

The Office – Season 7!!

I am behind on blogging about my favorite tv show (and the only one that's left that is good enough for me to watch these days!), The Office! Time flew so fast that the season premiere was a few weeks ago now, and it's been a great season so far!

The Office is on Season 7 already, and unfortunately for us fans, this is reportedly the last season for the show's lead actor, Steve Carell. As a huge fan of the show, I personally don't see how it will work without Carell's lovable idiot boss character, Michael Scott, and I'm hoping that he will change his mind about leaving. Although he has yet to win an Emmy for his performance as Michael Scott (darn Alec Baldwin on 30 Rock takes it every year!), episode 2 of season 7 of The Office saw the best performance I've ever seen Carell give and probably the best acting I've ever seen on a tv sitcom! If you're a fan, I'm talking about the scene where he is in a counseling session with Toby, and Toby is kind of manipulating him to actually talk to him. For a few minutes, Michael is actually talking and playing cards with Toby – a man he simply cannot stand. He even has an "I loathe Toby" face that is priceless. So anyway, he's playing cards with Toby, and Toby is actually making some valuable psychiatric headway with Michael... until Michael realizes it. Within seconds as he's realizing what Toby has done, his transformation back into his "I loathe Toby" mode is just... WOW. Emmy-worthy material, for sure in my opinion, but only time will tell.

Unfortunately, if you are not already watching this great show, then I can't recommend you start now in the 7th season – nowadays the show seems to be written for its fan base, and newcomers might not be able to follow the plots which are seemingly being developed around the already established characters. But I do highly recommend you check out the show beginning in Season 1 – you can do this on dvd or perhaps even

on NBC's website? That way, you can watch the The Office characters hilariously evolve yourself. If you work in an office yourself, are looking for a new tv show to watch, or are simply a fan of good tv, talented script-writing, try The Office!!

I cannot wait to see what the 3rd episode of this new season will bring us on Thursday!!

One of the Michael Scott's (aka Steve Carell's) famous "I loathe Toby" faces:



Next On Dancing With The Stars...

One of those rare amusing email forwards caught my eye, so I'll share. Besides, my last post was kind of a downer; here's something funny to counteract it:

Next Season on Dancing With The Stars:



LOST!

What seems like ages ago, I was a big fan of Lost. I didn't watch the first season when it aired, but all the buzz about it got me curious, so my husband and I gave the first season dvd's a try – and really liked it! But then the second season of Lost wasn't as good, mainly because there were way too many questions and loose ends brought about – we couldn't figure out why they weren't concluding some of the mysteries instead of adding tons of new questions each week! When production was temporarily halted because of the writer's strike a few years ago, things on Lost really went downhill. But we had invested the time in watching it, and because the show's creators announced a definitive end date for Lost – this is the last season – we decided to stick it out.

So last night's highly anticipated last Lost season premiere was... eh. Only so-so, I would say. First, the show opened with really cheap-looking computer animation showing the island underwater, what was that? And there was a recap

episode before the premiere, thank goodness for that, but between the 2 episodes, we saw the same climatic scene 3 times in 12 minutes! And the recap episode didn't help as much as I would have hoped – 12 minutes into the new Lost, and I was officially lost. My husband tells me that there are now two sets of each character, but I somehow missed that. If it's true, I don't like it.

Ugh... I like the concept of seeing flight 815 before it crashed, but all the actors look 6+ years older! Especially Boone!

The end of the episode was breathtaking, although I remain confused... were any of these people aware of what had happened? The time travel throughout the various decades?

I guess I have to watch the premiere again; I feel like I'm missing something... actually I'm missing a lot of things. The show is still entertaining, but I am so glad it's almost over! It really requires more thought and more of a time commitment than I have to give to tv right now!

Missing The Office

Last week I really could have used a Thursday night pick-me-up from my favorite show, The Office, but alas, no new episode. I was sure I couldn't be disappointed two weeks in a row, but this week's ep is also a re-run! Then I started thinking about how it's been in the news lately that NBC is changing around their scheduling, most of it having to do with the Olympics and Jay Leno. Then I realized that if the Olympics are on NBC, the Office probably won't be on for the entire duration of the Winter Games! I did a quick search, and to my relief, I found that a new Office is scheduled to air on

January 21 – not this week, but next week thankfully. We might have to wait out the entire airing of the Winter Olympics, but at least they're not going to make us wait until it's over and we'll have at least one new Office episode to enjoy in the meantime. Any other Office fans out there? Does anyone know how many more new episodes we get for the rest of the season, or at least how many we can expect to enjoy before the beginning of the Olympics? How long IS the Olympics, anyway? And fyi, the Jan. 21 episode of the Office is called, "The Banker", and the plot outline is this: When a prospective buyer for Dunder Mifflin visits, everyone looks to impress and Michael gets nostalgic.

