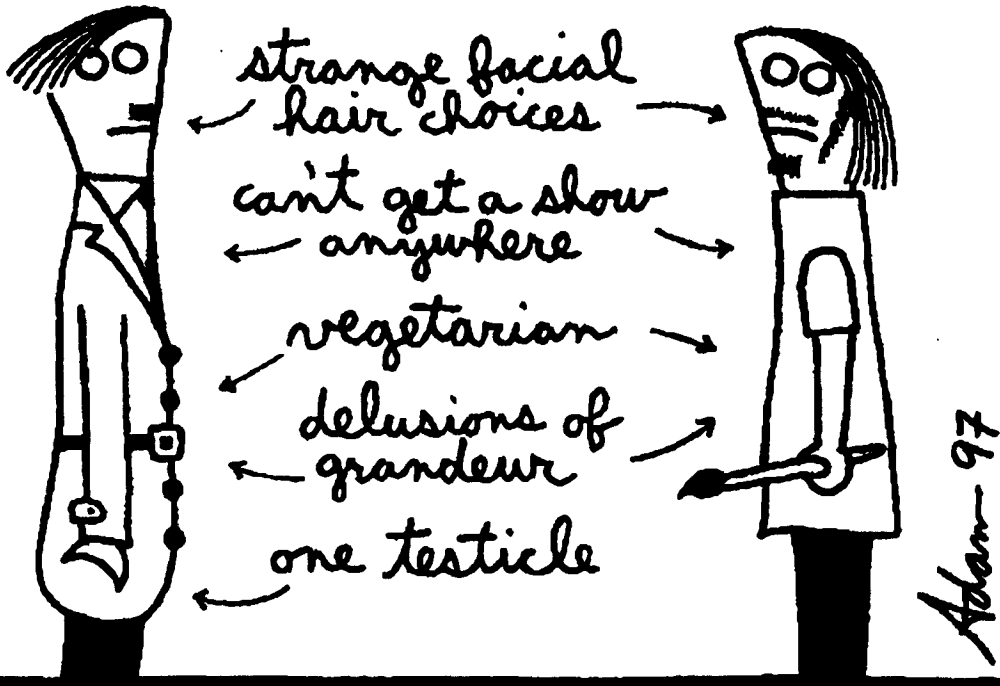


RANDOM PARANOID NOTIONS
#363: COULD YOUR B.F.A.-
DEGREED BUDDY BE THE
NEXT HITLER?!?!?!?



Movie review: "How to be a talkshow sidekick"
L.A. Confidential

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When Kevin Spacey's incredible performance is not the focal point of a film, it's an exceptional movie. This is true of this past week's police detective drama, *L.A. Confidential*, based on the novel by James Elroy.

The plot is amazingly involved, but does not abandon the viewer. Guy Pearce stars as Sgt. Ed Exley, a young but tough cop determined to put an end to the police brutality in a 1950's Los Angeles precinct. His antagonists include Officer Bud White (Russell Crowe) and Sgt. Jack Vincennes (Kevin Spacey).

However, a mass murder at a diner that kills a fellow officer unites the police force to solve the case. The investigation

becomes more and more involved as Exley, White and Vincennes connect the killing to a prostitution business, a narcotics ring, and various other types of felonious activities.

Danny DeVito appears throughout the film, as tabloid reporter Sid Hutchins, and Kim Basinger stars as a prostitute who becomes romantically involved with Bud White.

This film has been cast well with talented actors. Director Curtis Hanson even manages a few creative tricks of cinematography, such as slow-motion sequences and wide angle shots, without going overboard, to add dramatic effect to the film.

