

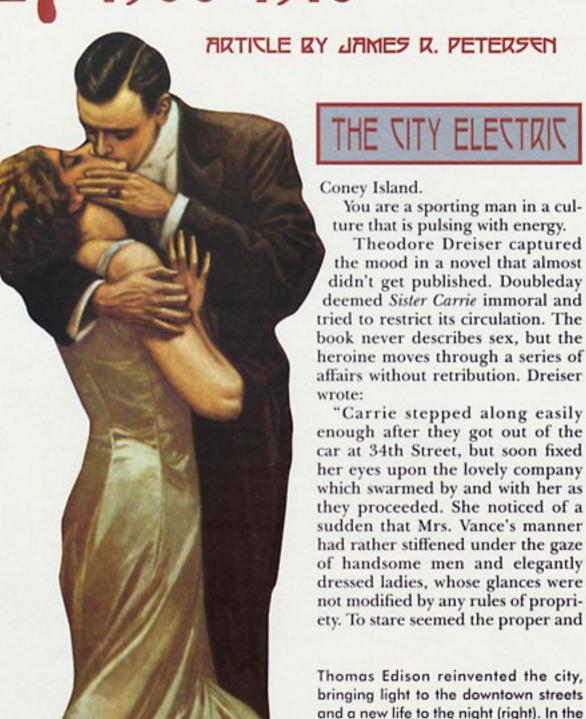
LAYBOY'S HISTORY OF THE EVOLUTION PART I 1900-1910

magine the city electric, some great switch thrown for the first time. At night the lights come on, turning each restaurant and theater into a blaze of bodies. Electricity pours through penny arcades and nickelodeons where, for pocket change, you can witness Little Egypt, Serpentine Dancers, How Girls Go to Bed, How Girls Undress, The Marvelous Lady Contortionist, Three Skirt Dancers and something called The Kiss.

Outside an arcade, someone has tacked a review from the New York Evening World: "For the first time in the history of the world it is possible to see what a kiss looks like. Scientists say kisses are dangerous, but here everything is shown in startling directness. What the camera did not see did not exist. The real kiss is a revelation. The idea has un-

limited possibilities."

The sky is silent, untraveled by any but man's dreams. A skyline once dominated by church steeples has a new deity. Atop the Madison Square Garden tower is a copper and bronze statue of Diana the Huntress. The 13-foot nude swings on gimbals, her drawn bow seeking the future. The streets are filled with horse-drawn carriages and streetcars that ride the electric rail to a seaside wonderland called



first decade of the 20th century the city

seemed to embody yearning. There

were no radios, no television and no

newsreels. But every month

more than 1 million readers

turned to Ladies' Home

Journal for a glimpse of

the good life of the

modern era (left).





In 1900 there were ten miles of paved road and only 8000 automobiles in the entire country. Rare was the encounter with a devil wagon. A ride into town still terminated at a hitching post. One's universe was limited to the distance that could be ridden or walked in a day, just as one's behavior was limited by the opinion of one's neighbors. Modesty was measured in inches. A swimming association specified that a woman's bathing attire should extend to within three inches of the knee, while a man's attire had to reach eight inches below his crotch. The bicycle craze that started before the turn of the century created a new freedom for women. It introduced them to athletics-college girls soon took up lawn tennis and basketball, sports impossible to play in corsets and bustles. The bicycle changed fashion in other ways. Prior to 1900, a woman going out in public wore 37 pounds of clothes. Her attire around the house weighed 17 pounds. The demands of new transportation called for lighter, more maneuverable skirts (though not to the degree indicated at right). Historians view the bicycle vogue as the precursor of a more serious revolution that sent women into the workplace in increasing numbers.







natural thing. Carrie found herself stared at and ogled. Men in flawless topcoats, high hats and silver-headed walking sticks elbowed near and looked too often into conscious eyes. Ladies rustled by in dresses of stiff cloth, shedding af-fected smiles and per-fume. Carrie noticed among them the sprinkling of goodness and the heavy percentage of vice. The rouged and powdered cheek and lips, the scented hair, the large, misty and languorous eye were common enough. With a start she awoke to find that she was in fashion's throng, on parade in a showplace—and such a showplace. . . . She longed to feel the delight of parading here as an equal. Ah, then she would be happy."

The city itself changed

Edison invented the kinetoscope and opened America's eyes. Where once only the wealthy could feast their eyes on the perfect 18-inch waist of actress Anna Held (center, above left) in a lavish Flo Ziegfeld production, the nickelodeon brought images such as The Kiss to the common man. When women entered the public sphere of work, the sexual temperature of the country rose. The postcard at top depicts an early office romance. The double standard flourished in a secret world of casino saloons, lobster restaurants and theaters where men frolicked with women (right) while their wives maintained a strict image of purity at home.





"Care to join in any reindeer games?"







a holiday fantasy to ring your chimes

WHEN JENNY MET SANTA









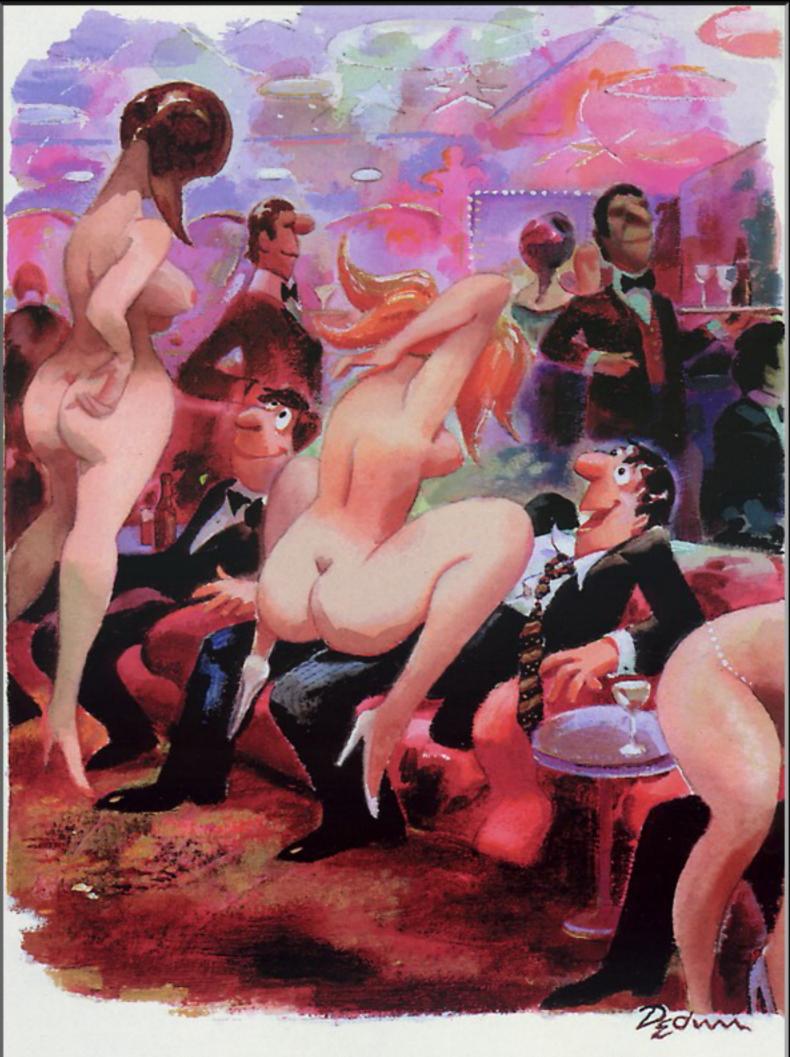








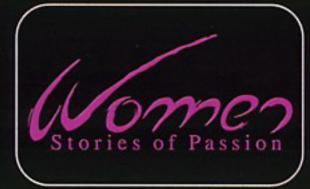
"That's <u>all</u> you've got to say—'sure beats milk and cookies'?"

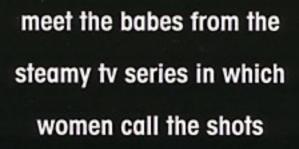


"What's your address? I want to send you a Christmas card."













SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

B eautiful, passionate women shedding their inhibitions and acting out their wildest sexual fantasies.

