

Say Goodbye To The Suds

Today, April 14th 2011, is a bleak day for millions (my mother included). It was announced that 2 programs that have been on television for 40+ years will soon be leaving the airwaves to make room for more inexpensive fare... or... more daytime talk shows. When I returned from work, Mom sadly informed me that *All My Dingbats* (err... *Children*) and *One Life to Die* (err.. *Live*) have been cancelled. I might have laughed and poked fun at the announcement had I not been a bit shocked. I often tell people that I sit and watch the soaps to have a good laugh but like prime time television, the daytime scene is dramatically changing with the arrival of more cost efficient less plot driven programming. I also say that if you watch one episode of any soap, you can come back 6 months later and not miss a thing. Sometimes, the show may even be on the same "day" as it was six months earlier. Christmas can take weeks to celebrate on the suds.

Actually, the soaps have been the [training ground](#) for some of Hollywood's big name stars. Tommy Lee Jones was on *One Life*. Christian Slater (of Sabre fame) was on *All My Children*. Demi Moore was on *General Hospital*. David Hass (ok, maybe we won't mention him). Meg Ryan was on something or other. So not only are there the actors who stay on the series for 40 years but there are some who actually have made the transition to other ventures.

AND, the replacements for both series have been announced. *The Chew* (rhymes with *The View*) and *The Revolution* will be polluting the airwaves by January. Just what television needs... more gab fests. At least prime time comedies (the good ones, anyway) **SEEM** to be safe... for now.

This & That

It seems that the addition one of our newest [tangenteers](#) (I see a newer addition... but it has been years since I have taken a French class) I am quickly falling behind in my posts (although she does have a few hundred to catch me ☐).

Yesterday, I noticed real progress in the continuing dissolving of my blood clot. I still feel it... not really painful but it is still keeping me at a slow clip. Madame Peters was in tonight (haven't seen her since the day before I went to the doctor nearly two or THREE (?) months ago. I assured her that I am recovering nicely... however slowly. But I will be back to my 3-4 mile walks 3 times a week before long. Telling myself that I will be able to do the things I really enjoy doing in time helps with the psychological.

My recital with the rest of K's students is less than 4 weeks away. Memorizing my very wordy but very fun piece is challenging but I am really close. I have nailed down a fine female to do the bit with and once she completes her run in *The Wedding Singer*, we will get together and get 'r done.

Well... that is all... My food is probably over done and I have to watch *The Office* which I DVR'ed... Michael Scott's farewell is looming. I think next week is the extended special episode.

Is this the moment when the series will "Jump the Shark?" How will Will Ferrell fare in the new role? Time will tell.

Farewell To A Couple Of TV

Parents

This week, fans of 50s and 70s television lost two beloved character. On Saturday, Barbara Billingsley who played June Cleaver on *Leave it to Beaver* passed away. Throughout the 1950s Ward and June were the parents of Wally and Theodore "Beaver" Cleaver. It is almost inconceivable in today's world to have a mother who wore a pretty dress and apron all day long and would have a plate of cookies and a pitcher of milk waiting for you when you got home from school. It seems that some of the biggest problems she had to deal with was the Beaver's refusal to eat Brussel Sprouts. Of course, there was the time when Beaver and his pal Larry Mondello were stuck in the giant coffee cup on the billboard. Not to mention enduring the frequent visits by one Eddie Haskell and his "My that's a very lovely dress you are wearing, Mrs. Cleaver." Not only did she later reprise the role of one of tv land's favorite mothers, Ms. Billingsley also was the voice of "Nanny" on the animated Muppet Babies series.

Tuesday, Tom Bosley who played hardware owner/father for eleven years on *Happy Days* lost his life. Week in and week out, Howard Cunningham leant and ear and sage advice to Richie and Joanie. Not so much to Chuck... who wasn't around long enough but maybe to bounce a basketball during the first handful of episodes. Long after Fonzie "jumped the shark" on skis in his trademark leather jacket, Howard and Marion watched their children grow, move out, and (in their daughter's case) move back in. Years after the series ended, Mr. Bosley originated the role of another father, Maurice (Belle's father) in the Original Broadway Cast of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

AH... simpler times with simple problems. Rest in peace June and Mr C.

“Exactly Awesome” BUT Do Not Read Until You Have Seen Episode 3 Of Season Seven!