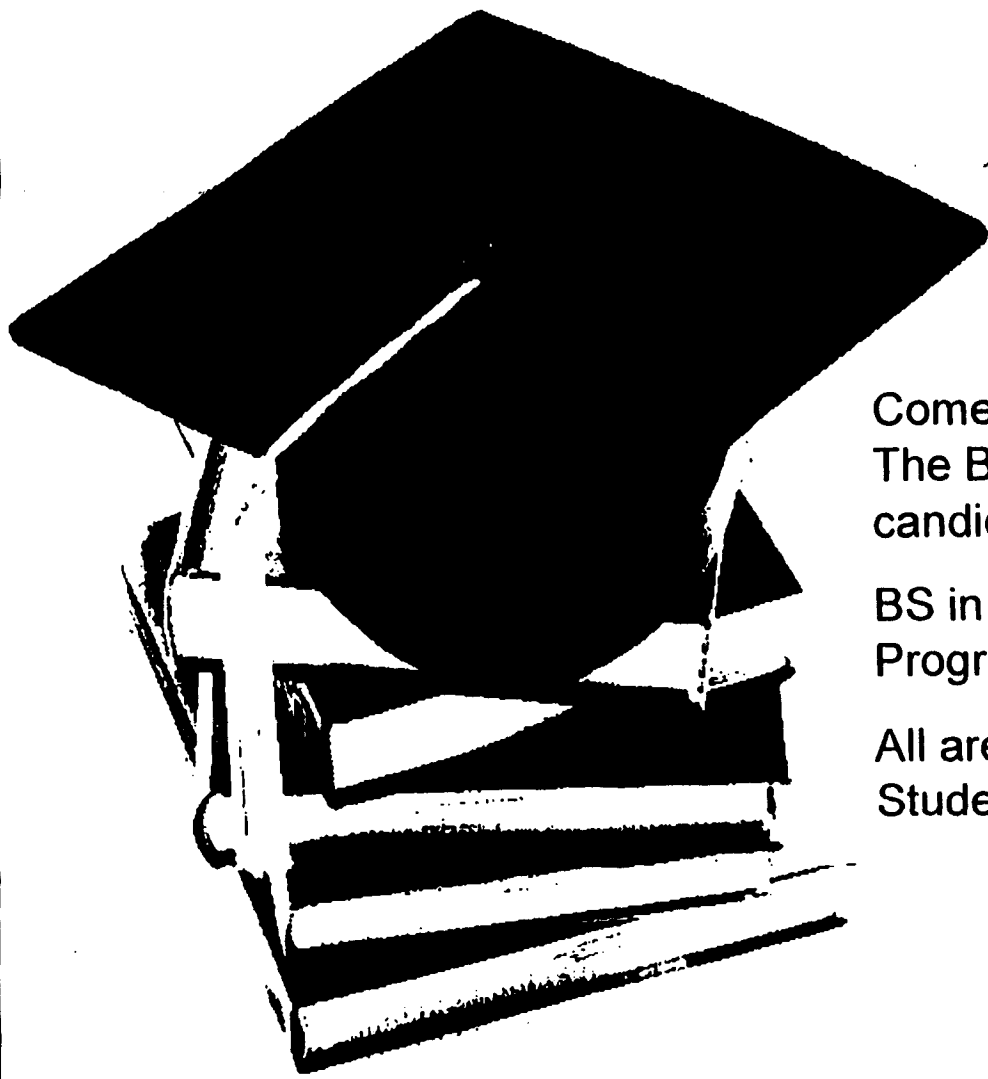
L.A. Confidential will not disappoint even the most critical of the movie-goers.
(★★★★1/2)

Night-time television's funniest right-hand man, Andy Richter, spoke at Edinboro University on Monday night. He is best known as the affable sidekick of Conan O'Brien on NBC's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Richter discussed the highs and lows of show business and what it took for him to succeed. He included short video segments from *Late Night* and other big and small screen productions. His wit and quick sarcasm made up for his admitted dislike for public speaking and stand-up comedy.

Richter's earliest clip was as a victim of John Wayne Gacy in a dramatization on *Hard Copy*. The scene lasted a mere ten seconds, but it was his shining debut. Also included was his cameo in the Chris Elliot film "Cabin Boy." These scenes are a far cry from his roots as an improv stage actor at Chicago's Annoyance Theater playing Mike Brady in a production of the "Real Live Brady Bunch," a character in which Richter nothing like. Although he didn't have any video from the play, Richter told many amusing anecdotes about his days at the theater.

While filming "Cabin Boy", Richter met *Saturday Night Live* writer, Robert Smigel. Smigel wanted him to be a writer on *Late Night* and eventually introduced him to O'Brien. Andy's talent for comedy writing and jocular personality won him the role of sidekick. Richter showed some of his hilarious writing samples on the show, such as "Lakewood," the soap opera in which everyone happens to be gay; the Richter family Christmas; and "Andi", his daytime talkshow that always seems to go awry.

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"It's too lonely up on stage by myself. I would rather work as a team"

Show business was not always kind to him though. He went through a period where he lived on one dollar burritos while working in Los Angeles. *Late Night* went into a plunge as soon as it appeared on NBC. There was a time when the show was on the verge of being axed. At the third anniversary party of its debut, NBC president Warren Littlefield said "You guys don't know how close you were to being canceled." Richter said it was like saying to your wife on your wedding anniversary, "you don't know how close I was to divorcing you."

At the end of the presentation, Richter fielded questions for about forty-five minutes. The questions ranged from "How did it feel to take Letterman's spot?" to "Can I give you a hug?" He obliged without hesitation. One of the most interesting questions asked was "Would you ever do stand-up?" To which he answered "No, it's too lonely up on stage by myself. I would rather work as a team. I've always been associated with a gang, so to speak."

After Richter left the stage, a mob surrounded him out back by his limo for an autograph session. He stayed until the last person left. His generous gesture showed that without his fans, he would not be where he is today.

Andy Richter's succinct, satirical commentary and amiable demeanor kept the packed auditorium entertained for the entire program.