That's the recipe for Women: Stories of Passion, the breathtaking undertaking in female erotica that airs on Showtime every Saturday night. Not only is this new series of

You may have noticed Shannah Laumeister (below and above left) in Bullets Over Broadway or Mondo New York. Since studying theater at Colorado State, Lesli Kay Sterling (opposite page and above right) has made a splash in day-time soaps. She plays a sheriff in the film Denim and Lace 2000 and stars in Cyberella. Kimberly Rowe (top left) and Kate Rodger (top right) are caught in the midst of the action.







half-hour stories a feast for the senses, it also was created with a delicious twist: The episodes were written and directed by women. Which means it could prove to be educational as well as entertaining. Did we mention that the series was produced by Playboy Productions? Give it a good look, and a listen. In the meantime, in case you missed the first few tales in the series, we would like to introduce you to some of its stars. If you have been fortunate enough to catch the show on cable, then consider yourself to be twice blessed. Lights, camera, stop-action.

The irrepressible Sally Kirkland (near right and center above) has been a Shakespearean and a queen B, and she earned an Oscar nomination for Best Actress in Anna. As a stripper in the Women story "Blind Love," Cheryl Bartel (far right and center below) sheds the bikini she has worn on Baywatch. Kimberly Rowe (left) plays it tough in Rumble in the Street. In Women, she plays a shy college student who undergoes a sexual awakening in "For the Sake of Science."











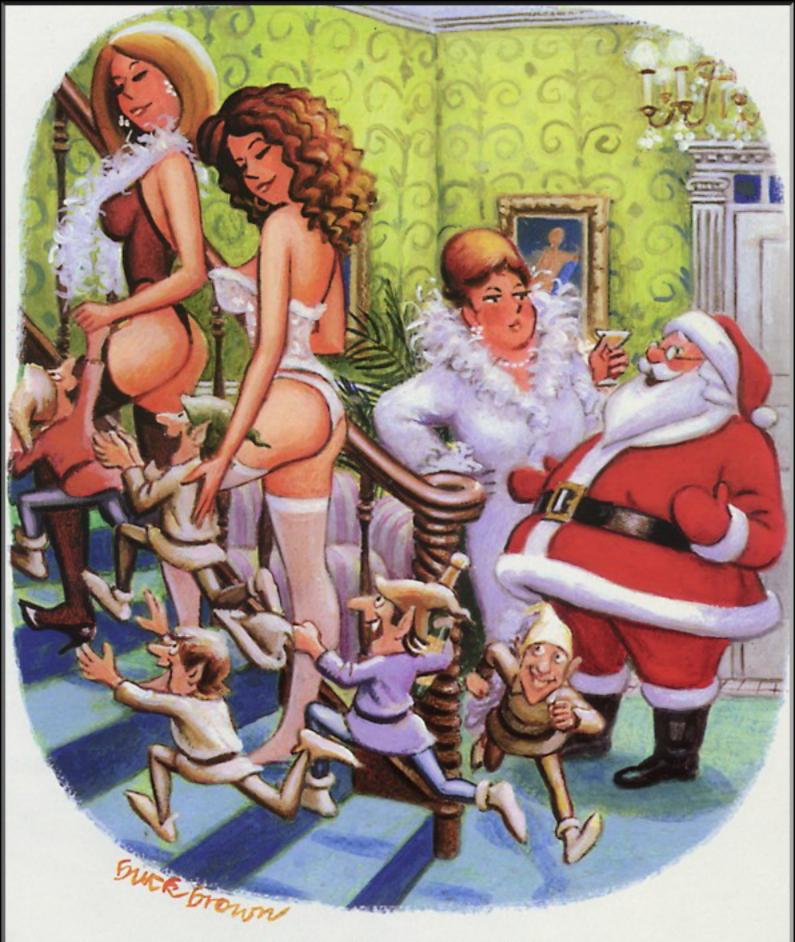
Kate Rodger (top and at left) has received notoriety for her spoken-word performances as well as her film work (Club V.R., Stealthunters), and has appeared on Saturday Night Live. A graduate of UCLA in theater and film, Kira Reed (above and at right) has earned roles in Mr. Saturday Night and Live Wire. Skilled in martial arts, Gabriella Hall (opposite page) kicks up her heels in Clean Slate, lets down her hair in Full Body Massage and stars in Deceit.







"Now, Arnold, let's not spoil Christmas for the children . . . !"



"We were sitting around the workshop, rapping, and I sez 'hey, do you guys ever want anything for Christmas??"





On her first day in Los Angeles, Victoria had to walk Hollywood's Walk of Fame (above). "It was amazing. Tourists stopped to take my picture, like I was a celebrity," she says. America to Victoria: You are. Our photographers adore you whether you're in your party dress (top right) or jeans, robed or disrobed (right and below). Your Cinderella story has come true.



Victoria was so chunky as a teen that her mom put a lock on the refrigerator. "Then I grew into my body. I was more like a woman," she says, "and the boys started noticing me." The whole country noticed in 1993 when Victoria was crowned Miss Sweden.











PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARNY FREYTAG

"We are more open about sex in my country," says Miss December.
"I was 13 my first time, when I sneaked out the window of my parents' house and met a boy. He was 13, too. We both knew what we were doing. We learned all about it in school, so for us it was like doing homework. I remember thinking afterward, Is that it? But we got better, and now sex is like ice cream. I always want more."



in Paris and to be in the American PLAYBOY," she says.

Miss December accomplished both goals this year. At 22, she has an apartment near the Arc de Triomphe. "I adore Paris. Frenchmen love to date models, so a girl can always have dinner for free. Of course, some guys think that means they can take you to bed," she says. "But it's not always so." Victoria models all over Europe and occasionally in Asia, where she is seen as the ultimate blonde, the one to call when your product's sales need a boost. Impulse buyers love her. But Victoria says, "I was doing well but wasn't where I wanted to be"-meaning she wasn't well known in her favorite country. "The whole world watches America. Even if we have to wait a year, we see all the American movies and wear all the American clothes. Even before I got to Paris I knew I wanted to make it in America." This month the village girl whose teen rivals derided her ambitions officially





becomes victorious.

"I want to make my boyfriend proud and my enemies jealous," Victoria says. What better reasons to be a Playmate? Her Parisian boyfriend knew nothing of her plans. "I just told him I had a job to do," she says. "Then he called the number I left him. They answered, 'Hello, Playboy Mansion,' and he said, 'Aha!' He was mad. But I think he'll like the pictures." As a world traveler, she gets weary of being away from her mate. "Too much telephone sex. I'm always seeing cute guys when I'm on my own-it's frustrating! But who knows what might happen? I'm not married yet, am I?" she asks, smiling. Life wasn't always so full of good opportunities. In tiny Bollnäs, "most girls get jobs or go away to the university. A few go to Stockholm, but most stay in the village." Victoria entered the Miss Sweden pageant, which she won. Next came modeling jobs worldwide, and one day this blonde tower of Scandinavian design appeared at our Los Angeles offices. She said that she was ready to be a Playmate. We considered it for about one second before saying Ja.

-RALPH MARINO

Paris swarms with greedy, horny predators. "Too many men are sharks. They will promise anything to get what they want," Victoria says. Now she has a new ambition: "I know I could make someone a very good housewife."







PLAYMATE DATA SHEET

NAME: Victoria Silvstedt

BUST: 90cm WAIST: 63cm HIPS: 93cm

HEIGHT: 1.79 M WEIGHT: 63 Kg

BIRTH DATE: 9-19-74 BIRTHPLACE: Skellefter, Sweden

AMBITIONS: To live and work in Jans and

LOS Angeles and make all of Sweden

TURN-ONS: A Suntauned wet body and a sexy butt 1

Show-off guys!

AMERICAN MEN: They are active, gentlemanly good looking - but I don't know

how they are in bed yet !

FAVORITE FOODS: Lebanese and Japanese

and American of course because

the Portions are Sa big

in out - I'll he back!







What a smile 1 Swede 16

A top model

PLAYBOY'S PARTY JOKES

Mongo's old lady decided she wanted to do something special to please him on his birthday, so she bought a pair of crotchless panties. That night as he came into the house, she lay sprawled on the couch spread-eagle.

"Hi, hon," she purred sexily. "Y'all want some of this?"

"Hell no!" he roared. "Look at what it's done to your undies."

What's a Yankee? The same as a quickie, only a guy can do it alone.



Howard, Henry and Robert were in the middle of a high-powered business meeting when Howard's beeper went off. He lifted his wristwatch to his ear and began talking into the tip of his tie. When he was finished, he explained, "I have an earpiece built into my watch and a microphone sewn into my tie. That way I can take a call anywhere."

