

the front



## whatever happened to: MEREDITH BAXTER?

As Alex P Keaton's mom Elyse on *Family Ties*, Meredith Baxter was a bone fide '80s treasure. After she and the fam bid adieu in '89, she made a name for herself as an everywoman battling against the odds, starring in numerous made-for-TV movies that explored gritty issues such as (in a spooky sign of things to come) cancer and lesbianism.

While Baxter was angsting it out at work, there was drama going down at home, too. The break-up of her second marriage saw her enter rehab, and she was later diagnosed with breast cancer. Upon her recovery, she developed a skincare line, Meredith Baxter Simple Works – "Where soft hands

are helping hands" – to raise money for the cause.

Last year the thrice-divorced mother of five was spotted on a gay cruise, shocking fans and fellow passenger Kelly McGillis alike. Back on dry land, she courageously came out during an interview on talk show *Today*. Among her supporters was Michael Gross, aka her former *Ties* husband, who proved there really ain't no nothing they can't love each other through.

Aged 63, Baxter continues to work as an actress, and as a spokesperson for Consumer Cellular, a company that specialises in cellphone plans for senior citizens. PHILIPPA PRENTICE

## lookalikes



*Jersey Shore's* Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi and rapper Lil' Kim

going up  
going down

up



### Hawaiian shirts

For a look that says, "I came here to party!"

### Navman's latest sat navs

Now available in Cantonese and Mandarin.

### Lemonade apples

They really do taste like lemonade and are delicious juiced.



### Winter sales

Finally, we can afford stuff.

### The racy new series

#### *Spartacus: Blood and Sand*

See what all the fuss was about, tonight on Sky at 9.30pm.

down

### Scientists adapting the herpes virus to make a vaccine for stress

Surely there's a better solution.

### Creeps who fondle your eftpos card

We'd like it back immediately after you've swiped it, please.

### Running on cold days

My ears! They burn!

### Texting drivers

We can see you. But can you see us?



## list of 4

Pitches that would never have made it through *Dragons' Den*:

- 1 "I need \$9 billion to prevent the bank I own from going broke."
- 2 "I need \$400 million to build some robots to go undersea to fix the cap that stops the oil that comes from the pipe that Jack built."
- 3 "I need \$37.2 million to put a giant huhu grub on Queen's Wharf for some reason."
- 4 "I need \$50 million to build a national cycling track."