

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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PAGE BY JULIE BONE

Must-see fall TV

Part Two: A-listers vie for screen time

By Robert Saucedo
THE BATTALION

Although the trend for the upcoming fall season seems to be reality shows, scripts and actors are not completely the way of the Dodo. Several new dramas and sitcoms will premiere this fall, each providing what it hopes to be must-see TV.

Natalie Minshew, a freshman psychology major, said she thinks the quality of television has increased in recent years.

"Shows are more willing to go out on a branch than they used to be," she said. "It used to be that shows' plots would blend together. Today, shows are willing to try different topics and tackle different issues."

Though Minshew said she appreciates the fresh ideas that networks are adopting, don't expect her (and many other die-hard "Friends" fans) to join the "Joey" fan club anytime soon.

The spin-off with Matt LeBlanc continues his portrayal of the "friendly" Joey Tribbiani on NBC and premiered with a solid share of ratings. The show focuses on LeBlanc's character as he travels to Los Angeles to further his career as a Hollywood actor.

"I think it's a bad idea," Minshew said. "It's a cheap idea for ratings. I see it making maybe two seasons, but I doubt it will last much longer than that. Joey was funny, but you needed the counterpart characters of 'Friends' to balance him."

Other shows on NBC include the feature-film quality, prime-time computer-generated imagery cartoon "Father of the Pride." From the makers of "Shrek," this show features the lives of a family of white lions that work at Siegfried and Roy's magic show. The cartoon features the voices of John Goodman and Orlando Bloom, along with a plethora of guest stars, including Lisa Kudrow, Danny Devito and Eddie Murphy (reprising his role as Donkey from "Shrek"). A show aimed toward adults, "Father of the Pride" has featured such topics as drug abuse (with catnip substituted for marijuana) and the sexual habits of panda bears.

Spencer Selvidge, a sophomore zoology major, has previewed what he thinks is a great new show.

"'Father of the Pride' is definitely not for children," Selvidge said. "It might keep my attention because each episode takes nine months to make, and if they spend that much time, they must spend a lot of time on the writing."



GRAPHIC BY JOSHUA HOBSON - THE BATTALION. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NBC, ABC AND WB

Clockwise, from left: "CSI: New York" brings **Gary Sinise** to the small screen; "Green Screen" will be hosted by veteran improv-show host **Drew Carey**; computer-animated

"Father of the Pride" features celebrity voices; "Boston Legal" continues where "The Practice" ended; "Joey" hopes to carry the torch of the sitcom "Friends" with **Matt LeBlanc**.

ABC will reveal several new dramas. "Boston Legal" is a spin-off of the recently canceled "The Practice." James Spader, Rhona Mitra and William Shatner will lead this legal drama about high-money civil law. Teri Hatcher returns to television in "Desperate Housewives," a prime-time soap opera that features a darkly comedic take on suburban life.

Also on ABC, Mel Gibson's new self-produced comedy, "Complete Savages," will focus on a single father as he attempts to raise five teenage boys. "Life as We Know It" gives an inside look at high school life through the eyes of three Seattle high school students, with a cast including Kelly Osbourne.

CBS's new fall lineup features a gaggle of stars returning to television in new hour-long dramas. The new drama "Clubhouse" is the coming-of-age story of a batboy for a professional baseball

team, with Dean Cain and Christopher Lloyd in starring roles. The latest in the highly successful CSI franchise will be "CSI: New York," starring Gary Sinise and featuring the usual post-mortem investigations set in the Big Apple.

Jason Alexander hopes to finally shed the ghost of George Costanza as he returns to television as a sports talk show host/family man in the sitcom "Listen Up."

Rob Lowe, Joe Pantoliano and Tom Sizemore star in "Dr. Vegas," a new drama featuring the trials of a well-meaning physician (Lowe) struggling with life as an in-house doctor in a high-rolling casino.

The WB's lineup ranges from the White House to the weird this fall. "Jack and Bobby," a show following two brother's lives, features snippets of the char-

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ABC
BOSTON LEGAL 10/3
COMPLETE SAVAGES 9/24
LIFE AS WE KNOW IT 10/7
CBS
CLUBHOUSE 9/26
CSI: NEW YORK 11/22
LISTEN UP 9/20
NBC
FATHER OF THE PRIDE 8/31
JOEY 9/9
THE WB
GREEN SCREEN 9/16
JACK AND BOBBY 9/12
COMEDY CENTRAL
DRAWN TOGETHER 10/28

ANDREW BURLESON - THE BATTALION

DUNCAN Dining Hall's

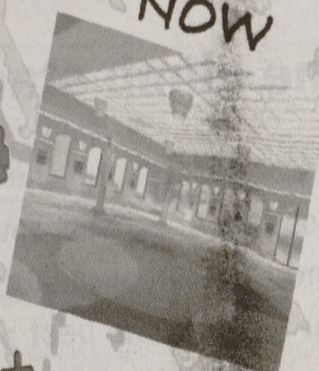
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-- Jim '73 and Marilyn Snell
College of Veterinary Medicine
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