

# It's 'Texas SWAT,' no, wait, it's 'Dallas SWAT'

"Texas SWAT" (8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Court TV) follows special police tactical units from the Lone Star state as they use heavy armor, serious weaponry and assault vehicles to defuse bombs or negotiate their way through tense hostage situations.

That's not to be confused with "Dallas SWAT" (10 p.m. Thursday, A&E), a new hourlong drama kicking off this week. In the first hour of "Dallas" the officers take on a deranged killer holed up alone in a shabby house and drug dealers aided by hundreds of sympathetic neighbors.

SWAT (Special Units and Tactics) teams and television go back at least a generation. Nobody had heard the term until after the Patty Hearst kidnapping in 1974, when the heiress and her terrorist cohorts were thought to be hiding out in a Los Angeles home. Suddenly thousands of police and SWAT officers descended on the scene.

The advent of lightweight video cameras allowed local news crews to capture the shootout live and broadcast it to a national audience. The ensuing gunbattle set the house on fire. Hearst was not captured or among those killed in the blaze, but the word "SWAT" entered the TV lexicon.

In 1975 ABC launched an hour-long police drama named "S.W.A.T." starring Steve Forrest and Rod Perry. It's best remembered for its "Shaft"-influenced "wacket-a-wacket-a" theme and soundtrack.

Don't go looking for '70s soul music on A&E's "Dallas SWAT," but the show does focus on the family and domestic lives of the off-duty heroes. One divorced officer juggles busting bad guys and taking his little daughter to swimming lessons. He also finds time to court a fellow single parent and even takes her to the Fort Worth Ballet.

Like "SWAT," the movie "Freaky Friday" is a '70s creation that never seems to go out of style. The film was recently remade with Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis.

It has inspired a number of TV offerings, including the new eight-part series "Try My Life" (9 p.m., Style) in which teens and their parents are asked to walk a mile in each other's shoes for an entire week. I think I'll stick to my old Converse sneakers and avoid this, thank you.

If you didn't get your fill from two seasons of "The Biggest Loser," the weight loss competition returns for a two-hour "The Biggest Loser: Special Edition" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-PG).

While the first two installments took a whole season for players to shed their fat, this year each



Kevin McDonough

weekly "Special Edition" will showcase new competitors who, like Ebenezer Scrooge, will get through their penitential ordeal all in one night.

• "Little Angels" (9 p.m., BBC America) features Dr. Tanya Byron, a clinical psychologist who observes dysfunctional family dynamics and helps parents take control of their out-of-control children.

If this sounds a lot like "Nanny 911," it should. "Little Angels" is the British series that inspired the "Brits and Brats" reality trend.

## Tonight's other highlights

• Snipers in broad daylight on "Criminal Minds" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

• Two careers and five kids on "Nanny 911" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14).

• A fatal festival on "CSI: NY" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

• A creep may be spared to save an innocent on "Law & Order" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

## Cult choice

Melding genres, the 2000 thriller "Epicenter" (7 p.m., Sci Fi) combines avenging assassins, political conspiracies and a devastating earthquake all in one two-hour package starring Gary Daniels and Traci Lords.

## Series notes

Bad advice on "Yes, Dear" (8:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) ... The morning after on "Stacked" (8:30 p.m., Fox, TV-14) ... A man of the cloth on "Love, Inc." (8:30 p.m., UPN, TV-PG) ... The case of a stolen credit card on "Veronica Mars" (9 p.m., UPN, TV-PG) ... Rocket science and personal shopping on "Beauty and the Geek" (11:30 p.m., WB, TV-PG, D, L).

