

Los Angeles Times
MAGAZINE

AUGUST 3, 1997

When America Ca

Fashion—Easing Into

Eats—Boxer's 3 Squ

SCIENCE

VS.

SCIENCE

FICTION



Think You Know the Difference? Or Are You Too

Busy Pursuing Alien Sightings to Worry About It?

K.C. Cole Talks to Scientists and Pop Culturists

on Why Reality Just Isn't Enough Anymore.

DICK CLARK

Having spent the better part of 10 years working with Dick Clark, I read with interest the article on his life and far-flung business enterprises ("Dick Clark's American Dream," by Steve Pond, June 29). Although it accurately portrayed Clark's mood swings, entrepreneurial success and workaholic lifestyle, it did not note his compassionate nature, an attribute often overlooked in media profiles of his life.

One time, I had to fire a man in my department who had been repeatedly derelict in his duties because of a severe alcohol problem. Dick quietly sought out the man and, without fanfare, offered him his job back if he'd enter a hospital program—which Dick would pay for.

When my father balked at agreeing to serious spinal surgery that doctors considered necessary, Dick—unbeknownst to me—telephoned my dad across the country and spent half an hour convincing him to have the operation. Anyone who knows Dick Clark is aware that time is a most precious commodity to him, so those 30 minutes were not spent lightly. Also, those of us who witnessed Dick's love for and devotion to his own father won't soon forget it.

While Dick Clark may not have been an angel in business, he has indeed been a saint to those around him, which is more than I can say for some of the other entertainment moguls I've toiled for over the years.

Frank Furino
Palm Desert

Pond's article implied that pioneer rock disc jockey Alan Freed was guilty of accepting money to play records because he was netted by New York State commercial bribery laws. Freed was never convicted of any wrongdoing—all the charges against him were dropped—but his career was destroyed by the controversy.

I'm surprised that the magazine memorialized a person who is basically nothing more than a shrewd businessman. Clark has dedicated his life to amassing huge profits from rock 'n' roll, while many of

the genre's founders and shapers lived penniless or died broke and never made the cover of a magazine.

Judith Fisher Freed
Los Angeles

The cover photograph of Dick Clark shows him smiling, but an inside photo portrays him with what appears to be a perturbed scowl. It's disappointing to discover that a man who is lucky enough to work at what he loves, with interesting and creative people, and earns a lot of money doing so chooses to be annoyed at slight inconveniences.

Dolores Long
Van Nuys

NINE HEROES FROM REAL LIFE

It was a delight to read about those nine extraordinary people—real heroes ("Nine Lives," by Robin Wright, June 29). In a world filled with so much greed and thirst for power, it is reassuring to know there are people doing good as an end in itself. They are the ones who should get more exposure, as opposed to, say, some of our overpaid athletes, who often have trouble distinguishing between morality and immorality.

Rose Martorell
Los Angeles

The Times and Robin Wright are to be commended for identifying and describing these remarkable individuals—good examples for us all. And in the process of going about it, Wright has spotlighted some serious problems that need our attention.

Peggy and Chuck Lindahl
Fullerton

Address comments to Letters, Los Angeles Times Magazine, Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles 90053, or fax to (213) 237-7386. The e-mail address is latmag@latimes.com. Letters submitted for publication must include a daytime telephone number and address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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Los Angeles Times Magazine is published and distributed 47 times a year by the Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles 90053. Customer service: 1 (800) LA-Times. Editorial telephone: (213) 237-7811; fax: (213) 237-7386. Advertising: magazine manager Joe Pomzanelli in New York; telephone (212) 602-7144 or (213) 257-2181. Manuscripts and photographs will be handled with care, but the magazine assumes no responsibility. Unsolicited material will not be returned unless accompanied by return postage and envelope.