# THE BUNDY QUARTERLY

# MWC Clones

**By: Bob Novello**

It has been said that Imitation is the highest compliment. If that is true, MWC has been complimented highly. Here in America the MWC concept has been copied on the Warner Brothers Network with a show called "Unhappily Ever After". This show was conceived directly from the MWC theme, of course with a twist. The show has been received well. This is indicated by the fact that it has been renewed for a 2nd season. The following information was taken from a press release. If you are familiar with MWC you will see some familiar names. Ron Leavitt the a co-creator of MWC is also a creator of "Unhappily Ever After". Gerry Cohen is also credited, Gerry is a Director at MWC. Sam Orender is not mentioned in the following release, but has been involved in directing "Unhappily Ever After" Episodes.

The press release info follows.

**PRESS RELEASE**

"Unhappily Ever After," produced by Touchstone Television, is a half-hour comedy series from Ron Leavitt and Arthur Silver, which focuses on a dysfunctional couple going through a bitter divorce and their self-centered children. The series, returning for its second season on The WB, stars Geoff Pierson, Stephanie Hodge, Kevin Connolly, Nikki Cox, Justin Berfield, Joyce Van Patten and Bobcat Goldthwait.

The first season found Jennie Malloy (Hodge) taking her soon- to-be ex-husband, Jack (Pierson), to the cleaners after 16 years of marriage. His teenaged kids, Ryan (Connolly) and Tiffany (Cox), had little sympathy for their dad, who was out on the streets looking for apartments. However, his eight-year-old son, Ross (Berfield), took pity on him and gave Jack his stuffed bunny, Mr. Floppy, so he wouldn't be lonely.

In the second season, Jack and Mr. Floppy are invited back into the Malloy home for the "sake of the children," but the close quarters may prompt a renewed romance for Jack and Jennie. Whether or not the second courtship will be successful is yet to be seen. Tiffany is devastated when she gets a visit from the pimple fairy, and Mr. Floppy, Jack's furry alter ego, is trapped in the basement with a beastly rat. Jack Malloy is in somewhat of a predicament; he is a guest in his own home, a target of his mother-in-law's disgust and his confidante is an obnoxious, wise-cracking stuffed animal. As for Jennie Malloy, the old cliche, "When it rains, it pours" pertains. Now that her almost-ex-husband is again living at home (and she has convinced him that the way to her heart is with romantic dates, gifts, champagne and flowers), she lands a coveted date with her dream man. With the entire clan once again living under the same roof, life at the Malloy's this season will be

filled with sarcasm, high jinx and laughter.
"Unhappily Ever After" is executive produced by creators Ron Leavitt and Arthur Silver, along with Marcy Vosburgh and Sandy Sprung. David A. Caplan and Brian LaPan are co-executive producers and Harriette Regan is producer. Gerry Cohen will direct the first episode.

**End Release**

"Unhappily Ever After" can be seen on WB, Wednesday nights.

MWC has been copied even further, In fact outside of the USA. There is now a show running in England called "Married for Life". This is a direct clone of MWC. The following information is a mixture of excerpts from "Radio Times", England's equivalent to America's TV Guide, and comments from Andrew Pilcher, a loyal MWC fan from England. The BQ would like to thank Andrew for the Photo included in this article, his forwarding of the "Radio Times" info, and his personal commentary.

**From Radio Times**
**A Marriage made in America**

With "Married for Life" ITV is aiming to repeat the trick they did with "The Upper Hand": turn a US original into a UK prime time hit. The series, which starts on Tuesday March 5th , is based on "Married... with Children", a long running USA sitcom about a dysfunctional family. Until recently, buying a format rather than a finished show has been largely a one way trade. Remember "Till Death Us Do Part, "All in the family" etc. But Carlton UK's head of comedy, Richard Boden who produced the BBC's "2 Point 4 Children" clearly sees the advantages. Very funny scripts and the premise of a politically incorrect family - a little more non-PC than 2 Point 4. Amiable Russ Abbot is a surprising choice for Ted, the character based on chauvinist Al Bundy. Al is very dislikable, concedes Boden, "so it will be interesting to see how audiences react".

