

HUMOR

2003: The year in review

Notes from the Marchive

Looking back on the past 12 months I'm pleased to see that in addition to writing about the various ephemera of gay life (just how does Carson spell "jeuje"? I also weighed in on the issues that made 2003 the biggest year in homo history: the Texas, Canada and Massachusetts court decisions, the election of a gay Episcopal bishop and, of course, Liza's divorce.

Which pressing issue generated the most reader mail, you ask? My hair.

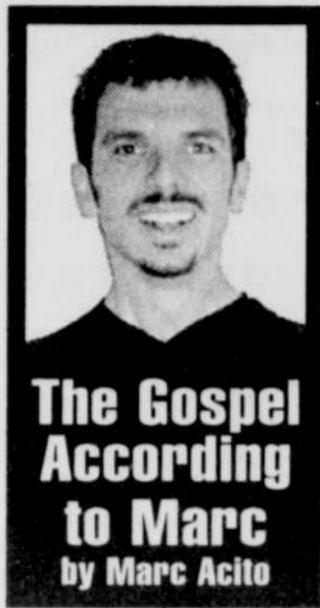
In what is surely the gayest year ever, that has got to be about the gayest thing I've ever heard.

OK, I asked for it. I was in need of tonsorial advice, and dozens of you voted at MarcAcito.com. Yet, despite my best efforts to convince you that long hair was the grooming choice of gay liberation, readers voted 4-to-1 in favor of the close-cropped "Clooney."

Who am I to argue with the will of the people? I cut it off.

Also in the mailbag, one reader submitted this opinion regarding the induction of the gay bishop: "I'm just thankful that the church's founder, Henry VIII, and his wives Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr are no longer alive to suffer this latest assault on Christian values." Amen, sister.

In other news, Mars came closer to Earth than it has in nearly 60,000 years while both Richard Chamberlain and Tab Hunter finally came out after nearly the same length of time.



The Gospel According to Marc
by Marc Acito

Since nothing irritates me more than Hollywood celebs waiting to come out until no one cares, I drove out to an observatory to see some real stars and get a look at the red planet.

What a waste. For all I knew, I could have been looking at a guy across the parking lot holding a flashlight. To say that Mars was closer to Earth was like driving from New Jersey to Delaware and announcing you're closer to the equator.

None of that dampened the undeniable fact that 2003 was the Year of the Queer. In a sure sign we've arrived, Comedy Central announced its own version of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* called *Straight Plan for the Gay Man*. Each week, a group of sloppy straight guys called "The Flab Four" will descend on some hapless homo, presumably to redecorate his house with a milk crate coffee table and teach him how to belch on cue.

As someone who regularly relies on my straight neighbors for advice on such matters as where to buy tires (thanks Cool Neighbor David), I hope they'll pick me for the show, if only to get someone to finally clean out my gutters.

Looking ahead, however, there is still much to be done.

For instance, an Iowa judge recently got in a heap of trouble for granting a divorce

to a lesbian couple who were joined in a Vermont civil union. Republican opponents claim the divorce is a tacit recognition of the couple's union or, as I like to call it, "reality."

I assume the next step will be the Defense of Divorce Ordinance, or DODO, affirming that divorce can only occur between a man and a woman. Winner of this year's DODO Award goes to U.S. Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate who said, "Marriage is an institution between men and women for the purpose of having children," despite the fact that he himself is in a childless marriage.

And in Louisiana, a 7-year-old boy was sent to the principal's office when he admitted to a classmate that his moms are

gay. In detention the child was forced to repeatedly write, "I will never use the word 'gay' in school again."

I'm sorry, but something is definitely wrong when kids in rural schools are more open and courageous than celebrities in Hollywood.

Look at it this way. Imagine it's 1963. You're a black actor on a sitcom, and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. calls: "Hey, I'm doing this March on Washington for civil rights, and I'm going to do this 'I Have a Dream' speech, and I want you there." And you say, "Sorry, Marty baby, I'd love to, but it might jeopardize my sitcom."

History does not look kindly on such a person.

Personally, I think the reason more readers wrote about my hair than any other issue is that gays have the Makeover Gene, the biological predisposition to improve things. And wherever we're working our makeover magic, things are improving—be it in the courts, the churches or the schools.

2003 was a stellar year for the history of civil rights, but I hope that in 2004, the stars will finally come out.

And that, my friends, is *The Gospel According to Marc*. ☐



MARC ACITO's first novel, *How I Paid for College*, will be published in September.

Photo by Daniel Johns
Suit by Mario's



"McCollum is brilliant."
—The Oregonian

The Portland Spirit
presents

WADE McCOLLUM

Star of *Batboy* and *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*



Friday, January 16th, 23rd and 30th
Boarding at 10:45pm / Cruising 11:00pm to 1:30am
\$16 advance purchase (Adults 21+ only)
\$20 at the door
\$8 one-time hors d'oeuvre buffet



CALL (800) 224-3901 OR (503) 224-3900

Visit www.portlandspirit.com

Blow off some Steam!



Steam Portland

The Northwest's newest, cleanest & hottest men's club and bath.

- Hot Tub w/Large Screen video
- Public or Private Sling Room
- Largest Steamroom in PDX
- New Dark Play Room
- Hottest DJ Music
- Video Lounge
- Free Internet

2885 NE Sandy Blvd. Portland, OR 97232
Info Line: 503.736.9999
www.steamportland.com

Must be at least 18. Membership required

