

Ferndale's Bob Guiney is latest casualty on ABC's *The Bachelorette*

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CORRESPONDENT



Guiney

Ferndale resident Bob Guiney can add "TV star" to a resume that already includes mortgage banker and rock musician.

Granted, his three-episode television career was a bit shorter than his other ventures, but Guiney said his stint on the ABC show, *The Bachelorette*, "was fun."

He and three other bachelors were rejected from the show in Wednesday night's episode.

The Bachelorette is the flip-side, gender-bender version of ABC's *The Bachelor*, which averaged 12 million viewers last season. Trista Rehn, 29, a physical therapist and ex-Miami Heat dancer, was the penultimate lady on the first season of *The Bachelor*. Many fans wrote and called ABC, expressing their interest in dating her after she was rejected.

ABC then offered her a series in which she would be wined and dined by 25 men competing for her attention and affection.

At the end of the first episode of *The Bachelorette*, 10 men were cut from competition in front of 17 million viewers.

Only four now remain.

"It was such a fun atmosphere," Guiney, 31, said of his

time on *The Bachelorette*. "I was determined to have a great time on the show, and I did."

Guiney, who is a mortgage banker for Allied Mortgage in Dearborn, received a call from the producers of ABC's *The Bachelorette* and dismissed it as a prank.

He later learned that two co-workers had sent his information to *The Bachelorette* producers because they didn't approve of the women he was dating.

ABC called him back and the following weekend flew him to California.

"The producers were very nice. I had them laughing the whole time. My big question to them was, 'I just can't help but wonder, in *The Bachelor*, he would give the ladies roses, what are you gonna give the guys? A can of Budweiser? A remote? They laughed and asked what I want. I said, 'I'll have a vodka tonic with lemon.'

Guiney was on crutches for four months when *The Bachelorette* began filming in early fall, rendering him 25 pounds overweight. Some people

told him he looked thinner in person than on television.

"I don't know whether to thank them or stab them," he joked.

Guiney added, "A really nice byproduct of (being on the show) was that I made a lot of really good friends, not only with Trista and the other guys on the show, but also with the producers of the show. They were really down to earth. And the guys, despite how they may be portrayed on TV, are really good guys. I can't begin to tell you how well we all got along."

He cannot talk about the outcome of the show because he'll be fined \$5 million per his contract with ABC. He said the men on the show received a stipend compensating them for wages lost at work and other cost-of-living expenses as they all stayed in a house.

Guiney said he went into *The Bachelorette* with the attitude that he was going to have fun with it. He said he wasn't sold on the show's concept of meeting a soulmate on national television, especially in six, 43-minute episodes, finely cut and edited from more than 600 hours of film.

"Looking for love on national TV was not my thing, but I also thought it could be a lot of fun to

have an experience like that, just to see what it's all about and take it as far as I wanted to take it."

Guiney is no stranger to show-biz, which he said helped him keep *The Bachelorette* all in perspective.

A 1993 graduate of Michigan State University, where he received his bachelor's degree in communications and played football for three years, Guiney was the lead singer in a Lansing-based pop rock band called Fat Amy. The band entered a contest and won the opportunity to record an album through MCA Music.

Fat Amy released two albums, *Ice Cream Headache* and *5-Way Switch* through MCA. Guiney said some Fat Amy songs have been heard in independent movies and the short-lived TV series starring Richard Dreyfuss, *The Education of Max Bickford*, which aired last season on CBS.

Fat Amy toured with and opened for the Verve Pipe, another Lansing-based band, on a number of occasions, particularly in the Michigan area.

"They're a big reason for our success," he said. "They took us under their wing. They loved our band and let us open for them and go on tour with them. They helped promote us."

Unfortunately, Universal Records bought out MCA, which Guiney called the beginning of the end for Fat Amy.

"At the end of 1999, all the record labels consolidated and dropped their developmental acts (and we were dropped)," Guiney said.

"When we were dropped, we were back in the local scene again. It was a difficult transition. At that point, it was important for me to move forward with my life.

"I didn't want to be the 40-year-old dude in the band driving around trying to make music for a living. I wanted the opportunity to create a better life for myself."



St. Peter's, in Rome, provides many opportunities for good architectural photographs. Monte Najler especially likes this one of the outside columns.

Notice details when snapping architectural shots

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