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TheStandard

The Enemies List

These people are really pissing me off

Progress is everywhere.

A dyke (albeit unconfirmed) was the top box office draw in the United States when Jodie Foster's *The Brave One* opened Sept. 14.

All of the Democratic presidential candidates support full marriage rights (if not the word itself) and oppose "don't ask, don't tell."

Hell, Portland might soon become the nation's largest city with an openly gay mayor.

So why is my blood boiling? Perhaps it's because of these folks who've landed on my ever-expanding shit list.

Miller Beer: Not that I drink the swill, but the macrobrewery managed to enrage both fundies and queers by sponsoring San Francisco's Folsom Street Fair—which printed a racy poster based on "The Last Supper"—and then pulling out when the shit hit the fan.

"While Miller has supported the Folsom Street Fair for several years, we take exception to the poster the organizing committee developed this year," a spokeswoman said in a statement Sept. 25. "We understand some individuals may find the imagery offensive."

However, what Miller failed to comprehend is that our mere existence offends our Bible-banging brothers. The poster brouhaha was just more huffing and puffing over nothing to snag them some headlines. And why was the company cowering over a threatened boycott? These prudes don't even drink!

Clay Aiken and Jenna Bush: The *American Idol* runner-up made a rare public appearance Oct. 1 at a launch party for *Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope*, a book about a Panamanian teenager with AIDS written by the spawn of Satan. Ironically, Jenna's father considered abolishing the Office of National AIDS Policy as one of his first acts as president. Even more ironically, Aiken has been caught regularly trolling for unsafe sex online.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad: Initially I defended the Iranian president's right to deliver a speech Sept. 24 at Columbia University, but now I see the perils of handing an open mike to a delusional monster. As everyone probably knows by now, he is somehow convinced that his country is queer-free.

"In Iran, we don't have homosexuals, like in your country...we do not have this phenomenon," Ahmadinejad said. "I don't know who's told you that we have it."

But like Oregon's own Lon Mabon, perhaps his hateful rhetoric will inspire more queers to come out and make their presence known—despite the very real risks to their lives. Human rights watchdogs estimate more than 400 Iranians have been executed for being homosexual.

Jim's Closet
BY JIM RADOSTA

Lou Pearlman: It's bad enough that the notorious Svengali—recently arrested on fraud charges—made us suffer through the boy band craze of the 1990s. Now comes word from *Vanity Fair* that he was also a sexual predator preying on his young talent. Former Pearlman assistant Steve Mooney alleges a fellow singer once asked him, "Have you let Lou blow you yet?"

The aspiring performer also recalls seeking advice from "Big Poppa" on how to join a band: "He leaned back in his chair, in his white terry cloth robe and white underwear, and spread his legs. And then he said, and these were his exact words: 'You're a smart boy. Figure it out.'"

I guess now we know the secret meaning behind "I Want It That Way."

Arnold Schwarzenegger: The governor of Cully-fornia has been handed a second opportunity to enter the history books by signing a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, but once again he's playing politics with our lives.

"It would be wrong for the people to vote for something and for me to then overturn it," Schwarzenegger said, referring to 2000's Proposition 22, which only bars California from recognizing same-sex marriages performed outside the state. "So they can send this bill down as many times as they want, I won't do it."

Too bad Mr. Freeze's heart wasn't thawed by the warm words of San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, a rare Republican who actually allows his mind to expand. He tearfully announced his reversal on same-sex marriage Sept. 19 in support of his queer daughter and staff members: "In the end, I couldn't look any of them in the face and tell them that their relationships—their very lives—were any less meaningful than the marriage I share with my wife."

Incidentally, Schwarzenegger's chief of staff, Susan Kennedy, is a lesbian. As they might say in one of his captacular action films, "This time it's personal." 10

Arts and Culture Editor JIM RADOSTA needs your feedback. Write to jim@justout.com.

