

Clue – The Office!

My first Christmas present of 2009 – Clue The Office Collector's Edition!



Ok, I have to be honest – could you tell I started the draft of this post weeks ago? But I had to finish it, cuz this is a super-cool game given by a very thoughtful friend. In addition, I received some other awesome gifts: Walmart gift cards and a gift certificate to the local pet store so I can get my parakeet – more on that later. My gifts also included something incredibly touching and sentimental from my husband and kids, but that's all I need to say about that to keep from traveling the dark road of sadness.

Back to Clue – The Office version – it was so fun! In true keeping with Office traditions, the victim in the game is Toby Flenderson! Obvious, especially when the game's instructions were penned by Michael. Each player chooses an available character, and they get a little Office ID card for their person (Office fans at our church exchanged this game for Christmas, and they replaced the little Office ID's with pictures of church staff – hilarious!). Players then move about the Office, entering rooms like Michael's Office or Accounting, and play continues just like the other versions of the game Clue – you make accusations about who killed Toby with which weapon in which room. My favorite part of this game (aside from the fact that I won the first round we played!) are the weapons – pewter figures representing

various hilarious Office plot lines; for example, a bike chain, a Dundie award, and my personal favorite: a George Foreman grill!!



It's a must-have for any fan of The Office, to be especially appreciated by game collectors like myself!

Finally, The Wedding!

I'm talking about the nuptials of Jim Halpert and Pam Beesly, of course! If you're not a fan of The Office, you can stop reading now. But for everyone else, how about that special 1-hour episode the other night? Hubby and I thought it to be amazing – I laughed, I cried, I laughed *until* I cried... Thursday's episode was heartwarming, hilarious, and humongous with its 1-hour run time!

Now I will be the first to admit that some of the plot lines contained within this episode were so outrageous that they were almost silly. But given this show's talented cast and production staff, things that would normally be ridiculous on other shows instead made for some great tv in this case. I won't waste your time with a recap; you can get that [here](#) from the quick-witted tvguide.com writers. But I absolutely **loved** this episode, so after much deliberation, here are my top 3 moments from The Office episode "Niagara":

3. Pam's 80-year-old "Nema" saying, "I had to sit there while it happened to me." – Pam's grandmother is referring to the previous night in her hotel room when she couldn't figure out

how to get the tv channel switched from the movie "Bruno". Having been exposed to the same trash, her line echoed my sentiments exactly!

2. This exchange was the one that had me crying laughing:

Pam Beesly: Hey hey! Where are you? Can you take Andy to the hospital?

Jim Halpert: What?

Pam Beesly: He tore his scrotum dancing.

Jim Halpert: What?

Pam Beesly: He is in my room icing his balls.

Jim Halpert: What?

Oh, my – TOO funny, enough said!

And the best moment of the episode was... (drum roll please)...

1. The wedding dance! The attendants and attendees of Pam and Jim's wedding danced down the aisle, imitating a popular youtube video. I struggled deciding which version to post on my blog, the real one or The Office's version, and I went with the original. Not only is it entertaining to watch this happen at a real wedding (can't believe they allowed this in a church, but if you look, the officiant is standing on the altar, grooving along!), but I decided not to post the clip from The Office because I think much of its entertainment value comes from being a fan of the show. If you are a fan of the show, then you've already seen the musical montage in this episode set to Chris Brown's Forever (shows what I know – after his arrest, I just assumed that Brown was another trouble-plagued hip-hop star, but this song actually has me tapping my toes. Am I a Chris Brown fan?). Non-Office fans wouldn't appreciate all of the significance of the events that take place during this scene of the show, so I figured, why show it? I LOVED this part; it's the part that made me cry, albeit with happy tears, of course. Every moment between Pam and Jim for the past 5 seasons has been leading up to this moment, and despite all of the anticipation by fans and viewers, it did not disappoint! I won't say much more – don't

want to spoil it for fans who haven't yet watched, but let's just say (assume Comic Book Guy's voice from the Simpsons): "Best. Episode. EVER." One I will be watching over and over, laughing and crying each time.

The original version of the Forever wedding dance (this couple also made a parody of their own wedding video with them doing the Forever dance in court during their (fake) divorce proceedings if you want to check it out):

Jon And Kate, What About The 8?

