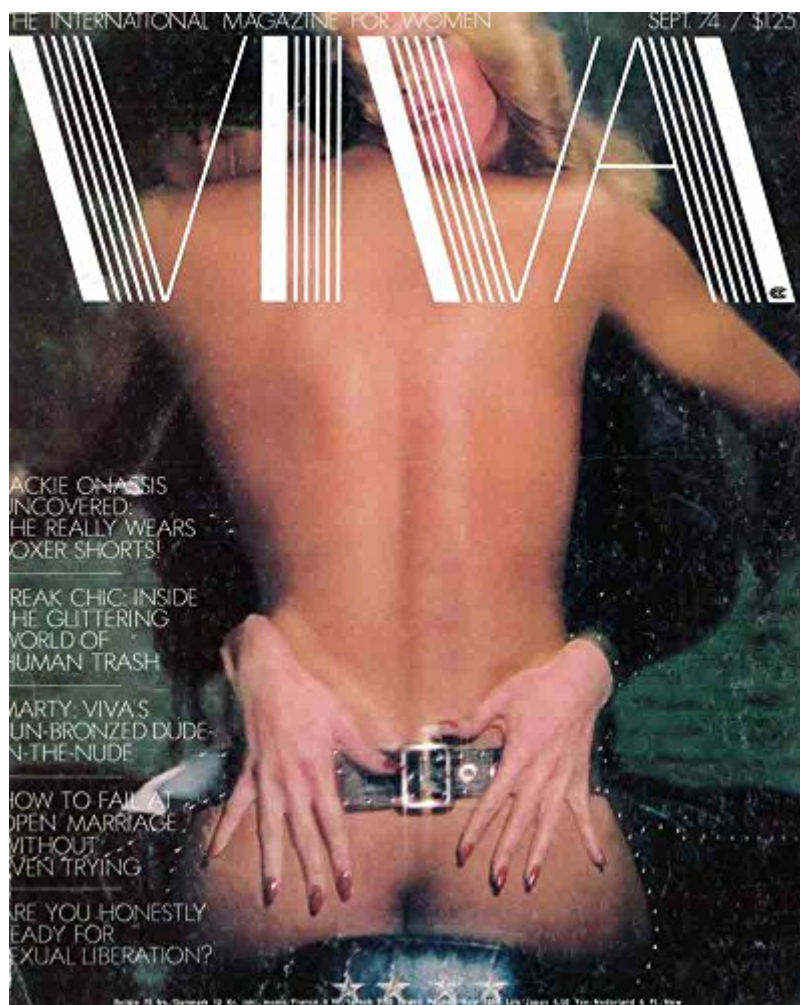


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Viva Magazine September 1974



Synopsis

Feature Articles: Women on the Move in Journalism, Leaving the Youthquake, Closing the Open Marriage, Max's Kansas City Cover Art: Jean Pagliuso Remember matrimony-bells, rice, and "till death do us part"? Few award that time-honored institution much credence these days. But look before you leap into many splendored beds, warns Robert Westbrook in Closing the Open Marriage. He has rediscovered the comforts of monogamy through a curious route-free love. His conclusion: "Growth is only possible in the absence of defenses, and free love sets off the most explosive defenses of all. ... We thought we could grow, and be open to the world and remain together always, co-adventurers. A fine ideal, but alas, it didn't work." Westbrook is completing a novel, *The Bird Cage*, based on his sexual experiences.

Fall Fashion 1974, and Viva presents Moto Mamas Taking the Lead. Here are some stylish answers to the crucial question-what do you wear on a motorcycle? The photos are by Jean Pagliuso who has done two Viva covers prior to this engagement.

All that glitters is not gold, cautions Corinne Browne in *Decadence U.S.A.* When a hustler like Andy Warhol becomes a god, antisexuality is considered a glorified ideal, and nine-inch silver heels are one's only means of support, then something's taking hold. It's the new decadence, says Browne, prevalent among, but not restricted to, the young Money, status, celebrity head-hunting -the old glamour syndrome in drag, but with a curiously destructive bent. Browne calls the phenomenon a "somasomorbido treadmill" wherein nihilists and sexual cripples are held in the highest esteem. Browne is the author of *Body Shop: Recuperating from Vietnam* (Stein & Day, 1974) and is at work on *Casualty*, a book about the death of frontier innocence.

For fiction, we have *Three In Love* by novelist and essayist Herbert Gold, who has a new book, *Swiftie, the Magician* coming out late this year from McGraw-Hill. In his story for Viva, we return to the group-sex theme (though with only two at a time). It's the classic triangle, involving a girl who alternates between a forty-year-old lover and a twenty-one-year-old boy. The story has it all: unrequited love, a funny suicide attempt, heart-rending decisions, and finally

A mecca for the decadent generation, according to Browne's article is Max's Kansas City, a New York restaurant/saloon and gathering place for freaks and their reflections. In a Viva pictorial photo-graphed by Anton Perich, Glenn O'Brien, a former editor of Warhol's *Interview Magazine*, takes us back to Max's of the Sixties when it was the Sardi's of the counterculture. Inevitably, celebrity-seekers infested the haven, picking over the scene and the stars like so many ripe berries from a bush. O'Brien's first book, *From Here to Oblivion* (to be published by Macmillan in 1975) is about just this nightlife milieu.

Nancy Weber, author of the bestseller *Life Swap* (Dial Press, 1974), offers the Last Word In Praise of Passionate Monogamy. She contends that a one-to-one relationship is "the most unusual sexual fantasy yet."

Like Westbrook she leaves pluralistic sexuality to the pluralists. Unrelenting, Weber completes her barrage on our newly liberated sensibilities with some encouraging words on, yes, marriage. This month's *Women On The Move* by Helen Epstein concerns four journalists who have pioneered the news from the "Woman's Page" to page one. No rhapsodizing on the perfect meatloaf for them. (One of the four is Martha Mitchell's nocturnal phonemate, Helen Thomas of UP I.) Epstein is no new-comer to the business her-self. Her writing career began in the terrorized atmosphere of Prague during the 1968 Russian invasion when she was locked in a room with a typewriter. Since then, she has been a staff writer for the *Jerusalem Post* and has freelanced for national magazines. *Pictorially*, September *Viva* ranges from the raunchy Thirties to the revved-up Seventies.

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