

# Fall TV season could get 'real' — real bad

**HOLLYWOOD** — When reality, politics and sports collide: Ouch, what a prime-time mess.

A confluence of television trends and issues — the presidential campaign, the Summer Olympics, corporate takeovers, reality TV fallout and a looming writers strike — could make the 2000-2001 season one of the most volatile and unpredictable in history.

Even scheduling the start of the season has been subject to more than the usual debate. With NBC carrying the 2000 Olympic Games (Sept. 13 through Oct. 1) and, with it, the potential for huge ratings rewards, its network competitors convinced Nielsen Media Research to delay the start of the fall season until Oct. 2.

The result? A staggered introduction of new shows, which is sure to confuse and frustrate an already fragmented audience with splintered viewing habits.

And it doesn't end there.

According to a recent front-page story in the industry trade paper Daily Variety, the considerable buzz created by CBS's record-setting "Survivor" and ABC's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" have put viewers in a heightened state of awareness about new network fare — about twice as high for CBS and

ABC, but with almost every network benefiting.

But what kind of television — on the networks, cable, PBS and syndication — are viewers in for? And who or what will have the greatest impact?

"Survivor" mania might be history for now (the next million-dollar challenge in Australia begins in January, following the Super Bowl), but the ripple effect on the industry has been substantial.

Despite a full slate of sitcoms and dramas with big names — including Bette Midler, bad boys Charlie Sheen and Robert Downey Jr. joining the casts of established shows such as "Spin City" and "Ally McBeal" and big projects such as the revival of "The Fugitive" series — reporters at the annual industry preview meetings stuck almost exclusively to reality, wondering whether so-called real TV would take over television.

With talk of a strike by the Writers Guild of America in the near future, one network insider says, "If that happens, it'll be wall-to-wall reality shows."

This time last year, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President Kweisi Mfume lambasted the four major networks, calling their prime-time

schedule a "whitewash" that failed miserably to represent people of color.

"Change is happening, but it's not enough," said Mfume in a statement. "Television is showing more people of color on-screen, but most important is off-screen, where very little has changed."

This season, expect to hear from Latinos. A recent report, "Still Missing: Latinos in and Out of Hollywood," by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute and sponsored by the Screen Actors Guild, argued that "Old stereotypes and lack of understanding of Hispanic social, economic and cultural diversity are key reasons why Latinos remain one of the most under-represented groups in television, movies and other entertainment."

Although ABC has John Goodman playing a gay father in a show called "Normal, Ohio," Showtime, underscoring the perplexing difference between broadcast and cable standards, plans to launch an Americanized version of British import "Queer as Folk" in December. The series is a provocative and unblinking drama about a group of gay men and lesbians living in Pittsburgh.

Distributed by the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

## Slug Queen

continued from page 2D

to love it. I admire anyone who can get through [the program].

**Q: If you could only choose one Eugene event to attend other than the Eugene Celebration, what would it be?**

A: It would have to be the Country Fair. How could you not go to it?

Because of the vaudeville energy that is central there, it is totally amazing. It's like a circus, really cool! I really like it and definitely don't get enough of it.

It's only three days, too short, but it's quite spectacular. It's like a vortex of talent.

**Q: What prompted you to compete for the S.L.U.G. Queen title?**

A: I have a group called Accordion Anonymous and we're accordion addicts. We work through the 12 steps of accordion addiction. We were rejected by the Eugene Celebration to perform.

But when "we" — I'm taking the

liberty of using the royal we — are in charge, it's a totally different ball game.

**Q: What are your plans for the actual Celebration?**

A: One of our enablers contacted the would-be powers of the Eugene Celebration and suggested that now that there was a queen in the group, we should be playing. But we were rejected again, causing much controversy among the group.

We went into a trance to ponder our next action and decided "we don't need them," we can do our own show whenever and wherever we please.

I get the float [in the parade] and the accordion players are my court. We've marched in the human powered parade that happens in Eugene in June and have been in the Eugene Celebration parade twice.

I wanted to do a human powered parade. Because of "our" royal status, we've gotten a commitment from Kinetic Sculpture Race out of Corvallis to bring this monster bike down. It takes eight pedalers [pis-

tons] to power it and it has a platform that can hold 10 people. I'm excited to use this — we're having a "floatilla" of human-powered machines.