You may have heard all the brouhaha about the TLC reality show *Jon and Kate Plus Eight* that's been in the news lately. If not, a quick re-cap: Jon and Kate Gosselin were a young couple who had a set of twins and a set of sextuplets, giving them a grand total of 8 kids before either one of them had even hit the age of 30. They filmed a show for TLC chronicling their lives with all the little ones, and the special was such a success that they soon found themselves celebrities with their own reality show. Apparently the sudden mega-stardom caused too much strain on the family, and the marriage did not survive. Amidst accusations of infidelity and other ugly, yet very public issues, the couple filed for divorce earlier this year. Scarcely a move has been made by either party since without full coverage from the media.

I watched a few episodes of the show back when the Gosselin's were one big happy family, mostly because it was interesting to watch such a large family function as well as they did, err, as well as they seemed to function anyway. But ever since the big family fall-out, things have been getting increasingly worse for the clan. TLC announced yesterday that Jon would no longer be a major part of the show, and they were re-naming it *Kate Plus Eight*. Ouch. There are millions of people who follow the plight of the Gosselins; there are Kate fans and there are Jon fans, and then there are people who are mainly concerned for the welfare of the 8 kids. The media has certainly vilified Jon, though it's difficult to determine how much of it he has done to himself. No matter how much the accusations about Kate's controlling and domineering nature

tend to be proven true by her behavior, she is always able to appear to be the better person through her public statements. Maybe she really is the better person of the two, or perhaps she is more intelligent or has a better spokesperson advising her than Jon has. But whatever the case, one thing is clear – those 8 kids they created together should not have to be caught in the middle of all of this, it's disgusting.

The reason I decided to join in on the media storm and write about this is because of the latest chapter that broke yesterday – when TLC kicked Jon off the show. His response? He legally banned all production crews from the house he still co-owns with Kate, where the children live and the parents take turns visiting. He has threatened to slap TLC with criminal charges if they come onto his property. He hasn't said whether this includes a ban on filming the children, but one can guess, based upon his actions, that it's no longer ok with Jon that his kids star in a reality show. It's completely understandable – many people, including child psychology experts, etc, were constantly saying how unhealthy it was for the 8 kids to be filmed on a daily basis. But Jon (along with Kate, back when they actually agreed on something) was always a staunch defender of the show and the fact that he and Kate had the kids' best interests at heart. But now that Jon got himself kicked off the show, it looks like he's decided that reality tv is no longer a healthy lifestyle for his children. And that's fine and even makes sense, but one does have to question his intentions when his legal action to stop the show comes the very day that news is released that he is no longer a part of the show himself. As a well-written gossip column stated, "Jon is acting like the kid who didn't get picked to be on a team for the neighborhood baseball game, so he's taking his ball and going home." Whatever his intentions, I am among the many former fans who just want what is best for the 8 kids while the rest of it goes away. But before that happens, I am very interested to hear the spin Jon puts on his reasons for his actions – all of them. He is

giving a live interview on Larry King Live tonight on CNN, and I'm almost ashamed to admit that I will be watching (the midnight replay of course – there is no way this would ever take precedent over a new episode of The Office). Then again, why bother watching the interview when I know the “highlights” will be shoved down our throats for the next few days – or at least until Jon's careless behavior provides enough fodder to make yet another story...

Time To Blog...

I think I could use a Tivo. That way, I could Tivo Dr. Phil and watch it when I fold laundry – that would certainly be better on my ears and more entertaining than the screaming parrot. Well, actually, I don't know how Tivo works – I could probably only watch what I ~~tape~~ record (I grew up in the 80's – we “taped” our movies and our music) on the tv that has the Tivo, right? But anyway, I could pause it when someone needed a diaper change or help with something or a snack or a drink to be able to watch more tv instead of just never getting to commit to watching shows (except really good ones like The Office) because of my lack of time and my lack of Tivo. I wonder how much they cost; I have no idea. It occurred to me that I don't watch much tv anymore; a hobby I really liked as a kid. It's not a bad thing, really, I'm busy doing other more worthwhile things. But I do miss getting to watch Dr. Phil – my tv has been hijacked by the likes of Dora, Diego, and Max and Ruby in the morning when it's on, and I don't like not being able to watch the Office until it's available online. We try to watch The Office when it airs on Thursday night and without fail, all hell always breaks loose with the kids even though it's on at 9 and they should be in bed.

