

egg

MARCH 1990

## Listen up, girls:

Looking for love in all the wrong places? Maybe all it takes is a fire in the oven, a gas leak in the basement, or a flood anywhere at all to kiss the doctor of your mother's dreams good-bye and to say hi to the guys who make house calls no matter what the hour. Open your door to a fireman, and the smoke spiraling out your window suddenly seems less important than how sexy your nightgown appears to one of New York's bravest. Somehow you never pictured yourself flirting while the ceiling caved in. Who would ever suspect that bathwater cascading from the dimwits' apartment upstairs could drench your life with the realization of every romantic fantasy you've ever had? This is what firemen can do to you. Those helmets, those Day-Glo-striped coats, those boots. How can our hearts not burn for these modern-day knights in shining rubber? They're all heroes and they're often single. What more can a girl want? Let's get specific:

### Why We Love Firemen

- 1. Reliability:** They always come when they're called. We like that in a man.
- 2. Dudley Do-Rightability:** Firemen will save your puppy. Firemen make you feel safe. They will look at your smoke detector and ask, "Are there batteries in there?"
- 3. Exuberance:** You will never meet a fireman who does not love his job.
- 4. Domesticity:** In the firehouse the guys alternate chores. They

can cook, do the dishes, and make better hospital corners than your camp counselor did.

**5. Honesty:** "Just to be there, to do it, to save lives is hard enough," explains Lieutenant Patrick Brown, one of New York's most decorated fire fighters. "Every time you go somewhere there's some human tragedy, but I don't have to look far to see some really courageous people."

**6. Flexibility:** Firemen work long shifts and have loads of free time. "You can venture into other businesses or do nothing and have a very relaxing life," says Ladder Co. 5's Bob Callahan. "Or you can be a Mr. Mom if you have kids." We like that in a man, too.

**7. Youth Dewability:** "In the fire department the older guys seem like they're much younger," says Michael Ruddick, who traded in Wall Street shares for hoses. "They're doing things kids would do."

**8. Transportation:** All firemen have wheels.

**9. Brotherhood:** These guys are loyal. "With their last breath they'll try to do the right thing for you or anybody else—race, color, it doesn't matter," says Dave Schleifer. "It's your job. You don't think about it."

**10. Fantasy:** Hose jokes aside, firemen figure prominently in our daydreams as rescuers for damsels in distress.


So next time you're walking down the street alone, kindly direct your attention to the 223 unobtrusive buildings with the big red garage doors scattered around the city. Behind those doors are the bravest of hearts, the brawniest of biceps, and the best-looking civil servants since Steve McQueen in *The Towering Inferno*. So the job's not glamorous; it's dirty and dangerous. But in a pinch, we would choose the kind of man who would happily exchange conspicuous collectibles for the more intangible rewards of lifesaving. To say nothing of mouth-to-mouth. We really like that in a man.

BY  
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Patrick wears a cargo-unfolded vest, linen shirt, and a scarf. Photo by Paul Smith, available at Paul Smith (NYC), Louis, Boston (Boston and NYC), and Fred Segal (Los Angeles).

"I was in the Marines in Vietnam, and when I came out I wanted to be something good, not something destructive. I've been fortunate to save a lot of people, to make an impact. Sometimes out of chaos something positive happens."

