

Veejay covers up for runway strut

Page Six

By RICHARD JOHNSON
with KIMBERLEY RYAN

Durable Webb

ROBERT Morgenthau, Manhattan DA since anyone can remember, has nothing against Attorney General Janet Reno. But he told **Mary Perot Nichols'** class at NYU that Reno isn't really in charge at the Justice Dept. Morgenthau is still pursuing his investigation of the BCCI scandal which mixed up a lot of powerful Democrats with some shady Middle Easterners in a huge bank collapse. Morgenthau is annoyed that Justice is thwarting his efforts, but he doesn't blame Reno. He told the class that **President Clinton's** old Arkansas crony **Webster Hubbell**, who stepped down as Reno's No. 2 some months ago in the wake of Whitewater, is still at the department three days a week. The title of Nichols' course, by the way, is "Government Conspiracies & Coverups."

Hail Philip

BARBARALEE Diamonstein Spielvogel and her New York Landmarks Preservation Foundation are honoring **Philip Johnson** Thursday at a Plaza Hotel luncheon. The octogenarian architect will be given the foundation's medal of honor for his design of the Four Seasons restaurant and his collaboration with **Mies van der Rohe** on the Seagram building, among other achievements. Past honorees include **Brooke Astor** for her fights to save Grand Central Terminal and then-Mayor **Robert Wagner** for introducing the country's first landmarks law in 1965. Some 400 are expected, including **Sid and Mercedes Bass**, **I.M. Pei**, **Phyllis Lambert** and **Donald Trump**.



KIAM: unoriginal

VICTOR Kiam will soon be back on the air. The 68 year-old owner of Remington Products is a hired pitchman for the new credit card Travel Plus. Smart Money magazine reports the commercial borrows heavily from the Remington spot which shows Kiam holding a razor and explaining he "liked it so much, [he] bought the whole company." Kiam blinks, holds up the card, and says, "And I should have bought it with this." How's that for originality in today's advertising?

IT'S not just the quality of its food, the rudeness of its waiters, the shortage of taxicabs — Paris is *tres* different from New York in *beau-coup* ways, as antics at the ready-to-wear shows proved last weekend.

Kennedy, the virginal MTV star, knew she wasn't in Kansas anymore, or Manhattan for that matter, when a group of nude models backstage at the **Jean Paul Gaultier** show started sprinkling metallic glitter over their *mons pubis*.

The mannequins, some of whom opted instead for sunflower g-strings, were preparing to model Gaultier's see-through mesh dresses, which Kennedy — making her runway debut — would have nothing to do with. The Republican veejay, who landed the catwalk job when she hosted Gaultier on her show earlier this year, chose a far less revealing outfit, as did **Madonna** and **Isabella Rossellini**.

But if some New Yorkers had a hard time relating to Parisians, the opposite was true too. In a glaring example of Gallic intolerance, a

group of Gotham club kids — led by **James St. James**, **Jenny Talia**, **Richie Rich** and **Walt Paper** — were attacked by a mob of homophobes as they were boite-hopping on Sunday.

The club kids — known for their wacky clothes, neon-dyed (or shaved) hair, and fondness for body-piercing — came to town with New York nightclub impresario **Jeffrey Jah** to host a party at Queen, a younger, louder sister club of **Les Bains**, the hottest spot in the City of Light for the last 11 years.

After being chased into the sanctuary of a cafe, they called the *gendarmes* for an escort and got back to their hotel safely.

As for the Material Girl, the only cultural adjustment problem she had was the lack of punctuality. **Madonna** braved a horde of photographers to take her front seat at the **John Galliano** show. But she never saw it. The show was almost two hours late in starting when she made her exit.