I got the movie Mr. Mom from the library for the kids to watch. I figured since my husband and I liked the movie as kids, we should show it to our kids – after all, they loved Annie (the 1982 version, the update is awful). But apparently Mr. Mom came out before the MPAA came up with the PG-13 rating – there were a few scenes (funny how neither one of us remembered they were in the movie) I would rather not be in the type of movies my children enjoy. At least we were able to skip over the strip club scene without them even noticing, yikes. I surely don't remember **that** from watching that movie as a kid. Maybe there was an edited-for-television version... Anyway, all this got me to thinking that they should have a function for dvd players where you can edit the movie to play while skipping certain parts of your choosing. Maybe this already exists, but I don't know a lot about the latest gadgets and such.

Well, anyway... sorry for the randomness, just had a little time to blog for a change, so I just wrote what was on my mind at the moment! Maybe I'll check into that Tivo...

A Whim? It Was The 19th Pregnancy Test!

I've blogged about the [Duggar family](#) before – they are famous for having a TLC reality show about their large family of 20. That's two parents and eighteen natural offspring – no adoptees, no foster kids; just two people who don't believe in birth control and who have the utmost faith in God and their marriage. I blogged about their daily routine (involving a cool-looking, specially outfitted custom-built house for a large family – think industrial size kitchen appliances and 4

washer / dryer sets) that seems to be successful in keeping their 20-member household functioning smoothly. I also linked to their website, which had pictures of the interior of their custom-made house. They had their own buffet line built into one of the kitchens, and their dining room has a drink station with cups for each of the 18 kids. As a parent of 4, I find their larger family way of life fascinating. Actually, some of their practices have changed since the eldest Duggar offspring is now moved out, married, and expecting a baby of his own.

Not to be outdone, his mother Michelle is pregnant with her *nineteenth* child. She says she took this latest pregnancy test "on a whim", which is difficult for me to comprehend when she's had probably around a dozen and half positive pregnancy tests in her life. She said she was nursing, and her infant grew fussy – in the past, a fussy nursing infant meant that mother's milk had pregnancy hormones, so that's why she took the test. I can't imagine having kids close enough in age to be able to find that out once, let alone to test it over and over like a theorem. And another thought on this – when Mrs. Duggar gives birth to child #19 (wonder what personality traits can be attributed to #19 according to the psychologists who specialize in birth order? Do the books go that high?), she will have spent roughly one-third of her 42 years on this Earth pregnant. I hope for her sake she doesn't go through a pregnancy withdrawal when her body is done having kids. But for now, the family seems happy as can be, and what's interesting is that Michelle's first grandchild will be about 5 months older than his or her aunt or uncle. And let it be clear that I'm not putting these people down – they have a solid family and all these kids seem well cared for by two loving parents who are still married, not to mention LOADS of siblings... more power to them!

A Nielsen Family

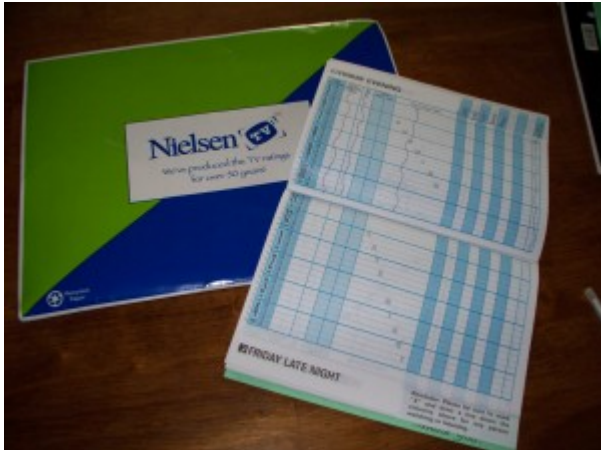
It began with \$3 cash being enclosed in a letter – we had been selected to be a Nielsen family. You know the Nielsen company – basically, they gather information about how many people are watching what on tv in order to determine how much commercials should cost. So anyway, they sent \$3 cash, and I have to admit, that piqued my interest. They called with a short phone survey, and a few weeks later, we received a large envelope with 4 booklets (tv diaries), and \$30(!) cash. There were instructions; all we had to do was record what we watched on which tv for a week. But it turned out to be easier said than done...

