

THE ADVOCATE REPORT

RELIGION

Ejection rejection

First the single mom with a baby is ejected like a rocket out of her pew and out of the church. Then it's the gay couple who go flying. The 30-second TV commercial ends with the tagline, "God doesn't reject people. Neither do we."

Broadcast TV networks, however, have no trouble with rejection, and ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox have refused to air the United Church of Christ's latest pro-inclusion promo. "CBS essentially



■ Gays go flying in a new UCC television ad.



said they couldn't run our ad because it was an advocacy ad," said Ron Buford, director of UCC's Still-

speaking media campaign. "I asked, 'What would it take to make our ads not advocacy ads?' They said, 'It would have to become commonplace for churches to welcome gay and lesbian people.'"

The ad began running on April 3 on CNN and other cable channels, many of which also ran UCC's controversial 2004 TV spot, in which gays were barred from a church by muscular bouncers. The ads work, Buford said, because many people of faith "don't want to be part of anything that excludes."

—Neal Broverman



Dana lives! The T-shirt

Dana's been gone for only a few weeks, but *L Word* fans are already wearing their feelings for Showtime's dead fictional tennis pro (played by Erin Daniels) on their chests. The Web site IdGoGayFor.com is selling both DANA LIVES and BRING DANA BACK shirts for \$20 each.

MEDIA

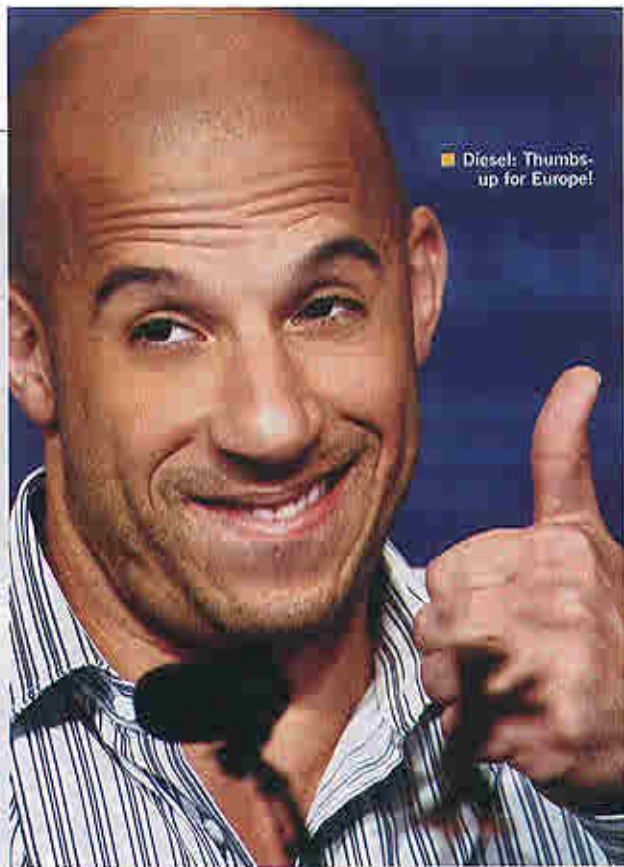
Here TV on a roll

They're ba-a-ack! Gay faves Chad Allen and Thea Gill are now filming new installments of original Here TV programs scheduled to debut later in 2006 on the LGBT pay-TV service. Allen will return as gay private eye Donald Strachey—first seen in Here's *Third Man Out* last year—for the film *Shock to the System*, while *Queer as Folk* alum Gill has joined the cast of the network's campy, supersexy, supernatural soap *Dante's Cove* for its second season.

Meanwhile, Here is living up to its name a little more every day: In recent weeks the network has debuted on cable systems in Austin, northern Ohio, and Hawaii.



■ Thea Gill



■ Diesel: Thumbs-up for Europe!

RANTS RAVES

"I was like, 'How could you say that? Why would you say that?'"

—VIN DIESEL, on rumors that he's gay, as quoted in the April issue of *Details*. He went on to say that he prefers dating quietly in Europe.

"You hear the lawsuits are that he pretended to be straight or something. I mean, it's just crazy, you know?"

—American *Idol* judge SIMON COWELL, talking about Clay Aiken's litigious fans, as quoted by World Entertainment News, March 20

"According to the Scriptures, it's the government's job to enforce God's

law...and the Bible talks about how [homosexuals] are to be put to death."

—MICHAEL MARCAVAGE of Repent America, as quoted in the February 3–9 issue of Philadelphia's *City Paper*. Marcavage later said he'd been speaking off the record and quoted out of context and does "not desire that homosexuals be put to death."

"They are trying to combine manliness with homosexuality, which is perfectly possible to do."

—"Manliness-expert" HARVEY MANSFIELD, on *Brokeback Mountain*'s fictional cowboys, on C-SPAN's *After Words*, March 18

"10. Trying to fix up Condi Rice with his daughter."

—From a DAVID LETTERMAN list of the "Top Ten Reasons Dick Cheney Won't Resign," from the *Late Show*, March 20