

Why doesn't NBC do a Bobby Ewing with Jay Leno?

After an avoidable fiasco involving returning Jay Leno to the *Tonight Show*, a gig that never should have been taken from him, and putting Conan O'Brien out to pasture with \$33 million in his wallet, NBC now worries how well Leno will do back in his old post.

It's not like he was gone so long viewers forgot him. And, even if some abandon him because of the controversy stirred up by the network, his competition at that time of night is woeful and he'll build his audience back to where it was when Conan began to destroy it.

Between Letterman bedding interns who worked under him (literally, not figuratively) and telling filthy jokes about a 34 year old star baseball player impregnating Sarah Palin's 13 year-old daughter, it won't be hard for Leno to become the welcome alternative he always was to Letterman's disgusting and depraved persona and frightful toupee.

Leno did well late night. Prime time, five nights a week, was another story. Instead of designing a set similar to the *Tonight Show* one, using a desk with the host behind it and chairs and a sofa for side-kicks and guests, NBC used two chairs placed diagonally in which Leno and his single guest never looked comfortable. Other bits, like "Earn Your Plug," were silly and juvenile for Leno's adult audience. That might have worked better with Conan as his fans are young and immature.

Readers old enough to know the difference between Patrick Duffy and Patrick Dempsey will remember the very popular *Dallas* TV series. It was like the Bush family where Daddy was a success and his sons (at least one of them) rode his coattails. The series made "stars" of several actors - some never to be heard of again. Charlene Tilton. The show started as a mini-series and then ran for 13 seasons on CBS. The list of players ran long. Larry Hagman, Patrick Duffy, Jim Davis, Barbara Bel Geddes, Linda Grey, Victoria Principal, etc. were original cast members. The show was so popular that when Bel Geddes died, another Miss Ellie was brought in to play the role - Donna Reed. Other familiar actors later added included Priscilla Presley, George Kennedy,

Howard Keel, Leslie-Anne Down, Mary Crosby, Jack Scalia, Jenilee Harrison, Susan Lucci, Barbara Eden, Christopher Atkins, Morgan Fairchild, Dack Rambo and some others who went on to star in a spin-off series, *Knots Landing*.

Popular television series used to end the season with a "cliff hanger." *Dallas* invariably had the best of them. "Who shot J.R.?" was among the most gripping to ever end a television series season.

After season seven, the character Bobby (Patrick Duffy, who wanted to pursue a movie career), shoved his ex-wife Pam (Victoria Principal) out of the way of a speeding car and is killed. A funeral was held and he was gone from the series.

Until. The season eight cliffhanger had Pam in bed, after marrying another man, when she was awakened by the sound of a running shower. When she opened the shower door, inside was Bobby. To explain away Patrick Duffy's return to the series, they made the entire eighth season disappear. It was presented as a dream that Pam had and none of the events took place - including Bobby's death and Pam's remarriage.

It seems like something NBC should consider to put Leno back into the seat he should never have been forced to vacate.

They could return to the set Leno last used and have as his first guest Conan O'Brien. It has already been established that Conan will do anything for money. Throw a couple million at him for the appearance and write a script that says none of this goofiness ever happened. Remember the final scene of the last *Newhart* - the show where Bob was a Vermont innkeeper, not the one where he was a Chicago shrink - and he was in bed with Suzanne Pleshette, his wife in the earlier series? Great imagination.

Seriously, this whole sordid episode got far more publicity than it should have. Finally, with a hammer held over his head, Conan became funny. In his last week or so, he actually was a bit entertaining. In the seven dismal months prior, he was unbearable and unfunny. But the shower scene does have merit. No?

In Memory Phil Featherly

February 2, 1935 - April 17, 1985

Married at 16. A father at 17. Gone at barely 50.

He worked hard. He lived hard. And he died hard.

Health problems stemming from emphysema took him as a young man.

He would have been 75 today. He's been gone 25 years.

R.I.P., big bro. Rest in peace.

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Wheatland banner flap

How conservative do you have to be to believe that a nondescript, small logo on paper or canvas could lead people to do something they otherwise would not do?

And what religious faith do you belong to that preaches intolerance? Or hate.

The No Place For Hate program is in its second year. It is a program of the Anti-Defamation League. It is now sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, as well as Qwest and the David and Laura Merage Foundation. The example shown at the right is from the previous school year and has one different sponsor.

It is interesting that some knuckle-dragging board members of the Wheatland School District decided that the message was sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian Fund but took no issue with Qwest being a primary sponsor nor Merage. They did not call for a boycott of Qwest. They also did not have the courage to take on the Anti-Defamation League, a group that would not tolerate their foolishness.

The No Place For Hate program is not seeking acceptance or endorsement of the gay lifestyle. There is no place on the simple banner that such a suggestion is presented.

There is no reason to believe a handful of school board members represent the feelings of a majority of Wheatland residents, let alone most Wheatland students' parents. Someone made application to become a school member of this program. Who? Did the Board not know about this application and, if they did, why did they not squelch it earlier? And, do voters who elect school board members of this type want a board that micromanages the affairs of the school?

What is their position about Frito Lay or another junk food maker sponsoring score boards? Is their zealotry limited to imagining a hidden message about a gay lifestyle - a message that does not exist.

Example of banned banner
36" x 72"

**Cherry Creek
High School**



2008 - 2009



The ADL Website reads: "The No Place for Hate® campaign empowers communities, especially schools, to promote respect for individual and group differences while challenging prejudice and bigotry."

If one reviews the ADL website related to this program (<http://regions.adl.org/assets/mountain-states-pdfs/101waysweb1.pdf>), one could conclude that the school board members who ordered the banners down are more anti-Semite than anti-gay. Wheatland, you have a problem. Now, you must prove you're not all pro-hate. Or anti-Semite.

The Merage Foundation's mission is "to promote justice and fair treatment to all." That's a helluva thing to hate, isn't it?