DISCLAIMER:

If you have yet to watch Season 7, Episode 3 of The Office... DO NOT PROCEED. There is a great abundance of spoilage here!

WOW! WHAT AN EPISODE! The opening musical number was even better than the season premiere's. If they can keep them coming like this, then they should open every episode this way.

In an attempt to win the heart of Erin back from Gabe, Andy auditions for and snags the role of Anthony in Sweeney Todd.

The entire office staff (minus one) takes in the final performance of the community theatrical production. The lead role is played by a ringer who just happened to be Darryl's plumber. This would not have been such a dramatic turn of events had Michael not auditioned for the role, himself. His reaction during the curtain call is classic! Check out Mr. Scott's hilarious audition during the closing credits.

Unfortunately, Erin is unable to attend the performance. Jim and Pam have baby-sitting problems and the receptionist volunteers her services.

Andy's performance and bits of singing are tremendous. "I feel you... Johanna." On stage, one of the most annoying things that could happen from the audience of a live performance (and I have been on-stage as it happened) happens to Andy while he is on stage. "I killed it!"

I loved this episode! One of my favorites by FAR! I can definitely relate to Andy: disappointment when his co-workers “cannot make it” to the performance; seeing them in the audience; hoping beyond hope that “that person” can somehow make it. I’m sure that the audience member sitting next to Dwight found his whispering annoying.

Wouldn’t it be a riot if Michael did keep auditioning with his normal brand of hilarity and was cast in a musical? HMMM... possibly the plot device for his exit?

View and download the colorful playbill of the Loose Screw Playhouse production of [Sweeney Todd](#)

Quite A Beard You Have There, Young Man

This facial hair is now starting to get to me. Maybe if it was not the first time I have grown a beard in 8 years, I would be more accustomed to it. Perhaps it is because I seem to need to grow it in the summer. (I always knew I was a bit odd, but...) But it has been the source of many comments... both complimentary and otherwise. Those who like it never cease to amaze me. “It makes you look very distinguished and dignified.” (Not too distinguished, I hope. I would not want to spoil my sterling reputation ;)) “It really becomes you.” (Ok) “Keep it. Dye it white and you would be an instant Santa.” (There’s a thought! At least it would be in season and would really be a conversation piece.)

The flip side has also been interesting. “You look like an old drunk!” (I’ll remember that the next time someone is casting a bearded drunk). “I can’t wait until you shave that

thing!" (Which makes me only consider keeping it after October 18th). "Hey, Grizzly Adams!" All in good fun. Good for laughs.

However, last night, I got the ultimate compliment. Who remembers the tv series [Family Affair](#)? A lady I have known for ages told me that I resemble Sebastian Cabot who played the domestic Mr. French (was not aware that there were two) to Uncle Bill, Cissy, Buffy (who was played by one of the earliest child actor tragedies I remember... could be earlier ones), Jodie, and (of course) Mrs. Beasley. Mr. Cabot also played St. Nick in one of the remakes of *Miracle on 34th Street*. Never short on flattering me, my customer also gushed about having found my "niche in community theatre." Who am I to argue?

Perhaps I shall take a snapshot of the before and after shaving and post them. Provided of course the naysayers do not continue voicing their disgust.

Fatal Error Has Been Fixed

Thank goodness. I would hate to think that one of our annual April the 1st glitches actually stuck! I love April Fools Day! I got the three co-workers today. I got the boss although she promised that I would need to find another place of employment if I had.

Because I had to work this morning, I recorded The Price is Right. Not something I usually do but since inheriting the microphone, Drew has had brilliant shows on April first and today was no exception. Last year, "Mimi" served as a model on the show. This year, she was the new "Executive Producer" and promised to keep an eye on the host to see if he made any

mistakes. She was very helpful in particular with his trouble with names.

A few of the games were hysterical: In Plinko Pat had to determine the correct number for a Snuggie (sorry, not \$50+), a Club (one of those anti-auto-theft devices), a chia pet, and (what else) THE CLAPPER! She only missed on the snuggie and ended up winning \$11,000.

Pick-a-Pair saw Pat needing to pick the two grocery items that were priced exactly the same. Halloween ready to bake cookies, Christmas Ziploc containers, St. Pat's Day garland, Valentine conversation hearts, New Years party poppers, and Count Chocula.

And finally, the showcase saw Pat and Pat going for two fabulous showcases. And not to spoil the surprise, but... PAT WON! Of course, they both could have gone over.

