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It was a phenomenal experience, but Letterman was sick. And he's never sick. So there was a guest host. It was such a big milestone, but the gay community didn't leap on it. They were like, "Oh, good for you." They had no idea how hard it was—how no one had done it before. So it was a sort of anticlimactic experience, because I thought it was a huge thing. I thought it would be a breakthrough and 10 other gay comics would get on. It kind of happened and it was great and I got all this great response from all these straight people. But the gay community, I don't know, maybe they don't actually watch *Letterman*.

Where do you get the inspiration for your material?

Well, let's look at it. You called and because my sister and I are talking about dead people in a lake, that's what I'm talking about. So, I guarantee you, or there's a 90 percent chance, that when I get up on stage in a couple of nights, I'm going to talk about dead people in a lake, because it's on my mind. I might not talk about it again. It might be very funny or it might just fly right over. Or it could be something where I'm doing it for a year. That's how the show evolves. I don't write. I don't know how to. I don't sit and write jokes. I've not sat and written a joke for myself ever. I don't know how I would even do that.

What's coming up for you in the near future?

For some reason, everybody I'm involved with, like my agent and my girlfriend and another friend of mine, are all bugging me to write a book. I'm like, "Oh my God, they all have the same freaking idea." I swear, they went behind my back. ■

The Top 5

- 1 Ellen DeGeneres
- 2 Suzanne Westenhoefer
- 3 Bridget McManus
- 4 Kate Clinton
- 5 Dana Goldberg

The rest of the Top 10 included several ties:

- 6 Chantal Carrere
- 7 Shann Carr • Sabrina Matthews • Tamale
- 8 Kristen Becker • Faith Choyce • Jennie McNulty • Lily Tomlin
- 9 Michele Balan • Carlease Burke • Julie Goldman
- 10 Elvira Kurt • Vickie Shaw • Sandra Valls

The Best of the Rest (in alphabetical order)

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|------------------|-------------------|
| Dana Austin | Lisa Kaplan |
| Suzy Berger | Jessica Kirson |
| Sandra Bernhard | Courtney Knowles |
| Matina Bevis | Jen Kober |
| Gloria Bigelow | Lisa Koch |
| Amy Boyd | Poppi Kramer |
| Judy Carter | Sapna Kumar |
| Maggie Casella | Jennifer Lanier |
| Poppy Champlin | Anne Lippert |
| Tara DeFrancisco | Janis Lipton |
| Lea DeLaria | Mary Matthews |
| Alana Devich | Ellen Moschetto |
| Kelli Dunham | Tig Notaro |
| Maggie Faris | Rosie O'Donnell |
| Erin Foley | Christine O'Leary |
| Lisa Geduldig | Monica Palacios |
| Janice Gennevois | Julie Potter |
| Heather Gold | Georgia Ragsdale |
| Judy Gold | Karen Ripley |
| Marga Gomez | Jen Slusser |
| Mimi Gonzalez | Faith Soloway |
| Robin Greenspan | Regina Stoops |
| Gail Hand | Julia Stretch |
| Mina Hartong | Amy Tee |
| Renee Hicks | Cheril Vendetti |
| Page Hurwitz | Vicki Wagner |
| Julia Jackson | Dawn Whitwell |
| Susan Jeremy | Karen Williams |