

NAMES & FACES

BY MICHAEL BLOWEN

Bob Hope: on the road to fooling around

In his new book "The Secret Life of **Bob Hope**," **Arthur Marx**, son of **Groucho**, claims that Hope:

- Had more girlfriends than **Errol Flynn** or "Road" pal **Bing Crosby**.
- Used the USO tours as a way to meet new girlfriends.
- Had a brief gay encounter with a drag queen during his vaudeville days.

Hope's spokesman, **Ward Grant**, said: "We are not honoring this book with any comment. We've known for quite some time that the book was coming out. We've heard these allegations before. I don't think there's anything new. There have been stories in Confidential and The Globe. It's regretful that somebody makes a living off other people. I hope [Marx] makes enough money to get a life of his own."

Grant said Marx had once written a movie script for Hope. He said he did not know of any falling out between the two men.

Marx bases many of his allegations on the recollections of Hope's former writers and agents. Television writer **Larry Gelbart** recalled that his ex-boss "fooled around with anyone he could who was young and nubile who guest-starred on the show."

Hope reportedly had affairs with actresses **Rhonda Fleming**, **Gloria DeHaven**, **Janis Paige** and **Joey Heatherton**, the book claims.

Marx says Hope and Crosby, pals offscreen and onscreen in their successful "Road" movies, compared notes on how they performed sexually. Marx also claims that Hope liked to bed the actresses he brought on his famous USO tours. "In many cases, the sole criterion for choosing an actress to take along with him on tour would be whether she was willing to have sex with him," Marx writes.

Thanks for the memories.



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / PAT GREENHOUSE

A KENNEDY WEDDING — *Edward Kennedy Jr. kisses his new bride, Katherine Gershman, on the steps of St. Andrew Catholic Church in New Shoreham, R.I., on Block Island yesterday. Applauding the couple are their parents, from left, Elizabeth Gershman, James Gershman, Sen. Edward Kennedy and Joan Bennett Kennedy.*

Michael won't go Down Under

Michael Jackson is resuming his worldwide concert tour in Buenos Aires after a respite in the Swiss chalet of pal **Elizabeth Taylor**. After Argentina, he will go to Chile, Peru, Mexico, Venezuela and Puerto Rico. But he will not be going to Australia as originally planned.

Faye Dunaway fades away

CBS is giving the **Faye Dunaway** sitcom "It Had to Be You" and "Family Album" "a short break" effective Oct. 22, a CBS spokeswoman said Friday. Premiering Oct. 29 will be a new hourlong **Dick Van Dyke** series, "Diagnosis: Murder," airing at 8 p.m. Fridays. And starting Oct. 27, taking the spot of the canceled "Trouble with Larry" at 8 p.m. Wednesdays, will be a returning series, "Hearts Afire."

And on the fourth day, they rested

Alec Baldwin and **Kim Basinger**, in certain duty to their art, raised filmmaking to a new level by managing to shoot a sex scene for their new movie, "The Getaway," on an otherwise body-free set. They did it by having two remote-control cameras set up in a room, barring all crew members and going at it. Took three days just to get it right.

Love means never having to compete

Nicole Kidman has everything she's ever wanted: a husband, a child and a career she's proud of. In her first interview in a year, Kidman told Redbook that she and husband **Tom Cruise** support each other's careers and she doesn't need to compete with him. "When you meet someone and fall in love, you don't worry about that,"

she said. Kidman, 26, took a year off after marrying Cruise and adopting a baby girl, but now she's back, appearing in "Malice," with **Alec Baldwin**, and the upcoming "My Life" with **Michael Keaton**. Neither she nor Cruise has ever publicly said why they chose to adopt, but baby Isabella, Kidman said in the magazine's November issue, makes her want more children.

Pressing the flesh

Washington's National Press Club may soon face the unpleasant task of admitting Screw publisher **Al Goldstein** to its membership. The porn prince has managed to come up with two sponsors and has sent off copies of his mag for close inspection by NPC officials.

Blades a runner in Panama

Ruben Blades, the salsa singer, actor and Harvard grad who appeared on the big screen in "The Milagro Beanfield War" and "The Two Jakes," confirmed that he'll run for the presidency of Panama. "I am going to be nominated most likely in November," he said in Panama City. Blades, 45, founded and leads the Papa Egoro movement, which will hold its party congress next month. Polls show that he has 20 percent of voter support, double that of his closest rival. "I think that people are so disappointed with the traditional forms of politics that they're turning to outsiders," he said.

Whoopi stands by Ted

Whoopi Goldberg defended boyfriend **Ted Danson's** blackface appearance at a Friar's Club roast, saying yesterday that critic **Montel Williams** was a wimp and possibly a publicity hound. Goldberg said at a news conference she was surprised and shocked by the controversy over Friday's closed-door tribute to her in New York City. "We knocked Somalia off the cover of the New York newspapers," the actress said. "This is insane to me." She said anyone familiar with the Friar's Club 89-year history of ribald roasts should have expected jokes about sex, gender, bodily functions, religion and race.

Material from wire services and other news sources was used in this column.

Not so Nobel

■ MIT served up the the Ig Nobels last week. Among the winners:

■ Peace: Pepsi-Cola Co. of the Philippines, for sponsoring a contest to create a millionaire and then sparking an insurrection among 800,000 contestants by announcing the wrong winning number. When participants united in protest, Pepsi succeeded in "bringing many warring factions together for the first time in their nation's history."

■ Biology: Paul Williams of Oregon state health division and Kenneth Newell of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, for their pioneering study "Salmonella Excretion in Joy Riding Pigs."

■ Physics: John Mack of Harvard Medical School and David Jacobs of Temple University, for "their leaping conclusion that people who believe they were kidnapped by aliens from outer space, probably were."

QUOTE unquote

“The first time around, people were screaming and pulling their hair out like we were the Beatles or something. I don't believe we could ever again become that kind of crazy, media-blitz phenomenon.”

GENIE FRANCIS, in *TV Guide*, on the return of *Luke* (Anthony Geary) and *Laura* to "General Hospital" Oct. 29.

COUNTDOWN

Rev. **Al Sharpton** will address the Ford Hall Forum on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Old South Meeting House. It's free.