## Late night

Pierce Brosnan and Marv Albert chat on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Terrence Howard, Carrot Top and Jace Everett on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Autolux performs on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

JANUARY 4, 2006

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WTTV	Friends (CC)	Every-Raymond	One Tree Hill (CC)		NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Denver Nuggets. From the Pepsi Center in Denver.					Beauty, Geek
WRTV	The Insider (N)	Be a Millionaire	College Football Rose Bowl -- Texas vs. USC. (CC)							News (CC)
WISN	Inside Edition	Ent. Tonight	Still Standing	Yes, Dear (CC)	Criminal Minds "L.D.S.K." (CC)		CSI: NY "Corporate Warriors"		News (CC)	Late Show
WTHR	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Biggest Loser: Special Edition (N) (CC)				Law & Order "Red Ball" (CC)		News (CC)	Tonight Show
WFYI	Business Rpt.	Stevens Europe	Walking the Bible (N) (CC)		Yesterday (NR) '04 *** Leleti Khumalo, Camilla Walker. Drama.		Tavis Smiley			Time Goes By
WNDY	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Eve (CC)	Love, Inc. (CC)	Veronica Mars (CC)		News	Access H'wood		South Park
WTIU	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Walking the Bible (N) (CC)		Yesterday (NR) '04 *** Leleti Khumalo, Camilla Walker. Drama.		Tavis Smiley			Charlie Rose (N)
WHMB	The 700 Club (CC)		Harvest		Lester Sumrall	This Is Your Day	Life Today (CC)	Mount Zion		Emmanuel Church of Greenwood
WCLJ	Billy Graham Classic Crusades		Behind Scenes	Hal Lindsey	Taking Authority	Van Impe Pres	Praise the Lord (CC)			
WXIN	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	That '70s Show	Stacked (N)	Nanny 911 "Moore Family" (CC)		News (CC)	Geraldo Large	Seinfeld (11:05)	Drew Carey
WIPX	Pyramid (CC)	Family Feud	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye (CC)		Early Edition "Nest Egg" (CC)		Doc "Man's Best Friend" (CC)		It's a Miracle	Paid Program
WTBU	David Reagan	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Celebration		Marriage Today	Wisdom Keys	This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice
A&E	American Justice		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Inked (CC)	Inked (CC)	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Crossing Jordan	"Sunset Division"
AMC	How Stella Got Her Groove Back '98		Kindergarten Cop (PG-13) '90	** Arnold Schwarzenegger. Comedy.			For Love or Money (10:15) (PG) '93	** Michael J. Fox. Comedy.		
AP	The Most Extreme "Poison" (CC)		New Breed Vets "Brothers" (CC)		Animal Report	Animal Rescue	Miami Animal Police		New Breed Vets "Brothers" (CC)	
BET	106 & Park	Music Special	The Parkers	The Parkers	Girlfriends (CC)	Girlfriends (CC)	Soul Food (CC)		In Living Color	In Living Color
BRAVO	The West Wing (CC)		Project Runway "All Dolled Up"		Project Runway	Lingerie designs.			Queer Eye for the Straight Guy	
CNBC	On the Money		The Apprentice (CC)		Mad Money		The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch		The Apprentice (CC)	
CMT	Dukes of Hazzard "Daisy's Song"		The Dukes of Hazzard: Reunion! (97) John Schneider. Comedy.				Inside Fame			20 Sexiest Videos of 2005
CNN	The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now (CC)		Larry King Live (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)			