They're Having A Baby

Ok, ok... so the gang of ~~Dun~~ (OK< OK< Sabre) Scranton Branch are a fictitious bunch, but there is an actual Scranton, PA so who are we to say that the company does not exist. We even drove within proximity to the town last spring. Anyway, two of the characters on the show are expecting and to satisfy my no Office blahs, I came across Jim and Pam's [Baby Blog](#). Here, you can read about hilarious sympathy pains, weird food cravings, and possible baby names (guess who has voiced his opinion multiple times... even suggesting both male and female variants). There are also multiple links to other historic events, including the wedding of the lovebirds.

Picard's Wonderful Life

I know that there have been many spins on the themes of *It's A Wonderful Life* and I revisited one of my favorites the other night. In *The Next Generation* episode "Tapestry," Captain Jean-Luc Picard lies in sickbay following a mortal wound sustained during a battle. While clinging to life, the good captain is stands on the threshold to eternity where he is greeted by the wonderfully charismatic entity known as Q. The nearly omnipotent character offers Jean-Luc a choice: spend eternity by his side or return to the past and relive a life defining moment. If Jean-Luc changes the event, Q promises him that nothing earth-shattering will come of it.

The event centers around an incident involving the young, brash, devil-may-care Ensign Jean-Luc Picard and two of his fellow Starfleet Academy friends. The trio is on starbase for one last hurrah before going their separate ways. After a game of chance, Picard's friend discovers that he has been cheated by a rather nasty Naussican and a bar fight ensues. At the end of the fight, Jean-Luc is stabbed through the heart (a feeling he laughs at), requiring him to receive an artificial replacement. Also involved is the relationship involving his female friend which may or may not be a regret.

Will Picard change the course of his life? What will happen if he does? Although he is "just not that important" to the universe as a whole, what changes will occur in his personal life? Or will he simply be lead off to an eternity of what must be his own personal hell with Q?

Creed In The Stockroom With A Dundee

IF YOU HAVE NOT WATCHED THE 11-12-09 EPISODE OF [The Office](#) ... PLEASE SKIP THIS POST!

Tonight's episode put me in the mood for one of those infrequent murder mystery game nights. But seeing that our poor hosts are under a self-imposed quarantine, this will have to wait... get well soon. It seems that the gang from Dunder-Mifflin Scranton Branch are under the impression that the company is on the road to financial disaster. Much to co-manager Jim's dismay, our beloved leader devises a plan to put the teams mind at ease: A Murder in Savannah.

Each associate is given a character with props to create using their imagination. Naughty Nellie Nutmeg, Nathaniel Nutmeg, and VooDoo Mama Juju are a few. Guess who gets to play Caleb Crawdad, handsome playboy. As usual, hilarity ensues in the face of turmoil.

The outcome of the company will likely take a few episodes to decide as will the undertones of the Andy/Kelly "Erin" relationship.

Perhaps it is all a ploy to advertise the newest edition of the classic board game [Clue](#). And check out the cool new look of the [Tangents](#) homepage and check into starting a blog of your own... it's FUN!

A New Site For \$6,000,000... Or Probably \$48,000,000 By Now

For a few years now, there has been a site dedicated to the **ORIGINAL** [Bionic Woman](#) (not the so called reboot that was a victim of the writer's strike two years ago... that was definitely HORRIBLE). I have been a frequent fan of the site. Last week, a new site dedicated to the father (or should I be bold and say... husband) series, [The Six Million Dollar Man](#), was started. You know... (or maybe you don't know depending on your age and maybe afternoon rerun viewing of the 80s) the one about "Col. Steve Austin, astronaut... a man barely alive." They rebuilt him following a tragic piloting accident making him "better than he was before. Better... Stronger... Faster." The reluctant hero was endowed with a bionic arm, two bionic legs, and a bionic eye (although Lee Major's now pitches an add for a "Bionic ear.") I fondly remember playing in the yard with my brother and friends. Orders were given by "Oscar Goldman" for the mission of the week. Bionic action complete with the awesomely cheesy sound effects battling evil terrorists, fembots, and other evil doers. Although guess who ended up playing Jaime Sommers several times... only because my first name happened to be the same but spelled differently... somehow I think there was a little more to it than that, but I guess if I wanted to play with big brother...

But the site has brought back memories of rushing home from school to atch the reruns (I was only a year old in '74 after all).