Sounds hilarious, as usual! And don't get me wrong, this show is so great that reruns are tons of fun too. We were just watching the "Frame Toby" episode from season 5 last night, and we had to rewind 4 times to listen to Creed's classic line about the quarry – I'm not going to repeat it here because it's mostly the WAY he says it, but it has to be one of the funniest Office moments EVER! Which got me to thinking about a hypothetical situation – what if Creed were a character who came to our semi-regular game nights? HAHA!

A Nielsen Family

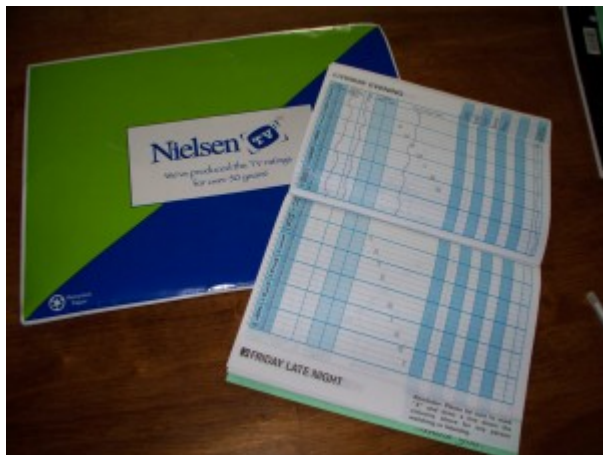
It began with \$3 cash being enclosed in a letter – we had been selected to be a Nielsen family. You know the Nielsen company – basically, they gather information about how many people are watching what on tv in order to determine how much commercials should cost. So anyway, they sent \$3 cash, and I 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...

Cooltest Coaster

I got an email today called “What do you remember?” – it’s a list of tv shows that aren’t on anymore. You add your name and a show you used to watch to the list and send it on. It made me think of a kids’ show I used to love called, “The Roller Coaster Gang”. I wasn’t totally positive that was the name of the show, however, so I did a google search – and that’s how I found what sounds like the coolest roller coaster ever!

It’s called The Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster, but unfortunately for me, it’s on the other side of the world at the Warner Bros. Movie World theme park in Australia. It’s a haunted house / roller coaster combined, and here is the press release about it that so intrigued me:

November 30, 2002

Guests will be treated to a hair-raising journey complete with laser lighting and sound effects, animatronics and a kaleidoscope of colour, depth, height and trickery of dimension this holiday season thanks to the Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster Ride.

A \$13 million indoor rollercoaster ride inspired by the first feature film shot at Warner Roadshow Movie World Studios on the Gold Coast starring Sarah Michelle Gellar, Freddie Prinze Jr., Matthew Lillard, Linda Cardellini and Rowan Atkinson, the Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster Ride is not a ride for the faint hearted.

Featuring carefully replicated coaster cars from Scooby-Doo the film, guests enter the creepy dimly lit courtyard and move into the heart of Spooky Castle, where ghouls, gargoyles and the odd talking suit of armour may appear!

Housed in a 25 metre high building, the Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster Ride features two distinctive experience zones, thrilling guests with different aspects of laser lighting.

While the laser lighting embraces and creates the entire illusion, maintaining it throughout the experience and simultaneously performing for multiple audiences moving through three dimensional space at high speed, the ride continuously alters direction, velocity, elevation and trajectories.

Warner Village Theme Park Chief Executive John Menzies explains that Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster is a world first and is a unique combination of two different types of entertainment experiences.

"Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster is completely innovative, no other ride in the world can be compared to this combination of experiences – the classic haunted house utilising the latest technological advances and lighting and sound effects and the

adrenalin pumping thrills of an indoor rollercoaster," said Chief Executive John Menzies.

