

State of the Union: A battle of branches?

President Bush offers his State of the Union address (9 p.m., ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, PBS, C-Span) to a joint session of Congress.

As television goes, these addresses are rather special. It's a night when every network and cable news channel becomes C-Span.

Whether that represents a demotion or an improvement depends upon one's point of view. But if television does its job, viewers should be able to discern the temperature of the room and the warmth or chill that greets the president and his proposals. One would assume that a president could address a House and Senate controlled by majorities of his party members with reasonable confidence of cooperation and success.

But not all political battles are partisan in nature. And recently some of the most interesting Capitol Hill fights have reflected a turf war between the executive and legislative branches.

Senators and representatives of both parties have been restive and have been asserting the prerogatives of their branch of government. From the recent torture bill to the debate over warrantless National Security Agency wiretaps, some of the president's most vocal critics have been members of his own party.

And this legislative dissent occurs as the Bush administration, and Vice President Dick Cheney in particular, continue to make a public case for stronger executive powers.

All State of the Union addresses are interesting, but this one should stand out. Will this be business as usual or a scene out of "High Noon"? Stay tuned.

Can 35 million "American Idol" (8 p.m., Fox) fans be all wrong? Maybe. I don't care if 100 million people watch it, the show has been tedious for the past two weeks.

In their endless search for the next William Hung, the producers have bored us with a parade of untalented, vain and deranged wannabes. The dreadful-to-lamented ratio has been roughly 20:1.

Apparently dozens of good singers passed muster, but we didn't get to see them perform. I have to assume they auditioned with songs that are not licensed to "American Idol." Have you noticed how nobody ever sings a Beatles song?

And don't get me started about the phony slow-motion "crises" between the judges.

I know, weeks from now, we'll be caught up in the top 32 and forget all about this painful interlude. But in the meantime, it's been pure torture. And I thought there was a law against that.

If we learn anything from "CSI," it's that Las Vegas is full of



Kevin McDonough

danger and trouble. "Las Vegas Law" (10 p.m., Court TV) chronicles the daily workings of Bucky Buchanan, a legal legend in America's sin city.

His clientele runs from unlucky tourists to fallen ladies and the occasional murder suspect. But it's not all trials and tribulations for this real life "Mr. Lucky." Bucky has a classy bride and a stable full of Arabian horses.

Tonight's other highlights

- Three aboriginal girls make a 1,500-mile trek across Australia to escape authorities bent on assimilating them into the mainstream culture in the 2002 drama "Rabbit-Proof Fence" (7:15 p.m., IFC).

- Lorelai tries to ignore Luke's new dramas on "Gilmore Girls" (10 p.m., WB, TV-PG).

- Dean rekindles an old flame on "Supernatural" (11 p.m., WB, TV-14, L, V).

- A possible legal defense for the strike team on "The Shield" (10 p.m., FX, TV-MA).

Cult choice

A millionaire (Broderick Crawford) pays a writer (William Holden) to transform his girlfriend (Judy Holliday) into a refined lady in the 1950 comedy "Born Yesterday" (10 p.m., TCM).

Series notes

Framed for murder on "NCIS" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, V) ... Joe Rogan hosts "Fear Factor" (8 p.m., NBC) ... Jogging agonies on "According to Jim" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) ... Lynn feels trapped on "Girlfriends" (8 p.m., UPN, TV-PG).

Deacon blues on "Rodney" (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG, D, L) ... Shelly's mother throws cold water on her wedding plans on "Eve" (8:30 p.m., UPN, TV-PG) ... Lucy Lawless guest stars on "Veronica Mars" (9 p.m., UPN, TV-PG).

