

AMONG THE SAINTS

Although I did say "This bag of love we send to heaven" moments before dumping some of Marsha P. Johnson's ashes into the Hudson River, I was merely giving voice to what I perceived to be the sentiments of the throng of mourners/celebrants who had accompanied Marsha's family and myself to the river. It was not a moment of "conversion" from atheism as implied by your report ("Death of a Legend," issue no. 40). I am, have always been and will probably always be an atheist.

Regarding another quote, "If there are saints, Marsha is certainly there among them" was what I

actually said. Many of Marsha's friends viewed her as being saintly. One very old friend and admirer actually wanted to fill small packets with her ashes, label them "Ashes of Saint Marsha" and make them available to those who wanted them as a kind of relic. I personally had no objection, but the Rev. Karen Zeigler and others planning the service thought the idea was a little "too far out" and might offend some people—so we didn't.

Seems like our straight friends and families always jump at the opportunity to think we have gone straight. Likewise, our religious friends and neighbors hasten to declare that we atheists have *seen the light* and converted. Not in this lifetime, I won't!

Randy Wicker
AIDS Atheist Ministry
Manhattan

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