**End Article**

The advent of "Married for Life" explains why MWC hasn't been on in the UK for the past year or so. Carlton has probably been embargoing MWC so it can wheel out its clone this spring. MWC is one of those shows that ITV puts on when it can't think of anything else. It tends to screen after midnight when there isn't any football, golf, or paint drying to show instead. Despite this, it has gathered a healthy cult audience, and we've slowly been getting to see the first few series. We got as far as the England Show last summer and then.. nothing, And now this. Lets ignore the fact that when Carlton tried to do a British Golden Girls (Brighton Belles) it got axed before completing its first series. Let's assume the scripts survive the anglification. Let's assume the cast is actually up to the job. I am left with one question. WHY RUSS ABBOTT? Abbott is a nice guy, a very nice guy, possibly the most sympathetic man on British television, he's one of those people you just warm to. He is so miscast as the Al Bundy character it isn't true. OK, he'll be a failed shoe salesman, he'll sit down on his sofa and watch Psycho Dad on Sky TV, he'll slip his hand inside his waistband, but at the end of the day it'll be Russ Abbott, Mr. Nice Guy. The show has been emasculated before it has even begun. More importantly, while this show is in production, we'll never get to see the real MWC in the UK. So instead of the usual twenty odd episodes a year we'll get short changed with seven reheated shows a season, from scripts we've already seen before. The first show is 'For Whom The Bell Tolls' - "When Ted Butler disputes his phone bill his family refuses to join in the battle" This news has been received with great dismay by the denizens of alt.comedy.British.

**End Comments**

Are there similarities between these shows. A picture is worth a thousand words. Check out these cast photos.

The BQ is interested in obtaining copies of "Married For Life" episodes.

If you have access to “Married for



# MWC Renewed

**By: Bob Novello**

On or around 3/25/96 the Fox Broadcasting Company decided to renew MWC for season 11. Columbia has been contracted for 24 new episodes. Normally shows run for 26 , MWC will be doing only 24, since FOX signed a contract to air Baseball. Some games will be on Sunday nights, hence some MWC time slots were lost. There was little doubt in my mind that MWC would be renewed. Last year, the cast signed contracts for season 10 with an option for season 11. With no fear of a cast member leaving, all that remained was the FOX decision to continue with MWC or not. Over it's 10 year life, MWC has been, and is, one of the top performers for FOX. MWC has maintained it's high place in the FOX family, despite tough competition. The renewal decision would seem to be obvious. In any

# Take an MWC Poll

**By: Bob Novello**

What is your favorite MWC episode, what was your favorite season, do you like Steve or Jefferson more. These are a few of the subjects that seem to be discussed most in MWC circles. These questions and more will be asked in a poll that we would like you to take. The poll will be posted on the BQ Homepage

http:/www.primenet.com/~rnovello/bq0.htm

We request you to participate. The results will be printed in the next issue of the BQ. Also all the results will be reported to the people at MWC. This is your chance to give some direct feedback about what you like best and like least about MWC. As all of you now know, MWC will be with us another season so your opinions will be heard. Please help us out and take a few minutes to let your thoughts be known.

# Top 10 reasons why Peg won't get a job

**By: Neil Vitale**

10: She'd rather eat Bon Bons
9: It would cut into shopping time
8: She makes TV the ratings go up
7: She might end up like Al.
6: Someone has to watch Ricki Lake
5: The couch would get cold
4: Gotta watch Oprah and tape Phil... or is it tape Oprah and watch Phil.
3: Being Al's nightmare IS a job.
2: Gotta spend that quality time with the kids.

