



From our Editor...

by Raj-Q-Marie

As the flickering candlelights of Diwali transform themselves into the dazzling displays for Christmas and Hanukkah, we all look forward to the upcoming holidays. Sikhs wish each other Happy Gurpurab, and each evening Muslims come together in breaking the day's Ramadan fast. In our growing, multi-faith Khush family, we celebrate one, two, three, or all of these occasions with each other—perhaps the true intent for the holidays.

FEELINGS

The feelings that show in your eyes, I can tell they are true, there is no disguise.

That what you feel is true to your heart.

Knowing that emotions can pull a person apart.

But as you wipe the tears away, You stand and reach for another day.

Knowing that somewhere deep down inside Is a little voice saying come out, come out you can't hide.

--JK

The Fragility of Desi Gay Relationships: A Fast-Breeder Familiarity?

(part 3 of 4)

by Ninad Jog

The Indian social setup strongly discourages boys from socializing with girls until they are married off. Guys therefore socialize intimately with other guys and sometimes fulfill their sexual needs by having sex with guys even as they identify as heterosexual. As Indian society breaks its sexual taboos and evolves towards a Western model, the number of teenage and early-twenties guys going arm-in-arm in public has decreased visibly. Yet friendship between males remain more intimate than in the West, and desi guys can get familiar with each other with an alacrity unfamiliar to Westerners.

There is less awareness of gay issues in India than in the West. Desi schoolboys may harass their weaker and effeminate peers, but they do not automatically suspect him to be gay. The lack of awareness and enhanced male intimacy permits teenage gay desis to cozy up and cuddle with their straight boy buddies without

eliciting suspicions of being gay. When a gay desi eventually starts dating another gay desi, they become familiar with each other even faster. Rapid familiarity breeds contempt not consent and often guarantees a weak and uncertain foundation for a lasting relationship.

Jumping into bed at the first meeting may well be more widely prevalent among Westerners than desis. Though common, I think a significant number (of non-desi gay men) also do not jump into bed right away. Relationships between such non-jumpers may well be the ones that sustain over the long run. Desi gays attend gay potlucks and continue to stay single—the attraction toward another is seldom mutual. But once two desi guys decide to hook up, you bet they will be in bed in minutes. No room for courtship here.

To be continued...

Next month in Khush Khush Hota Hai...

- More on "The Fragility of Desi Gay Relationships..."
- More poems by JK... (oh goodie)
- How do I handle my potato? Ask Aunty Helen! She'll answer all your questions about love, life and happiness in the nation's capital...

If you'd like to contribute to KKH, send your article, comments or questions to: KhushDCKKH@hotmail.com

Khush in the Kitchen

by Moshla Babu

The way to any Bengali's heart is through fish. Although you may not catch one on the banks of the Yamuna and Ganga, you're sure to snare one with the aroma from this heavenly dish.

Spicy Mustard Fish

- 1 lb. fish (cod, catfish, etc.)
- 1 T. freshly ground mustard*
- 2 green chilis, minced
- 1 t. turmeric
- 1 t. salt
- 1 T. mustard oil
- 1-2 T. whole milk yogurt (optional)
- 2 T. water
- 2 T. fresh cilantro, chopped

(*grind black mustard seeds in coffee grinder with pinch of salt.)

Wash and cut fish into 1 inch pieces. Marinate fish with mustard, chilis, turmeric, salt, oil, yogurt, and water overnight in refrigerator. Wrap fish in banana leaves and steam for ten minutes. Serve garnished with chopped cilantro. If banana leaves are not available, place fish in microwave safe dish and zap for 10 minutes stirring every 3.

Served with a bowl of steaming white rice you'll melt the hearts of Bengalis and Au-bangalis alike.

Are you a wiz in the kitchen? Then *Khush in the Kitchen* wants your recipes. Share your favorite recipes with other Khushies. Send your entries to *Khush in the Kitchen* at KhushDCKKHH@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Chutney Fridays

Friday, January 4, 2002 • 6:00 p.m.

Come in from the cold and have some drinks with the gang at Titan's—upstairs from Hamburger Mary's (on the corner of 14th and Rhode Island). 1337 14th St, NW (202) 232-7010. For a map, visit: www.khushdc.org

South Asian Film Course:

Movies, Masala & Magic

Rich in color, vibrant in its history, India is the world's largest producer of films. This course promises an exciting journey through India's varied cinescapes: from old masters to contemporary Bollywood radical artistes, including Indian MTV and emerging media and cinematic

identities. Explore representations of diverse themes—national identity, gender, sexuality, caste, class and religion. Examine television and the Internet as an emerging media site as well as the rise of filmmaking in global diasporic communities. Offered through the Dept. of Anthropology at American University for Spring 2002. Tuesdays 5:30-8:00 p.m. For more information on this course, contact Geoff Burkhart at gburkhar@american.edu, or Parvez Sharma parvezsharma@yahoo.com. Or call (202) 885 1830.

Do you have an event you'd like to have listed in "Upcoming Events?" E-mail it to: KhushDCKKHH@hotmail.com

AUNTY HELEN'S CLOSET

Dear Auntie Helen,

We've all heard the phrase, "Don't fish off the company's pier." But there is this really cute boy that works in my building and I'm very enamored with him. How can I tell if he likes me and what's a non-threatening way to ask him out on a date? Should I even try? I've been down to his office to chit-chat and we have good (albeit short) conversations (sic). I've even seen him out at bars in Dupont. He's always been friendly, but hasn't given me any signals. What should I do next? Please help.

Signed,
Hardly Working

Hai, hai, HW,

Why I should have heard of fishing off any company's pier? I grew up in the Himalayas where there weren't any

companies, fishes, or piers, please. Mangoes, yes. Fishes, no. Without any fish around, Aunty grew up sucking mangoes with other Himalayan boys. So, please to mind your PC manners from now onwards.

My advice to you is also based on the fine art of growing up sucking mangoes. Tomorrow from that Puerto Rican market next to the Safeway on 17th Eeshtreet, purchase one in number mango and give it to the man in your office. Watch to see if he warms up to your mango eating culture and you should also begin to relax a bit about your obsession. IF you can stop obsessing and start to enjoy it all (mangoes included) then perhaps you can one day ask him out.

-AH

Do you have a question for Aunty Helen about life and love in DC? E-mail it to Aunty Helen's Closet at: KhushDCKKHH@hotmail.com

Feel you're missing out on all the fun? Join the KhushDC listserv!

Send an email to:

KhushDC: khushdc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com for all the gossip and cat fights.
KhushDCAnnounce: KhushdcAnnounce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com for upcoming events and announcements.

Or read the messages at your leisure by visiting the websites:

KhushDC: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/khushdc/>
KhushDCAnnounce: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KhushdcAnnounce/>

Also, don't forget to visit our website at: www.khushdc.org