Recording what is watched on all of the tv sets (what year were those diaries printed – who says “tv sets”?) in our household turned out to be quite a challenge! First of all, we have a parrot in the laundry room, and his tv is on all the time. I don’t always know what is playing, but I do know that the bird loves The Price Is Right. So I made a little note in our tv diary for that tv and mentioned that it’s on all the time for the pet parrot and that he especially likes The Price Is Right. I made sure to notate that I don’t know if he prefers Bob Barker or Drew Carrey, though...

And then there is the kids’ tv, which is in their room. I know they watch a whole lot of the Disney channel, but I don’t know what’s always on it. Because it’s summer, we didn’t watch much tv in the living room; we mostly use that tv for movies on DVD. It was challenging to remember to write down details every time a tv was watched, and if we forgot, it was hard to remember what was watched. So at times the task was daunting, but we had already accepted the payment, so I felt that we had to follow through with the project. Overall, it

was a neat experience, and if they value our input, there will be a lot more of The Price Is Right, The Office, and hopefully Cubs baseball on tv ☐

Just for the heck of it, I took a picture of one of the tv diaries and the envelope:



Overall, a fun experience, but next time I might have to decline depending on how old the kids are when our names come up again. It was very difficult for me to have to complete “homework” with 4 small children underfoot – hard to say if it would be worth the \$30 again... maybe if the kids are older and can fill out their own diaries...

And Your Favorite Muppet Is?

Recently I came across an interesting article about everyone’s favorite comedians, the Muppets! I grew up watching the Muppets; whether it was on the various incarnations of their tv shows (The Muppet Show, Muppets Tonight, etc.), their feature films, Sesame Street, or even in their hilarious Muppets 3D attraction at Disney’s Hollywood (formerly MGM) Studios in Florida. Here are some fun facts about 20 of the Muppets that you might not know:

1. Cookie Monster: Jim Henson drew some monsters eating various snacks for a General Foods commercial in 1966. The commercial was never used, but Henson recycled one of the monsters (the "Wheel-Stealer") for an IBM training video in 1967 and again for a Fritos commercial in 1969. By that time, he had started working on Sesame Street and decided this monster would have a home there.

2. Elmo: The way it's described by a Sesame Street writer, apparently this extra red puppet was just lying around. People would try to do something with him, but nothing really panned out. In 1984, puppeteer Kevin Clash picked up the red puppet and started doing the voice and the personality and it clicked – thus, Elmo was born.

3. Telly Monster was originally the Television Monster when he debuted in 1979. He was obsessed with TV and his eyes would whirl around as if hypnotized whenever he was in front of a set. After a while, producers started worrying about his influence on youngsters, so they changed him to make him the chronic worrier he is now.

4. Count von Count made his first appearance in 1972 and was made out of an Anything Muppet pattern – a blank Muppet head that could have features added to it to make various characters. He used to be more sinister – he was able to hypnotize and stun people and he laughed in typical scary-villain-type fashion after completing a count of something and thunder and lightning would occur. He was quickly made more appealing to little kids, though. He is apparently quite the ladies' man – he has been linked to Countess von Backward, who loves to count backward; Countess Dahling von Dahling and Lady Two.

5. Kermit was "born" in 1955 and first showed up on "Sam and Friends," a five-minute puppet show by Jim Henson. The first Kermit was made out of Henson's mom's coat and some ping pong balls. At the time, he was more lizard-like than frog-like. By

the time he showed up on Sesame Street in 1969, though, he had made the transition to frog. There are rumors that he got the name Kermit from a childhood friend of Henson's or a puppeteer from the early days of the Muppets, but Henson always refuted both of those rumors. Mental Floss: 15 reasons Mr. Rogers was the best neighbor ever

6. Real Swedish Chef Lars "Kuprik" Bäckman claims he was the inspiration for the Swedish Chef. He was on "Good Morning America," he says, and caught Jim Henson's eye. Henson supposedly bought the rights to the show's recording and created the Swedish Chef (who DOES have a real name, but it's not understandable). One of the Muppet writers, Jerry Juhl, says that in all of the years of working with Jim Henson on the Swedish Chef, he never heard that the character was based on a real person.