Steve Florio, the powerful Conde Nast president, knew he was far from home when he ar-

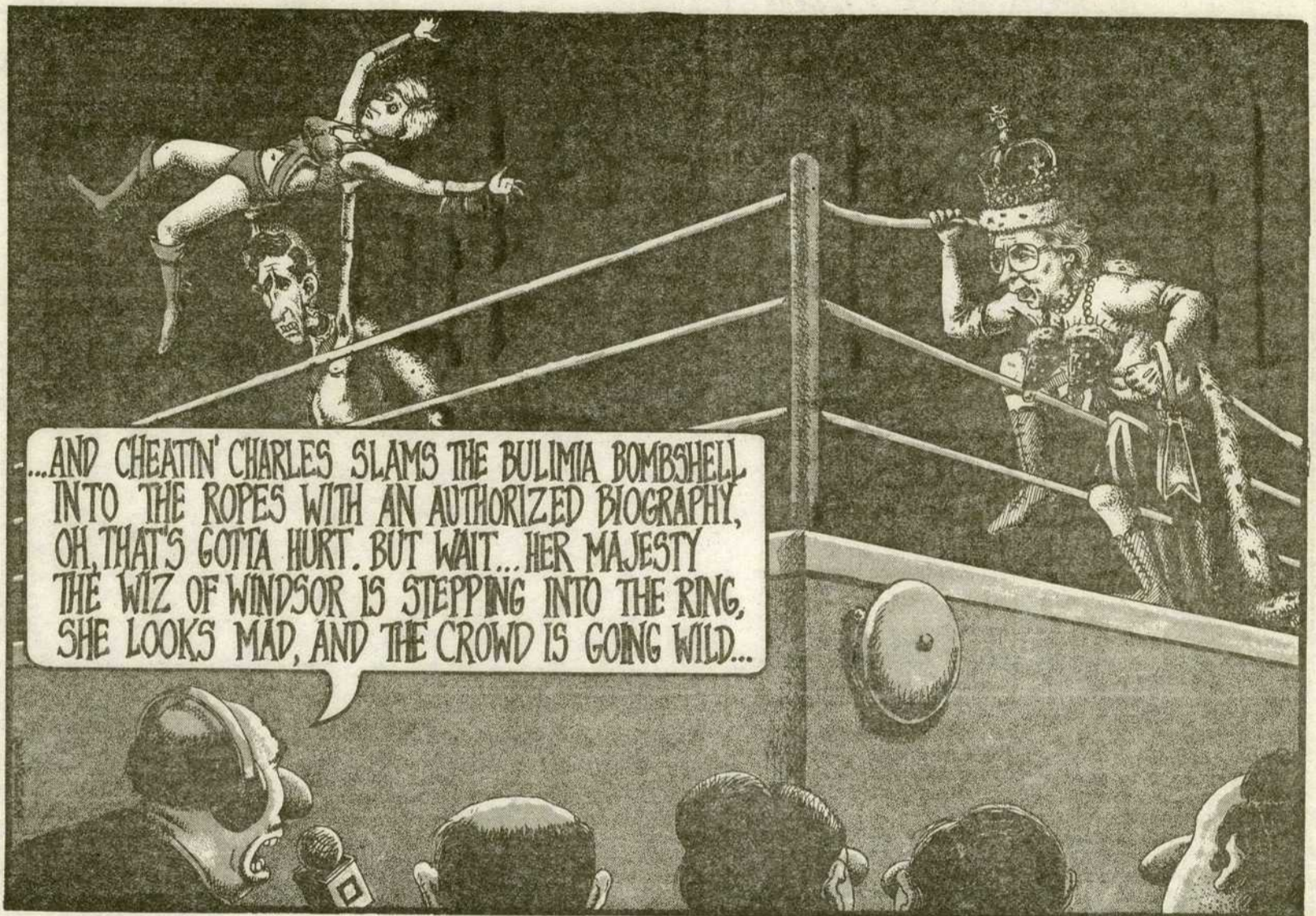
rived at the residence of U.S. Ambassador to France **Pamela Harriman** and the security men wouldn't let him in. "Your name isn't on the list," he was told.

"But the party is being held for *me*," Florio explained. The guest of honor was finally admitted after producing his driver's license.

Inside, Harriman was hitting it off with **Janice Dickinson**, the gorgeous single mother who left **Sylvester Stallone** for Vanity Fair publisher **Ron Galotti**.