# BQ Staff Changes

**By: Bob Novello**

The BQ has undergone some changes in staff recently. Larry Morris who Co-founded the BQ with me a year ago has resigned. Larry has developed some new interests, hence his interest in MWC and the Bundy Quarterly has diminished. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Larry for all his efforts in the past, and we at the BQ wish him luck in the future, irregardless of what avenues he may pursue. Larry has been replaced by Neil Vitale. Neil is a long time member of the Prodigy MWC fan club (The publisher of the BQ). Although you will not see a lot of By-Lines from Neil in this issue, he was very instrumental in shaping this issue. his ideas have added a new perspective on things which I feel will be beneficial to the BQ in the future. I hope all our readers will join me in welcoming Neil aboard. He can be reached at

# BQ in Postscript

**By: Bob Novello**

After many iterations the Postscript version of the BQ has finally become a reality. This effort was not as straightforward as expected. The 1/15/96 issue is now available in postscript and is posted on the BQ Homepage

http://www.primenet.com/~rnovello/bq0.htm

This issue (4/15/96) will also be distributed in Postscript as well. It will be posted on the BQ Homepage before 5/1/96. For our readers that do not know what Postscript is. it is a standardized format that most printers can handle. It has been created to allow better quality hard copies than can be obtained from the GIF format. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andreas Paul for all his assistance and advice in making the BQ Postscript version a reality. Without his help, this Postscript

# BQ Publication Dates

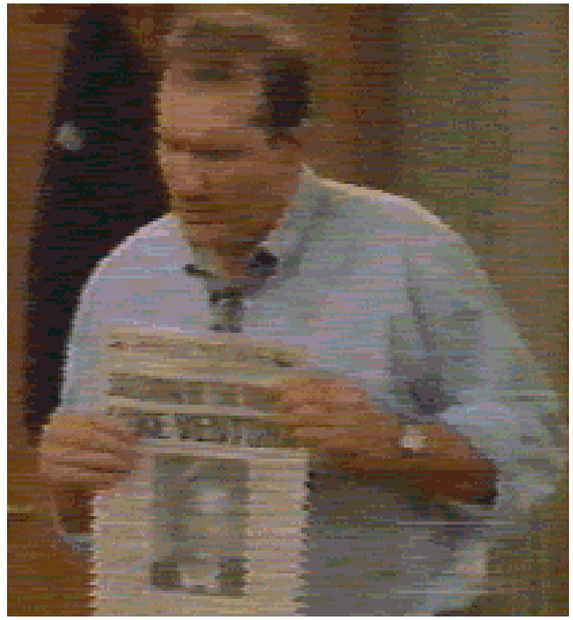
**By: Bob Novello**

The BQ has decided to change it's publication dates. The BQ will still be available 4 times per year, at 3 month intervals. The only change is that the next issue will be published on 6/15/96 instead of the previously scheduled 7/15/96. The issues following will be released on 9/15, 12/15,3/15 and again on 6/15/97. We have made this change to fit better with the MWC taping schedule. With the original schedule, 2 of our 4 yearly issues would be published outside of the MWC taping season. This change will reduce that to only one issue. Obviously MWC people are much easier to reach during taping season and interviews are easier to obtain. This change will allow us to better provide our readers with the best and latest MWC info and offer you better and more relevant articles and interviews. Please look for our

