**FEBRUARY 22, 2007** 

# Television cult fave runs out of steam

fter a quick four seasons, "The O.C." (9 p.m., Fox, TV-PG) airs its final episode tonight.

I do not pretend that I have faithfully followed every nuance of the show since its debut in late summer 2003, when it quickly became a pop culture phenomenon.

I was not shocked that Marissa Cooper was killed off last season, only that she didn't succumb to starvation.

Few shows inspire a line of Christmas, or make that Chrismukkah, cards or generate as much cannibalizing cable competition ("Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County" and "The Real Housewives of Orange County").

Whatever one thought of the teen soap shenanigans on "The O.C.," the casting was strong, and the young leads, Mischa Barton, Benjamin McKenzie and Adam Brody, were endowed with star

The contrast between Ryan (McKenzie), the strong, silent type from the wrong side of the freeway, and Seth (Brody), the pop-culture-saturated chatterbox, was a natural.

And it was always fun to watch Peter Gallagher as bleeding-heart lawyer Sandy Cohen.

With rare exceptions, I am never happy to see a show canceled. But there is something about the fast and furious trajectory of "The O.C." that may make it more memorable than the average network series.

Many shows, even the best, outlive their greatness and outlast their audiences. Shows like "That '70s Show," "Malcolm in the Middle" and even "Seinfeld" come to mind.

In contrast, "The O.C." will vanish after a season that many in its dwindling cadre of fans consider a vast improvement over the previous one. No show lasts forever, and few shows could survive competition from "Grey's Anatomy" and "CSI."

"The O.C." will not be soon forgotten. Particularly since it begins a five-night-a-week round of syndication on Soap Net, beginning April 9. And there are always DVDs.

• Former Oscar winners Julia Roberts, George Clooney, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Jamie Foxx and Sidney Poitier appear on "The Oprah Winfrey Oscar Special" (10 p.m., ABC).

Oscar purists need not worry: The Barbara Walters special will air on Oscar night (Sunday) as it has in years past.

Winfrey has a long Oscar history. She was nominated for Best Supporting Actress in 1985 for "The Color Purple" and was subject to David Letterman's awkward "Uma ... Oprah" routine dur-



Kevin McDonough

ing his disastrous 1995 turn as host of the Academy Awards.

• Filmmaker Rory Kennedy interviews soldiers, prisoners and experts on torture in the film "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" (9:30 p.m., HBO).

She tries to understand the policies and atmosphere that contributed to the use of torture and explores how the incidents and images from the prison have come to define the United States in the minds of the very people our government wants to liberate or at least make sympathetic to

## Tonight's other highlights

- Joy's pregnancy makes Earl reminisce about their time together on "My Name is Earl" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
- Two men and two women face the ax on the results show of "American Idol" (8 p.m., Fox).

#### Cult choice

Michael Keaton gives the performance of his career as the trickster ghoul in the 1988 supernatural comedy "Beetlejuice" (8 p.m., Family), co-starring Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis.

#### Series notes

A third torch extinguished on "Survivor: Fiji" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) ... The Green Arrow proposes a super league on "Smallville" (8 p.m., CW, r, TV-PG, D, V) ... Therapy on "Scrubs" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) ... Imaginary friends on "Supernatural" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14, D, L, V).

### Late night

Billy Bob Thornton and Barenaked Ladies appear on "Late Show with David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Peter O'Toole and Hellogoodbye on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Randy Jackson, Jonathan Silverman and Boys Like Girls appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m.,

Steven Kaplan chats on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" (12:35 a.m., NBC) ... Craig Ferguson hosts Wolfgang Puck, Tom Lennon and Ben Garant on "The Late, Late Show" (12:37 a.m., CBS).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

## ACCENT ON

## **PEOPLE**

The Associated Press

NFW YORK

## **Britney ends another** short stint in rehab

Britney Spears left a live-in rehabilitation facility early Wednesday, less

than a day after checking in, according to several reports.

It was the second time in a week that Spears entered a rehab facility and checked out SPEARS before her first day was finished.



The television news magazine "The Insider" initially reported that Spears called a car service, walked out of the Promises Malibu Treatment Center and left the facility early Wednesday morning.

Later, the TV show "Extra" and the celebrity Web site TMZ.com said the 25-year-old pop star had left the center far short of the usual 45-day stay. TMZ said she couldn't handle rehab and went home.

