

BROWER RESIDENCE  
51 HURON ROAD  
YONKERS, NY 10710

03:01

"... I went into preterm labor at 7 months ... I went into labor like 7 times before you were born, I had pre-term labor .. so now I'm like two weeks late and this is like, alright enough already ... "

03:36

"... it was a .. I believe it was a Wednesday night, and 'Wiseguy,' my favorite show was on ... woo! ... starring Ken Wahl ... it was a mob show, it was great, I love Ken Wahl ... "

03:54

"... um, so I, you know, sat down and all of a sudden, that was like the beginning of the TV show ... I had this pain like I never knew in my life and I screamed 'Okay! Oh this is it!' ... "

04:45

"... and you know, I hear this ... you're supposed to be 'ha, ha, ha,' taking these breaths and its such bullshit, cuz you know ... such a bunch of bullshit, I don't see how that's gonna help that kind of pain ... "

05:27

"... and you hear these women screaming like a medieval torture chamber ... "

06:12

"... it was scary because I was in labor ... and they said 'we have to make certain he's not retarded' ... so they poked your head three times to draw blood out of it ... I was totally petrified."

08:00

"... they dragged me in, and they knifed me, and I said 'I feel everything' and they said 'well we're sorry, its too late' ... and I felt him slice me open, I felt them ... they pull my intestines out ... literally, I mean it was amazing ... "

08:34

"... you know, he goes, 'oh the baby looks Greek' ... he was in tears ... passed out. I didn't see you ... "

18:23

"10:00 ... even though they wrote 10:30 on your birth certificate ... and no, I wasn't drugged up if you recall."

08:48

"... about 7 hours later they wheeled you in ... and you were just so gorgeous and I looked at you ... and I thought you were a mistake ... (laughter) I wasn't expecting a blonde haired blue-eyed baby."

NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL  
525 EAST 68TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10065

I called Mom to ask her about Dec. 15th, 1988 on Jan. 10th, 2008. We spoke for 23 minutes and 59 seconds.

WISEGUY (1987-1990)

Vinnie Terranova does time in a New Jersey penitentiary to set up his undercover role as an agent for the OCB (Organized Crime Bureau) of the United States. His roots in a traditional Italian city neighborhood form the underlying dramatic base throughout the series, bringing him into conflict with his conservative mother and other family members while acting undercover as syndicate enforcer. — Source: [IMDB.com](#)

CUSTOMS FRAUD ADMITTED

A Mount Kisco cheese importer, the Westland Cheese Company, and its general manager pleaded guilty today to conspiring to defraud the Customs Service of duty payments on imported cheese over a two-year period. The general manager, Jan Kos, 35 years old, of Mount Kisco, faces up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The company could be fined \$400,000. — Source: [The New York Times](#)

Mom says she never made it to her Lamaze training sessions since she was on bedrest for so long I'm not sure if my Dad knew that.

11 NEW YORK STATE HOSPITALS HAVE HIGH MORTALITY RATES, U.S. SAYS

Eleven of New York State's 270 hospitals had mortality rates in 1987 significantly higher than the national average, according to a Federal study of Medicare patients.

Dr. I. Milton Hudson tried to deliver me naturally for a pretty long time. Apparently I was a bit too big for mom, so they rushed her in for a cesarean after she'd been in labor for a full 24 hours.

Mom says they didn't give her an epidural, or that they didn't give her enough ... I don't really remember. Anyway, I'm not allowed to forget this.

MANHATTAN MAN, 76, KILLED IN CRASH IN BATTERY PARK

A 1987 Ford van driven by Robert Kelly, 21, of Staten Island, was traveling toward Manhattan when the van crossed into oncoming traffic and collided with a 1980 Mercedes-Benz driven by Edward Deutsch, 76, of 19 W. 44th Street in Manhattan. Mr. Deutsch was pronounced dead at the scene. — Source: [The New York Times](#)

A baby boy was born to parents Pay and Mark Brower at 10:00 a.m. (officially), weighing 8 pounds 5 ounces, 21 inches in length.