7. Animal: The Who's Keith Moon may have inspired everyone's favorite member of Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem. This is speculation, but people who support the theory will point out that Jim Henson named one of the Fraggle Rock characters "Wembley," which is the town where Moon was born.

8. Miss Piggy is apparently from Iowa. She started as a minor character on "The Muppet Show," but anyone who knows Miss Piggy can see that she wouldn't settle for anything "minor." Her first TV appearance was actually on an Herb Alpert special. It wasn't until 1976, when "The Muppet Show" premiered, that she became the glamorous blonde with a penchant for frog that we know and love today. Frank Oz once said that Miss Piggy grew up in Iowa; her dad died when she was young and her mother was mean. She had to enter beauty contests to make money.

9. Rowlf the Dog, surprise, surprise, was first made in 1962 for a series of Purina Dog Chow commercials. He went on to claim fame as Jimmy Dean's sidekick on The Jimmy Dean Show and was on every single episode from 1963 to 1966. Jimmy Dean said

Rowlf got about 2,000 letters from fans every week. He was considered for Sesame Street but ended up becoming a regular on "The Muppet Show" in 1976. Mental Floss: Commercials from a late-80s airing of 'A Muppet Family Christmas'

10. Oscar the Grouch is performed by the same guy who does Big Bird, Carroll Spinney. Spinney said he based Oscar's cranky voice on a particular New York cab driver he once had the pleasure of riding with. He was originally an alarming shade of orange. In Pakistan, his name is Akhtar and he lives in an oil barrel. In Turkey, he is Kirpik and lives in a basket. And in Israel, it's not Oscar at all – it's his cousin, Moishe Oofnik, who lives in an old car.

11. Gonzo: What exactly is Gonzo? Nobody knows. Even Jim Henson had no particular species in mind. Over the course of "The Muppet Show," "Muppet Babies" and various Muppet movies, Gonzo has been referred to as a "Whatever", a "Weirdo" and an alien. Whatever he is, he first appeared on the scene in 1970's The Great Santa Claus Switch. His name was Snarl the Cigar Box Frackle. In 1974, he showed up on a TV special for Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass. He became Gonzo the Great by the first season of The Muppet Show and developed his thing for Camilla the Chicken almost accidentally: During one episode where chickens were auditioning for the show, puppeteer Dave Goelz ad-libbed, "Don't call us, we'll call you... nice legs, though!" It was decided then and there that Gonzo would have a bizarre romantic interest in chickens.

12. You have to love Statler and Waldorf. I couldn't find much on their particular inspiration, but I can tell you that they've been around since the 1975 "Muppet Show" pilot. They are named after popular New York City hotels (the Statler Hotel was renamed the Hotel Pennsylvania in 1992.) Guess what Waldorf's wife name is? Yep... Astoria (she looks startlingly like Statler.) FYI, Waldorf is the one with the mustache and white hair. Statler has the grey hair. Apparently Waldorf has had a pacemaker for more than 30 years.

13. Beaker: I always thought of Beaker and his buddy Bunsen Honeydew as characters that came along later in the Muppet timeline, but they have been around since the "The Muppet Show." Although Beaker usually says things along the lines of, "Mee-mee-mee-mee!", he has had a few actual lines: "Sadly temporary," "Bye-Bye" and "Make-up ready!" Despite being word-challenged, he manages to do a pretty convincing Little Richard impression and, surprisingly, had mad beatbox skills. Beaker is one of the only Muppets that was never recycled from some other purpose – he was created solely for "The Muppet Show."

14. Fozzie Bear. Poor Fozzie. He's the perpetual target of Statler and Waldorf because of his horrible jokes and puns. It actually created a bit of a problem during the first season of The Muppet Show, because when Fozzie got heckled, he got very upset and sometimes cried. Viewers didn't feel sympathy; they felt embarrassed. The problem was solved by making Fozzie an optimist so that even when he got heckled he was good-natured about it. It's often thought that he was named after Frank Oz, who was his puppeteer, but Frank said it's just a variant of "fuzzy bear." Yet another story says he was named for his builder, Faz Fazakas. Wocka wocka!!