The first experience zone further develops the Spooky Castle theme into a ghost train ride featuring the best in traditional movie inspired theming and amusing animatronics.

Just as guests begin to think their journey is nearing conclusion, they find themselves drawn up over 17 metres into the castle's creepy tower. This unsettling experience heralds their reversed entry into the ride's second zone as guests are then pushed into a darkened void.

Disoriented in the dark, riders are now subject to the will and influence of the ghouls and gargoyles that Scooby-Doo warned of earlier.

Then, it's time to be afraid....be kind of afraid!

Perched precariously on an elevated turntable the car is turned 180 degrees to face the fate awaiting its anxious passengers.

Transfixed by an apparently infinite tunnel of emerald green laser light the riders are lurched forward into the shimmering abyss as the Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster Ride propels riders through infinite voids, passing ghost-like through shimmering walls, floors and ceilings of light and speeding into tunnels of green swirling mist.

Finally, plunging over seven meters on the adrenalin-pumping journey, guests are hurtled towards a grotesque creature and the 'ring of life'.

The Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster Ride with its ever-changing web of penetrating green laser beams, bumps, breathtaking drops and special effects thrills and excites every rider.

The multi-million dollar blockbuster, Scooby-Doo, was filmed at Warner Roadshow Movie World Studios on the Gold Coast in

2000/2001 and is the highest budget production ever filmed in Queensland to date.

Join Scooby-Doo and the Mystery Gang for the scariest, spookiest, spine-tingling rollercoaster ever created – Scooby-Doo Spooky Coaster Ride.

Visit Warner Bros. Movie World on Australia's Gold Coast – where movie magic happens everyday!

I've never heard of Warner Bros. Movie World, but it sounds pretty neat. Too bad I didn't make it over there a few years ago – I also found out they used to have a Marvin the Martian 3-D movie, but they replaced it with Shrek 4D. That stinks; I would have liked to see that; I'm a big fan of Marvin the Martian. Oh well, hopefully by the time I get to Australia they'll still have the Scooby-Doo coaster. If only we could increase the budget we have for the haunted attraction we're building by a few million so we could add a coaster...

And I didn't end up using "The Roller Coaster Gang" as my show to put on the list. By the time I was done being distracted with looking up Australian thrill rides, I thought of another show I put instead – one whose title I was sure about. Belle and Sebastian was a Nickodeon cartoon that was about an orphaned boy named Sebastian and his big white dog, Belle. Each episode would follow the pair (along with a small dog named Poochie who would fit into Sebastian's pocket) as they ventured through the mountains looking for Sebastian's mother. People would always mistake Belle for a ferocious dog or sometimes even some kind of snow monster. I loved that show – wonder if Sebastian ever found his mother?

The Mole – FINALE!!!

SPOILER ALERT!!! *The following blog post contains a synopsis of the final episode of the ABC reality show, The Mole. Do not read if you don't want to know what happened!*

Last night's Mole finale did not disappoint. Well, maybe for those of us who got 0 points in the tangents.org mole poll... But as far as dragging out the results episode like most reality shows do, the Mole was not guilty of this. The episode was only an hour long, they still had one elimination to reveal, and they revealed the winner of the game without dramatizing things by adding a commercial break. Turns out, good guy Mark took home the cash, all so his wife can stay home with the kids and not work anymore (be careful what you wish for; sometimes I wish *I* could go back to work and get away from the daily chaos of the chorus of crying kids!). Then, it was time to reveal the mole... but first a dramatic commercial break, of course! We returned from commercial, and they milked it even further with some more dramatic pausing... and then we learned – CRAIG is the MOLE!

At least I don't have to go back and count up points for our tangents.org mole poll – I believe Jamiahsh is the only one who ever guessed Craig, therefore, with 1 point, he is the winner of our tangents mole poll!

After the big reveal, which happened quite early in the hour I might add, compared to the way they've done things in past mole seasons, time was spent recapping episodes with the knowledge of the mole's identity. It was fun to see the different contestants' reactions to Craig being the mole, and it was even more fun to watch the clips that were recorded during the playing of the game of them suspecting Craig. I always like when they explain the hidden clues from every episode that (supposedly) pointed to the mole. I say supposedly pointed to the mole because a few of the clues were

far-fetched; for example the business about the latitude and longitude. One of the clues I liked is the one where they altered the background where Craig was giving an interview. There were two “i” statues, and they altered them so there were 4 “i” statues when Craig was doing his interview. Get it? 4 “i”‘s = four eyes – Craig is the only player to wear glasses.