COM	Com.-Presents Reno 911! (CC)		Daily Show	Colbert Report	Chappelle's	South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Daily Show	Colbert Report
DISC	Extreme Engineering (CC)		Mega Machines "Monster Beasts"		MythBusters "Chicken Gun" (CC)		Dirty Jobs "Dirtiest Water Jobs"		Dirty Jobs (CC)	
EI	EI News (N)	EI News	101 Sexiest Celebrity Bodies		101 Sexiest Celebrity Bodies (N)		Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Saturday Night Live (CC)	
ESPN	College Gameday (CC)		Figure Skating: Grand Prix Final		Figure Skating Grand Prix Final. From Tokyo. (CC)					
ESPN2	Quite Frankly	Golf 2005 Re/Max Long Drive Championship. (CC)			Billiards: Skins Championship		Billiards: Skins Championship		Billiards: Skins Championship	
FAM	Smallville "Insurgence" (CC)		Dr. Dolittle (PG-13) '98	** Eddie Murphy, Oliver Platt. Comedy.			Whose Line? Whose Line?		The 700 Club (CC)	
FNC	Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Hannity & Colmes (CC)		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
FOOD	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Emeril Live "Hearty Offerings" (N)		Behind the Bash/Sugar Rush (N)		Good Eats	Good Eats Peas.		Iron Chef "Duck"
FOXMV	Kid Blue (6) (PG) '73	** Comedy.	Taps (PG) '81	** Timothy Hutton, George C. Scott, Sean Penn. Drama.			Night and the City (10:10) (R) '92	*** Robert De Niro. Drama.		
FOXSM	College Basketball Oakland at IUPLU.				Best Damn Sports Show Period		Totally Football	Best Damn Sports Show Period	Best-Sports	
FX	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Anger Management (PG-13) '03	** Adam Sandler. Comedy.			That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Anger Management '03	**
HALL	JAG "Hail & Farewell, Part 2"		Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		The Last Cowboy '03	Jennie Garth, Bradley Cooper. Drama. (CC)		M*A*S*H (CC)		M*A*S*H (CC)
HGTV	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Design-Home	I Want That!	Buy Me (N)	Cash in Attic	Designed to Sell	What You Get	Design-Dime	FreeStyle
HIST	Modern Marvels Large machines.		Modern Marvels (CC)		Modern Marvels (CC)		Modern Marvels "Containers" (N)		Giganto: The Real King Kong	
LIFE	Officer Down (NR) '05	Sheryllyn Fenn, Jerry Kroll. Suspense.	Black and Blue '99	*** Mary Stuart Masterson. Drama. (CC)			Will & Grace		Will & Grace	
MSNBC	Hardball (CC)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Rita Cosby Live & Direct		Scarborough Country		The Situation With Tucker Carlson	
MTV	Direct Effect		R. Wrid Chal.	R. Wrid Chal.	MTV Cribs	MTV Cribs	MTV Cribs	Made "Rapper"		Meet Barkers
NICK	Oddparents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	Unfabulous	Full House (CC)	Fresh Prince	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Cosby Show
OXY	Center Stage (6:30) (PG-13) '00	** Amanda Schull. Drama.			The Good Girl (R) '02	*** Jennifer Aniston. Comedy-Drama.			The Ellen DeGeneres Show (CC)	
SCIFI	Epicenter (R) '00	** Gary Daniels, Traci Lords, Jeff Fahey. Action. (CC)			Maximum Velocity (PG-13) '03	Dale Midkiff, Wendy Carter. Action. (CC)			Hackers (PG-13) '95	** (CC)
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	U.S. Marshals (PG-13) '98	** Tommy Lee Jones, Sam Gerard gets caught up in another fugitive case.						
TBS	Every-Raymond/Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond/Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Daisy-America		Divine Secrets	