Late night

Kiefer Sutherland, Andy Samberg and Alicia Keys appear on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Harrison Ford and Bryce Dallas Howard on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

TUESDAY EVENING

JANUARY 31, 2006

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WTTV	NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Washington Wizards.					Pacers	Gilmore Girls (N) (CC)		Supernatural "Route 666" (N)	
WRTV	The Insider (N)	Be a Millionaire	According-Jim	Rodney (CC)	State of the Union President Bush's State of the Union speech. (CC)				News (CC)	Nightline (11:35)
WISH	Inside Edition	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Frame-Up" (CC)		State of the Union President Bush's State of the Union speech.				News (CC)	Late Show
WTHR	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (CC)	Fear Factor "Mothers & Sons" (N)		State of the Union President Bush's State of the Union speech.				News (CC)	Tonight Show
WFYI	Business Rpt.	Across Indiana	Secrets of Lost Empires		State of the Union			Nova "Great Escape" (CC)		Time Goes By
WNDY	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Girlfriends (CC)	Eve (CC)	Veronica Mars "Donut Run" (CC)	News	Access H'wood	South Park	South Park	South Park
WTIU	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Secrets of Lost Empires		State of the Union			Independent Lens (CC)		Charlie Rose (N)
WHMB	The 700 Club (CC)		Harvest (CC)		Lester Sumrall	This Is Your Day	Life Today (CC)	In Spirit-Truth	Paid Program	Wisdom Keys
WCLJ	Dr. Carl Baugh	Against Odds	Behind Scenes	Joyce Meyer	John Hagee	Bill Gaither	Praise the Lord (CC)			
WXIN	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	American Idol "Auditions 5" (N)		State of the Union (CC)			News (CC)	Geraldo Large	Seinfeld (11:35)
WIPX	Pyramid (CC)	Family Feud	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye (CC)		Early Edition (CC)		Doc Clint treats a wealthy widow.	It's a Miracle	Paid Program	
WTBU	Ron Phillips	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Celebration		Joel Osteen (CC)	This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice	
A&E	Cold Case Files (CC)		The Last Hour of Flight 11 (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Flight 93 '06 Jeffrey Nordling, Ty Olsson, Colin Glazer. Docudrama. (CC)			
AMC	The Blues Brothers (5:30) ***		White Men Can't Jump (R) '92) *** Wesley Snipes, Rosie Perez. Comedy.				Chain Reaction (PG-13) '96) ** Keanu Reeves. (CC)			
AP	The Most Extreme "Builders"		Chasing Nature (CC)		The Most Extreme "Hisssy Fits"		Profiles of Nature		Chasing Nature (CC)	
BET	106 & Park	Baby Boy (R) '01) *** Tyrese Gibson, Taraji P. Henson, Omar Gooding. Drama.					Outrageous-Black History	In Living Color	In Living Color	
BRAVO	The West Wing "Liftoff" (CC)		Inside the Actors Studio (CC)		Project Runway "Inspiration"		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy (N)	Project Runway "Inspiration"		
CNBC	On the Money		Blow Out (CC)		Mad Money		The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch	Blow Out (CC)		
CMT	Dukes of Hazzard		40 Greatest Fashion Statements				Three Wishes (CC)		Three Wishes "Sonora, California"	
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	Distraction (N)	Mind of Mencia	Daily Show	Colbert Report
DISC	Dirty Jobs "Alligator Farmer"		MythBusters "Buried Alive" (CC)		Dirty Jobs Viewers' questions. (N)		Into the Firestorm "No Rest" (N)	MythBusters "Paper Crossbow"		
E!	E! News (N)	E! News	THS Investigates: Love Behind Bars In love with felons.				Gastineau Girls	Girl Next Door	Saturday Night Live (CC)	
ESPN	College Basketball Illinois at Wisconsin. (CC)				Winter X-Games (CC)				SportsCenter (CC)	
ESPN2	Interruption	NFL Films	College Basketball Florida at Mississippi. (CC)				NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)		Quite Frankly With Smith	
FAM	Smallville "Shattered" (CC)		Home Alone 4 (NR) '02) ** Mike Weinberg. Comedy. (CC)				Whose Line? "Whose Line?"		The 700 Club (CC)	
FNC	Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		State of the Union (8:55) President Bush's State of the Union speech.				Hannity & Colmes	
FOOD	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Emeril Live "Manly Men"		Rest. Makeover	Recipe-Success	\$40-a-Day	\$40-a-Day	Iron Chef "Bean Sprout"	
FOXMV	Doggy of the Mind (6) '69) **		Big Trouble in Little China (PG-13) '86) ** Kurt Russell. Action.				Man Trouble (PG-13) '92) ** Jack Nicholson, Ellen Barkin. Comedy.			
FOXSM	Totally Football!	Midwest Sports	AHL Hockey All-Star Skills Competition.				Best Damn Sports Show Period		Sports Report	Best-Sports
FX	That '70s Show	Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) '03) ** Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott, Jaime King. Action.			The Shield "Tapa Boca" (N) (CC)				The Shield "Tapa Boca" (11:05)	
HALL	JAG "Dream Team" (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Mystery Woman: At First Sight '06) Kellie Martin. Mystery. (CC)				M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)
