

Models risked X-ray cancer

Page Six.com

Richard Johnson

With Paula Froelich and Chris Wilson

THE latest gimmick of artist **Wim Delvoye** — X-ray photographs of models he coats with radioactive barium before they have sex — could give them cancer.

On Friday, Chelsea's Sperone Westwater gallery will open an exhibit of Delvoye's X-ray photos mounted in Gothic stained-glass windows. The works will be sold for \$30,000 apiece.

When we last heard from Delvoye, he was making a splash with his "Artificial Cloaca," a system of tubes containing acids and enzymes which took gourmet meals in one end and passed excrement out the other. His latest masterpieces are even more ghoulish.

His irradiated models are seen kissing and performing more graphic acts, while his X-rays capture images of not only teeth and bone, but also muscle, sinew and the insides of veins. Delvoye also used low-level radia-

tion to take close-ups of the models' barium-splattered genitals.

As anyone who has gone to the dentist knows, human organs are normally protected by a thick lead apron when exposed to cancer-causing X-rays for even an instant. But Delvoye's unfortunate models, male and female, took no such precautions while the beams passed through their most sensitive parts over and over again.

When interviewed, the artist revealed a shocking lack of knowledge about the risks to which his subjects were exposed. "I was aware that the X-rays could cause a momentary drop in the fertility of my models," Delvoye told Webster Hall art curator **Baird Jones**, "but the radiologists in Belgium who operated the X-ray machines assured me that the sperm counts would return to normal in a few days. I even X-rayed my own genitals."

Delvoye was dumbfounded when asked if he had considered that the radiation could cause birth defects. He said, "The fact that X-rays could cause genetic damage to the testicles or to the ovaries of my models never occurred to me until now. I should have thought of that."

Even his own wife's pregnancy didn't wake Delvoye up to the idea that radiation and the human reproductive system don't mix: "I never thought about birth defects, which is strange because my wife was pregnant while I was making this art. I just hope the models are OK."

Confronted with his own thoughtlessness, Delvoye chalked it up to his lackadaisical, European attitude toward life and death.

"Americans are much more conscious of health issues than in Belgium where, with art, we just let things happen," he said.

We hear . . .

THAT **Paris Hilton** — who doesn't party as much as one would think from her photographs — just worked four days playing a fashion model named Simone on "Just Shoot Me," the sitcom starring **David Spade**. . . THAT Yankee ace **Roger Clemens** will be honored today after playing golf in Alpine, N.J., with several teammates and coaches, plus his manager **Joe Torre**, at the **Lee Mazzilli** Celebrity Golf & Tennis Classic to benefit **Clyde Duneler's** Diabetes Institutes Foundation.

Party hearty

SWINGIN' **Sam Waksal** is at it again. The indicted ImClone honcho was spotted at the fourth-season premiere screening of "The Sopranos" at Radio City Music Hall wearing dark glasses and a Boston Red Sox cap, sitting next to Court TV chairman **Henry Schleiff**, whose network would love to cover Waksal if he ends up on trial. Earlier this week, one of our spies spotted Waksal dining with friends at an outside table at the White Horse Tavern on Hudson Street.



Eating machine

ANNA Nicole Smith's former publicist **David Granoff** is weighing in on the roly-poly reality-show sensation's expanding waistline. Smith (above) has been demanding that talk show grand rooms she visits be stocked with a four-pound box of Godiva chocolates and a jar of dill pickles. "She never ate like that when I accompanied her to TV shows," sniffs Granoff, "but I know she likes Godiva chocolates and I know she likes pickles. I think it's very possible. But my question is: Is that the appetizer or the dessert?" Meow!

Lock-ness loser

MAXIM writer **David Peisner** got more than he bargained for when he profiled **Johnny Knoxville** and his prank-happy co-

stars on the set of their "Jackass" movie. Peisner was tackled and had a U-shaped bicycle lock clamped around his neck, then had to watch helplessly as the key was tossed into a lake. It left him a choice of either diving in

the lake for it, or having the lock sawed off by a drunk crew member. After much consideration, Peisner opted for the saw, and only lost a few neck hairs in the process. He did, however, have to don an embarrassing protective costume to shield his flesh from the sparks.



Take that!

ANYBODY who has ever been savaged by a New York Times theater critic will get a chuckle out of "The Quality of Mercy," a short movie by New Yorker **Stephen Marro**. The Post's **V.A. Musetto**, who saw the comedy at the Montreal World Film Festival, reports that it features **Mary-Louise Parker** (above) as an off-Broadway actress who gets even with the Times critic who panned her — she poisons his espresso in a West Village cafe.

'Idol' gang hot to record

THE winner of "American Idol," **Kelly Clarkson**, is the only "Idol" contestant to win a recording contract — so far, Clarkson's runner-up, Sideshow Bob lookalike **Justin Guarini**, announced he will be managed by "Idol" judge **Simon Cowell**. Cowell also signed **Tamya Gray**. Baby-faced **R.J. Helton** told The Post's **Michael Giltz** that he was in talks with Christian music labels. **Ryan Starr** claimed she too was in talks with a label. Meanwhile, although Gray complained that Cowell was hitting on her, it turns out he has his hands full back in London. Cowell is dating porn star and lap-dancer **Georgina Law**, 23, who starred in "Ally McSqueal," "The Really Naked Chef" and "Totally Try Outs." "I know what people think when they hear 'porn star,' but I want to make it clear I only do girl-on-girl action. I don't do men," she told told British tabs in December. When Cowell first started dating Law, he acknowledged the relationship and added: "She loves giving happiness wherever she can. She has certainly been giving me a lot."

Full-color celebrity photos on PageSix.com

Sightings

ALLEN Iverson, at the Philadelphia nightclub Bash, making an enemy of Philadelphia Daily News columnist **Stu Bykofsky** by refusing to give him an autograph. . . **KID Rock** buying suede jeans at the Tommy Hilfinger store in SoHo for his Jones Beach concert. . . **POWER** couples **Ralph and Ricky Lauren**, **Saul and Gayfryd Steinberg**, and **Charlie Rose** and **Amanda Burden** at Sette Mezzo. . . **DAVE Navarro** and **Anthony Kiedis** working out together at the Crunch in Los Angeles. . . **MARIANNE Faithfull** devouring fish and chips at Leshko's on Avenue A.