

RUSH & MOLLOY

BY GEORGE RUSH AND JOANNA MOLLOY

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Backstage witnesses claim Alec Baldwin blew a gasket on Tuesday when he arrived late at the Paralysis Association Dinner and found that Glenn Close had replaced him as emcee. As the Bob Hardwick Orchestra played "Don't Rain on My Parade," Baldwin made it clear that he'd been tied up shooting "The Confession" across town. Close turned over the mike to the aspiring politician, who proceeded to amuse guest of honor Christopher Reeve and Jane Fonda, Ted Turner, Susan Sarandon and Gerald Levin. Baldwin's publicist insists the actor was not upset: "They knew he was on his way. He was calling every 15 minutes by cell phone to check in."