HGTV	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Design Remix	Decorating Cnt	Mission: Orgnz	House Hunters	Buy Me	Parents House	Designer Finals
HIST	Modern Marvels "Gas Tech" (CC)		Mail Call B-2 Stealth Bomber.		Man Moment Machine (CC)		Modern Marvels (CC)		Last Stand-Tin Can Sailors	
LIFE	The Stranger (NR) '98) Lindsay Crouse, Zoe McLellan. Suspense. (CC)		When Strangers Appear (R) '01) Radha Mitchell. Suspense. (CC)				Radha Mitchell. Suspense. (CC)		Will & Grace	Will & Grace
MSNBC	Hardball (CC)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		State of the Union		Hardball With Chris Matthews	State of Union. (CC)		
MTV	Direct Effect		True Life		Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	There & Back	Date My Mom	Date My Mom
NICK	Oddparents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	The X's (CC)	Full House (CC)	Hi-Jinks (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Cosby Show
OXY	Moonlight and Valentino (R) '95) *** Elizabeth Perkins.				The Leading Man (R) '96) ** Jon Bon Jovi. Comedy-Drama.				The Ellen DeGeneres Show (CC)	
SCIFI	Interceptor Force (R) '99) * Olivier Gruner. Science Fiction. (CC)				Interceptor Force II (R) '02) ** Olivier Gruner. Science Fiction. (CC)				They Live (R) '88) ** Roddy Piper.	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		King of Vegas (N)				UFC: Liddell vs. Couture 3	
TBS	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Seinfeld (10:10)	Seinfeld (10:40)	The Thomas Crown Affair (11:10) (99)	
TCM	Black Narcissus (6) (NR) '47) ***		Ball of Fire (NR) '42) *** Gary Cooper, Dana Andrews. Comedy.				Born Yesterday (NR) '50) *** Judy Holliday. Comedy-Drama.			
TLC	Beyond the Bull		Beyond the Bull "Riding High" (N)		Overhaulin' "That '70s Van" (CC)		Miami Ink Ami skips town. (N)		Miami Ink Ami skips town.	
TNT	Law & Order "Sheltered"		Law & Order "Mammon"		Law & Order "Patient Zero"		The Closer "Fantasy Date" (CC)		Cold Case "Resolutions" (CC)	
TOON	Foster's Home	Ben 10	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		Good Times	Good Times	Happening!	Cheers (CC)
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)	Submerged (R) '05) Steven Seagal, William Hope. Action. (CC)				Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)			
VH1	100 Hottest Hotties "60-41"		100 Hottest Hotties "40-21"		100 Hottest Hotties "20-1"		The Flavor of Love		Hip Hop Videos: Sexploit	
WE	Dharma & Greg 9 to 5 (PG) '80) *** Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton, Lily Tomlin. Comedy.						Secret Lives of Women (CC)		Secret Lives of Women (CC)	
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos	Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)	Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)				WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)
DISN	The Emperor's New School	That's So Raven "When in Dome"	The Proud Family '05) Voices of Kyla Pratt, Paula Jai Parker. Fantasy. Animated. A mad scientist unleashes evil clones of a family. (CC)		American Drgn	Sister, Sister "A Friend in Need"	The Suite Life of Zack & Cody	That's So Raven "When in Dome"		
ENC	Angels in the Outfield (6:15) (PG) '94) ** Danny Glover. Fantasy. (CC)		White Chicks (PG-13) '04) ** Shawn Wayans, Marlon Wayans, Jaime King. Comedy. Two male FBI agents pose as female socialites. (CC)		Leviathan (R) '89) ** Peter Weller. A mutagen turns undersea miners into amphibious monsters. (CC)		Cold Mountain (11:40) '03) ***			
HBO	Real Sports (CC)		Ocean's Twelve (PG-13) '04) *** George Clooney, Matt Damon. Comedy-Drama. Indebted criminals plan an elaborate heist in Europe. (CC)		Being Julia (10:15) (R) '04) *** Annette Bening. Comedy-Drama. A theatrical actress plots against a man who uses her. (CC)					
SHOW	Twisted (6:25) (R) '04) * Ashley Judd, Andy Garcia. Suspense. (CC)		The Gingerbread Man (8:05) (R) '98) ** Kenneth Branagh. Suspense. A lawyer's one-night stand has unforeseen consequences.		Sleeper Call "Scholar"	Biochemical student. (CC)	The L Word "Light My Fire" Moira disappears. (CC)			
MAX	50 First Dates (6:35) (PG-13) '04) ** Adam Sandler. (CC)		Secret Window (8:15) (PG-13) '04) ** Johnny Depp, Maria Bello. Suspense. A stranger accuses a troubled author of plagiarism. (CC)		Catwoman (PG-13) '04) * Halle Berry. Action. A shy artist acquires feline strength and agility. (CC)		Thrills (11:45) (CC)			
TMC	American Gun (6:30) (R) '02) ** James Coburn. Drama. (CC)		Guarding Tess (PG-13) '94) ** Shirley MacLaine, Austin Pendleton. Comedy. An ambitious Secret Service man tends a former first lady.		The School of Rock (PG-13) '03) *** Jack Black, Joan Cusack, Mike White. Comedy. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. (CC)					
STARZ	The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (7:05) (G) '04) ** Anne Hathaway. A young princess must marry or give up the throne. (CC)		Man of the House (PG-13) '05) ** Tommy Lee Jones, Christina Milian. Comedy. (CC)				Jackie Brown (10:45) (R) '97) *** Pam Grier. A fearless flight attendant gets in trouble with the law. (CC)			

