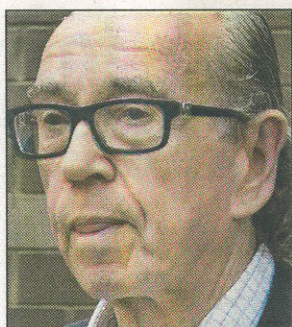


BLOWN AWAY!



SANFORD RUBENSTEIN
Alleged rapist barred entry.

Sandy too sleazy for East Side sex club

Disgraced lawyer Sanford Rubenstein is so toxic after being accused of rape that he can no longer get into the sex clubs he loves so much.

The aging, pint-sized lothario — who is accused of raping a top aide to his one-time buddy, the Rev. Al Sharpton — showed up at one of his favorite underground dens in Manhattan over the weekend but got turned away at the door, a source told The Post.

Rubenstein, 70, went to swingers club Checkmate on E. 56th St. Saturday night, but the manager told him there had been too much recent press about his sexual hi-jinks at local hot spots and he didn't want that kind of exposure for his establishment, the source said.

Rubenstein — whom a witness has described as “hung like a cashew” — left without incident, taking his female friend with him.

Meanwhile, the lawyers for his rape accuser fired off a letter on Tuesday to Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance demanding Rubenstein be arrested.

“Her complaint along with her injuries provide a factual and legal basis sufficient for the arrest of Sanford,” the letter said.

Rubenstein's camp has said the sex was consensual. The woman says she was attacked in a stupor and possibly drugged.

“The denial of the attacker, along with his public strategy for a defense, is never a sufficient reason to not protect the rights of the victim,” the woman's lawyers insisted.

Vance's office declined to comment. *Shawn Cohen and Rebecca Rosenberg*



HORROR:
Witnesses try to comfort the victim in Borough Park on Tuesday.

Chem blast melts clothes off victim

By KYLE SCHNITZER
and KIRSTAN CONLEY

An acetylene blast in a vacant Brooklyn storefront melted the clothes off a man, and sent him fleeing into the street with his body engulfed in flames Tuesday, witnesses and sources said.

The victim was screaming for help as he ran from 910 McDonald Ave. in Borough Park at around 1:30 p.m.

“I ran outside because I saw a

guy burning,” said Alex Mayer, 36, manager of Focus Camera.

Mayer said he told the unidentified man “to drop and roll, drop and roll. I was yelling at the top of my lungs. I didn't want to get real close to him.”

The man hit the sidewalk and rolled into the gutter.

“One guy came out of [a] truck with his fire extinguisher and sprayed his sneakers,” Mayer said. “And another guy literally grabbed the shirt off his back.”

The nearly naked man, believed to be in his early 20s, continued screaming for help as they waited for an ambulance.

“I don't know if he was bald or not, but he definitely didn't have any hair left now,” Mayer said. “His lips were white. A lot of his clothing melted.”

When firefighters showed up, they found the man unconscious and covered in burns. He was rushed to Maimonides Medical Center, where he was

listed in critical condition.

Sources said that acetylene, used when smoking a hookah — or water pipe — were found at the scene, but an official cause of the blast had not been determined.

“The Fire Department units extinguished the fire and right now ... hazmat units are testing some ... chemicals found in the basement,” FDNY Deputy Chief Mark Egan said.

With Gabriella Bass