

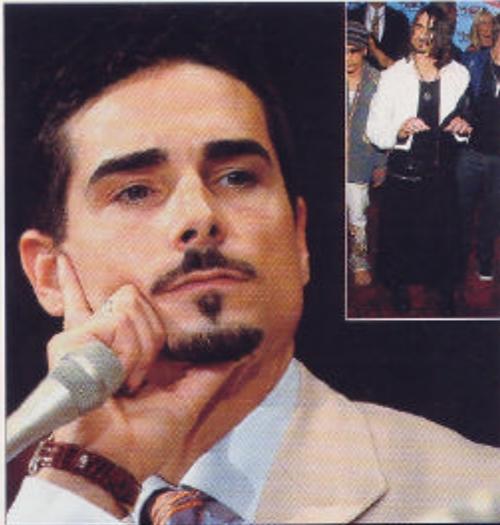
“Us Weekly” July 22, 2002

Patti comments on Tom Cruise’s way of waving to fans and provides insight into the way stars look when testifying to the U.S. Congress.



The New Star Hot Spot: Congress

Here's what Julia Roberts, Bono and Salma Hayek are up to when they're up on Capitol Hill



Richardson, testifying before Congress last month, traded in his MTV-friendly skirt for a suit.



Roberts de-glams in D.C. to raise awareness of Rett syndrome in May. Result: thousands of donations.

CELEBRITY HUNTING? FORGET HOLLYWOOD — check out Capitol Hill, where a new rush of A-listers has been testifying before Congress on behalf of its favorite causes. **Salma Hayek** stormed the Hill last month to stir up funding for domestic-violence victims, and **Bono** recently urged Congress to dump the debt of Third World countries. But do stars get to testify just because they're famous? Lobbyists look for boldface names who are already involved in the issues and can raise funds as well as the profile of the cause, explains Robin Bronk, the executive director of the Creative Coalition. A bonus for the stars: "serious" credibility if they look and sound the part.



In June, Hayek led a pack of "brides" in urging Congress to pass a domestic-violence act.

CONGRESSIONAL STAR MAKEOVER CHEAT SHEET

- ✓ **WEAR GLASSES** Specs like Roberts's make you look more committed and, well, smarter.
- ✓ **ADOPT THE THINKER POSE** Keep your hand firmly on your chin, which conveys calm wisdom, says Atlanta-based body-language expert Patti Wood. "It's as if you're holding your emotions in check."
- ✓ **KEEP IT FORMAL** No wacky duds. Work a suit like Kevin Richardson, who also cut his ponytail before protesting mountain-top mining in his home state of Kentucky.
- ✓ **AVOID SENATOR GEORGE VOINOVICH** The Ohio Republican has denounced celebrities who make congressional appearances and called Richardson's testimony "a joke."
- ✓ **BONE UP** Roberts had crusaded for years to find a cure for Rett syndrome (a neurological disorder) and rattles off facts faster than you can say "Julia for president!"