

Letterman's leaving creates listlessness

Michael Stone
Capital Times Staff

The new year has brought about some change. More tension overseas. Bill Clinton is now *President Clinton* (although when I saw Barry Manilow sing at his inaugural, I wanted to take my vote for Clinton back). Excuse me whilst I take on a Jerry Seinfeld persona, but WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH THIS NEW CRYSTAL PEPSI? Is it clear? Is it Pepsi? Why does it taste like a combination of Sprite and Coke? Who are the ad wizards who came up with this one? Did our bitching and moaning about the Penn State deal prompt this? I DON'T THINK SO.

Okay--back to my boring, paranoid self. My idol and reason for living has gone. David Letterman has said "SEE YA!" to NBC and General Electric and flown into the open arms of CBS. It's rumored that NBC actually did leave Dave a message at his house saying that they'd match CBS, but Dave never got it. You see, Dave has a GE answering machine (Hah! Give me a break...it's been a long week and I got socks for Christmas, okay?)

We're in store for some interesting changes. First, "Late Night" is an NBC trademark, so Dave has to change the

entire name of his show. Second, he'll have a new set. Third, I don't believe NBC will take too kindly to Dave taking shots at GE since he's no longer employed there,

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drawing laughs and high ratings (profits) for NBC. So, a change is forecast in June.

And what about the ratings? I have no formal training in terms of forecasting television trends--like I needed to tell you that--but I have some premonitions/predictions I'd like to share (so if they're right, I'll look really smart).

First, Letterman will kill Jay Leno in the ratings...for about a month or two. Then, after all settles down, each will earn about the same rating he did before the change. However, the diehard Letterman fans that used to watch Leno as a form of foreplay (or media hors d'oeuvres, if you will) shall leave Jay out in the cold. So, I don't see the massacre with the Letterman/Leno thing.

Arsenio is another story. Can you say "Dennis Miller?" Just like Dennis (who I'm still shedding tears over), I think Arsenio will have a loyal following, but it won't be squat when compared to Leno and Letterman. Maybe the world will see some justice and we won't have to hear that "whoop, whoop, whoop" anymore.

Those five people sitting over in those bleachers are the ones that still watch my show....

So, to celebrate Dave's journey to CBS, I prepared a top ten list (with some help from Mike Starkey, Kate Sherman, and the infamous technoweenie, recent PSH graduate Honus P. Wagner).

THE TOP 10 REASONS WHY DAVID LETTERMAN WENT TO CBS:

10) CBS has those great shows like *Major Dad* and *Designing Women*, while NBC has only *Cheers* and *Late Night*....OOPS, scratch that.

9) CBS promised Dave a huge supply of white socks, and--as we speak--engineers are working around the clock on new and exciting color combinations for Paul Shaffer's shirts.

8) NBC ran out of blue cards. Dave had to leave.

7) CBS promised Dave they wouldn't run any of Cindy Crawford's singing Pepsi commercials anymore.

6) CBS is "pants optional."

5) NBC asked for its studio security deposit back after Dave finally broke that last window and maimed a guy on the George Washington bridge.

4) Paul had finally reached his "yeah, yeah, nutty, kooky, crazy cat" quota at NBC,

3) CBS--*Price Is Right* models. NBC--WILLARD!

2) NBC studios, like Meade Heights, has no heat in the winter.

And the number one reason why Dave went to CBS....

1) Now he gets to finally nail Connie Chung and Andy Rooney.

Some random side notes:

• The great Honus P. Wagner and myself have reunited for 120 minutes of radio enigma. Our effort, "The Mike and Honus Technoweenie Soulbrother Show," can be heard Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. Please give a listen on WPSH, 630 AM, in the residence halls, the Lions Den, or forward us a tape.

• Honus and I are also producing a "Technoweenie Soulbrother" newsletter (this is no joke). It details all the behind the scenes stuff and let's you play along at home. If you'd like to be put on the mailing list, drop us a SASE at W-341.

• And, in case you haven't figured it out yet, Honus is the "Technoweenie," and I am the "Soulbrother." Honus got the name because--well, it's self-explanatory--and I got my name from being the hardest working man in carrier-current college radio. Give us a listen, won't you? Can ya hear us?

Until next time...in the words of the immortal Trev Stair, free your hair, and your mind will follow.

Presidential Promises -- the Bill is due

Michele Loeper
Capital Times Staff

A young man sits alone in his room weeping because his brother has just been called to duty. The man is kneeling down with his head in his hands. The salt from his tears burns his eyes. He realizes that, unlike his brother, he will never win a medal of honor, or feel the glory of serving his country. The same country that this man weeps for is telling him that he is not worthy to serve in the military. It is not because he is physically unfit, or the slightest bit unhealthy, but simply because he is gay.