She had recently watched a documentary about two kids who were swapped at birth.

LOCAL

Excerpts are identified by the time at which they were uttered on recording. Secondary text is color coded as follows:

NOTES ■

COMMENTARY ■

LOCAL NEWS ■

Mom and Dad don't agree on much. That's why they're not married anymore. They did agree, however, that they'd like to have a kid, and on December 15th, 1988, they got one. I spoke with both of my parents to hear their accounts of the day's events, and they managed to contradict one another on nearly every point of discussion ... down to the very route they took to the hospital.

Excerpts from either conversation accompany their "respective" trips to New York Presbyterian along with local news, relevant contextual information and my own commentary.

10:25

I called Dad to ask him about Dec. 15th, 1988 on Jan. 10th, 2008. He was busy with work and called me back a few days later. We spoke for 21 minutes and 46 seconds.

"... she freaked out ... I realized she was gooshin' the amniotic fluid all over the couch ... "

THE LAMAZE TECHNIQUE

11:01

The Lamaze Technique is a prepared childbirth technique developed in the 1940s by French obstetrician Dr. Fernand Lamaze as an alternative to the use of medical intervention during labor. The Lamaze method gained popularity in the United States after Marjorie Karmel wrote about her experiences in her 1959 book *Thank You, Dr. Lamaze*. — Source: [Wikipedia](#)

"... we went screamin' down to the hospital ... she was doing her Lamaze training ... and I'm racing like a motherfucker trying to get to the hospital ... "

5-YEAR-OLD BROOKLYN GIRL DIES

03:20

A five-year-old Brooklyn girl who officials said appeared to have been physically abused, died last night after she was found unconscious in her mother's apartment, the police said.

"There was a uhh ... a curtain between let's say ... mom's neck ... up to the ceiling and down the sides of the gurney she was on ... I went to stand up and they told me to sit down ... they said they'd lost too many fathers to fainting ..."

Responding to reports of a woman screaming, the police found the unconscious girl, Jessica Cortez, in Apartment 1-C at 300 Bushwick Avenue, where she lived with her mother and stepfather.

03:30

The girl was taken by ambulance to Woodhull Hospital Medical Center, where she was declared dead shortly after arrival at 8:20 P.M., the police said.

"... you hear the, you know, (slurping noise) ... because they're sucking the blood out of the incision ... you're behind a curtain and you don't really know what's going on ... "

Her mother and stepfather, who were not immediately identified, were taken by the police to the 90th Precinct station house for questioning, said Sgt. Raymond O'Donnell, a police spokesman. They were in the apartment when the police found the girl, he said.

03:45

"I sat down ... mom was obviously very sedated."

— Source: [The New York Times](#)

04:27

"... at one point ... I think the doctor or the nurse said, 'Oh! Here it comes! It's a -' and I said, 'don't you dare ... I wanna make that determination first hand.'"

LOTTERY NUMBERS, DEC 15 1988

05:10

New York Numbers — 401  
New York Win 4 — 4862  
New York Keno — 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 20, 25, 30, 32, 36, 37, 42, 50, 53, 55, 68, 74, 78  
New Jersey Pick-It — 854  
New Jersey Pick 4 — 4944  
New Jersey Pick-6 Lotto — 4, 5, 25, 27, 33, 39, bonus, 78059  
Connecticut Daily — 485  
Connecticut Play 4 — 8150

"... you came out pretty gooeey ... I thought, 'It's a boy! Great! I don't have to pay for the wedding.'"

06:00

"... they cleaned you up and you don't hear a sound right away, and then they give you the ol' pat on the ass, and the 'wah' and the 'wah' ... "

Hours of labor molded my malleable cranium into the shape of my mother's birthing canal.

06:23

"I'm looking in the window and your head was like ... really, really pointy ... I said, 'damn! Look at that head! What's up with that?' ... I started patting my head to kind of see if maybe I had one too."

