



LIFE LINES

*Marianne Macy Tells
How Suicide Hot Lines
Rescue the Desperate*



THAT BOOK

*Joe Klein and Mr. Peepers
Meditate on Madam
President and Kitty Kelley*

APRIL 22, 1991

\$2.50

NEW YORK

All-American Weekends



MAINSTAY INN
CAPE MAY, NJ

BY MICHAEL
ROBBINS



18225

Art/Kay Larson

THE GREAT PLUNGE FORWARD

APRIL 22, 1991/NEW YORK 83

STOPPING OFF AT ARTISTS SPACE, I RAN across **Jim Rittmann's** exhibition, "Reconstructions," one of the eeriest sets of creatures since Godzilla rose from the atomic mud of post-Hiroshima Japan. Rittmann, from Washington State, locates the wire-thin bones of real frogs, bats, snakes, mice, and insect wings and carapaces. These he reassembles with such perfect delicacy that the tiny ivory skeletons seem to be strange mutations, pinned to their mats like butterflies and given anthropomorphic gestures (several appear to be dancing). It's as though a race of Lilliputians had been designed by Hieronymus Bosch and catalogued by a mad herpetologist. That they were once alive (if not quite in this form) lends them unbearable poignancy. Somehow, precarious life invades them. (223 West Broadway; through May 4.) ■