

Forever A Lost Boy

The last few weeks have not been a good one if you were young or were related to some figure in the public eye of the 1980s.

First, it was Andrew Koenig (of *Growing Pains* fame). Last week, Marie Osmond's young son was found dead. Yet another blow in her long list of tragic events. And this morning, yet another teen figure gone astray: Corey Haim... one of the famous "Corey duo" of such 80s teen fare as *The Lost Boys*, *License to Drive*, and *Dream a Little Dream*. Sadly, Corey was always one who seemed to live life on the wild side and it finally caught up with him.

It just seems so tragic every time I hear something like this in the news. They may not have been A-list stars but many seem to fall under the allure of the old Hollywood glamour and glitz instead of focusing on their God given talent. Even more tragic is the reality that many fail to recognize or plain don't want to realize the grip that the "glamorous life" has on them until it is far too late.

I'm not sure what influence events such as this have on the public at large but someday you would think that people in similar situations would look at the tragedies and seek some form of help in dealing with it. Turning to friends, family, or God Himself for guidance. A bit of "tough love" may even help.

So, to all the Lost Ones out there, I would hope and pray that they look at these recent events learn from them, and may break free from the demons that seemingly control them.

Hasn't Their 15 Minutes Expired Yet?

Or maybe that is what these so called "reality shows" are all about. I don't watch but I do like to see the list of celebrities (most of whom I wish would just go away) who are willing to put their "talent" on display for better or worse.. probably the latter. The talented celebrities for the upcoming cast of Dancing with the Stars defies my sense of logic:

- Pamela Anderson (will we never learn... Boobwatch was over like 20 years ago, right? We won't go into the Tommy Lee years.)
- Nicole Scherzinger (best known as the lead singer of the Pussycat Dolls... not to be confused with Josie and the Pussycats)
- Kate Gosselin (spent too much time talking about her already. Doesn't she have 8 kids to raise as a single mother?)
- Chad Ochocinco (the obligatory football figure WR for the Cincinnati Bengals)
- Shannen Doherty (WOW... is there anyone on the list who is actually noteworthy?)
- Evan Lysacek (just won the gold for figure skating... wonder if he'll be as graceful without the ice)
- Erin Andrews (from the sports sidelines as a reporter to the dance floor)
- Aiden Turner (some soap star from All My Dingbats, I believe)
- Niecy Nash ("Reno 911?" Nope... never seen it either)
- **AND FINALLY... MY PICK FOR THE SYMPATHY VOTE GARNERED BY CLORIS LEACHMAN A FEW YEARS AGO... Buzz Aldrin?!. That is just weird. John Glenn next year?**

I dunno... I wonder who Rod Blagojevich will fare on the new

Celebrity Apprentice.

- In an unprecedented move, a new contestant was named that I did not learn of until this morning, the new Bachelor whatever his name is. For crying out loud! No wonder I don't watch.
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Sanctuary From Pains

It came as a great shock to me to learn that one of the supporting actors of one of my favorite shows growing up had gone missing. Today, after a week long search, his body was found. [Joshua Andrew Koenig](#) played Richard "Boner" Stabone the best friend of Mike Seever (played by Kirk Cameron) on *Growing Pains*.

I'm not sure if I did not know the actor's name or just did not make the connection, but I just learned Monday that Andrew was the son of Walter Koenig who played Ensign Pavel Chekov on the original *Star Trek* television series. Andrew also has another tie to Trekdom. He played the role of Tumak on the *Deep Space Nine* "[Sanctuary](#)."

May He watch over the family of this young man in their time of remorse.

Down Time

Ok, Ok... It has been three weeks since the curtain fell on the last show. It will be sometime before the next one (at least

a few months as I committed to being my godson's sponsor for Confirmation in March). Can we say cabin fever? Ah, well... something will come up. I do have a Star Trek Scene It game night coming Thursday night that I am REALLY looking forward to. I have about 5 versions of the game and really like the game although finding victims to play a few of them with can be difficult at times (Anyone for a little Bond... James Bond?)

I know that there is an 80s Pop Culture version to go along with the Trivial Pursuit version. I would also like the Harry Potter edition but I think I will wait until after the 2 part finale is finished just in case there will be more than one Harry Potter version. BTW, taylhis... how's that first book? I just started rereading *The Sorcerer's Stone* last night. Not sure when the first part of the cinematic *Deathly Hollows* is being released, but we'll see if I can make it through the seven books before that.