TCM	All That Heaven Allows (6:15) '55		The Spy Who Came in From the Cold (NR) '66	*** Richard Burton.			The Quiller Memorandum (NR) '66	*** George Segal. Suspense. (CC)		
TLC	The New Detectives (CC)		The New Detectives (CC)		Psychic Witness (N)		Mostly True: Urban Legends		The New Detectives (CC)	
TNT	Law & Order "True North"		Law & Order "Ego" (CC)		Law & Order "Admissions"		A Perfect Murder (R) '98	** Michael Douglas. Suspense. (CC)		
TOON	Foster's Home	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Grim Advent.	Codename: Kid	Puffy AmiYumi	Foster's Home	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Cartoon-Toons	Family Guy	Futurama (CC)
TVL	Good Times	Good Times	Little House on the Prairie (CC)		Andy Griffith	Sanford & Son	Sitdown Comedy	Good Times	Good Times	Good Times
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)	
VH1	Great Pranks	Grease (PG) '78	*** John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing. Musical.				Celebrity Fit Club		Bad Dirty Songs	
WE	Dharma & Greg	Dharma & Greg	Race to the Altar (CC)		Race to the Altar (CC)		Daddy's Girl	Daddy's Girl	Uncle Buck (PG) '89	** Comedy.
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos		Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)
DISN	That's So Raven (CC)	That's So Raven (CC)	My Date With the President's Daughter (98) ** Dabney Coleman. Comedy. The president's sheltered daughter gets a night of freedom. (CC)		Life With Derek	Sister, Sister "Ski Squad"	That's So Raven (CC)		That's So Raven (CC)	
ENC	Angels in the Outfield (6:05) (PG) '94	** Danny Glover. Fantasy. (CC)	Van Helsing (PG-13) '04	** Hugh Jackman, Richard Roxburgh. Fantasy. A monster hunter battles creatures in Transylvania. (CC)		Most Wanted (10:15) (R) '97	** Keenen Ivory Wayans. Suspense. A military sharpshooter must evade a massive manhunt. (CC)			
HBO	Ray (7:15) (PG-13) '04	*** Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington, Regina King. Biography. Ray Charles overcomes hardships to become a legend. (CC)			inside the NFL (N) (CC)		The Sopranos Rumors about Adriana surface. (CC)			
SHOW	Last Action Hero (PG-13) '93	** Arnold Schwarzenegger. Adventure. A magic movie ticket plunges a boy into on-screen action. (CC)			Control (9:15) (R) '04	** Ray Liotta, Willem Dafoe, Michelle Rodriguez. Suspense. A convict undergoes behavior modification. (CC)			The L Word "Land Ahoy" The ladies go on a Caribbean cruise.	
MAX	Vanishing Point (6:30) (NR) '97	** Viggo Mortensen. Drama.	City by the Sea (R) '02	*** Robert De Niro, James Franco. Drama. A police officer's estranged son commits a murder. (CC)		Kinsey (R) '04	*** Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, Chris O'Donnell. Biography. Zoologist Alfred Kinsey studies human sexuality. (CC)			
TMC	The Sweeper (6:15) (R) '96	** C. Thomas Howell, Ed Lauter. Drama.	The Job (R) '03	Danyl Hannah. Suspense. A female assassin must complete one last assignment. (CC)		Jeepers Creepers 2 (R) '03	** Ray Wise. A winged creature terrorizes stranded high schoolers. (CC)		Human: Resurrection (11:15) (R) '03	*** Documentary. (CC)
STARZ	Boogeyman (5:50) '05	**	Laws of Attraction (7:20) (PG-13) '04	** Pierce Brosnan. Rival divorce attorneys fall in love. (CC)		Executive Decision (R) '96	*** Kurt Russell, Halle Berry, John Leguizamo. Suspense. A team of special agents must reclaim a hijacked airliner. (CC)		Dead Presidents (11:20) '95	**

## ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

### New Year's Day baby has connection to Leno

"The Tonight Show" announcer John Melendez is a father for a third time.

Oscar David Melendez weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces when he was born Sunday just after midnight. He was believed to be the first baby born in the San Fernando Valley in 2006.

"It's just funny that my husband's the one who usually is in the spotlight," said mother Suzanna Melendez, 39. "To pick how you come into this world and have it be New Year's Day is pretty funny to me."

Oscar has two sisters, ages 9 and 5.

"Three kids already. I might have to ask Jay Leno for a raise. That's a lot of mouths to feed," said Melendez, 40.

### Veteran actress not too choosy about roles

Judi Dench says she is no intellectual and never reads plays, just doing them "because someone asked me to."

"I've gotten myself into real trouble by saying yes to a play, then going to the first reading and realizing, 'This is a bummer!'" the actress said in the latest issue of Newsweek.

Dench, who plays a 1930s British dame who opens a nude theatrical review in "Mrs. Henderson Presents," also admits to sneaking a peek at Bob Hoskins, who appears briefly in the nude.

"Of course! Don't think I'm going to let Bob Hoskins take all

his clothes off and me not take a look? I just had a quick look up and down, like you would," she said.

NEW YORK

### 'The Sopranos' actress rising out of bankruptcy

Lorraine Bracco keeps a simple strategy when it comes to investing: She sticks to real estate.

Bracco said she has never bought a stock in her life and doesn't understand it. But real estate is like an addiction for her, she said.

"Listen, if I am going to get in a cab to go home, and I see a sign for an open house, I will go in. I like real estate because I am the boss," she said in The New York Times.

Bracco filed for bankruptcy in 1999, the same year of the debut of "The Sopranos."

Since then, Bracco said, she has paid off much of her \$2 million in debt as well as nearly \$500,000 in back taxes.

NEW YORK

### Musical performance pumped up ceremony

Liza Minnelli helped heat things up at Mayor Michael Bloomberg's inauguration with a lurching rendition of "New York, New York."

At times pumping her fist in the air, Minnelli, wearing a billowy red coat and black pants, received a standing ovation from the crowd, which joined in a sing-along at the outdoor City Hall ceremony on Sunday.

Bloomberg, who was sworn in for a second term, helped the 5,000 guests in attendance keep the chill off by providing hot cider and wool blankets.



BRACCO



DENCH

By JERRY SCHWARTZ

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NEW YORK

It's so easy to be a codger, sometimes.

You know how it is. You get to be a certain age, and the past is bathed in a certain light, not sepia (we're not that old) but the glow of an 18-inch Emerson black-and-white.

Life was simpler then. There weren't 500 channels to choose from; there were four, if you were lucky, and none of them showed "American Idol." Which made you very lucky, indeed.

Instead, we had "The Original Amateur Hour." Each week, avuncular Ted Mack would spin the wheel of fortune — "Round and round she goes, and where she stops, nobody knows" — and contestants would show off their talents between the Geritol commercials.

Ah yes, it was a simpler time. But was it better?

Kultur Video has come forward with an argument in the affirmative. Its two-DVD set (cleverly titled "The Original Amateur Hour") features clips of famous entertainers who got their starts on the show (and interviews with a few of them, all grown up).

It also offers two complete shows, a couple of theatrical shorts, and earnest narration by singer Pat Boone, a three-time champion on the show in 1953.

In clips from the show's radio incarnation, we hear Frank



AP PHOTO

Ted Mack, right, master of ceremonies for "The Original Amateur Hour," hands a gold trophy to Gladys Knight in 1952 after she was voted winner of the TV talent show. A two-DVD set of "Amateur Hour" has been released.

Sinatra in his 1935 national broadcast debut, singing "Shine" with the Hoboken Four.

We hear a young Maria Callas (performing under the pseudonym Nina Foresti, though some opera buffs have disputed whether it is Callas) in 1935, and an astounding, 10-year-old Beverly Sills four years later.

**AMC**  
Experiencing The Difference.  
Madison Ave and Fry Road  
GREENWOOD PARK 14  
THE PRODUCERS (PG-13) 2:15, 5:10, 8:25  
MUNICH (R) 1:00, 4:30, 8:00  
RUMOR HAS IT (PG-13) 1:40, 4:50, 7:25  
WOLF CREEK (R) 2:40, 5:55, 8:10  
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG-13) 1:00, 4:15, 7:30  
THE RINGER (PG-13) 2:20, 5:15, 7:45  
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 2:30, 5:00, 7:40  
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG-13) 2:15, 5:20, 8:20  
THE FAMILY STONE (PG-13) 1:50, 4:20, 7:30  
KING KONG (PG-13) 1:30, 4:00, 6:10, 7:20, 7:50  
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:20, 2:50, 4:40, 7:10  
SYRIANA (R) 8:15  
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG) 1:30  
HARRY POTTER 4 (PG-13) 1:00, 4:10  
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT - No passes or discount coupons

### Original TV talent contest now on DVD

"Amateur Hour" made the transition to television in 1948, joining the Dumont network. Thus we can both hear and see Boone, 7-year-old Gladys Knight, Jerry Vale and Robert Klein, who performs not as a comedian but as a member of