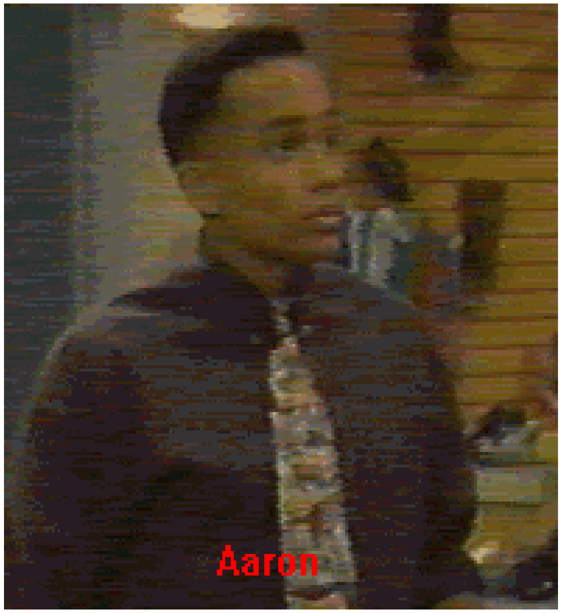
# Al's Co-Workers

**By: Bob Novello**

Over the years Gary's Shoe Store has had many employees, or almost employees. Al has been the one constant since day 1, he will probably be the one constant until Doomsday. Who was your favorite of Al's sidekicks over the years? Griff is Al's latest co-worker. Previous to Griff there was Aaron. Although Aaron had a short lived stay at Gary's he still was around for a good part of a full season. Then how could we forget Luke Ventura? Luke was the first person to work with Al at Gary's. Of course this list leaves out a few people that appeared for an episode or two. Then there ae the almost co-workers. This list includes Jefferson. Marcy dragged Jefferson down to Gary's and demanded Al give him a job. As Jefferson waited on his first customer, Marcy realized that he was just a bit too friendly to be a Women's shoe salesman, hence Jefferson once again escaped the world of the working. In the same episode a voluptuous blonde also applied, Al told



her that one of the requirements for the application was the submission of a nude photo, she reached in her purse and quickly obliged. She was my favorite, almost employee. But what of the big 3, Griff, Aaron and Luke. They all have their appeal. Griff has been a vehicle for the MWC writers to think up some of the greatest divorce jokes in history. There is not an episode Griff appears in where he does not come up with 1 or 2 classic quips regarding being divorced. Aaron on the other hand was somewhat of the perfect straight man for Al. He was taken under Al's estute wing, with Al's only goal in mind to save him from marriage. This made for some memorable lines and memorable episodes. Who can forget the episode where Al brought him to the meeting place in the mall where all the married men sang there song of woe. Aaron was also refreshing in the sense that he was one of the few characters that actually had an ounce of respect for Al. Then there was Luke Ventura. Luke was the classic shallow pretty boy, a womanizer deluxe. My favorite episode with Luke was when Al had a fight with Peg and decided to spend the night at Luke's bachelor pad. At that time Luke lived in an apartment building filled with hot stewardesses. In any case 2 "Flight Attendants" visit, both hot as can be. Luke quickly disappears into the room with one, leaving Al with the other. She immediately comes on to Al, but when the chips are down Al cannot be unfaithful to Peg. This episode included one of my favorite MWC lines. When Luke is asked how it is to live in a




stewardess building, he tells Al how he used to live in a couples building. He says (referring to the couples building), "The sex was great during the day, but it slowed down a lot at night". In short Luke liked the "Stew" building better. So who was my favorite Co-worker. They were/are all certainly great. As in many situations trying to pick the best of some facet of MWC is almost impossible. Each of these characters were great for completely different reasons. The writers have the ability to exploit specific aspects of characters personalities and their situations. This makes any character they use enjoyable and funny in a totally different way than any other character. Perhaps this is what has given MWC the staying power it has achieved in an industry where a successful show is considered to be one that makes it to a second season. In any case it is time for my selection.

Although Aaron opened up new territory for Al to explore and allowed Al to spew off many funny lines at Aaron's expense, Aaron himself was not a funny character. Griff on the other hand comes up with many funny lines. He also plays off of Al very well, since he and Al have that same NO-MAAM mentality. Griff's presence also allows the interjection of occasional Black/White humor, which when done tastefully can be extremely funny. Then there is Luke, he of course is a humorous character in his own right, he also plays off of Al very well. It is a tough call between Luke and Griff, but I have to go with Luke. I think that he and Griff both are extremely funny, but I feel that Al's interaction with Luke is funnier than it is with Griff. I think this lies in the fact that Al and Luke are 2

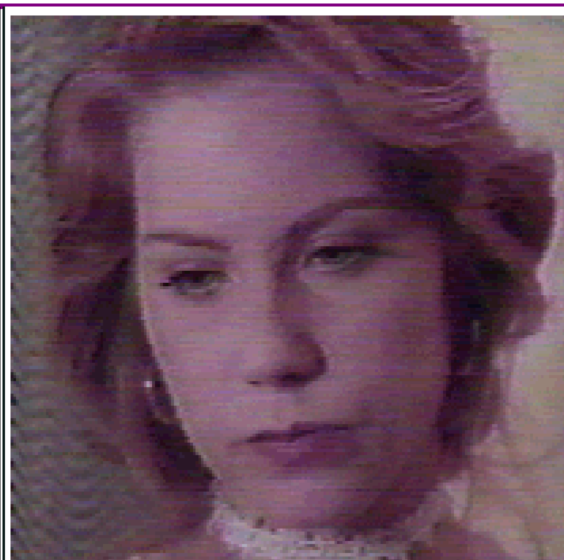

totally different people, their interests are totally opposite and there lifestyles are 180 degrees apart. For this reason I think it allows their interaction to be funnier than that between Al and Griff.