The meeting continued. Five minutes later, Henry's beeper went off. He tapped his earlobe and began speaking into thin air. When his call was completed, he explained, "I have an earpiece implanted in my earlobe and a mi-

crophone embedded in my tooth.'

The meeting continued. A few minutes later, Robert emitted a rumbling belch. "Somebody hand me a piece of paper," he said. "I'm receiving a fax.

What's the difference between a congressman and the bluebird of happiness? Money can't buy happiness.

PLAYBOY CLASSIC: Bob faxed his wife that he'd be home a day earlier than planned. When he walked in the door, he was shocked to discover his wife in bed with another man. He stormed out of the house, checked into a hotel and called his lawyer.

The next morning he received a phone call from his mother-in-law. She insisted there must be a good explanation for her daughter's behavior. Bob was in no mood to listen and cut

her off.

The following day his mother-in-law called again. "Did I tell you?" she said. "Did I tell you there was an explanation? I just got through talking with her. She never got your fax!"

The brain alerted the organs of the body of its annual meeting. After a rigorous systems check was completed, the session was opened for comments.

Sir," the heart said, "I would like to retire. My master eats too much and all that fried stuff is clogging my arteries."

"I'll consider your request," the brain said.

Who's next? Please get up."
"I am," the stomach said. "This guy has been eating chili peppers for 30 years. I can't take it anymore. I'd like to retire.

I'll think about it," replied the brain.

"Who's next?"

A squeaky little voice spoke from the back. "Who's that?" the brain thundered. "Get up.'

Sir," the little voice said, "if I could get up I wouldn't be retiring.'

What do you get when you cross an Irishman with a German? A guy who's too drunk to follow orders.

Billy Joe," Tammy asked, "what are those

bulges in your trousers?"

"They're hand grenades," the good old boy replied. "Next time that queer scoutmaster comes feeling my balls, I'll blow his friggin' fingers off!"



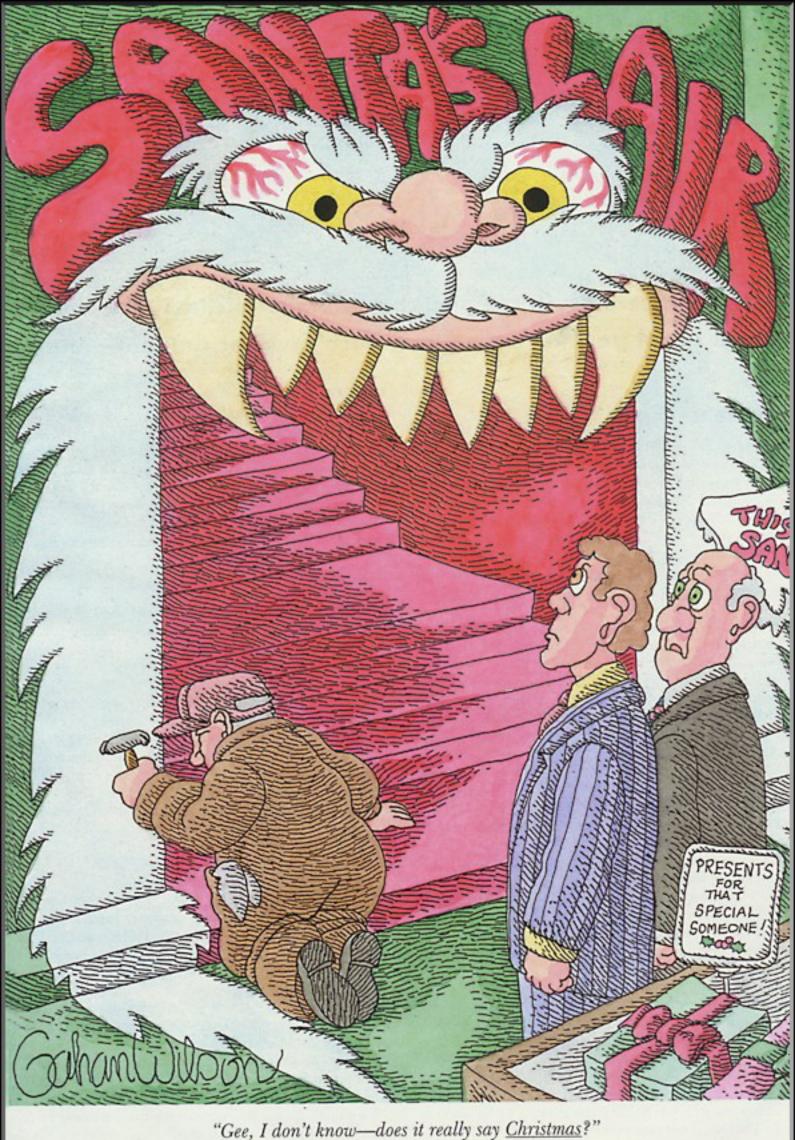
THIS MONTH'S MOST FREQUENT SUBMISSION: What do women and condoms have in common? They spend more time in your wallet than on your dick.

The distressed-looking man had downed several drinks in rapid succession before the bartender asked him, "You trying to drown your sorrows, buddy?"

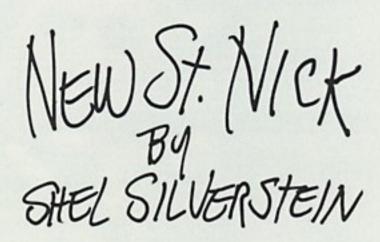
"You could say that," the guy replied. "It usually doesn't work, you know."

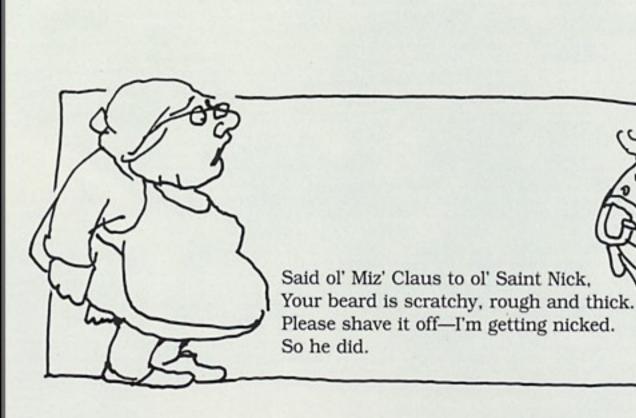
"No shit," the man moaned. "I can't even get Marlene anywhere near the water!"

Heard a funny one lately? Send it on a postcard, please, to Party Jokes Editor, PLAYBOY, 680 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611. \$100 will be paid to the contributor whose card is selected. Jokes cannot be returned.