Anyway, it was a great season like always. Even though I lost the tangents.org mole poll, I’m actually glad I did because if Nicole (she was my guess) was the mole, I would have felt it was so obvious it actually would have dampened my enthusiasm for another season. But since I was SO taken by surprise, as far as another mole season goes, I say, bring it on, and soon!

Defunct TV

I received another email forward that is worth mentioning today. It was a list of people’s first names followed by a tv show. The idea is that you are supposed to add your name to the list along with a tv show you used to watch that’s not on tv anymore. I was a huge fan of tv as a kid, and I watched it a lot, so it was fun to sit and think about shows that I enjoyed that aren’t on tv anymore. Since you were only supposed to add one show after your name on the email forward, I’m going to share the other shows I was going to put in it, along with imdb links so you can learn about them if you wish:

[Dolphin Cove](#) – This is the show I included with my name in the forward. It was originally an Australian show, but they tried it in the US, and it only aired for one season, if that. I think there were 8 episodes. It was about an American widower who moves to Australia with his 2 children to work with

dolphins. His daughter is mute because she is in shock after witnessing the accident that took her mother's life. She develops special communication skills with the dolphins. Since I was only 10 when the show aired, I don't remember much, I just know that I really liked it and that I was extremely disappointed when it didn't come back on tv. Since it was cancelled abruptly, there were some open-ended plot lines, and I waited for months hoping the show would be back. Of course it was not. If anyone knows how to get it tape or the internet or anything, let me know, I'd love to see it again! Oh, and something interesting I learned from imdb – apparently the show was written by [Peter Benchley](#), the author who wrote [Jaws](#). I read a book by him once called *The Beast*, and it was pretty scary. Not that Dolphin Cove was scary or anything like that, it's just a note. I'm not sure if he wrote the concept for the show or all the episodes or both, but it doesn't really matter much now anyway.

[The Charmings](#) – I was 9 years old when this show was on and I thought it looked stupid then, if that tells you anything. Still, as a pre-tween girl, the intrigue of a sitcom based on a fairy tale was irresistible, so I gave it a try, and I still found it dumb. The tagline says it all: *"Snow White and Prince Charming fell asleep in the Enchanted Forest... they woke up in Burbank!"* Unbelievably, this show actually WON a primetime Emmy and was nominated for 3 others. True, it won the Emmy for Outstanding Lighting Direction (Electronic) for a Comedy Series, (does that one even still exist?) but still... I guess that magic mirror was truly something to behold. The writing and acting apparently were not however, since the show only lasted for 2 seasons, and they switched Snow Whites after only 6 episodes.

[The Carol Burnett Show](#) – I'm not talking about the well-known show that ran from 1967-1978 since I wasn't around for that; I'm talking about the hour-long show that aired in the early '90's. Each show featured a series of sketches with an

awesome cast of supporting actors, and this is where I was introduced to an actor named [Richard Kind](#), who went on to do shows such as [Mad About You](#) and [Spin City](#). I loved every skit he was in on The Carol Burnett Show of the '90's – they were my favorites. I don't know how long the show lasted because I was very young at this time and there is not much info on it at [imdb.com](#), but I know that it should have lasted longer because it was true family entertainment – very funny for all ages.

[Silver Spoons](#) – Hardly anyone in my generation has forgotten this show. Airing for 5 seasons, it made a star of a young [Rick Schroder](#) (then he was known as Ricky Schroder, a heart-throb for teen girls everywhere!) as a spoiled rich kid who lived in a mansion but faced many of the problems normal teenagers face. His father (played by [Joel Higgins](#), whatever happened to him?) was a toy inventor, so needless to say, their house and the gadgets inside were pretty cool and fun to watch. It's hard to believe this show only lasted for 5 seasons, but then again, it was rerun on so many networks in syndication, and that's where I saw the majority of the episodes I watched. I still remember the theme song, and no, I didn't have to look it up first, which I guess is a little sad, but anyway: *"Here we are, face to face, a couple of Silver Spoons. Hopin to find, we're two of a kind, making a go, making it grow, together..."* I could go on, but you get the idea.