It doesn't seem fair, in a country that stresses individualism, that an individual is not permitted to fight for freedom simply because he is "different." In an attempt to change the banning of homosexuals from the military, President Clinton has

received little support, even from his fellow Democrats.

We are seven years away from a new century and issues such as gay rights are as

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prevalent as ever. Who would have imagined that in 1993 one of our new president's first controversies would be whether or not homosexuals should be allowed in the military?

Originally, I was applauding President Clinton for his courageous stand against the banning of homosexuals in the military, which he supported throughout his entire campaign.

Now that the heat is on, Clinton has decided to back off from his aggressive stand. Sam Nunn and the rest of Congress, including fellow Democrats, have told Clinton that if he continues to pursue this

gay rights issue, he will lose their support.

Get a backbone Mr. President!

I can expect him to backdown to his left-wing radical "I will handle the health care issue" wife, after all, he's the one who has to wake up with her every morning.

However, when the president of the United States starts backing down to Congress, what the hell can we expect him to ever accomplish?

While we're on the subject, I guess if you are of the homosexual persuasion you won't be doing any skiing in sunny, homophobic Colorado.

How is it possible for a state in the United States, "the land of opportunity," to actually allow discrimination?

I thought the Constitution of the United States was based on the ideal that all men and women are guaranteed three fundamental principles, "life, liberty, and

the pursuit of happiness."

I guess those ideals only apply to heterosexuals. When studying the constitution in junior high school, somehow, Sister Judy, my sixth grade history teacher, neglected to inform my class of that restriction.

There has to be a way to connect this country of ours. I think the beginning lies somewhere in our history books.

If everyone would simply take a few hours out of his or her "busy" week to reread, or perhaps in some cases, read the Constitution maybe the pathetic, homophobic individuals of America would realize that people are people, and everyone in this country is given, at birth, the right to pursue his or her dreams regardless of race, creed or sexual orientation.

As for Mr. Clinton, I hope he finds his backbone soon. Perhaps it is in the Flowers' garden?

Cultural puppets -- cut your strings!

Lisa Malask
Capital Times Staff

We are marionettes, and puppeteers constantly pull our strings. Don't be fooled by my metaphor; I'm not plagued by insanity. On the other hand, perhaps I'm sane, and the rest of the world is crazy; or maybe I'm crazy, and the rest of the world is sane. Nevertheless, my goal is to discuss a philosophy that may make you feel like you've just entered the "Twilight Zone." We are all objects of extreme manipulation. What does this mean? I won't dance around the subject with witty repartee. I'm simply stating that the words used to describe our country are a bit exaggerated. I don't think that "freedom" and "liberty" accurately depict America.

No! I am not a Communist, nor do I wish to relocate to another country. I realize that we are fortunate not to live in a Third World impoverished country, and

many people immigrate to the U.S. seeking democracy. Still, we must not delude ourselves. Our country has many imperfections. I have learned, in one of

LITERALLY LISA

my classes, that 23 major corporations dominate our media. Media is power in the purest form. It is through the media that we are able to communicate. The media sets our agenda. In other words, the media has control over what we listen to and what we read.

Although we think of journalism and broadcast news as being objective, we must consider the same corporate chains that own our newspapers, radio stations, television stations, etcetera; also have their own political interests and own much of what they advertise. Overtly, we don't notice this, but covertly, it is apparent.

When so few individuals run our media and own major corporations, how can our information systems be objective. That's the point, they're not. Our news is subjective. Perhaps this is a lot to fathom, so allow me to address some other aspects of our "free society." Does liberty include dead-bolt locks on our doors, political scandals, crack cocaine and racial riots--like in L.A.--where all hell broke loose? Rape whistles, guns and knives are all wonderful examples of freedom. Do you think of freedom or captivity, when you walk down a lonely, dark street...peering over your shoulder to make sure the next Son of Sam isn't following you. Sounds a bit paranoid? We equate democracy with 18 year-olds going off to war to kill complete strangers. Our streets are filled with homeless people, crime statistics rise daily and inflation...well, can we talk bill collectors? I could ramble on and on...we are a manipulated society. Families,

husbands, wives and various loved ones control us through guilt. We have to account to employers and professors, people who can fire us or fail us on a whim. You can fight back if you like "red tape," or you can brown-nose.

Even advertisers dictate what clothes we should wear and what cars we should drive. This is a manipulative, robotic, mechanical society...right off the assembly line...Stepford families. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that I'd prefer to live in another country. I'm just saying that we use the term "freedom" rather lightly. Perhaps education will help us to be "free thinkers" and overcome some of this manipulation. We are not robots; we are individuals. My theory is: I wasn't born in Guess Jeans, and I probably won't die in Guess Jeans. I refuse to be a puppet-on-a-string. After all, with one snip of the scissors, a string can be severed.