

# Mysterious Laser Beam Was Art, Not Attack

May 25, 2003

To the Editor:

Re "Archetypal Host" (May 11), about Max's Kansas City: The laser beam directed toward Max's was not an act of hostility, as Karen Greene's letter (May 18) suggested, but an installation by the minimalist artist Forrest Myers. The hole in the awning and the exterior metal reflector, as well as several inside, directed the laser beam to the back room, where the favorites were seated.

This room was immortalized in the song "Walk on the Wild Side" by Lou Reed, a habitué. Referring to the Warhol superstar Candy Darling, he sang, "Candy came from out on the Island, in the back room she was everybody's darling."

The SoHo Alliance is working with the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission to keep another public artwork by Forrest Meyers, "The Wall," at Broadway at Houston Street, from being destroyed by the owner of the building, who wants to put up a large billboard. The case is in the courts.

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Director, SoHo Alliance

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