refreshments.

Karen Brooks Clayworks public reception, 5-7 pm at Phoenix Rising one flight up at 104 Main St., Montpelier.

Kate & Anna McGarrigle perform at the Flynn Theatre, Burlington. \$23.50, \$18.50. FMI call 802-863-5966.

5-6: "New Directions Conference: Next Steps for MSM Prevention," Boston MA, FMI Carey (802) 254-8263

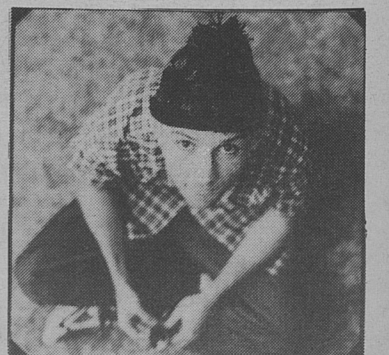
**6 SATURDAY**  
Lakes & Mountains 12th Annual Christmas Party & Yankee Swap, 6 PM, FMI: 603-726-3667.

Plant Jam, a benefit dance for community gardeners, 7 - 10 pm,

Edmund's Middle School Cafeteria, Burlington. Sliding fee \$6-\$12. FMI 863-6248.

Manhattan Pizza presents the Steph Pappas Experience, 10 pm, no cover.

Danny Hoch: Jails, Hospitals & Hip Hops at the Flynn Theatre in Burlington, 8 pm. \$18, \$14. FMI call 802-863-5966.



moby