



RUSH & MOLLOY



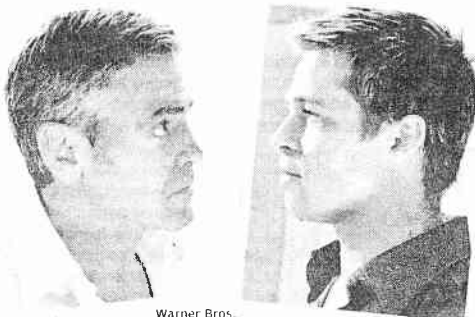
By George Rush and Joanna Rush Molloy

Clooney & '13' crew raise a yacht of loot for Darfur

Those handsome "Ocean's Thirteen" con artists — **George Clooney, Brad Pitt** (both at r.), **Matt Damon** and **Don Cheadle** — scored a cool \$9.2 million on the French Riviera Tuesday night. But nobody's calling the gendarmes.

The only people likely to complain about Clooney's latest caper are the paparazzi. Most of them were left at the dock when the Oscar-winner and his crew shoved off on the 237-foot yacht that was the scene of the Not on Our Watch benefit for Darfur.

Among those piped aboard the RM Elegant (a Greek-registered vessel that



Warner Bros.

ranks No. 49 on Power & Motor Yacht mag's list of the world's 100 largest yachts) were "Ocean's Thirteen" castmates **Ellen Barkin**, **Andy Garcia**, **Scott Caan** and **Elliott Gould** and charity co-skipper **Jerry Weintraub**.

Everyone looked their best. Tan-n-tuxed Clooney "was a dead ringer for Cary Grant" in "To Catch a Thief," says our spy. "Ellen looked fierce in a tight velvet dress. She has the most rocking body you've ever seen." Cheadle, who told Foxnews.com's **Roger Friedman** that he'll direct himself in a biopic about **Miles Davis**, appeared to already be channeling the jazz legend's style.

Guests paid as much as \$25,000 a ticket for the Audi-sponsored cruise. **Steven Spielberg** personally chipped in \$1 million and, we hear, OK! Magazine donated around \$2 million (which may explain why it had the exclusive on coverage).

Pitt came without **Angelina Jolie**, who was having dinner with **Mariane Pearl**, whom she plays in "A Mighty Heart." He met up later with them and daughter **Shiloh**, who's about to celebrate her first birthday.

Back on shore, **Naomi Campbell** celebrated her 37th birthday at the Eden

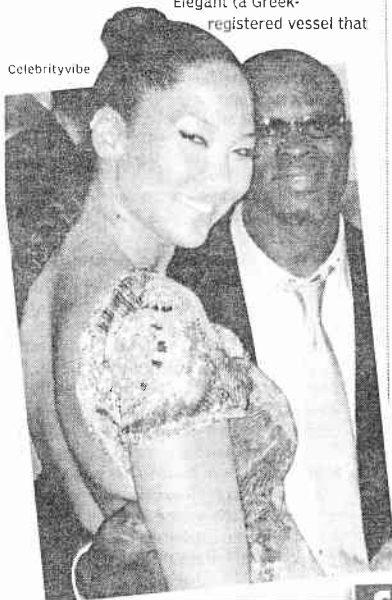
Roc restaurant with fireworks furnished by **Fawaz Gruosi**, owner of Da Grisogono jeweler. Also there were **Kimora Lee Simmons** and **Djimon Hounsou** (pictured at lower left; their kissing and hand-holding removed all doubt that they're a couple), **Kid Rock** and **May Anderson**, **Eva Mendes**, **Kerry Washington**, **Bai Ling** and **Petra Nemcova** (flirting with **Stavros Niarchos**). Word is that **Beyoncé** and **Jay Z** made a surprise appearance — to see her Destiny's Child sister, **Kelly Rowland**, perform. But, after being seated in the back of the room, they left early.

Most of Tuesday night's celebs met up again at last night's AmFAR benefit, presented by Bold Films, M.A.C., and the Weinstein Company. Also on hand there were **Elton John**, **Robert Rodriguez** and **Rose McGowan**, **Catherine Deneuve**, **Claudia Schiffer**, **Goldie Hawn** and **Kurt Russell**, **Rosario Dawson**, **Misha Barton** and **Elle Macpherson**. Besides the **Sharon Stone**-driven auction and **Kylie Minogue**'s rendition of "Locomotion," the evening's highlight may have been **Dita Von Teese** grinning and bared it at the premiere of "The Diving Suit and the Butterfly" in Cannes. Photo by **Daniele Venturelli/Wireimage.com**

cowboy boots and then straddling a giant crystal-encrusted mechanical lipstick.

Now that's an image.

Celebrityvibe



SURVEILLANCE ...

Michael Jackson will make \$10 million just for coming to the 25th birthday of Brunel's **Prince Azim**, according to Britain's Daily Mirror. Jackson's camp had no immediate comment on the report, which claims he won't have to sing. Meanwhile, Manhattan Federal Judge **Kevin Castel** has ordered Jackson's legal team to let him know if Jacko will be in court when **Darien Dash** claims the Gloved One stiffed his finance company for \$48 million in fees. The judge has set a June 18 trial date ...

Emma Thompson and a male pal drew disgusted stares from fellow

diners (including **Will Smith**) when they pulled out cigarettes and lit up at their center table at the Waverly Inn Tuesday night.

Phil Spector took a break from standing trial for murder to contemplate religion and politics Tuesday night at UCLA. The Wall of Sound weirdo, sporting his soccer mom hairdo, came with two bodyguards to the debate moderated by TruthDig.com's **Bob Scheer**.