15. Bert and Ernie are the Muppet version of Felix and Oscar ("The Odd Couple," for you young'uns). Lots of people think Bert and Ernie were named for some minor characters in It's A Wonderful Life, but according to the Henson company, that's just a rumor. Jim Henson always maintained that it was just a coincidence – the names just went well together and seemed to fit the characters. Jerry Juhl, one of the head writers, corroborated this and said that Jim Henson had no memory for details like that and would have never remembered the name of the cop and the taxi cab driver in the old Jimmy Stewart movie. Other rumors to clear up: Bert and Ernie aren't gay and neither one of them are dead. Now that we've got that straightened out, here are a few more tidbits: the original

Ernie used to have a gravelly voice similar to Rowlf the Dog's. Frank Oz was Bert's puppeteer and hated him at the beginning. He thought Bert was ridiculously boring, but then realized that he could have a lot of fun with being boring. Jim Henson once said, "I remember trying Bert and Frank tried Ernie for a while. I can't imagine doing Bert now, because Bert has become so much of a part of Frank."

16. Grover: Everyone's favorite "cute, furry little monster" made his TV debut on the "Ed Sullivan Show" in 1967. At the time, he was known as "Gleep" and was a monster in Santa's Workshop. He then appeared on the first season of Sesame Street, but sported green fur and a reddish-orange nose. He didn't have a name then, but by the second season he transformed into the Grover we know today, more or less – electric blue fur and a pink nose. The original green Grover was reincarnated as Grover's Mommy for a few episodes. In Latin America and Puerto Rico Grover is known as Archibaldo, in Spain he is Coco, in Portugal he is Gualter and in Norway he is Gunnar.

17. Sweetums is one of a handful of full-body Muppets. He showed up in 1971 on the TV special "The Frog Prince." This is where he got his name – when Sir Robin the Brave is about to defeat the ogre, a witch shows up and changes him into a frog (who later becomes Robin, Kermit's nephew). Apparently smitten with the ogre, the witch tells her darling "Sweetums" that he can have the frog for breakfast. Bigger fame awaited Sweetums, though – in 1975, he appeared on Cher's variety show to do a duet with her to "That Old Black Magic". He officially joined "The Muppet Show" cast in 1976.

18. Rizzo the Rat might sound familiar to you, especially if you've seen "Midnight Cowboy" – he is named for Dustin Hoffman's character, Ratso Rizzo. He was created after puppeteer Steve Whitmire was inspired by rat puppets made from bottles. He first showed up on "The Muppet Show" as one of a group of rats following Christopher Reeve around – he's easy

to spot because he hams it up more than any of the other rats. He occasionally performs with Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem.

19. Pepe the King Prawn's full name is Pepino Rodrigo Serrano Gonzales. I heart Pepe. He was a chef in Madrid before going Hollywood on "Muppets Tonight" in 1996. He was paired with Seymour the Elephant (Pepe was originally going to be a mouse) on the show, but Seymour never developed quite the same following and was only in two episodes. He rarely gets names right – some of his mispronunciations include "muffins" instead of Muppets, "Kermin" instead of Kermit and "Scooper" instead of Scooter. He's quite full of himself – in addition to thinking that he's quite the ladies' man, he also fully expects to win several Oscars.

20. Herry Monster from Sesame Street was the Big Bad Wolf in his original incarnation, which you can kind of tell by looking at his fur. It's pretty wolf-like (if wolves were blue, I mean). He became a Sesame monster in 1970 to replace the Beautiful Day Monster, who looked kind of like Sam the Eagle and existed to cause destruction wherever he went, thus ruining the beautiful day people had been having before he showed up. Herry used to have a furry nose but got upgraded to his non-furry, purple nose in 1971.

The preceding article was written by Stacy Conradt and was published on cnn.com

[poll id="9"]

And for your enjoyment (and so you can get this song stuck in your head for days on end), here is the Muppets catchy performance of Mahna Mahna – it's a really fun video to watch!