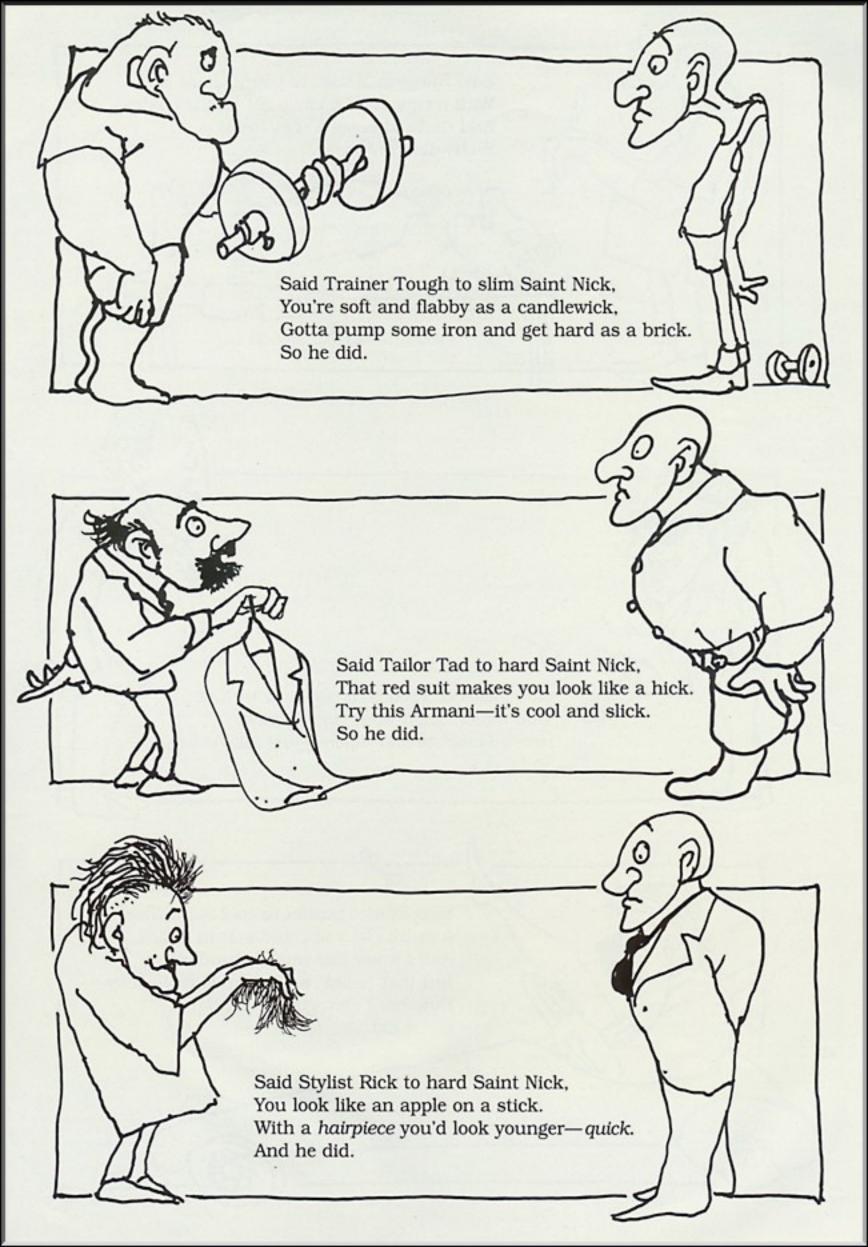


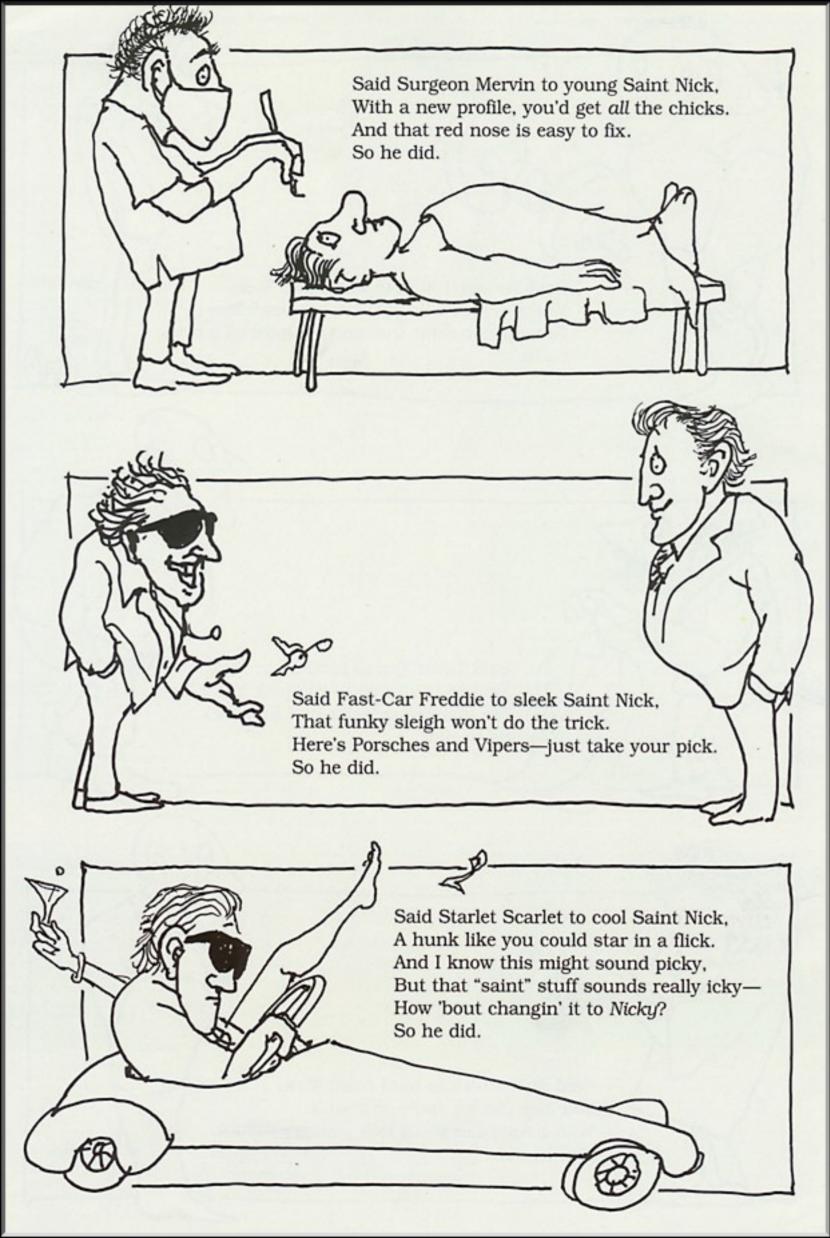
"Gee, I don't know-does it really say Christmas?"

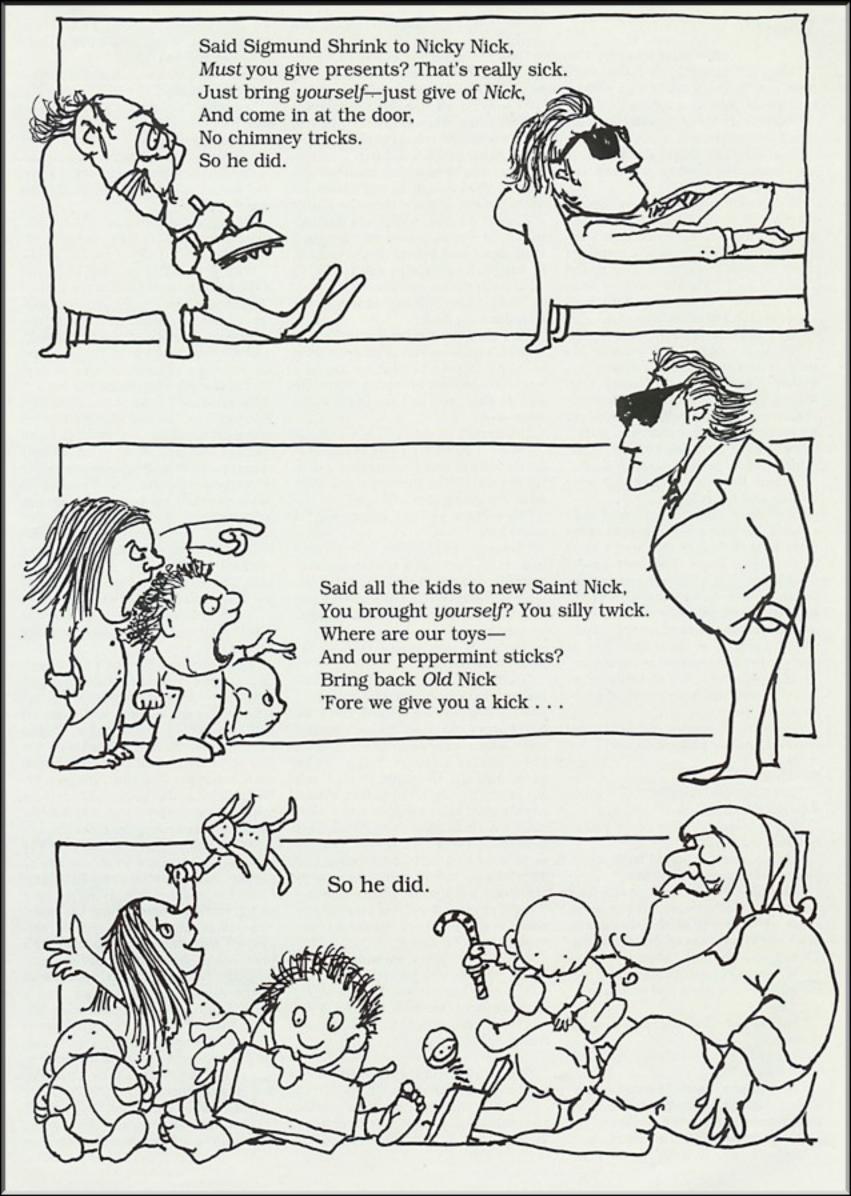




Said Doctor Doom to smooth Saint Nick, Your heart is goin' tockity-tick. You'd better lose that belly—quick. So he did.







a bank beauty
who sent our
interest rate
soaring

The bank managers who hired Christa Speck before she became our Miss September 1961 knew a competent secretary when they saw one. They also recognized beauty, and Christa was given a desk near the front window. "They put me on display," she says, laughing. The Germanborn gymnast quickly became a reader favorite. "I didn't speak much English, so when Hef said, 'We have news for you—you're Playmate of the Year,' I could only ask him, 'What is that?'"





