

Mark takes a journey through TV's late night wasteland

The Missing Pieces

by Mark Owens

Last week I mentioned the Evil Milk Sucker crisis that is gripping my apartment.

Well, things are getting worse.

Since then, 200 billion skillion gallons of milk have disappeared from our apartment, partly because of the Evil Milk Sucker and partly because people sneak into our apartment and steal milk, hoping we'll blame it on the Evil Milk Sucker. Of course that tends to be a problem, since sneaking into our apartment is like sneaking into a war zone.

Picture, if you will, the basic training obstacle course in *Stripes*. That's our living room. We've only seen grainy spy photos of the kitchen, but reports from now-deceased agents indicate it's not a pretty sight.

Anyway, my point is we've decided that we need a cow. We're approaching cow shopping with the same criteria we'd use for a car: four good hooves, two-tone paint job, a five-speed udder (with

overdrive) and a sunroof -- although, we've looked at a nice four-door model with air conditioning and on-demand four-teat drive.

Of course, we don't spend all of our time shopping for Organic Milk Dispensing Systems. We sometimes watch late night television which is a horrible way to spend time -- almost worse than watching *The New Kids On The Block Channel*.

Take the other night for example. My roomie and I were sitting in the living room, eating a bizarre concoction of broccoli and Spaghetti-O's while flipping through the cable when we came across this movie. The title (seriously) was "*Slave Girls from Beyond Infinity*."

The cable guide described the film this way: "Three space slaves are stalked by a terrifying hunter after they escape to the jungle." I described the film as "incredibly lame, with cheesy, artificial-looking robots, bad dialogue and an atom-thin plot". My roommate described the film

as having "lots of breasts."

It gets worse. The very next night we caught the beginning of



(honestly) "*Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death*." I'd rather not talk about the opening scene, but I strongly feel the bacon bits weren't a necessary

ingredient in the lettuce, tomato, avocado and Indiana Jones salad.

Unfortunately, late night TV seems to be creeping into prime time. Take for example Fox Network's *Cops*. This is a show about real life police officers going after real life criminals. Lets pause momentarily for a quick reality check:

(Opening scene. Two policemen stand on either side of a shabby apartment door in a seedy part of town. They are about to arrest Louie "The Snarked-Nose Blowfish" Armanie, a notorious criminal. A Fox television crew is behind them filming the arrest. Both are in their best uniforms and smiling like idiots. One of the officers beats on the door.)

First Cop: Armanie, open the door! This is the police!

Louie: *%&@* you, man!
Second Cop: Hey Lou, we're gonna be on that *Cops* show, so look nice.

Louie: No way! You serious?!!
Second Cop: Yeah!

Louie: Well, hold on a sec, all right?

First Cop: Sure thing, Lou. (A few minutes pass.)

Louie: All right come on in! (Both officers try to break down the door. With the camera man helping on the fourth try, they crash into the apartment. There stands Louie -- wearing a rumpled brown and white plaid suit with a wide green tie. There's still toothpaste on his upper lip.)

Louie (Grinning): Hey, how do I look?

Second Cop: Great Louie. (Serious tone) All right Joe, 'cuff him!

If this trend continues, we'll see more and more quality shows like these taking over prime time land. Personally, I think television died when they censored Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote cartoons.

Join me next time when the *Missing Pieces* staff reveals the sordid workings of the 1-900 phone networks. It's a dirty job, but someone has access to his roommate's AT&T calling card.



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REMINDER:

**REGISTRATION PACKETS FOR
ALL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

ARE DUE:

Monday, September 24, 1990.

*If You Have Any Questions, Please
Call The Student Organization Office
At 898-6452*

PENN STATE-BEHREND PARENTS AND FAMILIES WEEKEND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1990

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1990

- 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Registration - Reed Union Building, Winter Garden (First Floor)
- 6:00 p.m.
Welcoming Reception - Reed Union Building, Winter Garden (Sponsored by the Student Government Association)
- 7:00 p.m.
50's Dinner (\$7.00/person. Tickets pre-ordered and available at registration on a first-come, first-served basis. Students on a meal plan may use meal cards.)
- Reed Union Building, Wintergreen Cafe (Second Floor)
- 9:00 p.m.
Concert: "Four Guys Standing Around Singing" - Reed Union Building, Lecture Hall (Second Floor). The "Four Guys Standing Around Singing" have been wowing Chicago audiences for over a year with their unique four-part a capella sound. They are seen nationally in a "McDonald's" television commercial and heard in various regional and national radio shows. Sponsored by the Student Programming Council (FREE)
- 10:00 p.m.
Campus Bonfire and Pep Rally: Come cheer on Penn State-Behrend's Soccer Team as they prepare to battle Washington and Jefferson on Saturday, October 13.
- Niagara Field (Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity.)
- 11:00 p.m.
Student Programming Council Movie: *Stella* - Reed Union Building, Lecture Hall (Second Floor) (Admission Free)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1990

- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration - Reed Union Building, Winter Garden (First Floor)
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Campus Tours - Depart on the hour from the Registration Table, Winter Garden
- 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Picnic (\$6.50/person. Tickets pre-ordered and available at registration on a first-come, first-served basis. Students on a meal plan may use meal cards.)
- Wilson Picnic Grove
- 1:00 p.m.
Men's Varsity Soccer Match
Penn State-Behrend vs. Washington and Jefferson - Soccer Field
- 4:30 p.m.
Reception for Parents, Families and Students. Sponsored by Dr. John M. Lilley, Provost and Dean, and Mrs. Gentle Lilley - Reed Union Building, Winter Garden (First Floor)
- 6:30 p.m.
Candlelight Dinner (\$8.00/person. Tickets pre-ordered and available at registration on a first-come, first-served basis. Students on a meal plan may use meal cards.)
- Reed Union Building, Wintergreen Cafe (Second Floor)
- 8:00 p.m.
Speaker Series Program - Frank Carlucci, former Secretary of Defense and National Security Advisor under the Reagan administration. Topic: "Peace in the East: Security in the West." - Erie Hall (Admission Free)
- 10:00 p.m.
Student Programming Council Movie: *Stella* - Reed Union Building, Lecture Hall (Second Floor) (Admission Free)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1990

- 10:00 a.m.
Brunch (\$5.50/person. Tickets pre-ordered and available at registration on a first-come, first-served basis. Students on a meal plan may use meal cards.) - Reed Union Building, Wintergreen Cafe (Second Floor)

