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## Queer View Mirror

A look back at the best of 2007

**Y**ou'll be reading plenty of Top 10 lists in the coming days, so let me ease your load by downsizing to my two favorites of 2007 in various categories. It's the green thing to do.

### Best Posthumous Outings

1. **Albus Dumbledore:** "Just imagine the fan fiction now," *Harry Potter* author JK Rowling joked after revealing in October that the headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry had fallen in love with Grindelwald, a bad wizard he defeated long ago. When the silent audience burst into prolonged applause, she added, "If I'd known it would make you so happy, I would have announced it years ago!"

2. **Merv Griffin:** The billionaire "died a closeted homosexual," according to a Reuters headline posted five days after he succumbed to prostate cancer in August. Griffin once dodged the subject by remarking: "I tell everybody that I'm a quarte-sexual. I will do anything with anybody for a quarter."

### Best Concert Comebacks

1. **Morrissey:** The last time I saw The Smiths frontman live, he was in a foul and surly mood at Portland's La Luna. Moz must've modified his meds (or perhaps he's getting laid), because his stage presence in a May gig at Seattle's Paramount Theatre was self-effacing and charming.

2. **David Lee Roth:** After a failed attempt at a Van Halen reunion in 1996—followed by a disastrous radio talk show in 2006—it looked like Diamond Dave had lost his luster. Boy, was I wrong. The 53-year-old rocker was buff and limber during the band's December performance at the Rose Garden, with plenty of Vegas pizzazz to boot.

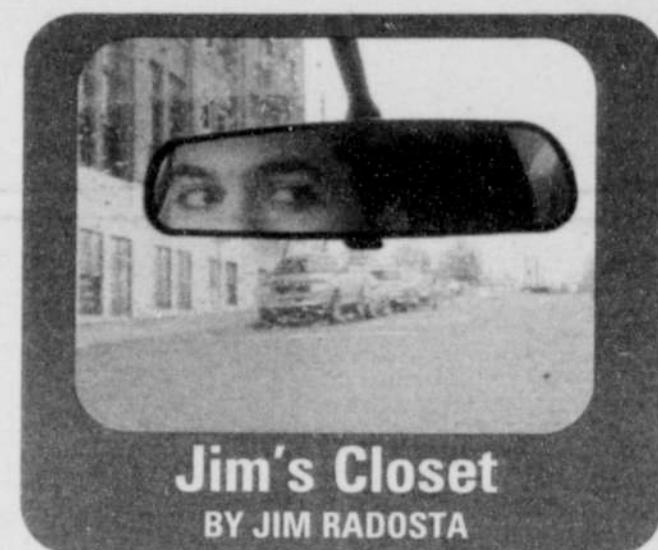


Portrait artist Gwenn Seemel gave me face time in October.

### Best Missed Opportunities

1. **Bob Barker:** A lifelong fan of *The Price Is Right*, I flew to Hollywood in April to chase my dream to "come on down" before the 83-year-old host retired. It never happened, but at least I got to ask him a question during a commercial break. Did I take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to express my heartfelt adoration for a television legend? No, I asked him why *TPIR* no longer plays "Super Ball" and "Penny Ante," two of my favorite games.

2. **Simon Rex:** A friend scored me backstage passes to *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, where the guests were less than titillating: has-been Kathie Lee Gifford, *Borat* sidekick Ken Davitian and one-hit wonder Mickey Avalon. Fortunately, Avalon brought along famous fan Simon Rex, the star of *Scary Movie 3* and—more importantly for gay men everywhere—*Young, Hard & Solo 3*. Did I approach the hot stud to say, "Thanks, I've touched myself many times while thinking of you"? I'm not telling.



Jim's Closet  
BY JIM RADOSTA

### Best Artistic Experiences

1. **Longest Drag Queen Chorus Line:** The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center staged this ambitious event in July to raise money and to shatter the Guinness World Record. I must confess that I showed up intending to be an observer—secretly hoping that the wet weather forecast would result in a deluge of streaked mascara. As it turned out, the sky was clear but the turnout was low, so my companions and I were recruited to join the gang. Fittingly, 69 folks participated in the milestone moves, set to the tunes of Diana Ross' "I'm Coming Out."

2. **Gwenn Seemel:** After I interviewed the talented artist for a July column, she invited me back to her studio for some quid pro quo—only this time she was asking me all of the personal questions, as I sat for my first portrait.

### Best Lines from My Friends

1. **Patrick:** This science geek shared his thoughts on OMSI's *Body Worlds 3*, a graphic exhibit of skinned, preserved cadavers leaping over hurdles, skateboarding and doing other creepy things. Noting the prominent cock on display, Patrick admitted, "I started to get turned on!"

2. **Sarah:** This aspiring veterinarian joined me for an April reading by Dan Mathews, the openly gay senior vice president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Sarah was so inspired by his memoir, *Committed*, that she applied for a job at PETA; within three months, she was hired and packing for Norfolk, Va.

Now that she's a practicing vegan, I felt the need to apologize when I told her about my birthday steak dinner at El Gaucho. Her response: "Don't apologize to me, apologize to the cow!"

### Best Funny Ladies

1. **Carol Leifer:** Who knew Elaine Benes was queer? The longtime comedian, who inspired the iconic *Seinfeld* character, spoke about her female partner during a May benefit for Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette at Darcelle's.

2. **Lisa Lampinelli:** As the usher led me to my front-row seat at Newmark Theatre, she asked, "You do know this is an interactive show?" I had no idea what was in store.

Like a female Archie Bunker, the insult comic routinely selects token minorities out of the audience to lampoon, so I was christened as "Jimmy the Faggot." This might not amuse those who are unfamiliar with her shtick, but as somebody who was directly in her line of fire, I can say that it's a cathartic experience to laugh off toxic stereotypes. 10

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