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Calef Brown, author of *Polka Bats*, will sign and read his new book **DUTCH SNEAKERS & FLEA KEEPERS** on Tues. May 9, 5-7 pm. Join us for a fun time!

Peggy Lumpkin will sign **THE STEP-KIN STORIES** and Joan Callander will sign **SECOND TIME AROUND** on Saturday, May 13, 12-2 pm. These are advice books for step families and grandparents who are raising children.

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COMEDY

Easy does it

An interview with Margaret Cho

Continued from the cover

First of all, I've got a bone to pick with you. I recently heard something that's making me very jealous; I heard a rumor that you're dating Joan Jett.

No, but I think she's great. We're not romantically involved, but she's certainly a big crush of mine, and I think she's awesome.

She did the music for my movie, and she came to see my show in New York, and I've worked with her in the past. I love her music, I love her. She's a phenomenal woman and a great artist, and somebody who's one of the most beautiful people I've ever seen in my life. She's just great.

A friend of mine claims to be your biggest fan in the world. She made me promise to ask why are you so fuckin' cool?

I don't know! That's really sweet, though, tell her thank you. That's wonderful, that's so cute!~

You've done a ton of interviews since the premiere of *I'm the One That I Want*. A lot of them call you a fag hag, a pansexual, a slut, a bisexual.

I'm sure bi folks would love to have you as their poster girl, but you seem to be avoiding labels. Are you post-gay?

It's kind of like rejecting these labels and rejecting definition, and finding peace and happiness in this idea of a very free-flowing, liquid sexuality. It's just being there in the moment and being ready for anything.

I've had relationships with so many different kinds of people, and I love everybody. I love the diversity that I've been able to experience, and I encourage others to go forth and make their dreams come true with regard to sex.

I think sex is the last great, wonderful vice—it's not even a vice—the last great pastime I have that is safe and exciting and fun. I just embrace it wholeheartedly. I think that when you attach labels to it, you're defining yourself next to the dominant culture, you're



PHOTO BY LORI DORN

saying "this is how much I'm like a straight man"—you know? That's what all the labels say to me, so I think it's really important to define as you go along and love everybody.

The media's been comparing you to Bette Midler and Sandra Bernhard, *Entertainment Weekly* profiled you and Cher in the same article—are you a diva now? What are your diva credentials?

I think I'm a diva, but I don't think I have, necessarily, diva credentials. I don't have a rose named after me, like Barbra Streisand just had a rose developed for her. I don't think I have that distinction.

Maybe I'm a diva, but I'm a diva for the people. I'm a diva, but I feel like I'm really down with everybody. I think diva-ism is wonderful because it's so funny to worship a goddess, but at the same

time I still find the need to really connect and be close to people I want to work for, the people that I love, my audience.

Speaking of divas...I read that you're into yoga now, which is oh-so-Madonna-esque. But then I started wondering, and I couldn't decide if you and she would be buddies or if you'd wind up in a fistfight.

I love Madonna! I think she's really amazing, and I think that she's so inspiring. I just love everything that she's done. She's done amazing things for feminism, she's done amazing things for gays and lesbians—she's my role model. I think she's great, and I would hope that we'd be friends. I've never met her, which is strange. I've always wanted to, but I've never had the chance. She is the bomb!

When you had dinner at the White House, did President Clinton flirt with you?

No! But he's really attractive. There's something about him that's really warm; he's such a daddy. He's just this big, sexy, giant personality. I don't know if that sex appeal necessarily comes across in his presidential role, like in his State of the Union address, you don't really see

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