PLAYMATE CHRISTA SPECK REVISITED: CHRISTED





In one of PLAYBOY's most celebrated photographs, above, Christa gets a friendly push into the pool at a Mansion party. "I had never been photographed totally nude, so I was slightly embarrassed," she recalls. "However, by the time I hit the water, I was over it."



After being named Playmate of the Year in 1962, Christa met and married puppeteer Marty Krofft. Today she has three grown daughters, two grandchildren and a hectic schedule as director of talent relations for the family's Los Angeles-based entertainment company.





"You're sure you don't mind me giving you the same thing two years in a row?"



Marilyn Monroe defined the role of a sex goddess in the Fifties, and Raquel Welch gave it an exotic twist in the decades that followed. Equally outspoken about her private life and Hollywood, she embodied the daring Seventies.

This Terry O'Neill photo led our 1970 Sex Stars feature, when Raquel was hot off her title role in Myra Breckinridge. Her December 1979 PLAYBOY pictorial showcased Raquel's best side—which was any way you happened to look at her.



"I'm delighted you're not one of those who thinks it's the thought that counts!"

CHRISTMAS CARDS



for those in the news, season's greetings can set the entire year right

humor by Joe Queenan

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVE BRODNER

tried to e-mail you this Christmas card, but your antiquated software wouldn't support this platform. Also, without Windows 95, the graphic interface won't allow you to download the amazing three-dimensional hologram of baby Jesus in the manger. Send me \$79.95 and I'll boot up Windows 95 for you by Easter. And let me know if you want next year's card in a straight text or an ASCII format.



-Bill Gates

ometimes when we touch, The honesty probably is too much.



-Connie Sellecca and John Tesh



And they lay the infant in a manger in swaddling clothes. Swaddling clothes that were most likely made in a sweatshop by five-year-olds in Ethiopia or somewhere. But his parents had no way of knowing that. And back then, there weren't horrible media to jump all over the Blessed Mother just because she dressed her kid in swaddling clothes from some sweatshop. And another thing: I'll bet those kids in Ethiopia were glad to have the work. On a personal note, Regis says that "Jesus" is the biblical equivalent of "Cody."

-Kathie Lee Gifford



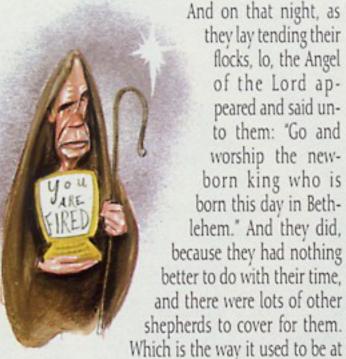
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Thought that you got rid of us,
In Independence Day?
Wrong!

-The Hliens

I'll be home for Christmas,
Dating Charlie Sheen,
Dressed like a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader,
But only in his dreams.



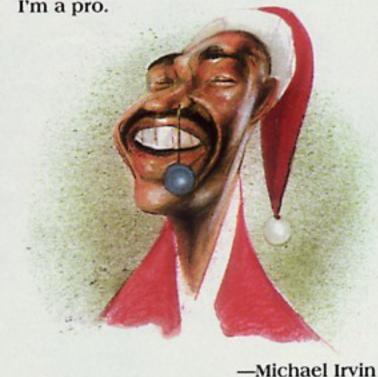
-Heidi Fleiss



AT&T before we RIFed 40,000 extraneous employees. If workers have time to lay tending their flocks and think nothing about going off to worship some newborn king, clearly management is not doing its job. At AT&T, if the Angel of the Lord appears to any employee on company time, we'll call security and get this thing sorted out fast. All the best to you and your family.

-Robert E. Allen

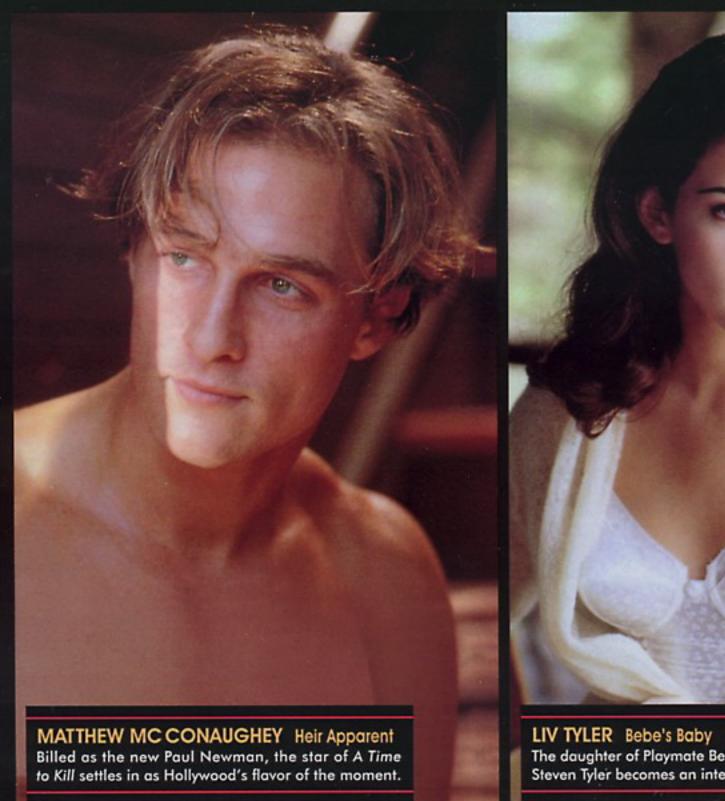
Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,
Cocaine sprinkled on my clothes.
Although it's been said
Many times, many ways,
I do not push off every down.
I'm a pro.