DAD'S ROUTE , HENRY HUDSON PKWY

MOM'S ROUTE , FDR DRIVE

**NATIONAL**

The following are 60 of the Billboard top 100 pop hits for the year 1988. Five of George Michael's singles made the chart in a single year. Secondary text is color coded as follows:

NOTES ■

COMMENTARY ■

NATIONAL HEADLINES ■

**YEAR OF GEORGE MICHAEL**

Surveying the past year in commercial pop music, 1988 was the year of George Michael. According to Billboard's year-end annual chart tallies, Mr. Michael's album "Faith" was the No. 1 pop album and compact disk and its title song the top single of 1988. Mr. Michael finished as the year's top album artist and its top singles artist.

Mr. Michael's achievement was all the more impressive because the singer, songwriter and producer does not belong to part of a broader trend. His artful studio pop has almost nothing stylistically in common with the metal rock that dominated the charts for most of the year. No less than six of the year's top 20 albums could be categorized as hard-to-heavy metal rock.

— Source: *New York Times*, Stephen Holden

"One More Try" was the third consecutive #1 single from the Faith album. "One More Try" debuted at an impressive #40 the week of April 16, 1988, and matching the speed of "Father Figure", reached #1 by its seventh week, May 28, 1988, this time staying there for three consecutive weeks. "One More Try" was the second-longest running #1 of 1988, tied with "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" by Poison, and behind the four-week run of Steve Winwood's "Roll With It". — Source: *Wikipedia*

**CRYSTAL MYSTERIES**

Whether there is or is not a Santa Claus is a matter of personal predilection, but there has been no choice about another seasonal proposition: no two snowflakes are alike. How many parents have been pleased to astonish their children with that assertion of crystalline infinity?

Now it's the parent's turn to be astonished. A letter in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society describes the belief in no-two-alike as "a bit of folk wisdom generally accepted even among those few regarded as experts in the subject." But it is no more. The author, Dr. Nancy Knight, a scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, reports finding a matching pair in a snowstorm over Wisconsin. She was collecting flakes on a research flight, exposing a glass slide to pick up crystals. A photo revealed the similarity of the two of them.

What's the significance of the her discovery? "Nothing cosmic," Dr. Knight says. "It's not going to solve the greenhouse effect." The real challenge that she sees is explaining how two crystals grew the same. A myth demolished, but nature's mystery survives.

— Source: *New York Times*

In the U.S., "Father Figure" became George Michael's sixth number one single (counting #1 singles garnered as half of Wham!). "Father Figure" debuted at #49 on January 16, 1988, while "Faith" was still prominent (at #9) in the top tier of the chart. In the subsequent weeks, "Father Figure" was a surefire hit, reaching #1 by its seventh week, February 27, 1988, staying at the top for two weeks. Altogether, the single spent 6 weeks in the Top 10, 9 weeks in the Top 20, and 14 weeks in the Top 40. — Source: *Wikipedia*