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

Pop singer visits site of earthquake

Bryan Adams is helping raise money for victims of the South Asian earthquake that killed 87,000 people and left millions homeless.



ADAMS

His concert Sunday night was billed as the first by a major Western pop musician in Pakistan since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Adams, best known for hits such as "Summer of '69" and "Cuts Like a Knife," arrived in Pakistan's biggest city just days after the U.S. State Department issued a travel advisory for the country, citing concerns about terrorism.

But that didn't faze the Canadian-born singer.

"The whole idea of coming to Pakistan is very exciting on many levels," Adams told an afternoon news conference. "It's exciting because I know we are the first Western artists to come and play a big concert here."

Proceeds from the concert will go toward rebuilding schools damaged by the quake.

'Relationship material' list headed by actresses

More guys want Jessica Alba for their girlfriend than any other woman, according to AskMen.com's top 99 list for 2006.

The 24-year-old actress tops the Web site's list ranking female celebrities on their "long-term relationship material." Alba is followed by "Alfie" star Sienna Miller and the

ubiquitous Angelina Jolie.

The list will be posted today. James Bassil, editor in chief of AskMen.com, said the list was determined by the rankings of 2.5 million readers and the site's staff.



ALBA

Readers of the online magazine were asked to vote according to the woman they would most want a relationship with, would consider marrying or thought best-suited to be the mother of their children.

The rest of the top 10, in order, is Brazilian model Adriana Lima (No. 1 last year), "Access Hollywood" correspondent Maria Menounos, Charlize Theron, Jessica Biel, singer Amerie, Natalie Portman and Eva Longoria.

Britney Spears — a mainstay of such lists in previous years — failed to chart.

MIDLAND, Texas

Woman once trapped in well wed at 19

"Baby Jessica," whose dramatic rescue from an abandoned Texas well was televised across the country 18 years ago, got married in a private ceremony, People magazine reported on its Web site.

Crews struggled for 58 hours to rescue Jessica McClure after she fell into an 8-inch-wide pipe in October 1987.

The celebrity magazine reported that McClure, now 19, married Daniel Morales, 32, at a rural church outside Midland, Texas, on Saturday. A sign on the door instructed guests not to take pictures or video, the magazine said.