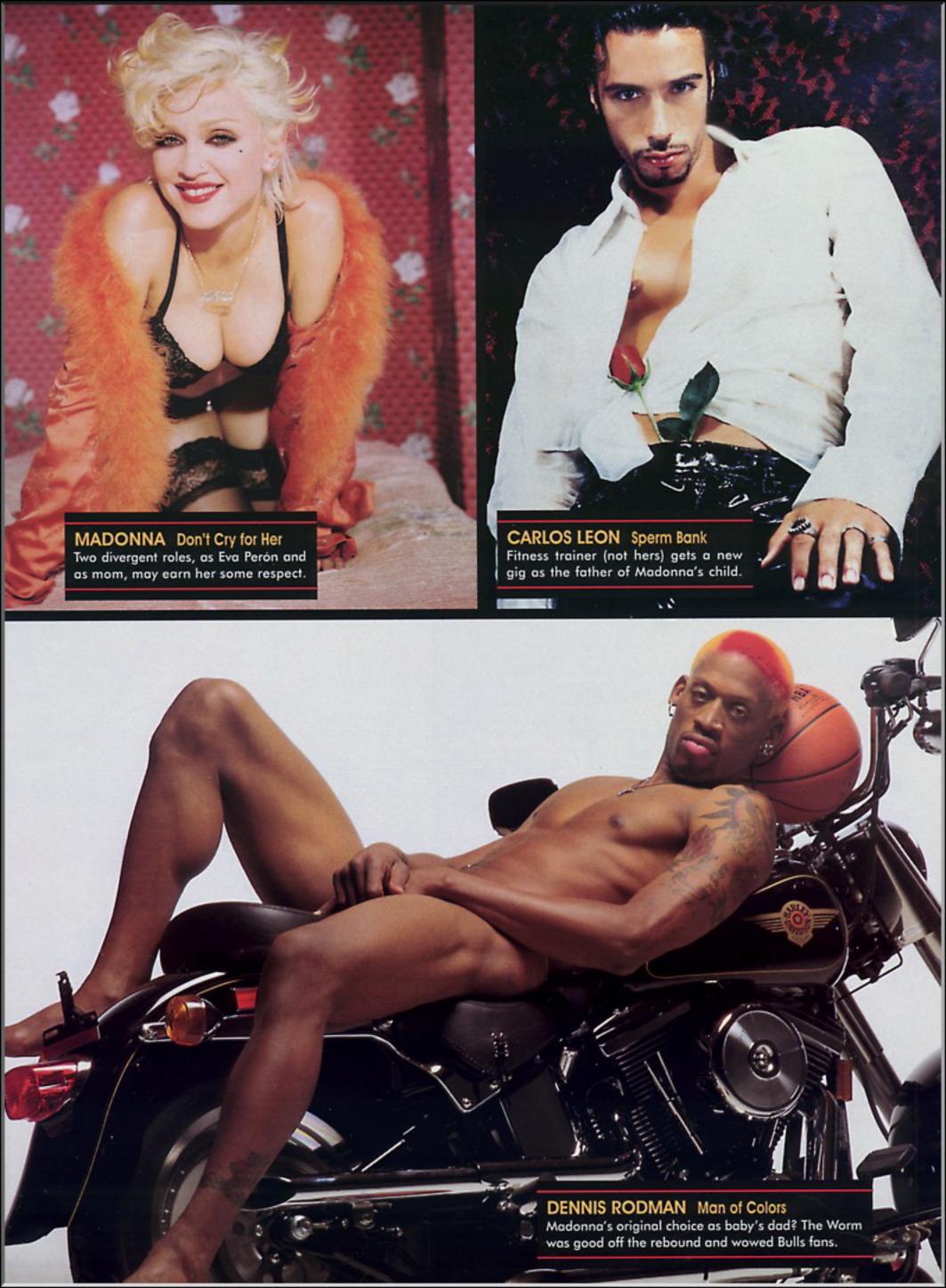


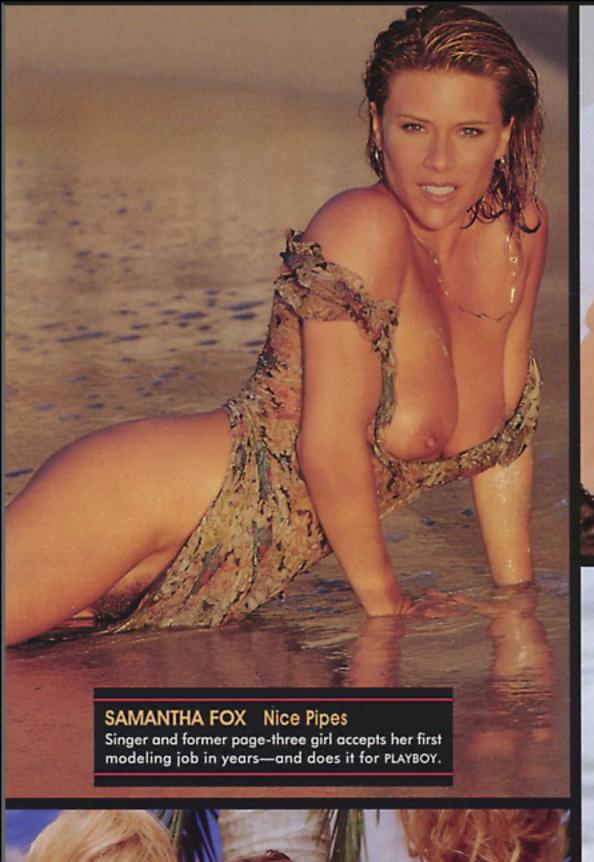
text by GRETCHEN EDGREN Something is definitely happening in Sex Star Land. For one thing, the screens from which today's idols cast their spells are as likely to be attached to computer keyboards or cable jacks as they are to be part of the local Multiplex. Gen Xers are quick to hail their favorites. Among the five most-wanted personalities on Web pages this year, three—Jenny McCarthy, Pamela Anderson Lee and Anna Nicole Smith—are Playmates in their 20s. (The other two, according to the Internet search engine Hot Bot, are actresses Demi Moore, 33, and Alyssa Milano, 23.) The newcomers about whom Hollywood is most excited, A Time to Kill's Matthew McConaughey and Stealing Beauty's Liv Tyler, are 26 and 19, respectively—and Liv is the daughter of November 1974 Playmate Bebe Buell. And 1996 was definitely the year in which men became objects of unabashed lust. This was nowhere more evident than in sports. Olympic athletes were characterized as "studmuffins," and the Chicago Bulls' Dennis (text continued on page 164)



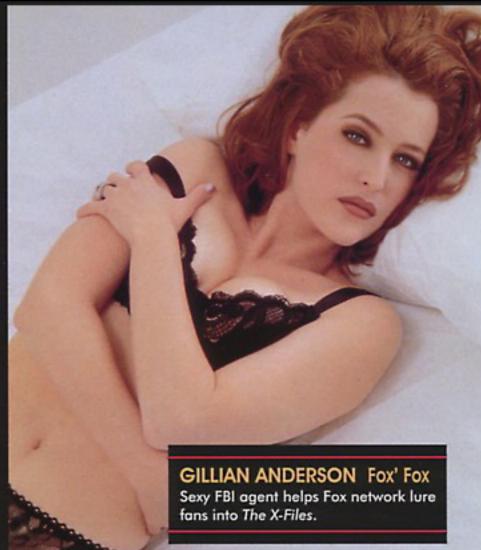
The daughter of Playmate Bebe Buell and Aerosmith's Steven Tyler becomes an international ingenue.



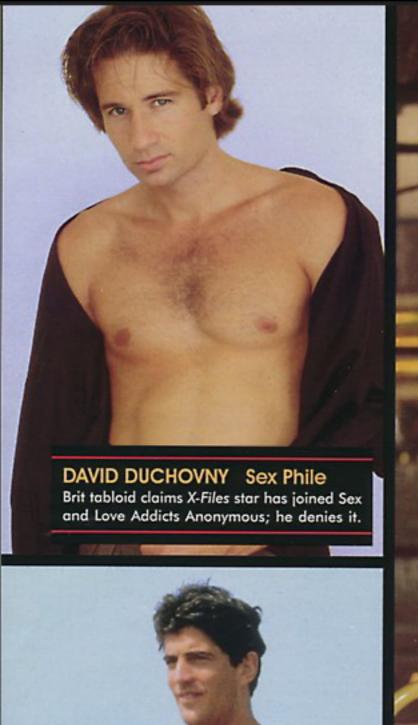










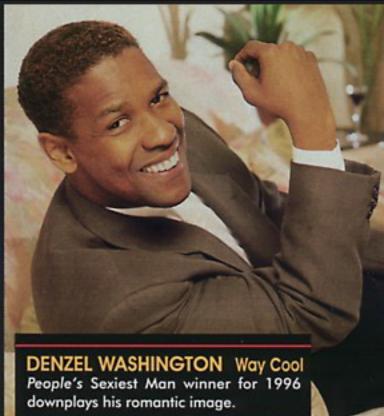




JOHN F. KENNEDY JR. By George America's sexiest publisher weds longtime girlfriend Carolyn Bessette in Georgia.

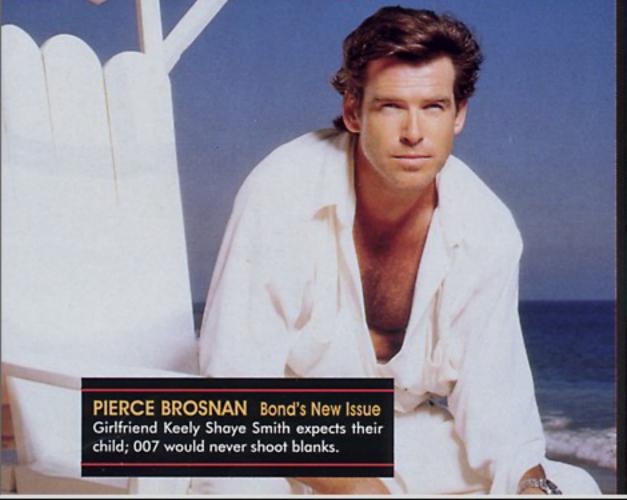


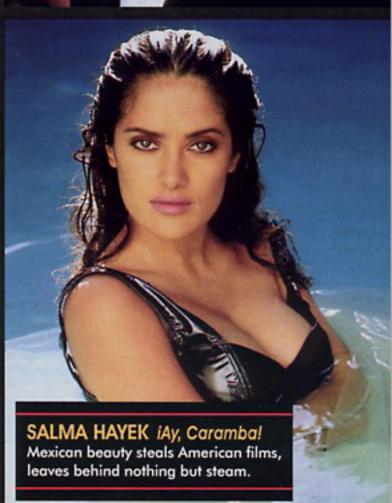






BRAD PITT Lust Object Last year's Sexiest Man is MTV's Most Desirable Male for 1996.









in some Calvin Klein underwear.





