

It's All Relative

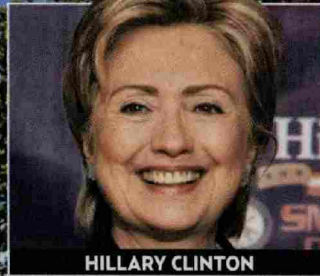
FAMOUS FAMI

If you go back far enough, we're all related to someone famous," says Ancestry.com's Megan Smolenyak. After all, if you rewind 10 generations, your family may be composed of more than 100,000 descendants. And many of these celeb relatives — researched by Ancestry.com and the New England Historical Genealogical Society — are cousins once or twice removed. (A cousin once removed means the child of one's cousin. Twice removed means the grandchild.)

Finding famous kin is mainly a matter of following a paper trail (e.g., land records, wills). Curious to know yours? Gather family records, then plug in the info at a site like Ancestry.com or HeritageQuestOnline.com. **US**



GWEN STEFANI
Distant cousin



HILLARY CLINTON



MADONNA
Tenth cousin



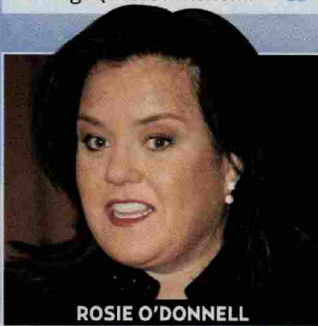
ALANIS MORISSETTE
Ninth cousin, once removed



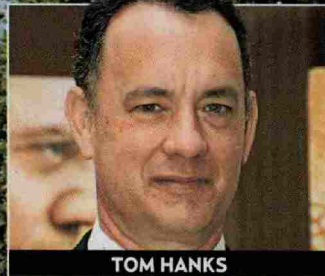
CELINE DION
Tenth cousin, once removed



ANGELINA JOLIE
Ninth cousin, twice removed



ROSIE O'DONNELL



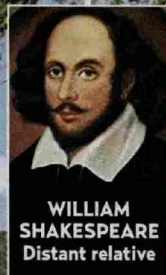
TOM HANKS



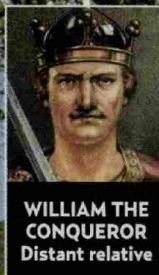
OPRAH WINFREY



BRIDGET MOYNAHAN
Third cousin



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
Distant relative



WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR
Distant relative



LISA MARIE PRESLEY
Distant cousin

LY TREES

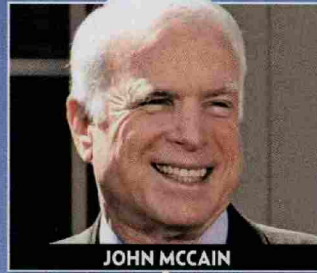
Surprise! **Brad Pitt** and **Barack Obama** aren't the only celebrities who are unexpectedly related



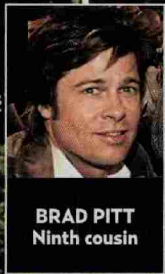
BARACK OBAMA



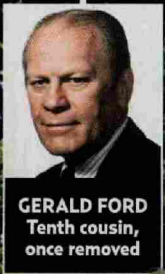
MARILYN MONROE
Ninth cousin,
thrice removed



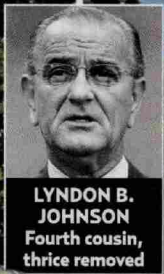
JOHN MCCAIN



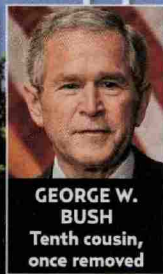
BRAD PITT
Ninth cousin



GERALD FORD
Tenth cousin,
once removed



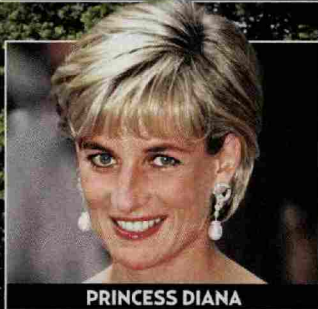
LYNDON B. JOHNSON
Fourth cousin,
thrice removed



GEORGE W. BUSH
Tenth cousin,
once removed



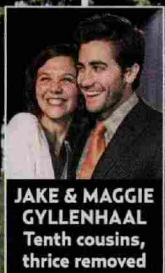
LAURA BUSH
Sixth cousin



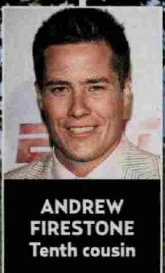
PRINCESS DIANA



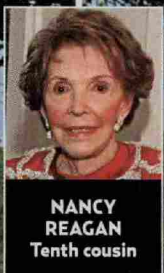
BRITNEY SPEARS



JAKE & MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL
Tenth cousins,
thrice removed



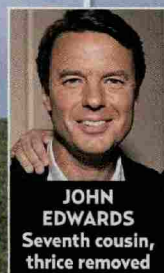
ANDREW FIRESTONE
Tenth cousin



NANCY REAGAN
Tenth cousin



KATHARINE HEPBURN
Seventh cousin,
twice removed



JOHN EDWARDS
Seventh cousin,
thrice removed

With reporting by Rebecca Blenstock