The two met at a day-care center where Morales' sister worked with McClure, according to the magazine.

Perry returns to 'Friends' network CALENDAR

'West Wing' creator Aaron Sorkin to produce new show

BY ERIN CARLSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK Matthew Perry is about to make some new TV buddies.

The former co-star of the long-running "Friends" is returning to NBC to star in a still untitled series from "West Wing" creator Aaron Sorkin about the behind-the-scenes life at a "Saturday Night Live"-type sketch-comedy show.

The series will also star Steven Weber ("Wings") and comedian D.L. Hughley.

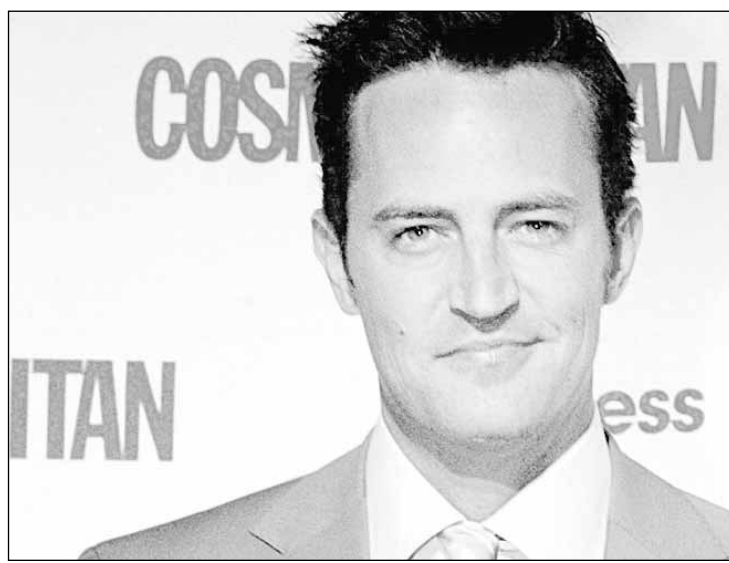
NBC, which has aired "Saturday Night Live" since its start 30 years ago, has ordered 13 episodes of the new series from Warner Bros., the trade papers Daily Variety and the Hollywood Reporter reported Friday.

Sorkin will be joined as executive producer by Thomas Schlamme, a former "West Wing" production partner.

Sorkin left "West Wing" in 2003 after a dispute with NBC.

Perry and "Friends" departed NBC in May 2004.

In the new series, the trade papers reported, he'll portray a former writer for the show whom is hired to fill in when the producer quits.



AP PHOTO

Matthew Perry is pictured backstage before being awarded Cosmopolitan magazine's "Fun Fearless Male of the Year" award in February. The former "Friends" star will join the cast of a yet-untitled series about the behind-the-scenes life at a "Saturday Night Live"-type sketch-comedy show.

Perry becomes the third "Friends" star to get his own series.

Matt LeBlanc took his character into the spinoff, "Joey," which has flourished, and Lisa Kudrow's starred in HBO's "The Comeback," which drew mixed reviews.

Sorkin said he wrote the role in the new series for Perry, who he worked with when the actor filmed an Emmy-nominated

guest-starring stint as an assistant White House counsel on "The West Wing" in 2003.

In 2004, Perry starred in the movie "The Whole Ten Yards," a sequel to "The Whole Nine Yards," and directed and starred in an episode of the NBC sitcom "Scrubs."

Today Meetings

Professional Referral Exchange of Indy South, 7 a.m., German-American Klub, 8602 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Information: 902-6538

Franklin Rotary Club, noon, Franklin College Napolitan Student Center Greenwood Kiwanis Club, 6 p.m., Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria, Main Street and Interstate 65, Greenwood

Trafalgar Weight Watchers, 6:30 to 7 p.m., Trafalgar Christian Church (next to elementary school). Information: 878-5161

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), 6 p.m. weigh-in, 7 p.m. meeting, Morgantown Fire Station, 269 N. Highland St. Information: (812) 597-1535

Compulsive Eaters Anonymous, 6:30 p.m., Christ United Methodist Church Room 12, 8540 U.S. 31 South, Indianapolis.