Back to another topic. One of Star Trek's finest was recently knighted. Sir Patrick Stewart now joins such icons as Sir Paul McCartney, TWO James Bond's (Sir Sean Connery and Sir Roger Moore), and *Lord of the Rings* director Sir Peter Jackson.

Of course Mr. Stewart is not limited in his credentials by being the captain of the USS *Enterprise* (NCC 1701-D and 'E).

He began his career in the Royal Shakespeare Company and was in a production of the most haunted play in history, *Macbeth*.

I remember watching a video of him playing Claudius in *Hamlet* during a class. He also starred as Professor Charles Xavier in the three blockbuster *X-Men* films. Stewart has now returned to the London stage in a play which I have yet to learn the title of. Anyone?

Hopefully, my down time will not lead to heaviness but with great friends and a crazy family to keep me busy... a few days to relax may be all I get ☐

Felony Franks

Last weekend, while in Chicagoland headlining at the Horeshoe Casino, Regis Philbin did NOT partake of the deep-dish Chicago pizza. He apparently likes thin crust. He did make a stop at a West Side hot dog stand. [Felony Franks](#) is unusual in that it hires only former felons after they have served their time behind bars and are out looking for a job.

The menu is centered on crime: misdemeanor weiner, custody dog, probation burgers, etc. No mention of [justj's](#) mentioned Chicago style dog.. is that a crime? A stand in Chicago that does not feature the Chicago-style version?

What do you think about the new stand? I would say that I would be hesitant to purchase a hot dog from a former child molester or murderer. And apparently, the press has been rather heated on the venue.

Morning Guilty Pleasure

This morning, I was able to catch most of *Regis and Kelly* (the ONLY celebrity focused morning show I enjoy watching). As I made mention of earlier, John Stamos is now in previews for *Bye, Bye Birdie* for its return to the Broadway stage since the debut 50 years ago (WOW!). Mr. Stamos will be playing the lead part of Albert Peterson. Dick Van Dyke originated the role of Conrad Birdie's manager in the original production as well as the original movie. The cinematic experience does not do the stage version justice at all. Not sure why but like

many musicals it is much better to have that live, theatrical experience. I honestly cannot think of many musicals that have translated better or at least as enjoyably on the screen. I guess I would say *The Sound of Music* only because it has been so ingrained into pop culture as a movie that many forget or don't realize that it was Rodgers and Hammerstein's theatrical swan song. That reason and the puppet show version of "The Lonely Goatherd" is my favorite part of the movie and IS NOT in the stage version.

Ok... back to my original topic. During the interview, Reege made mention of the fact that Ann-Margrock (err.. Margret) played the young girl, Kim MacAfee in the movie. Shortly after the movie was filmed, Ms. Margret would be Presley's leading lady in my mother's favorite Elvis movie, *Viva Las Vegas*. However, Mom was not aware that she was in the cast of *Birdie*.

Here's a few more tidbits: one of our fellow [tangenteers](#) has played the role of pop singing idol/draftee Conrad Birdie. I assisted in the directing of my high school alma mater's production a few years ago. AND there was a veery short lived sequel (4 performances) entitled [Bring Back Birdie](#) which was set twenty years following the events of the original. Twenty years is quite a LONG time to wait to attempt a comeback.

A Weight Lifted

The last game night I shared with my dear friends was a very special one especially as the night turned into the wee hours of the morning. 09-12-08. How fitting that Emily's passing would occur 7 years after the country picked itself up a day after what will undoubtedly be seen as one of the worst (if

not the worst) tragedies to befall this country. 09-12-01, Emily spearheaded a campaign to send supplies overseas to our men and women. A campaign which is still going on today. Shortly after midnight on 09-12-09, I mentioned that this was the anniversary of my mentor's passing. I felt a heavy weight upon my shoulders. [Lisa](#) told Megan, [Chris](#), and I to form a circle around the kitchen island and join hands. Chris then said a short word of prayer that lifted the weight right off my shoulders. My three best friends.

Strangely on Tuesday, word had spread that Patrick Swayze had lost his battle with cancer. This fell on the anniversary of Emily's burial. Oddly enough, I was never a huge fan of Mr. Swayze's work. Having a younger sister who enjoyed nothing more than to watch *Dirty Dancing* ad nauseum kind of turned me off of his acting ability. The first time I watched the movie, I actually kind of enjoyed it, but it got old really fast. I did, however, enjoy *Ghost* (Yes, I admit it... I'm a softie). However, anyone who can bravely battle a terminal disease under the limelight and battle constant tabloid bombardment is worthy of some praise.