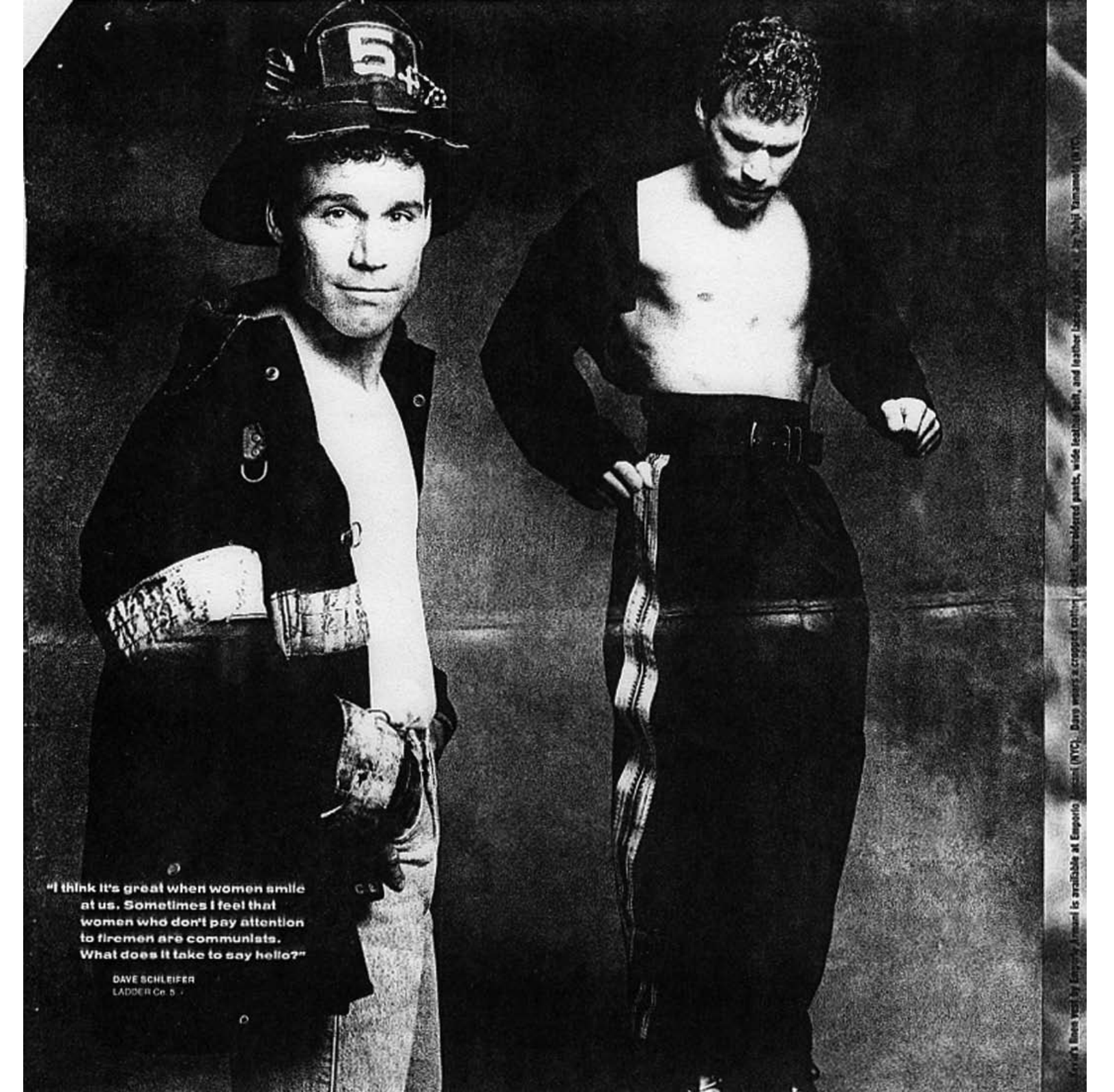
LIEUTENANT PATRICK BROWN  
RESCUE 1



"We've encountered women in horrible conditions—smoke-filled hallways—and they stick their heads out to see what's going on and give us their numbers."