Take the BQ poll and tell us who was your favorite. This subject and others will be covered regarding your likes and dislikes about MWC. See associated article in this issue for details.

# Vibrations

**By: Bob Novello**

Vibrations (Formerly "Cyberstorm") spent about 2 years sitting on the shelf until Miramax released it directly to video a few months ago. The movie is tough to find (try Wherehouse). It stars Christina Applegate and James Marshall. Marshall has many credits, but is most famous for his role in "Twin Peaks". "Vibrations" was filmed on location in New York where Christina was greeted by a siren wailing fire engine, whose only mission was to deliver her a bouquet of flowers. The plot involves TJ Craig (Marshall), a musician who is just starting out. On his way to a gig, he takes a wrong turn and is assaulted by some drunkards. He loses both his hands in the exchange. He disappears and quickly falls into homelessness and alcoholism. One night he saves a woman, Animika (Christina) from being attacked. She takes TJ in, and



**Animika**

he starts to get back on his feet. The building they live in is populated by a diverse group of people, including a landlord who is also a metal worker, a computer geek and a musician. The group gets together and builds TJ a set of robotic hands. This allows him to play the keyboard again. TJ gets his first gig, and is an instant success. He goes out on tour and returns to his home town. He is re-united with his dad, and sees his old girlfriend but chooses to stay with Animika. He also finds the guys that cost him his hands and gets his revenge.

I had anticipated this movie for quite awhile. Honestly, I did not expect too much from it. The plot sounded very contrived. In spite of my skepticism, I felt the film moved along very well. It held my interest. The movie was filmed prior to Christina cutting her hair. I knew she had died her hair red for the movie. I was apprehensive about that, but she still looked great. I felt Marshall's performance was very tentative. He seemed to be holding back. Christina's performance however, was top notch. Animika could be called a 90's flower child. She was not materialistic and was into Karma. I thought she carried it off very well, once again showing that YES, she can act. I strongly suggest this movie for Christina fans. Whether you like Vibrations or not will depend a lot on your musical tastes. Music is big part of this movie.

# BQ Contest

We have decided that this issues contest will focus on creativity once again. In past issues (as well as this one) we have published "Top 10 Lists". Now it is your turn. We would like you to submit your own "Top 10 List". Choose any subject you wish, as long as it is related to MWC, of course. Submit your entry to:

**AXXE22A@Prodigy.Com**

You may also suggest or submit a picture to accompany your list. (optional)

The deadline for entries will be 6/1/96. The entries will be judged by the BQ staff. All decisions of the staff will be final. The winning entry will be published in the 6/15/96 issue of the BQ. The winner will receive a copy of an authentic MWC script. Only one entry per person.

# Last Issues Winners

If you recall, we held 2 contests last issue. A puzzle contest which required you to solve MWC related jigsaw Puzzles and a challenge to our readers to come up with rare MWC related material or memorabilia. Both contests were a great success. We thank all that participated. The puzzle contest set the record for the longest time to solve, it kept our readers at bay for almost a week. We have found that you are a tough group to stump. The answers to the puzzle contest are shown here. We would like to congratulate our winners, Brian Eke (Puzzle contest) and William Faust (Souvenir contest). There prizes have been delayed due to Larry unexpectedly quitting the BQ. He was responsible for delivering these prizes. I would like to publicly thank Brian and William for there great patience in this matter. Arrangements have finally been made,

## Last issues answers

EOYORN

R O O N E Y

ANAMMO

N O M A A M

EIHKTNC

K I T C H E N

NBEKOR

B R O K E N

K Y O T O B A N K

Password : Pumpkin

# Bundy Bytes

**By: Bob Novello**

This column is designed to keep you up to date with MWC events.