01 FAITH  
by *George Michael*

02 NEED YOU TONIGHT  
by *INXS*

03 GOT MY MIND SET ON YOU  
by *George Harrison*

04 NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP  
by *Rick Astley*

05 SWEET CHILD O' MINE  
by *Guns N' Roses*

06 SO EMOTIONAL  
by *Whitney Houston*

07 HEAVEN IS A PLACE ON EARTH  
by *Belinda Carlisle*

08 COULD'VE BEEN  
by *Tiffany*

09 HANDS TO HEAVEN  
by *Breathe*

10 ROLL WITH IT  
by *Steve Winwood*

11 ONE MORE TRY  
by *George Michael*

12 WISHING WELL  
by *Terence Trent d'Arby*

13 ANYTHING FOR YOU  
by *Gloria Estefan & Miami Sound Machine*

14 THE FLAME  
by *Cheap Trick*

15 GET OUTTA MY DREAMS, GET INTO MY CAR  
by *Billy Ocean*

16 SEASONS CHANGE  
by *Expose*

17 IS THIS LOVE  
by *Whitesnake*

18 WILD, WILD WEST  
by *Escape Club*

19 POUR SOME SUGAR ON ME  
by *Def Leppard*

20 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU  
by *Taylor Dayne*

21 MAN IN THE MIRROR  
by *Michael Jackson*

22 SHAKE YOUR LOVE  
by *Debbie Gibson*

23 SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE  
by *Robert Palmer*

24 HOLD ON TO THE NIGHTS  
by *Richard Marx*

25 HUNGRY EYES  
by *Eric Carnen*

26 SHATTERED DREAMS  
by *Johnny Hates Jazz*

27 FATHER FIGURE  
by *George Michael*

28 NAUGHTY GIRLS (NEED LOVE TOO)  
by *Samantha Fox*

29 A GROOVY KIND OF LOVE  
by *Phil Collins*

30 LOVE BITES  
by *Def Leppard*

ENDLESS SUMMER NIGHTS  
by *Richard Marx*

FOOLISH BEAT  
by *Debbie Gibson*

WHERE DO BROKEN HEARTS GO  
by *Whitney Houston*

ANGEL  
by *Aerosmith*

HAZY SHADE OF WINTER  
by *Bangles*

THE WAY YOU MAKE ME FEEL  
by *Michael Jackson*

DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY  
by *Bobby McFerrin*

MAKE ME LOSE CONTROL  
by *Eric Carnen*

RED RED WINE  
by *UB40*

SHE'S LIKE THE WIND  
by *Patric Swayze*

BAD MEDICINE  
by *Bon Jovi*

KOKOMO  
by *Beach Boys*

I DON'T WANNA GO ON WITH YOU LIKE THAT  
by *Elton John*

TOGETHER FOREVER  
by *Rick Astley*

MONKEY  
by *George Michael*

DEVIL INSIDE  
by *INXS*

SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER  
by *Richard Marx*

I DON'T WANNA LIVE WITHOUT YOUR LOVE  
by *Chicago*

THE LOCOMOTION  
by *Kylie Minogue*

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS?  
by *Pet Shop Boys & Dusty Springfield*

MAKE IT REAL  
by *Jets*

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND  
by *Information Society*

TELL IT TO MY HEART  
by *Taylor Dayne*

OUT OF THE BLUE  
by *Debbie Gibson*

DON'T YOU WANT ME  
by *Jody Watley*

DESIRE  
by *U2*

I GET WEAK  
by *Belinda Carlisle*

SIGN YOUR NAME  
by *Terence Trent d'Arby*

I WANT TO BE YOUR MAN  
by *Roger*

GIRLFRIEND  
by *Pebbles*

**SINGER JAMES BROWN RECEIVES 6-YEAR SENTENCE IN CAR CHASE**

AIKEN, S.C., Dec. 15 (AP) — The soul singer James Brown was sentenced to six years in prison today for failing to stop for the police in a two state automobile chase. But he was acquitted of assault with intent to kill.

Mr. Brown's lawyer, Bill Weeks, had argued that the prospect of arresting a celebrity caused the police to overreact in their pursuit of Mr. Brown. But the prosecutor, Robert Harte, said that Mr. Brown admitted that he failed to obey a police officer's command to pull over.

An Aiken County jury deliberated more than three hours before finding Mr. Brown guilty of two counts of aggravated assault and of eluding the police. Mr. Brown testified wednesday that he did not stop because he feared for his life. "I was scared to death," Mr. Brown said. "I went to Vietnam and I wasn't that frightened."

— Source: *New York Times*

**2 BOYS HELD IN CRACK CASE**

BOSTON, Dec. 14 (AP) — Two boys, 10 and 13 years old, have been charged in Dorchester District Court with operating a sidewalk business peddling crack. They were arrested Friday. — Source: *New York Times*

**TEACHERS HELD IN MANHATTAN AND BROOKLYN: SEPERATE ARRESTS INVOLVE HANDGUN AND DRUGS**

Two New York City schoolteachers were arrested yesterday, one for illegally possessing a handgun that the police said had been found by a student and that the teacher had offered to buy, and the other on drug charges.