As an avid tv watcher, of course I watched many more shows than the ones I've listed here. These are just the ones that came to my mind today which I thought would make interesting conversation. And, for extra fun, here is a copy of the forward:

How many shows can we come up with that we USED to watch that are no

> longer on TV? Add one and keep going.

> This should be fun and jog our memories. No repeats on the

shows please.

> Send to all your friends and back to me.

> Lisa.....Dolphin Cove

> Jamy.....Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman

> Barb.....Little House on the Prairie

> Dutch.....Dragnet

> Marilyn.....Friday night fights!!

> Dutch.....Dynasty

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> Carol.....Streets of Sanfrancisco

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> Cheryl.....St. Elsewhere

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> Lisa.....Here Comes the Brides

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> Toni.....Peyton Place

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> Mary.....Topper

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> Madeline.....Friday Nite Videos

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> Sheila.....China Beach

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> Twyla.....I Remember Mama

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> Sandy.....Dallas

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> Melanie.....The Adventures Of Brisco County

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> Ellen.....Sports Night

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> Karen.....Hawaii 5-0

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> Pat.....Lucy's Toy Shop

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> Karma.....Happy Days

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> Shari.....That Girl
>
> Bill.....Checkmate
>
> Judy.....Amos 'N Andy
>
> PegMickey Mouse Club
>
> Ron —— Lucky Strike Hit Parade
>
> Paula.....My Three Sons
>
> Cindy.....Mary Heart Line
>
> Barb.....I Love Lucy
>
> Glenda.....Phil Donahue Show
>
> MARLENE.....MY LITTLE MARGIE
>
> AJ.....Saturday Night Hit Parade
>
> June.....The Naked City
>
> Jeanie.....Danny Thomas Show
>
> Pam.....Bozo The Clown
>
> KimAndy Griffith Show
>
> Cassie.....30 something
>
> Kay.....Saturday Night FRIGHTS (good ol scary movie
night)
>
> Kaye.....Dick Van Dyke
>

> Karen RustFather Knows Best (way back)
>
> Kat D.....Mama's Family
>
> Janna.....The Love Boat
>
> Dan.....Night Court
>
> Maureen.....Once and Again
>
> MicheleBosom Buddies
>
> Jennifer.....The Lawrence Welk Show
>
> Marilyn.....Dr. Kildare
>
> Diane.....Have Gun Will Travel
>
>Phyllis.....Bonanza

>Sharon.....Winky Dink

Dr. Phil

Dr. Phil is one of my favorite tv shows, especially during the writers' strike. Thank goodness that's over because my FAVORITE show is The Office, which I also plan to write about once they start airing new episodes – CAN'T WAIT! I also enjoy Lost and what I call "junk tv", meaning whatever is on like Moment of Truth, other fly-by-night reality shows, and shows like Cops and Dateline. Enough of the tangents (wink, wink ;)) – back to Dr. Phil.

First, let me talk about how lucky I am to be a Dr. Phil fan living where I live, in the middle of rural Ohio, halfway between Toledo and Fort Wayne, Indiana. That means we get two of each of the major networks, one out of Toledo, and one out of Fort Wayne. Dr. Phil is on in Toledo at 10 am, and it's on in Fort Wayne at 3 pm AND 7 pm. The 10 am and 7pm airings are the same episode, so if I miss the morning one, I have another chance to catch it. And if I miss both of those, the 3 o'clock airing from Fort Wayne is a week behind the others, giving me yet another chance to see a missed episode!

Anyway, today's episode was disturbing. Not like people-who-harm-children disturbing, but there was this husband who was a "right-fighter" and a "bully" – if you're a frequent Dr. Phil watcher you will know that these are two of his favorite terms. These and "hero". Hardly a week will go by when he doesn't say "this relationship needs a hero". So anyway, today's "right-fighter" was probably the worst husband I've ever seen on the show. I don't understand the point of their marriage, to be honest... I can't believe Dr. Phil didn't pull out another of his favorite sayings – "Children would rather be from a broken home than living in one." This guy verbally and emotionally abuses his wife about her weight, cleaning, everything, then justifies his every action. I think you probably had to watch the show to even get the severity of what was going on... If you live near Fort Wayne, catch it next Wednesday at 3!