When the Ambassador asked Dickinson how she felt being subjected to intense media scrutiny, the model replied: "You should know." Harriman has been immortalized as the greatest courtesan of the century in **Christopher Ogden's** biography, "Life of the Party," and she was recently sued by her in-laws for \$27 million. Harriman suggested she and Dickinson have a long chat. We'd love to be a *mouche* on the wall for that one.

[The look of Lagerfeld at the Paris show: story and photos, page 31.]



...AND CHEATIN' CHARLES SLAMS THE BULIMIA BOMBSHELL INTO THE ROPES WITH AN AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY, OH, THAT'S GOTTA HURT. BUT WAIT... HER MAJESTY THE WIZ OF WINDSOR IS STEPPING INTO THE RING, SHE LOOKS MAD, AND THE CROWD IS GOING WILD...

Sightings

MARCIA Clark, the curly-topped O.J. Simpson prosecutor, checking out the \$19 Jordache

jeans at the Price Club in Burbank on Saturday afternoon with her two kids. Fans swarmed to say hello... **JOHN Kennedy** putting his red bicycle in the trunk of

a cab Sunday afternoon in front of Polo Sport on Madison Avenue and joining an attractive blonde in the back seat for some immediate canoodling... **PATRICK Ewing** outbidding pretty philanthropist **Kathleen Burns Buddenhagen** for an 8-week-old chocolate Labrador retriever at the second annual **Michael Bolton Celebrity Tennis Classic and Auction**. The \$22,000 for the pooch goes to charity.

Enquirer falls to media scammer

MEDIA hoaxer **Joey Skaggs** finally added the elusive National Enquirer to his list of suckers. The man who came up with cathouses for dogs, hair transplants from cadavers, and a company that churns stray pets into soup is featured in the Oct. 25 issue under a headline that brags about the Enquirer's invincibility to a Skaggs scam. The article innocently quotes Skaggs' belief that "slipshod and deceptive journalism" keeps his ruses going, and ends with his sarcastic tip of the hat: "I haven't gotten one past The Enquirer yet!" But splashed across the page are three photos of a Skaggs imposter. The captions identify him as **Joey**, but it's his heavier, older friend, **Peter Insalaco**. Confessed Skaggs to **PAGE SIX**: "They called me for the story, so it wasn't planned. But I couldn't resist. How could you not want to get the Enquirer?" True to form, Skaggs left clues in case anyone did their homework. Not only had the tab previously published photos of the real Skaggs, he sent them background articles which also contained the genuine image. Even better, Enquirer photographer **Mario Suriani** had once shot Skaggs for the Boston Globe and warmly greeted the imposter during the session and recounted some old times with him. Enquirer editor **John Cathcart** refused to admit his paper had been had. "We completely stand by the photos until we see evidence to the contrary," he insisted. Countered **Joey**: "They'll say or do anything to lessen the embarrassment... besides, I just got an angry fax from the guy who shot the pictures — he's not a happy photographer."



FRANZ: blown cover

"NYPD Blue's" **Dennis Franz** may soon be the butt of a few precinct jokes when his cop character finally drops his drawers on air. Said Franz via computer on Prodigy: "Will viewers ever get to see Andy Sipowicz's bare butt? The producers keep saying it will happen... There is talk of a big shower scene with **Costas and Sipowicz**. I've asked for a couple of weeks of notice to try and get in shape, but I think the farthest I'll probably go is to skip breakfast that morning."

Trading up

LIKE a Broadway show, **Gauguin**, in the old **Trader Vic's** space at the Plaza, had three months of previews before tonight's official opening. During the tryouts, the management refined the menu, changed the decor, maybe fired some of the clumsy waitresses, and built a VIP room, called the **Opium Den**, where the promised swells tonight will include **Donald Trump**, the joint's landlord, **Tony Bennett**, **Rosie Perez**, **Matt Dillon**, **Donna Karan** and **Yoko Ono**.