* As you may know, Katey Sagal was pregnant with her 2nd child, hence we have not seen her on MWC recently. On March 1st, Katey delivered an 8 lb - 5 oz boy. The baby will be named Jackson James White. Congratulations to Katey and her husband Jack White.

* We've been fortunate to see many MWC episodes directed by Amanda Bearse. Recently, Amanda directed an episode of a different show. The show is called "The Crew" and is about the flight crew of an airliner.

* The crew at MWC recently made a pilot, it is called "Enemies". It was aired as an episode of MWC on 4/14/96. The show is designed to be the opposite of the popular NBC show "Friends". This is not a 1st opposite. MWC was created to be different from shows like "Cosby", which portrayed the American family in a "The World is Perfect" manner. The early reviews of the show thus far, have been at best luke warm.

* 2 backstage MWC clips have recently aired. One was for a morning show in LA, Ted McGinley was given a camera to take to the MWC set during the filming of "Spring Break". This also included an in studio interview with Ted, during this he was re-united via satellite with his old friend from the "Love Boat", Gavin Mcloud (Captain Stubing). The other clip discussed how MWC is the longest existing running sitcom on TV. Members of the cast were asked if they planned on continuing with the show. Ed Oneill summed it up best. He said "As long as Fox still wants the show, I'll keep showing up". David and Christina were asked the same question and had similar answers. Encouraging answers for MWC fans.

* Mike Moye was back at MWC for a short time. He contributed to the last dozen or so scripts for season 10.

* MWC has closed up shop for the season. Although there are still a few episodes that have not aired, The final taping of season 10 occurred on April 5th. The BQ wishes all members of the MWC cast and crew a great vacation. It has been well earned after a super season 10. Tapings will resume for season 11 in mid August.

* Kim Weiskopf will not be returning to MWC next season. Kim is the Executive Producer of the show, but may be known best to our readers as the Voice of Lucky, and prior to that, Buck. Kim has indicated he will stay in the entertainment business. He is looking at several options at this time but could not indicate to the BQ, where he may end up. He will be replaced by Pamela Eells. Her credits include work on "Mad About You," "The Nanny" and "Family Matters." There has been no word on what will be done about the voice of Lucky. Kim has been a great friend of the BQ over the last year and he will be missed. We all wish Kim the best of luck in his future pursuits.

# BQ Birthday

**By: Bob Novello**

Believe it or not, this is the 1 year anniversary of the BQ. We first published on 4/20/95. It has been a great year getting to know our readers and meeting many people associated with MWC. When Larry Morris and I started the BQ, we did it as a Newsletter for the Prodigy MWC fan club. We never imagined we would someday have a worldwide readership, friends at MWC and be interviewing cast and crew members. We would like to thank everyone at MWC for their unselfish cooperation. They are truly a great group of people. We would like to thank our readers for their loyalty, also a great group of people. Hopefully year 2 will bring more great experiences that we will be able to share together. I hope you have enjoyed the BQ, we have certainly enjoyed producing it. We will be here as long as MWC is with us, probably longer. I hope that will be a long, long time. Please continue to join us. Thanks to all of you. **Bob**

# Guest Article

**By: Bob Novello**

The BQ would like to invite our readers to take an active role in the publication of our Newsletter. We are inviting our readers to submit a guest column. The subject can be anything of your choice. Of course it must be MWC related. Depending on response and article lengths, we may print 1 or 2 guest articles in our next issue. Please submit proposed articles via E-Mail

**AXXE22A@Prodigy.Com**

Once an article is presented and accepted, the author will be requested to work with the BQ staff to edit the articles length to fit into whatever space the BQ has available. Please be willing to do this if you choose to submit an article. We look forward to hearing from you. We have done guest articles in the past, and they have been well received. I'm sure this

# BQ Homepage

This is your source of MWC information, between publications of our issues. MWC news will be posted on the BQHP as we get it, so please visit often. It is also a place where you can obtain back issues of the BQ. We have also instituted a BQ poll which was discussed in a related article. Visit us at:

http://www.primenet.com/

**THE BUNDY QUARTERLY**
The Bundy Quarterly is published Quarterly on 6/15,9/15,12/15,3/15 yearly. It is published by the Prodigy Married With Children Fan Club
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