Ryan Started The Fire

In lieu of a new Office episode tonight (another rerun, GROAN!), I'll supply the following youtube.com Office video, "Ryan Started the Fire" for you to watch. I read about it in a suburban Chicago newspaper who featured the story because the video was made by some local high school students. It's well-written, nicely sung (good Billy Joel impression), and very well edited. The video was featured on Jenna Fisher's blog (the actress who plays Pam Beesley), and I can see why even a celebrity such as herself took notice – it's a great tribute to my favorite show! Before you enjoy it, however, I should warn you that it contains events that took place in the series in the current season, so SPOILER ALERT! If you don't want to know the current happenings in The Office, I guess you'll have to wait to see this video! Otherwise, ENJOY!

Insomniac Discovery

Though I wouldn't call it a great discovery, by any means... Every few months, I go through a period of insomnia that lasts a few days. I don't know why this happens, but it starts when I stay up too late a few nights in a row, waiting for my kids to go to bed and then having too much fun to go to bed myself. Then for some reason, I start waking up early in the morning and am unable to fall back asleep, and the more tired I get, the less easy it is for me to sleep and the cycle continues. So anyway, a few weeks ago, during one of these bouts of insomnia, I was flipping channels and I came across the Steve Wilkos show.

In case you don't know (and I hope you don't) Steve Wilkos is best known for being the main bodyguard on the Jerry Springer show – a talk show that aired in the '90's that was a total raunch fest. The show pushed the limits of television at the time and helped to give talk shows an even worse reputation than they already had. Nearly every episode of the Jerry Springer show contained bleeped-out profanity, guests taking their clothes off (censored for tv thank goodness) and brawling. It was a disgusting example of junk tv and helped give birth to the term "trailer trash". And Steve Wilkos had a big part to play. As the main bodyguard, he would have to break up the fights, often climbing in between scantily-clad (if that) guests as they tried to duke it out on the stage. As his popularity rose, the audience would often chant Steve's name as he broke up the fights with his trademark smirk and chrome dome. And how do I know this? Well, I was a college student at the time, and I guess I'll reluctantly admit to being present as some of my friends would get a big kick out of this show and watch it in their dorm room.

So anyway, the other night, it was really late, and I thought I must be hallucinating when I came across Steve the bodyguard from the Jerry Springer show hosting his own talk show here in 2009. And it didn't seem to be like the Jerry Springer show... no fights, no swearing, no nudity... Just Steve, the ex-Chicago cop complete with his thick Chicago accent, trying to work out life's problems for his "lucky" guests... He doesn't seem very natural in front of the camera, and I don't know whose idea it was to give this guy his own show... What is this (tv) world coming to? [Check it out for yourself](#), if you dare! And, just for kicks, here is a link to [some classic Jerry Springer moments](#) someone put up on youtube; I'm NOT embedding that garbage on my blog – you can just click on the link if you really want to see it. Where has the former-mayor-of-Cincinnati-who-wrote-a-check-to-a-prostitute-and-got-caught been these days anyway?

Frumpy or Stylish?

What follows is an insignificant blog post about nothing of particular importance – pure fluff! And this post is for Office fans only! Have you noticed that Pam Beesly has changed her look? When you watch episodes of The Office from Seasons 1, 2 or even 3, you'll notice that Pam used to be frumpy. Her hair was blah, and she wore the ugliest shirts, sometimes two at a time! But nowadays, she has a nice chic hairdo and dresses less like a 60-year-old librarian and more like a young woman in her late 20's or early 30's. At first, I was wondering if the popularity of the show and the character was the inspiration for the change in her character – you know, make her more appealing to her adoring fans. But The Office is my favorite show, and I don't like to think that it's sinking to that level – I prefer to attribute the change

in Pam to her finally being happily in true love. In the first few seasons, she wasn't yet in love with Jim (that she was consciously aware of, anyway), and she was unhappy being a receptionist because that's a far cry from her calling in life – art and illustration. Now she is truly happy, she is in love, and her looks-update reflects this. Ironical that as the character Pam Beesly finds love, the actress who plays her, Jenna Fischer, is in the process of a real-life divorce from her husband, James Gunn. I don't know, what do you think?

All I know for sure is that I am happy to see Pam's old wardrobe go by the wayside. It was truly hideous and sometimes even difficult to watch – as you can see by watching some of the older episodes!