CARMEN ELECTRA New Power Overload This protégée of the artist formerly known as Prince

sets fire to concert stages and PLAYBOY pages.





Married to Melanie Griffith, the Spanish pistolero plays Che to Madonna's Evita.





PAMELA ANDERSON LEE Global Warming
Miss February 1990, the most popular blonde on the planet and a new mom, fascinates her fans on TV and the Internet while titillating the public with tales of her torrid sex life with her rocker hubby, drummer Tommy Lee.

Rodman, who displayed on his buffed bottom an awesome array of tattoos, announced that he wants to play his last NBA game in the nude. Because Rodman re-signed with the Bulls, that's a treat his fans will presumably have to wait for. But fear not-he's on view in his weekly MTV show Rodman: The '96 D Tour and is booked for the Jean-Claude Van Damme thriller The Colony. In the world of fashion, as Newsweek observed, men's trousers are now "so tight they're anatomically correct." Remarked Details fashion director Terence McFarland: "The time is right for men to be considered sex objects." Example: Antonio Sabato Jr. in his Calvin Klein shorts.

Here at PLAYBOY we're inclined to put our money on the centerfolds-especially Jenny McCarthy, 1994 Playmate of the Year and hostess of MTV's Singled Out. Jenny is due to leave Singled Out in midseason, but her new variety show is scheduled to bow on MTV in December. (MTV is also helping her develop a Lucille Ball-style sitcom to air elsewhere.) Entertainment Weekly has been running a Jenny-O-Meter tracking her press exposure, which has included items on the CD Jenny Mc-Carthy's Surfin' Safari, her chart-topping Playboy video The Best of Jenny McCarthy and her near-simultaneous cover appearances on Rolling Stone, TV Guide and PLAYBOY. And then there are her movie roles, in Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead and The Stupids. Pamela Anderson Lee, her rocker husband Tommy Lee and their newborn son Brandon have also been the objects of considerable media attention. While Barb Wire, Pam's film debut, sank like a stone, she helped keep Baywatch watchable-with a boost from fellow Playmate Donna D'Errico, who is also appearing on Baywatch Nights. PLAYBOY's 1982 PMOY, Shannon Tweed, long established as the queen of erotic thrillers, has added adventure films to her résumé, making use of the kickboxing skills she developed to shape up after her latest pregnancy. She now has two children by rocker Gene Simmons, a reinvigorated sex star via Kiss' new tour. Shannon is also on view in a brand-new Playboy Celebrity Video Centerfold.

Matthew McConaughey, a relative unknown (he had been in Dazed and Confused and Angels in the Outfield before director Joel Schumacher and writer John Grisham picked him for A Time to Kill), looks disconcertingly like a young Paul Newman. Liv Tyler is the daughter of Aerosmith's Steven Tyler. Liv grew up believing she was the child of another rocker, Todd Rundgren. Her mother—herself a model and musician-lived with Rundgren before

her fling with Tyler. Bebe, wanting to protect her unborn child from Aerosmith's then-druggie lifestyle, returned for a time to Rundgren, who agreed to go along with the ruse. The truth came out some eight years ago, when, according to Bebe, Liv confronted her and asked, "Mom, how come I don't look like Todd and I do look like Steven's daughter Mia, and how come Steven cries every time he sees me?" Liv's showbiz genes are confirmed by her performances in Bernardo Bertolucci's Stealing Beauty, Tom Hanks' directorial debut That Thing You Do, Sundance Festival prizewinner Heavy and the forthcoming Inventing the Abbotts. In another demonstration of hereditary talent, Mira Sorvinodaughter of actor Paul Sorvino-managed, as a hooker in Mighty Aphrodite, to steal a Woody Allen movie from Woody Allen and win a best supporting actress

Oscar in the bargain.

Television continues to produce sex stars, but of late they're popping up in syndication (Baywatch, Hercules: The Legendary Journeys and its spin-off, Xena: Warrior Princess), on cable (Singled Out) and on the fourth network, Fox (The X-Files). Kevin Sorbo, a former University of Minnesota football player and Budweiser pitchman who lost the Superman role in Lois & Clark to Dean Cain, stars in Hercules, which recently surpassed Baywatch in the syndie rankings. New Zealand's Lucy Lawless, nearly six feet of raven-haired wonder woman, plays Xena in outfits designed for maximum display of cleavage ("It makes you crotchety to be trussed up like a chicken," she complained to one interviewer). Xena began her life as a villain in three episodes of Hercules; her own show is now the 1996 season's highest-rated new syndicated series. On The X-Files, the romantic impulses of FBI agents Scully and Mulder are strictly submerged, but a Rolling Stone cover showed stars Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny the way viewers would like to see them: in bed. Fans have established the Gillian Anderson Testosterone Brigade and the David Duchovny Estrogen Brigades on the Internet, speculating that Anderson and Duchovny might be less buttoneddown in real life than they are on the tube. She's a former punkster teen who pierced her nose and wore a Mohawk, and confessed to TV Guide: "I'm raunchy." As for Duchovny, the British tabloid News of the World reported, following his breakup with girlfriend Perrey Reeves, that he had joined a 12-step group called Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous. Duchovny denies it.

Also quickening pulses with their television personae: ER's Julianna Margulies, described by her Traveller co-star Bill Paxton as "a classic Forties movie starlet-exotic, sultry and voluptuous"; and George Clooney, set as the fourth movie actor to don Batman's trunks. The past season's most intriguing new personality, Daniel Benzali, the moody, bald lead attorney on Murder One, was inexplicably bounced from the series, which had struggled in a succession of ineptly chosen time slots. It remains to be seen whether the loss of Benzali, who had developed a legion of female fans, will cause further damage. His planned marriage to sexy actress Kim Cattrall should help assuage his pain, and Anthony LaPaglia, taking over as Murder One's top counsel, may well appeal to the younger fans ABC hopes to attract.

People magazine anointed Denzel (Courage Under Fire) Washington the Sexiest Man Alive and Brad (12 Monkeys, Sleepers) Pitt took MTV's Most Desirable Male. Pitt's girlfriend, Gwyneth (Emma) Paltrow, actress Blythe Danner's daughter, may be the best judge

Supermodels' grip on the public imagination seems to be fading, with a few exceptions. Cindy Crawford's movie debut in Fair Game didn't do well, but the Revlon spokeswoman was paired by the press with both Val Kilmer and Dennis Rodman (who gave her his jersey after a game against the Seattle Supersonics) and was invited to tea at Kensington Palace with a pair of younger fans, princes William and Harry. Amber Smith's three-way with Paul Hipp and Vincent Gallo in Abel Ferrara's The Funeral steamed up the screen (as noted in last month's Sex in Cinema), and she will appear in Private Parts with shock jock Howard Stern. Elle Macpherson, seen in Jane Eyre and If Lucy Fell, is cast as Anthony Hopkins' wife in Bookworm and as Clooney's fiancée in the new Batman feature. Meanwhile, the supermarket press has been having a field day with Macpherson's private life, linking her at times during the year with Sean Penn (before his marriage to Robin Wright), Kevin Costner, a Swiss banker and, perhaps inevitably, co-star Clooney. Macpherson's rival in the Batman film, Poison Ivy, will be played by Uma Thurman, who gave an impromptu performance on a beach in St. Barts that PLAYBOY chronicled in its September issue.

Latin lovers, male and female, are adding salsa to the screen these days. Salma Hayek, formerly the smoldering star of Mexico's most popular soap opera, Teresa, blazed through Desperado and From Dusk Till Dawn. An Italian performer, Rocco Siffredi, who wrote, starred in and directed Never Say Never to Rocco Siffredi, won the best European actor award at the Hot d'Or fest in Cannes. His efforts have brought new heights of eroticism to adult films. Spanish heartthrob Antonio Banderas, Melanie Griffith's new hubby and father of her baby, won the title role in Zorro, causing its producer, Elizabeth Avellan, to admit that when "watching him up close, my socks fell down." Banderas plays Che Guevara to Madonna's Eva Perón in the spectacular movie musical Evita, which the erstwhile Material Girl finished just as her pregnancy (by handpicked fitness trainer Carlos Leon) started to show.