A list talent is already seeking roles in the as-of-yet-unfinished

Broadway musical version of "The First Wives Club" by Motown songwriting greats **Eddie Holland**, **Brian Holland** and **Lamont Dozier**. We hear that **Goldie Hawn**'s character will be reinvented as a pop singer and played by a black actress — and that **Queen Latifah** is among those who have called producers **Paul Lambert** and **Jonas Neilson** about the role.





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'Madam' eager to name names

Accused "D.C. Madam" **Deborah Jeane Palfrey** is aching to out more of her alleged johns.

"It's almost like we have a public obligation to see that these records are thoroughly investigated by responsible people," Palfrey (r.) said yesterday in a hushed voice in the bar of the Capital Hilton, the same hotel where some of her girls used to ply their trade.

Palfrey has been staying at the hotel ever since U.S. District Judge **Gladys Kessler** ruled that she was indigent and that taxpayers must provide for her lodging during her federal racketeering case.

(We also paid for her airfare; aptly, she flew United.)

Palfrey still believes ABC News reneged on its ballyhooed promise to expose her former customers in a TV special.

How many should have come out in the ABC piece?

"Another five to 10, at least," the raven-haired accused sex merchant with perfect bangs told The News' **James Gordon Meek**. "They were ready to go."

The ABC News probe did lead to the resignation of a former customer, ex-deputy secretary of state **Randall L. Tobias**. But the network said that, after researching records of some 10,000 calls made at her agency, reporters found no other even medium fish to fry.

Kessler so far has blocked Palfrey from doling out any more phone records to reporters. Palfrey has turned over 13 years of client phone records to her new defense lawyer, former **Monica Lewinsky** attorney **Burton Breston**, in hope of finding people to testify for her.

"I am by no means interested in the

wholesale slaughter of 10,000 names here," she said.

"How many people do I really expect to come out of this? Twenty-five to 100."

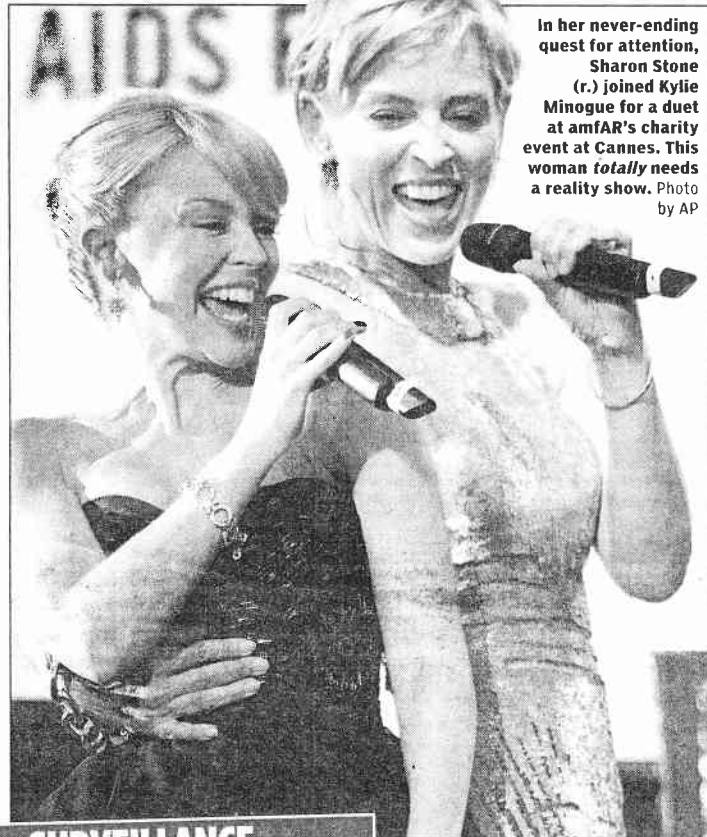
Palfrey believes it's no accident that, after escaping prosecution for many years, the feds are coming after her.

Her conspiracy theories weave together "9/11 Arab connections," Baltimore police scandals and the unsolved murder of federal prosecutor **Jonathan Luna**.

"The cesspool of muck," she says, also involves the politicization of the Bush Justice Department. Tapping on a newspaper photo of former Justice official **Monica**

Goodling, Palfrey said, "It's the genesis of my situation."

Still, Palfrey, who hopes to move to Germany when all this is over, admitted, "I can't prove it."



In her never-ending quest for attention, **Sharon Stone** (r.) joined **Kylie Minogue** for a duet at amFAR's charity event at Cannes. This woman *totally* needs a reality show. Photo by AP

SURVEILLANCE ...

Rose McGowan isn't showing much guilt about removing director **Robert Rodriguez** from his wife, **Elizabeth Avellan**. McGowan and Rodriguez (r.) nuzzled for the cameras at Wednesday's AmFAR benefit in Cannes. But McGowan doesn't seem as inured to **Dita Von Teese**, the woman **Marilyn Manson** married instead of her — McGowan stepped outside during Von Teese's burlesque act. Meanwhile, artist-director **Julian Schnabel** seemed bothered when bidding slowed on his artworks at the auction. "It's not a party favor," Schnabel grumbled. "I don't know if anybody understands or cares about art in this room." Most everyone was bothered by the heat.



THEODORE WOOD/CAMERA PRESS

Said **George Clooney**: "We're going to auction off an air conditioner for \$500,000!"

Rosanne Cash was all in black yesterday, but not because it was the fave color of her dad, Johnny. The country songstress and 32 others dressed in mourning for a noon demonstration at Times Square, where they remembered the Virginia Tech tragedy by lying down for three minutes — the time it took Seung-Hui Cho to kill 32 students and himself. The demo, attended by **Mayor Bloomberg**, was organized by protest site easyguns.com, a grass-roots group started by Washington Philharmonic cellist **Abby Spangler**.