

GLAAD Notes

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sexual, the right never to have information divulged that one is straight. But no such right in the realm of heterosexuality is claimed or recognized. It is hard to see, therefore, that there is any such privacy right."

Unfortunately, internalized homophobia is seldom contained, but is often externalized. And whenever celebrities are involved, it is typically amplified — on a massive scale.

Hold the "silent celebrities" accountable; remind them that the "privacy" they invoke conceals only their pride. Also, regularly encourage journalists to avoid double standards with regard to "privacy" and sexual orientation.

Contacts: Ellen DeGeneres, c/o Bantam Books Author Mail, 1540 Broadway, New York, NY 10036; Bob Chatelle, National Writers Union & Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression, e-mail kip@world.std.com, URL <http://world.std.com/~kip/>.

Minding their business

The K-mart Corporation recently demonstrated its better business practices by refusing to advertise on radio station KSFO (560 AM) which broadcasts a "Hot Talk" format more aptly described as "hate talk." Typical of the station's jeremiads is this "World AIDS Day" message — directed to gays — from the microphone of KSFO host Spencer Hughes: "I am fed up with people saying that homosexual sex is just as normal as heterosexual sex! It's an absolute lie and it has to end here...And if you can't handle that, the hell with you! Keep up with your dangerous lifestyle and you'll end up in a casket too..."

K-mart is the latest in a series of companies that have refused to subsidize KSFO's homophobic rants. "We continue to instruct our agency to review all radio buys to ensure that this particular station is not included," said Deborah Musselman, a K-mart spokesperson.

Contact: Deborah A. Musselman, Director of Agency Relations & Administration, K-mart Corporation, International Headquarters, 3100 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084-3163, (810) 643-3193 or (800) 635-6278. Copy your correspondence to Office of the President, ABC Radio Division, 77 W. 66th Street, New York, NY 10023-6298.

GLAAD applauds *The Birdcage*

The Birdcage, based on the French play *La Cage Aux Folles*, is directed by Mike Nichols and stars Robin Williams, Nathan Lane, Gene Hackman and Dianne Wiest. The story revolves around Armand (Williams) and Albert (Lane) a gay couple from South Beach, FL who have to drastically alter their lives to impress the ultra-conservative family of their

son's fiancée.

The flamboyant Albert, though attempting to disguise himself throughout the film, finds altering his demeanor difficult. "There is a fine line between having an offensive stereotypical character and one that is represented fairly," says Tamra King, GLAAD's Entertainment Media Director. "We have seen so many films with very one-dimensional stereotypical characters. Their purpose has been to play the 'straight man' to rounds of jokes. In *The Birdcage* we go beyond the stereotypes to see the characters' depth and humanity."

"Armand and Albert don't live in a separate world," comments *The Birdcage* star Robin Williams, "they are a couple and have the same dynamics as any couple. It may not go with what was initially thought of as a nuclear family, but there are a lot of families like this, and they all share the same kinds of problems trying to get through life."

Write letters of support to John Calley, President, United Artists, 2500 Broadway Street, 5th Floor, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

All our children

All My Children, ABC's popular daytime drama, has been awarded the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Daytime Television for its fair and accurate portrayal of a gay teacher's fight against homophobia in fictional Pine Valley.

In November, Michael Delaney (Chris Bruno) came out to his friends, and in December, to his students while teaching about World War II and the Holocaust. In discussing various groups that were targeted for persecution by the Nazis, he included homosexuals. To bolster the strength of his message, he identified himself as gay.

The fictional Delaney's coming out drew various responses from the people of Pine Valley, the town around which *All My Children* is centered. Homophobic parents and school board members eventually applied enough pressure to get him fired from his job. Delaney is involved in a lawsuit against the school board for wrongful discrimination, and finds himself on a talk show to tell his story. When Kevin Sheffield (Ben Jorgensen), one of Delaney's students, comes out to Jason, his homophobic brother, anti-gay violence erupts.

"The old adage that art imitates life is true. It is great to see a very popular and accessible show like *All My Children* tackle such important social issues of discrimination and anti-gay violence," says Tamra King, GLAAD's Entertainment Media Director. "Hatred and bigotry are very much a reality to our community. *All My Children* has presented them fairly and accurately," she says.

Write letters of support to Felicia Minei Behr, ABC Television Network Group, 77 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023, e-mail: daytime@ccabc.com.

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