

HIGH JINKS

After reading "Infidelity Chic" (*The Playboy Forum*, November), I see the sexes are still at odds. Isn't it conceivable that someone can have an affair because it feels good and not simply as a manipulation of a partner? Occasionally, the adjective love is correct with the word affair. In our lives, there are few experiences that produce the excitement that comes with an affair. However, with the excitement also comes tension. Although there is the potential for disaster, affairs still flourish. So adulterers either are in denial or feel the payoff is worth the risk. Anyway, shouldn't we take it easier on ourselves? Affairs needn't be about relinquishing or asserting sexual power; often they're just powerful sex.

Judith E.

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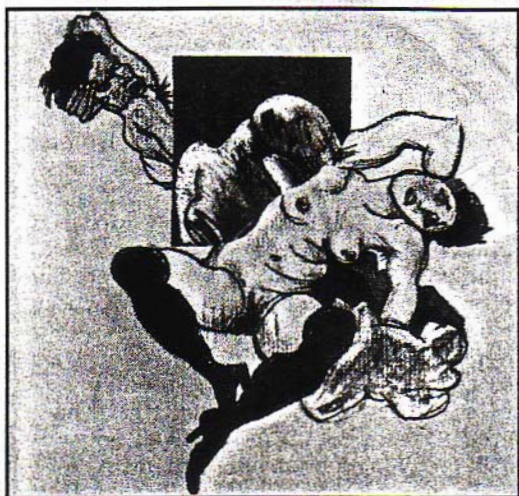
South Korea held public hearings to determine whether the government should drop adultery as a crime. The justice ministry argued that the existing law suppressed personal freedom, but conservative women's groups supported a provision calling for fines and a year in prison. So here are the alternatives, fellas: the freewheeling wives of Dalma Heyn's *Erotic Silence* or bread and water with your kimchi.

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JUST SAY NO

After reading Hugh M. Hefner's article "Just Say No" (*The Playboy Forum*, November), I am left with the impression that Hefner does not think much of Republican leaders. Repression, prohibition and retribution are terms he used to describe Republican presidential agendas, including the war on drugs. The irresponsible use of alcohol is reason enough to restrict other, more harmful drugs from being legalized or freely used. Hefner would also like the government to stay out of our bedrooms. I'll be perfectly happy to go along with him when my tax



FOR THE RECORD

FOR WHOM THE DRUG TOLLS

Andrew Sullivan, writing in *The New Republic*, offers an explanation of why the drug ecstasy is so popular with both gay and heterosexual clubgoers: "The obvious explanation is that it's cheap and fun. But it's also, I think, the latest wrinkle in plague psychology. As an antidote to anxiety, the drug has finally found its perfect market. Ecstasy seems to be able to provide instant intimacy, intimacy without fear, either of disease or commitment. It acts as a depressant of sexual desire, accentuating a more aesthetic form of eroticism. For people who have never known sexual relations without fear of death (which is true of my entire generation), it allows for a kind of pseudosex, in which contemplation replaces coitus, and terror is chemically dispelled. It also fosters, however briefly, a sense of community, where no community really exists, riven as it is by the strong tensions of HIV. For all these reasons, it is as ubiquitous as it is unsettling, a happy drug that is a cure for unbanished sadness, an ear muffler for the white noise of death."

dollars are no longer spent on treating the fatal diseases that people transmit behind closed doors. Our country is not coming apart at the seams. What we need is a truthful analysis of the problems and rational solutions. And, Mr. Hefner, a little bit of optimism wouldn't hurt.

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