

Glaad

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editor of the *Democrat-Gazette*, in part because of past instances of the newspaper publishing the names of men arrested in parks for misdemeanor offenses. According to local GLAAD contacts, until January 30, the newspaper had stopped the practice except where a public figure was involved. GLAAD member David Ivers noted, "[At the meeting] we predicted that the *Democrat-Gazette* was not only going to ruin careers, but drive someone to kill himself. Now it has happened. The newspaper must understand that printing the names will not stop men from seeking out anonymous sex with other men. That will not occur until society, including the media, stops making it so painful and difficult for people to come out of the closet, and until laws in employment and other areas protect lesbians and gay men from discrimination based on their sexual orientation."

Contact the newspaper and firmly but rationally explain to them the clear bias of their actions and the intolerably dire consequences of them. Contact: Walter Hussman, Publisher, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, PO Box 2221, Little Rock, AR 72203; (501) 378-3485; fax: (501) 372-3908.

Flaunting it

To promote their show *rough cut*, cable network TNT has placed a full-page advertisement in the March edition of *Movieline* which draws attention to the unnecessary scrutiny faced by openly lesbian and gay people in the entertainment industry. In large type, the top half of the page reads, "YES, HE'S GAY." Below it says, "Now, can we please talk about the movie?" The bottom has the *rough cut* logo and its slogan:

"*rough cut* — where movies come first."

The ad's assertion, that an entertainer should be able to be open about being gay, but that the person should be judged on the merit of his work, articulates in a clear and simple way the need for greater honesty about sexual orientation in Hollywood as a means of getting past it. In short, once Hollywood becomes comfortable with openly gay entertainers, we can all get over it and just celebrate their performances.

Commend TNT for this refreshing and clear call for greater openness and acceptance of sexual orientation in the entertainment industry. Contact: Andy Jones, Editor in Chief, *rough cut*, TNT, 1050 Techwood Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30318; fax: (404) 885-0855; www: http://tnt.turner.com/asktnt/email_feedback.html.

Ellen on the edge

The February 4 *Miami Herald* featured a story by Lydia Martin about the high probability of cancellation that ABC's *Ellen* faces and what the show means to its fans. "Krista Lopez, 22, is one of those die-hard *Ellen* fans. The kind who keeps every episode committed to memory and videotape. The kind who sprints to her computer as soon as the show ends each week to engage in Internet chatter with others," it begins.

It discusses the program's challenges to staying on the air. "Some say the show is just too gay, that it has become a soapbox for political correctness and has turned off a lot of people looking for something lighter." The article notes that fans believe, "Those who argue that, don't understand just how reflective of a person's coming-out experiences the show has been." GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Chastity Bono speaks about the personal connec-

tions the show has had for her and many other lesbian and gay people. Finally, it quotes lesbian author Lyndsey Van Gelder, who does not watch *Ellen* because she does not watch television: "But I applaud it. If straight people can have silly junk on TV, gay people should too."

The article brings up many issues about both the successes and challenges of the groundbreaking show. GLAAD is currently urging people to "Save *Ellen*" by writing to ABC and Disney while they consider whether or not to renew the show. Contact: Jim Hampton, Editor, *Miami Herald*, One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132-1693; fax: (305) 376-8950; e-mail: heraldedit@aol.com; Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067; www: <http://www.abc.com/vvoice/Viewcons1.html>; Michael Eisner, Chairman & David Newman, President of Network TV, The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista St., Burbank, CA 91521; fax: (818) 560-1930; www: <http://www.disney.com/Mail>.

A trash Repository

The January 30 edition of Canton, OH's newspaper, *The Repository*, featured a completely propagandistic article on a so-called "ex-gay." Under the headline, "Former Homosexual to Relate Story of His Conversion, Salvation," *Repository* staff writer Charita Goshay begins, "Tim Scott says he is a happily married man, but that wasn't always the case. 'I used to be a homosexual,' Scott said bluntly." The article then advertises Scott's upcoming conversion speech at a local church which has placed ads in the paper calling for a boycott of *Ellen*.

Goshay, without any criticism or countering views, reports Scott's statement that being molested by an 8th grade male teacher "intro-

duced" him to "the gay lifestyle." It also pulls out the old myth about homosexuality being caused by a close relationship with his mother and a distant one with his dad. "Scott said it was a combination of religion and therapy that helped him change his life. 'I wasn't really happy with being gay,' [Scott said.] 'I don't know too many gay people who are.' Scott, who married two years ago, said he worried that therapy to help homosexuals change might someday be declared unethical, or even illegal."

Goshay fails to do any of the basic things a journalist does to create balance in a story. She fails to question Scott's total lack of credentials in discussing a highly controversial topic and does not even mention that the vast majority of psychologists are adamantly opposed to so-called reparative therapy, or that just last year the American Psychological Association issued severe misgivings about those who espoused it and the "treatment's" efficacy. She also ignores the total lack of objectivity or accountability that a representative of an already established anti-gay church has, and does not report on any countering views from other people of faith, or representatives from lesbian and gay organizations. Instead, she lets Scott essentially ask his own questions and then answer them in regard to his "transformation."

Additionally, *The Repository* has begun regularly printing radical religious leader James Dobson's column in its pages.

Let *The Repository* know that such shoddy journalism is both an embarrassment to the profession and an affront to all fair-minded people of faith and GLBT people. Contact: David C. Kaminski, Editor, *The Repository*, 500 Market Ave. South, Canton, OH 44702-2193; fax: (330) 454-5745; e-mail: dkaminsk@cannet.com ▼

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