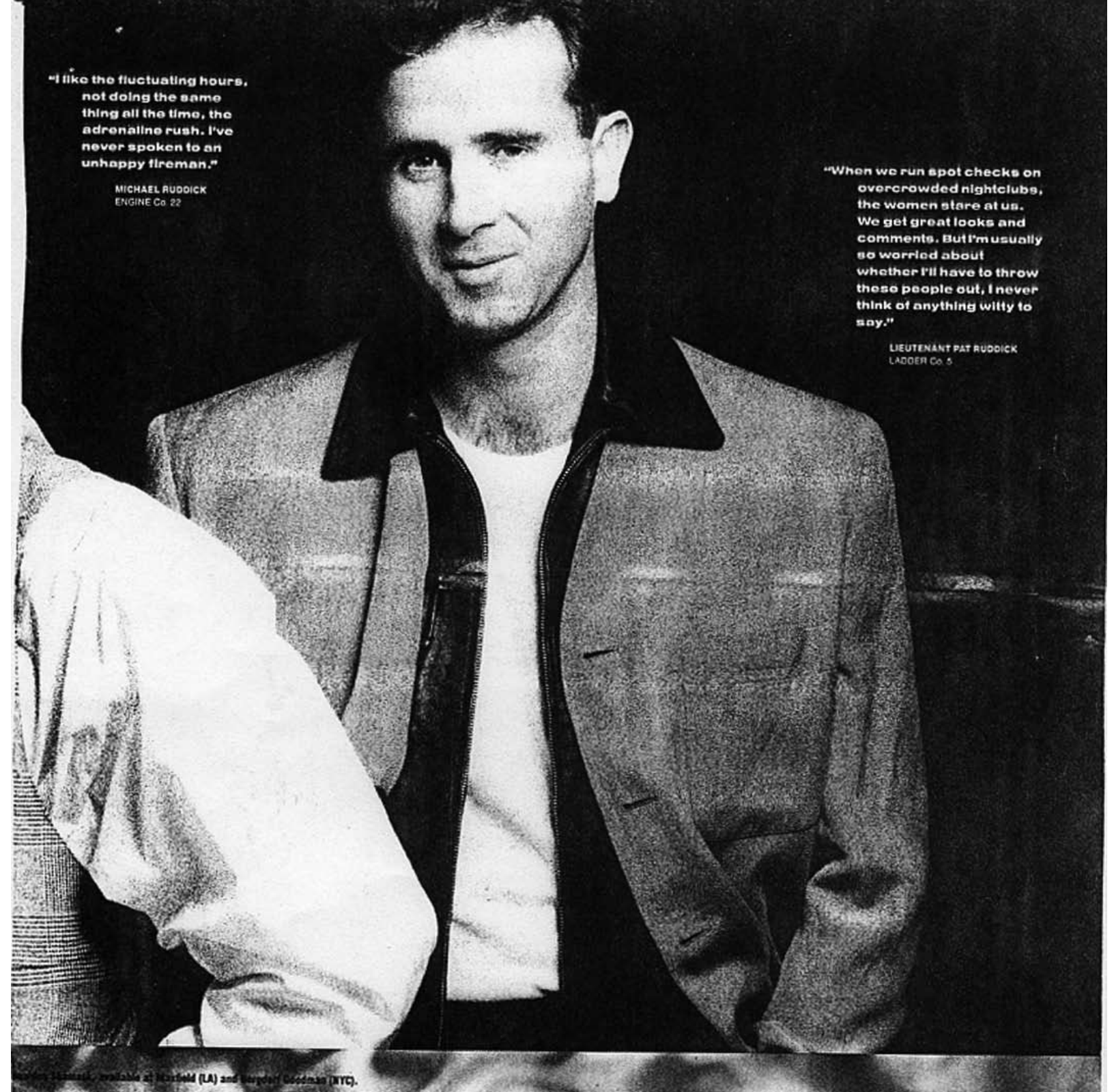
BOB CALLAHAN  
LADDER Co. 5





"I think it's great when women smile at us. Sometimes I feel that women who don't pay attention to firemen are communists. What does it take to say hello?"

DAVE SCHLEIFER  
LADDER Co. 5



"I like the fluctuating hours,  
not doing the same  
thing all the time, the  
adrenaline rush. I've  
never spoken to an  
unhappy fireman."

MICHAEL RUDDICK  
ENGINE Co. 22

"When we run spot checks on  
overcrowded nightclubs,  
the women stare at us.  
We get great looks and  
comments. But I'm usually  
so worried about  
whether I'll have to throw  
these people out, I never  
think of anything witty to  
say."

LIEUTENANT PAT RUDDICK  
LADDER Co. 5

"Once we were in the subway,  
due to an electrical fire,  
and this woman came  
out of nowhere and gave  
me her phone number.  
The guys were saying,  
'You gotta call her.' But I  
consider myself very  
shy, and I couldn't do it."

KEVIN DINKINS  
LADDER Co. 8







Michael (right) wears a lightweight linen/cotton backless vest and cotton shirt by Matsuda, available at Ralph Lauren (San Francisco) and Matsuda boutiques (NYC). Pat sports a collarless silk/linen jacket over a leather vest, both b



"To be honest, in the beginning I didn't talk about it. I thought of myself as a blue-collar worker; nothing romantic. I guess I didn't want people to know. Now I know who I am and I'm really proud of it. Firemen become your brothers."

TERRY QUINN  
LADDER Co. 25

ON