



Photo: Jhane Hoang

### Ways Of Being Famous

**F**ame! I want to live forever. I'm gonna learn how to fly... No one speaks of Irene Cara anymore, but we're hearing an awful lot about one Lady Gaga, who at the tender age of 23 appears to have even more talent and know-how than Madonna at the same age (and we never thought anyone could top Madonna at the fame game). I hope you enjoy Tiffany Bakker's interview with Lady Gaga, who credits the gay community with putting her centre stage at this particular moment in popular culture and music history.

While "famous" often comes partnered with "rich", gays and lesbians have always had an appreciation for the solid talent that makes fame last. Lesbians, in particular, have a reputation for persistence and getting things done on the smell of an oil rag (think of Ellen DeGeneres' hard-won success). One such person who is now famous to the 1,100 lesbians who embarked on the inaugural Sweet cruise is Shannon Wentworth. Shannon envisaged a way of vacationing and doing the planet, and its less-fortunate people, some good at the same time. The petite powerhouse entrepreneur has all the makings of a famous person: intelligence, wit, vision, stamina, and the single-minded belief that her idea would come to fruition in the best possible way, come hell or high water. Indeed, there was high water, but the inaugural Sweet cruise survived Hurricane Ida to steam ahead and fulfill its mission. The "Sweeties" (voluntourist passengers who, through onshore excursions, gave back in every port) achieved remarkable feats: planting 600 new grasses in a New Orleans marsh devastated by Hurricane Katrina; gathering more than 200 giant bags of garbage from Uvero Beach in Costa Maya; partnering with Lifeline in Belize City to paint cheerful cartoon characters on the walls of a children's hospital ward and classrooms; in Roatan, Honduras, the 'Sweeties' repainted a children's e-learning centre, donated two new computers and some last minute cash; in Cozumel, Mexico, more than 1,500 pieces of plastic were pulled off a beach, 25 mangroves were planted in a swamp devastated by Hurricane Hugo, and at a local Rotary Club even more planting and painting was done.

The photo at left shows the happy faces assembled for the e-learning centre excursion; you can tell that a lot of satisfaction happened that day between the ones giving and the ones receiving. I'm pretty sure the ones giving experienced satisfaction not found often in life.

Sailing on the Sweet cruise, with its heady mix of ordinary women and lesbians, all rubbing shoulders for one week, partying hard and/or doing good deeds, made me realise that there are many ways of being famous. One way is the way of Gaga: sell 20 million singles and have a staged cat fight

with Madonna on Saturday Night Live. Another way is pulling a TV out of the ocean with your bare hands or connecting kids in Honduras to the internet. Which fame would you choose?

**Merryn Johns**  
[editor@boundmagazine.com](mailto:editor@boundmagazine.com)



## A Very *Sweet* Adventure



Photos by Alison Terry-Evans and BOUND staff

### The Sweetest Cruise

The latest lesbian travel company to hit our travel radar, Sweet, recently set sail on the Norwegian Spirit in the western Caribbean with a mission to make the world a better place whilst having a 'sweet time'. Providing the opportunity to mix a vacation with social and environmental awareness, the inaugural Sweet Cruise brought together women from all over the world to visit some very special communities in Central America.

Sweet's community service projects included donating computers and beautifying an e-learning centre in Roatan, Honduras, and painting a pediatric ward in Belize City. The Sweet cruisers also donated books and created a story corner in an underprivileged school in Belize City. Environmental projects enabled cruise guests to assist in beach and reef clean-up activities in Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico. These projects went hand in hand with Sweet's fundraising and goal of raising awareness for causes. In addition, all of Sweet's vacations are carbon-neutral, allowing guests to offset the pollution created by air, land and sea travel. The BOUND team's verdict is that Sweet is bringing women together for all the right reasons — after all, why not go on vacation and leave having made a difference to the environment and assisting communities along the way.



### Onboard Fun

For one week, women from all around the world partied and played on The Norwegian Spirit with like-minded women. From the Pink Party to nights of comedy and music, to the huge launch of BOUND magazine and the hot Club Skirts wet T-shirt competition, one very large ship became a floating lesbian Mecca. Even Hurricane Ida could not dull the fun, sun or sunsets of this amazing aquatic outing.



### E-Learning Centre

The Sweet community service project for Roatan, Honduras, set about beautifying the community's E-Learning Centre. The Centre is attended by children and adults alike and provides an environment where the community can meet, play and learn through classes and internet-based educational programs. Volunteers joined children from the community to catalogue books for the library, install the two new computers donated by Sweet and apply a fresh coat of paint. On-the-spot cash donations were also made. Go, Sweeties!





### Exploring Onshore

The Sweet cruise sailed from New Orleans into the western Caribbean for an eco and voluntourism adventure. Once the hard work, such as beach cleaning, distributing educational materials or painting a pediatric ward, was done, there was still plenty of time for relaxing in pristine waters and exploring islands and the Mexican and Central American ports of Costa Maya, Belize and Cozumel.



### Friendships, Onshore And Off

Those who sailed on The Norwegian Spirit were rewarded by making new friendships, too. Over a thousand women were united by one dream and a belief in leaving the world better than they found it. Whether it happened in a deck chair holding a beer, or on a beach holding a plastic garbage bag, we were all Sweeties together that week: lesbians who wanted to make a difference.



### Reef and Beach Clean-up, Mexico

Sweet is about discovery. The Sweeties discovered trash from not only Mexico, but pieces from around the world. Incorporating fun prizes and cool games, 150 cruisers pulled over 200 giant bags of garbage from the beach in Costa Maya, Mexico. Among the wreckage? A sink, television, vacuum cleaner parts and other items that don't belong in our oceans. In Cozumel, our gaggle of lovely lesbians pulled 1,500 pieces of plastic off the beach, planted 25 mangroves in a swamp devastated by Hurricane Hugo, and then joined the local community for lunch after painting park benches and planting more trees. It was pretty sweet.

