



Chastity Bono grand marshaling Portland's 1996 Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade

"The Gay Men's Chorus in New York...did this little parody called... 'The Life and Loves of Martina,' and they have various people playing Rita Mae Brown and Judy Nelson and I don't know who else. It was sort of a tongue-in-cheek tribute to me. A one-time thing. Now they're supposedly going to do a six-week run on the West Coast. And I'm like, OK, so you want me to be out, you want me to tell you everything about my life, and then you make fun of it! And this is my people! This is not Pat Buchanan or Pat Robertson that is doing it. This is my people doing it! I don't need this shit. So, from now on I'm not telling anything about my private life."

—Martina Navratilova, to Denver's *Out Front*

"Most times the only gay or lesbian face people know of is who they see in the pride parade. To judge us on that would be like judging heterosexuals after watching Mardi Gras."

—Candace Gingrich, House Speaker Newt Gingrich's lesbian sister, to the *Baltimore Alternative*

"[In West Hollywood], status is established by the make of your car, the style of your hair, the cost of your clothing, the source of your mineral water, the shape of your nose...the breed of your dog...the influence of your agent and the tone of your body."

—The new *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*

"I like dogs better [than people]. They give you unconditional love. They either lick your face or bite you, but you always know where they're coming from. With people, you never know which ones will bite. The difference between dogs and men is that you know where dogs sleep at night."

—Gay, HIV-positive Olympic gold medal diver Greg Louganis, to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*

"[W]ithout consulting the rest of us mere mortals, [the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force] suddenly rename[d] us 'the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered movement' or, as one of NGLTF's leaders recently said in a press release, 'the g/l/b/t community.' Sounds like a sandwich.... NGLTF's often dated and unrealistic political dogma will be cast off by the gay masses in due time."

—*Out* magazine columnist Michelangelo Signorile

"We must make it clear that a platform of 'I hate gay men and women' is not a way to become

president of the United States."

—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, in *The Los Angeles Times*



Greg Louganis in Portland on a promotional tour for his book, *Breaking the Surface*

THE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE FIGHT

"You would think that those who are always talking about family values would want to create an environment of permanent relationships for people of the same sex. But they're not advocating family values. They're advocating their values.... I still get this shit full time.... They just are haters, period."

—San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, to *The Advocate*

"It's our Pearl Harbor."

—Traditional Values Coalition Chairman Lou Sheldon, on the pending Hawaii Supreme Court case that is expected to legalize same-sex marriage there

"I'm looking for a hunk myself.... People that want to get married should do that [get married]. I don't see any reason why it has to be gender-

specific.... Whatever gender decides to hitch up should be their business."

—U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.)

"It's encouraging to see how far our fast-paced civil rights movement has traveled in four years. When candidate [Bill] Clinton was asked about gay marriage [in 1992], it was a throwaway question. His negative reply sounded no alarms. Gay marriage seemed a century away. What changed was our prospects, not Clinton's stance. He's just out of step with a future that's arriving more quickly than most of us had ever dreamed."

—Syndicated lesbian columnist Deb Price

"If they don't want me to get 'married,' if that's bugging 'them,' fine. But I do believe that as an American citizen, a law-abiding, taxpaying—major taxpaying—citizen, that I should be allowed the same rights, the same pursuit of happiness that every other citizen enjoys.... Whatever they want to call it. As long as we have the same legal benefits and protections for me, and for my family. That's all."

—Lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge, to *Newsweek*

"[The] principal House sponsor [of the federal Defense of Marriage Act], Bob Barr of Georgia, his district office confirms, has been married three times, which raises the question of

why the act doesn't contain a three-strikes-and-you're-out provision."

—*New York Times* columnist Frank Rich

GAY SENSIBILITY

"Gay people...were the first to find me, and they get everything, they're so sharp. I'll look out in the audience and I see three or four gay guys right in the front row, or a couple of lesbians, I know it's gonna be a good show."

—Joan Rivers, to Denver's *Out Front*

"He went [to the Republican convention] as a Dole delegate and I went to see some of the tackiest women I'd ever seen, bejeweled in red-white-and-blue glitter, with high hair and elephant ear-bobs the size of tennis balls."

—Rob Morris, speaking of his lover, U.S. Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wis.)

"They offered me either the Queen or the Lincoln [bedrooms]. Being from San Francisco, the Queen intrigued me. [But] I'm doing the Lincoln. He cut me loose."

—San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, on spending the night at the White House

"I clicked my heels and said, 'There's no place like home, there's no place like home.' I just didn't have those ruby slippers."

—Anacortes, Wash., boat mechanic Steve Burton to *The Associated Press* when he couldn't get home because flooding closed Interstate 5

THE EPIDEMIC

"Even within the safer-sex parameters, you add up all the odds over an entire lifetime, and many gay men feel it's inevitable they'll contract HIV. That's a very hard psychological barrier to break through for prevention, education and, indeed, just morale."

—*New Republic* Senior Editor Andrew Sullivan to *The New York Times*. Sullivan is HIV positive.

"I wish President Clinton were more direct, more hands-on [about AIDS]. He's been given a chance to turn the world around and be outspoken on an issue that's controversial to still so many people, but it would take enormous daring. I had hoped that he would. I really thought he had the chutzpah and the *cojones*."

—Elizabeth Taylor, to *The Advocate*. (*Cojones* is Spanish for balls.)

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Candace Gingrich (right) with Barbara Roberts at the 1996 National Democratic Convention in Chicago