Elsewhere, Ireland's Liam Neeson followed up his portrayal of Scottish legend Rob Roy with one of IRA founder Michael Collins. Insiders are talking Oscar for this one. Another Irishman, Pierce Brosnan, after successfully assuming the mantle of James Bond, moved into the volcano disaster flick Dante's Peak (and had tabloids speculating as to whether he would wed his pregnant girlfriend, Unsolved Mysteries correspondent Keely Shaye Smith). Virile Scottish screen veteran Sean Connery lent his voice to Dragonheart and his persona to The Rock to prove, in the words of Newsweek's Jack Kroll, that he's still "sexier than all those Hollywooden young

studs, at 65, an international treasure, the magnetic male animal."

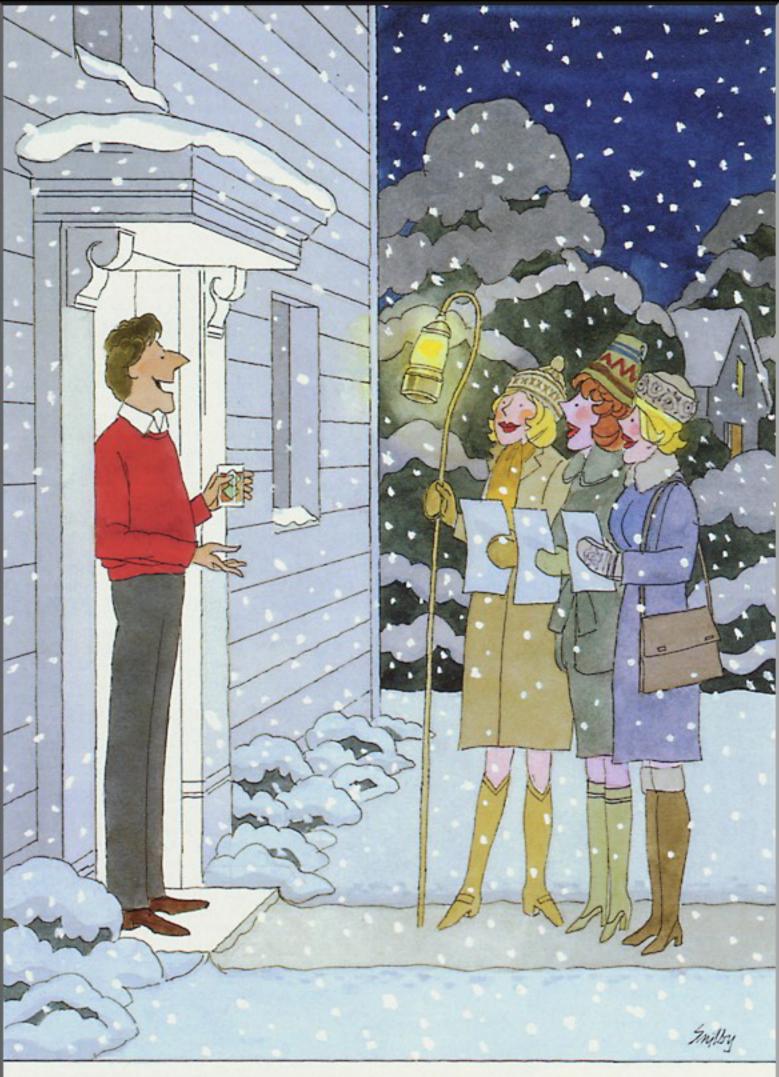
And what of 38-year-old Sharon Stone, the longtime PLAYBOY favorite glorified by Esquire's Bill Zehme as the Last Great Broad? Oscar-nominated for her star turn in this past year's Casino, she eschewed nudity in 1996's Last Dance and Diabolique, took up the cause of AIDS research and set the fashion world on its ear by showing up at the Academy Awards in a Gap shirt and at other occasions with a Timex watch on her wrist. That's what we love about Sharon: She does it her way, with style.

When it comes to sex-star durability, though, no one compares with the originals. Steve Sullivan, author of the book Va Va Voom! and collaborator with photographer Bunny Yeager in the bimonthly publication Glamour Girls: Then & Now, has been conducting a poll via the Internet to determine the most popular pin-ups of all time. His rankings, as we go to press: (1) Marilyn Monroe, (2) Jayne Mansfield, (3) Bettie Page. All three were Playmates, as were number 14, Cynthia Myers, and number 17, Anna Nicole Smith. Keep an eye out for the final results and a PLAYBOY pictorial tribute.





"She's going to be absolutely crazy about your gift or my name isn't Cynthia Morgan, Apartment 2B, 510 West 87th."



"Oh you poor things—why don't you come in for a moment, have a drink, and slip out of those wet clothes!"

GRAPEVINE

A Chestful of Gold

Rocker JOAN JETT is making a glittery fashion statement. First a Runaway, then a Blackheart, Jett has also toured with the Gits. You can hear her singing the theme from The Mary Tyler Moore Show on ESPN. She's a power source.



Holding Pattern

Look for Shari Eckert in the movie Hot Rod High. You've already seen her in Wayne's World 2 and on TV in Beverly Hills 90210. Life's a bowl of Shari.

Smoking in the Boys' Room

Actor DAVID KEITH is right in the middle of a party to launch the Playboy cigar by Don Diego. By his side are April 1991 Playmate CHRISTINA LEARDINI (left) and 1996 Playmate of the Year STACY SANCHES. Keith stars in the ABC-TV police drama High Incident, but in this shot, the action has a softer touch.





NEXT MONTH: HOLIDAY ANNIVERSARY ISSUE





CON DOCTOR





LOST NUDES

THE RETURN OF JAMES BOND-IN A NEW ADVENTURE. THE INTREPID 007 JETS TO THE BIG APPLE TO TRACK THE KILLER OF HIS OWN ILLEGITIMATE SON, THRILLS AND SUS-PENSE FROM BOND WRITER RAYMOND BENSON

THE NUDE MARILYN-INCLUDING NEVER-BEFORE-PUB-LISHED PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM KELLEY AND BERT STERN FROM THE BEST MONROE SHOOTINGS, PLUS A SPECIAL FOLDOUT-TEXT BY JOHN UPDIKE

DEEPAK CHOPRA ON SEX AND THE SPIRIT-THE BEST-SELLING WRITER AND GURU DESCRIBES THE DIVINITY OF AN ORGASM AND THE SECRETS OF INTIMACY, AND HE TELLS A GREAT MARTIAN SEX JOKE-A PLAYBOY **EXCLUSIVE**

WHOOPI GOLDBERG-EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE OSCAR HOST LETS IT ALL HANG OUT, FROM BILLY'S AND ROBIN'S GENITALS TO HER BATTLE FOR POWER IN HOLLYWOOD-AN OUTRAGEOUS INTERVIEW BY DAVID SHEFF

A SEX BESTIARY—A UNIQUE NATURE STUDY WITH SUCH BEGUILING CREATURES AS THE ONE-NIGHT STAND, THE BLIND DATE AND THE SPANISH FLY. GEORGE PLIMPTON CATALOGS THEIR HABITS FOR ARTIST ARNOLD ROTH

MAFIA MOLE-THE FBI'S TOP SNOOP IN THE MOB WAS ALSO A VICIOUS HOOD. WHY DIDN'T THE FBI REIN IN ITS THUG?—ARTICLE BY BOB DRURY

LEGALIZE DRUGS?—AN IMPORTANT DEBATE AMONG THE LIKES OF JOYCELYN ELDERS, WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY AND THOMAS SZASZ

THE PORT OF ST.-TROPEZ-IT'S A RECIPE FOR LUST: THE RIVIERA, A YACHT AND WOMEN WHO LIVE TO SPOIL. NO-BODY WRITES A POTBOILER LIKE HAROLD ROBBINS

CON DOCTOR-MCCLARTY HAS PUT THE BRIGHT LIGHTS. BIG CITIES AND DRUGS BEHIND HIM, AND HE'S FEELING GOOD. FUNNY HOW WRONG A FEELING CAN BE. FICTION BY JAY MCINERNEY

BILL MAHER OF POLITICALLY INCORRECT CALLS A SPADE A SPADE AND EXPLAINS WHAT POLITICIANS ARE MADE OF AND WHY

THE YEAR IN SEX-OLYMPIC CHEESECAKE, THE ROYALS AND RODMAN, CINDY NUDE-OH, WHAT A YEAR IT WAS

PLUS: GREAT TUXEDO OPTIONS, 20Q WITH BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD'S MIKE JUDGE, ELEVENTH-HOUR SANTA AND A FABULOUS PLAYMATE REVIEW