[Shirley Smith], whose students said had warned them about drugs was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and cocaine after an investigation begun by a tip to a school official, the police said.

They said she was the kind of teacher who bought them little presents, lent lunch money, and borrowed library books for them. She also warned them away from drugs, they said.

"She said not to use drugs because you'll end up in the streets, a bum," said Yessenia Rivera, 12. "I don't believe she did it," said Andre Cruz, 11. "I feel broken up. She used to treat us like a mother."

— Source: *New York Times*

**3 AGENTS AND PLAYER CHARGED IN FRAUD OF COLLEGES**

A Federal grand jury indicted three agents today, finding that improper payments and threats of violence were used to induce dozens of athletes to sign professional management contracts while they were in college.

In addition, Cris Carter, a player for the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League, was indicted on charges of mail fraud and obstruction of justice in connection with payments he received from the agents.

— Source: *New York Times*

My mother maintains that there is no correlation between my name and the pop star's. "Mom I had to ask you who I was named after," to which she replies, "you were named after my father ... and Michael just because it sounded good." "Kissing a Fool" was George Michael's 5th single in the top 100. It wasn't in the top sixty.

# 'FEARITH'

GLOBAL

Article abstracts are identified by date.  
Secondary text is color coded as follows:

GLOBAL HEADLINES ■

People are really scared of AIDS. Much more in 1988 than they are today. Straight people were pretty convinced that gay people were solely responsible for the epidemic, and the gay community suffered a lot because of it.

The following are abstracts of newspaper articles outlining the discrimination faced by gays in 1988. The U.S. government didn't start making note of whether or not hate crimes were motivated by sexual or racial prejudice until the early nineties, but headlines will show that 1988 saw a significant increase in straight-on-gay violence. Still, the entire planet was in love with George Michael. Joke's on them.

03-20-1988

## GAY RIGHTS BILL CHEERED IN VT.

Lonely and afraid, Mr. Russell was 23 years old before he could admit his homosexuality to anyone. That was 11 years ago. Since then, he has been harassed on the streets of Burlington, Vermont's largest city, where he sometimes socializes in gay bars, and he suspects he has been the victim of discrimination in hiring.

To help people like Mr. Russell, the Vermont Senate has passed a gay rights bill that would outlaw the most obvious forms of discrimination in the areas of housing, employment and credit.

However, it is just that prospect that seems to frighten opponents of the legislation to ban discrimination. They contend that state-mandated tolerance would persuade homosexuals to move to Vermont. "I don't think we should be encouraging people like that to come to the state of Vermont," State Senator Gilbert Godnick, a Democrat, argued in the debate before the 17-to-12 vote in favor of the bill.

— Source: The New York Times

Howard Russell, homosexual who lives in Middlebury, Vermont, says he hopes gay rights bill that has been passed by Vermont Senate will help stop discrimination he feels he has suffered; bill, which faces strong opposition in House, has received backing of Development Secretary Eldert Moulton.

04-24-1988

Federally financed manual outing curriculum of sex education for teenagers has touched off political firestorm in New Hampshire because it describes homosexuality as normal; since January more than 200 copies of manual have been distributed to medical, family planning and government agencies around state; Federal Government has begun action to try to block its distribution.

04-26-1988

United Methodist Church's General Conference, highest policymaking body of church, will discuss issue of homosexuality, and whether homosexual behavior is incompatible with Christian teaching and thus bar to church leadership; United Methodist Church's General Conference votes to maintain position that homosexual behavior is incompatible with Christian teaching and bar to ordained ministry.

06-12-1988

Study by Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force has reported that nearly half of city's homosexual men and one fifth of city's lesbians suffer violent crimes in year because of their sexual orientation; says figures are almost 12 times national annual criminal violence rate for all men and 10 times rate for all women.

06-17-1988

Delegates to Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio condemn homosexuality as 'a manifestation of a depraved nature' and 'perversion of divine standards.'