Thanks again ☐

A New HOPE From The Evil Empire

No, no this post has nothing to do with the original *Star Wars* film (or as it is officially known: Episode IV: A New Hope). Such rather derogatory names have inundated my favorite baseball team for as long as I can remember and definitely beyond that. This week, The New York Yankees have been on the

streets, in apartment buildings, and in the new stadium giving back to the community that they call home. Whether it be something seemingly trivial like throwing pop flies to a ten year old or participating in an event honoring a Navy veteran who is afflicted with Lou Gehrig's disease, the NOW solo first place American League East sluggers have been receiving praise both on and off the field.

HOPE (Helping Others Persevere and Excel) week began Monday and has included the following events:

- Alex Rodriguez and pitchers Joba Chamberlain and Andy Pettite were in Greenwich Village and visited a young boy who has Cerebral Palsy. The sixth grader is confined to a wheelchair; however, the Bombers conducted a clinic for him and his little league teammates.
- Ace closer Mariano Rivera, second baseman Robinson Cano, and outfielder Melky Cabrera visited a small Washington Heights apartment where a couple open their home to children for lessons in community and leadership.
- Captain Derek Jeter and first baseman [Mark Teixeira](#) (who my mother claims closely resembles our admin... I don't see it... sorry I cannot find a photo good enough to compare) participated in a ceremony honoring a Navy veteran with Lou Gehrig's Disease and his wife.

Say what you will about the Yankees... overpaid, over-privileged. The new stadium is a homerun hitters paradise. Any team who takes time out off the field to help and inspire (yes, even if the team happens to be from Bean Town) deserves some appreciation.

A Potter Pot Head

I noticed two decidedly absent characters from the latest Harry Potter film. I believe there was only a passing glance or two of Draco Malfoy's partners in crime Crabbe and Goyle. Well, it seems that [Jamie Waylett](#) who plays Vincent Crabbe in the films was charged with growing 10 marijuana plants in his mother's England home. The 20 year old actor was sentenced to 120 hours of community service after pleading guilty to the charge on July 7th. The judge went easy on the malefactor after deeming the botanical exercise "small scale."

Actually, I have been noticing a limited amount of screen time for most of the supporting cast. Very little of Professors McGonagall and Snape and Hagrid was only in one major scene. One scene in which the head of Gryffindor House appeared brought a chuckle. Once again, Harry, Hermione, and Ron were once again in the thick of trouble and Minerva ever so eloquently pointed this out:

[Professor Minerva McGonagall](#): *[to Harry, Ron, and Hermione] Why is it that, whenever anything happens, it's always you three?*

[Ron Weasley](#): *I've been asking myself the same question for six years, Professor*

Maggie Smith (who plays Prof. McGonagall) is definitely starting to show her age. It has been nearly 20 years since she got into the habit as the Mother Superior in *Sister Act*. Surely the supporting cast will all be front and center for the final 2 installments.

Also, the concluding two films better be made quick or the young stars who are entering their twenties will be too old. As one commented, by the time Harry Potter graduates from wizard school he will be collecting Social Security.

Some Added Spring In His Step

Sometime ago, I blogged about the famous and infamous celebrities who have gone through the seemingly revolving casting door of the musical [Chicago](#). Well, you can add one more: sleaze television king Jerry Springer. This month, the lawyer-turned Cincinnati mayor-turned talk show host-turned Dancing with the Stars (yes?) contestant wrapped his six week stint on the London West End as ethically elastic lawyer Billy Flynn. I suppose the acting would not be a far stretch from his days as a real lawyer and questionable politician. He is well known for his flamboyant, quick talking, flim flam personality. However, singing? Never had the pleasure of hearing him so I can't judge (let me see if he has made the you tube rounds). Here he is performing ["All I Care About"](#) at a performance of selected songs at a Leicester Square park. You just have to forward past the opening "All That Jazz." Personally, I would rather watch the first number but that is not what this post is about.

Well at least he and David Hasselhoff have something else in common. Jer-eee was the host of America's Got Talent and the Hoff is one of the judges. And as some will recall, the Burger King aficionado played the roles of Jekyll and Hyde on Broadway. Wonder if ol' Dave is going to put on the tux. Springer says that he is going to be joining the Broadway cast until he returns to the Windy City for the talk show. However, the producers of the New York show have no knowledge of this.