I'd like to see the Eugene Celebration parade be completely human-powered. That would be really cool and less smelly.

**Q: What importance does the color green have to you? [Accordiana's costume, as well as her outfit during the interview, were green.]**

A: It's the general consensus around Eugene that slugs are green — though I think actually slugs are brown but they love green stuff. And I love everything green. So it's a wonderful chance to represent the symbolism of things I love best — nature.

And since "we're" queen, we are trying to fulfill our duties. This is where we get oxygen from. Common sense should dictate one should totally exaltify the color green.

**hair color** **\$2 off** **selected items**

army camo <b>hair color</b> pipes — 100s skateboards — stickers — 1000s t-shirts wallets body jewelry posters — 1000s <b>studded belts</b> martial arts Grateful Dead backpacks <b>blacklights</b> army camo	pipes — 100s skateboards — hot stickers — 1000s t-shirts wallets body jewelry posters — 1000s studded belts <b>martial arts</b> Grateful Dead <b>backpacks</b> backpacks — 100s skateboards — hot
--	---

**LAZAR'S BAZAR**  
**57 W. BROADWAY • 687-0199**  
[www.lazar's.com](http://www.lazar's.com)  
\*Over \$10. Excluding skateboards, snowboards, scales and tobacco products.

**To earn a 4.00  
in Brewology  
all you need to  
know is  
STEELHEAD.**

- 9 Award-Winning Micro-Brews
- Soups, Salads  Ribs  Fresh Pizza
- Sandwiches  Pastas  Burgers
- Spirits  Home-Made Rootbeer

TAKE A BREW HOME IN STEELHEAD'S BOX O' BEER



**Steelhead Brewing Company**

199 East 5th Avenue Eugene, OR Phone 686-2739  
 Eugene, OR - Burlingame, CA - Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA - Irvine, CA

[www.dailymerald.com](http://www.dailymerald.com) YOUR place for news, classifieds, message boards,  
 readers polls, ODE archives and more...

## Hunky Dory

**Pipe & Tobacco Co.**

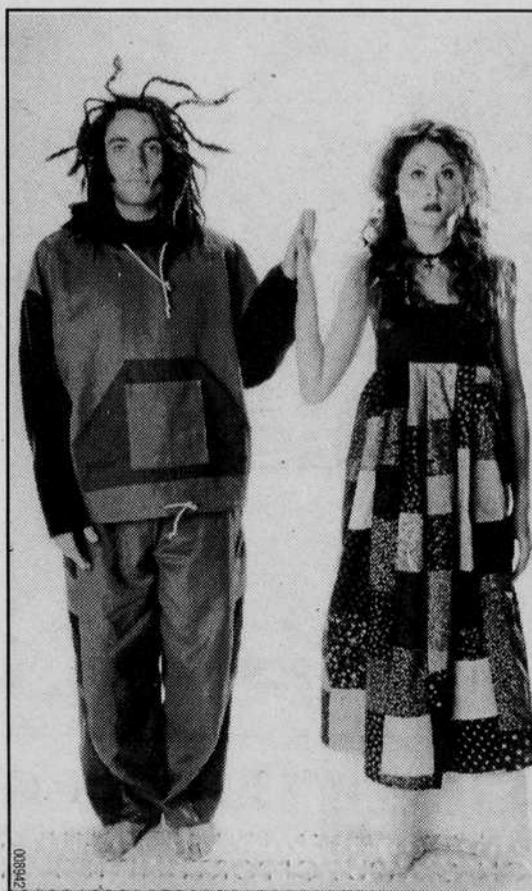
Areas largest selection of exotic tobacco pipes

Huge Tye-dye selection

Grateful Dead merchandise, clothing and much much more

**Welcome Back Students**

271 W 7th "the corner of 7th & Lincoln" 345-1853



**Everybody must get PIE!**

## Sweet Potato Pie

- ♥ Kickass Glass from JAH Creations & 30 local artists
- ♥ Hemp & Natural Fiber Clothing for Men, Women, & Children
- ♥ Grateful Dead, Phish, Sci, & Marley Merchandise
- ♥ Tapestries & Incense

Fly on by for a PIECE of the PIE! We're GRATEFUL for your support!

Mon. - Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12-5  
 Corner of 11th & Willamette