— Source: The New York Times

07-03-1988

Flurry of recent studies have confirmed that harassment and crimes against homosexuals are increasing; gay-rights activists say incidents are becoming more violent; problem seems to stem from complex mix of circumstances, including anxieties and resentment about AIDS epidemic

08-08-1988

Dozen gay protesters, at montly protest mass across street from St Patrick's Cathedral, place wreath bearing words 'Free Sharon Kowalski' at altar inside cathedral; Kowalski is disabled woman whose parents are fighting her gay lover over her care and visitors.

08-23-1988

Six men attack two others with knives and baseball bat on Manhattan's Upper West Side after harassing men with anti-homosexual comments.

08-24-1988

Two men are attacked on Upper West Side of Manhattan by group of knife and bat-wielding teenagers shouting anti-homosexual epithets; David Wertheier, head of New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, says number of assaults against people who are homosexual or are perceived by others to be homosexual has risen dramatically this year; victims, Barry Finnegan and David Frank, were attacked by six youths; both are injured.

08-31-1988

Thousands stage protest on Upper West Side of Manhattan to protest recent violence against homosexuals and police arrest at least 100 for blocking traffic.

12-29-1988

Op-Ed article by Robert A Bernstein on comment by Judge Jack Hampton of Dallas, that he imposed 30-year prison sentence on convicted murderer, rather than life term, because victims were homosexual; says frightening implication of his remark is that gay persons are like fair game, that violence against them is at least partially excusable; says contrary to what some people think and fear, homosexuals do not have power to alter anybody else's sexual orientation.

## FIGHTING AIDS AND ADDICTION

After two years of foot-dragging, Governor Cuomo has taken a small step toward exploring whether sterile needles and syringes might slow the wildfire spread of AIDS among drug addicts.

The action, little and late, is nevertheless welcome. Other countries are well ahead on this road; they wish to save both addicts and the innocents whom they infect. In America, lamentably, politics has turned the issue into a choice between combating AIDS or addiction. Adamant opposition of law enforcement officers has frightened politicians from even testing a clean-for-used needle exchange, as public health officials urge.

— Source: The New York Times

## SURVEY FINDS WIDESPREAD AIDS MISINFORMATION

A new survey has found widespread misinformation about AIDS, with 26 percent of the respondents thinking they would probably get the disease from giving blood and 36 percent believing they could get AIDS by eating at a restaurant where the cook has it.

"There continues to be a great deal of uncertainty about the causes of AIDS," the National Center for Health Statistics said in a report distributed this week by its parent agency, the Centers for Disease Control here. Some of the misinformation may be because the public has not been given enough detailed information to be convincing. If we want people to believe they can't be infected by casual contact "we have to start giving them some technical information about why it can't happen," said Dr. Deborah Dawson, a researcher who worked on the survey report.

— Source: The New York Times

## AIDS PEAK FROM NEW TESTS TO NEW VIRUSES

The latest catchphrase in the war against AIDS is something called prevalence testing. Policymakers, researchers and health officials all want to know just how far the AIDS virus, called HIV-1, has spread in the U.S., but they disagree vehemently on how to go about it. After months of resisting President Reagan's calls for mandatory testing, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop last week told reporters at an AIDS conference in London that he hopes this spring to screen every student at a still-unchosen urban U.S. university with a population of 25,000. Said Koop: "That would give you a pretty good idea of the prevalence in that age group in an urban setting."

The modest proposal has been cautiously embraced by some university officials, though others question its usefulness. "I don't think a testing program at a university will yield objective data on the distribution of the disease," says Boston University President John Silber. "People who don't think they have AIDS are not going to be very interested in getting their arm punched just for the hell of it." Notes Dr. James Brown, director of student health services at the University of California, Berkeley: "I don't think doing it on one campus is going to tell you anything." The President reportedly introduced the idea of testing college students last summer at a Cabinet meeting, where it was strongly opposed.

— Source: Time Magazine

# STILLS

# NEARLY

# FEW

# MILLIONS

# COPIES