Entertainment TV shows and Web sites reported Friday that Spears had gone in and out of rehab that week. Some reports identified the facility as Eric Clapton's Crossroads center in Antigua, in the Caribbean.

Eddie Michaels, a spokesman for the public relations agency that handles Promises, said he had no comment. He would not confirm that Spears had been there or that she had left.

There was no response to an e-mail sent Wednesday to Spears' manager, Larry Rudolph. On Tuesday, Rudolph said Spears had voluntarily checked herself into an undisclosed treatment facility.

Spears had a meltdown weekend that included shaving her head, tattooing her wrist and

clubbing with friends. On Friday night, she sheared off her hair at a salon. Spears was later seen wearing an inexpensive blond

Since filing for divorce from Kevin Federline in November, Spears has been photographed pantyless, wearing skimpy outfits and partying heavily.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

## as body decomposes

The drawn-out court battle over what to do with Anna Nicole Smith's body

SMITH

That warning from Broward County's medical examiner Tuesday came as Smith's boyfriend and her estranged mother fought over where to bury the former vering that was set to continue about a week, and Smith died Feb. 8. Her cause of death is under investigation.

Also at issue in a California court is who fathered Smith's 5month-old daughter, Dannielynn, who could inherit millions of dollars. Boyfriend **Howard K. Stern** certificate, but a photographer who once dated Smith says the girl is his.

Stern wants Smith to be buried next to her son **Daniel** in the Bahamas, where he died from wants Smith and her grandson buried back in Smith's native

# Burial takes on urgency

has a new sense of urgency: the starlet's remains are decomposing more quickly than expected and a public viewing could be in danger.



Playboy pinup. The legal maneu-Wednesday has been going on for

is listed as the father on the birth

apparent drug-related causes last year. The mother, Virgie Arthur, Texas, her attorney said.

## THURSDAY EVENING

		7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
	WTTV 🖪	Friends (CC)		Smallville "Justic		Supernatural "Pl		Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Sex and the City		
		The Insider (N)	Extra (N) (CC)	Grey's Anatomy	(CC)	Grey's Anatomy		The Oprah Winfr	l ey Oscar Special	News (CC)	Nightline (11:35)	
	_	Inside Edition	Entertainment	Survivor: Fiji (N)	. ,	CSI: Crime Scer	. , , ,	Shark "Blind Trus	<u> </u>	News (CC)	Late Show	
			Jeopardy! (N)	My Name Is Earl	. ,	Scrubs (N) (CC)		ER (10:01) (N) (0		News (CC)	Tonight Show	
		Business Rpt.	Communities	The This Old Ho	. ,	Antiques Roads		Soundstage "Ric		Tavis Smiley	Time Goes By	
					. ,					· ·		
		That '70s Show		Wicked Wicked		Watch Over Me	. , ,	News "D		Bernie Mac	South Park	
		The NewsHour V		Weekly Special		Globe Trekker "S	Southeast USA"	Soundstage "Ric		Tavis Smiley	BBC World	
า		The 700 Club (C	C)	Making Healthy				Life Today (CC)		Covenant Conn	Wisdom Keys	
-		Dino	Against-Odds	Behind Scenes	Michael Youssef	Bishop Jakes	This Is Your Day	Praise the Lord	(CC)			
	WXIN 🙃	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	American Idol (C	CC)	The O.C. The for	ndest of farewells.	News (CC)		Seinfeld (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	
	WIPX 🕸	Growing Pains	Growing Pains	Mama's Family	Mama's Family	Diagnosis Murd	er (CC)	Making, Grace	Amen	Time Life	Paid Program	
	WDTI 69	Jay Sekulow	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Celebration		Hillsong (CC)	It's Supernatural	This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice	
	A 2.E	<b>&amp;E</b> CSI: Miami "Grand Prix" (CC) CSI: Miami "Big Brother"		Brother" (CC)	The First 48 (CC	2)	Meth: A County in	Crisis Enidemic	Dallas SWAT (Co	3)		
		AMC Romancing the Stone (6) ('84) *** Jurassic Pa				<u> </u>	` '				,	
										NR) ('01) ★★ (CC)		
	AP	106 & Park Black Carpet American Gangster (CC)		, , ,		` '	Comicview (CC)		, , , , , , ,			
	BET			- · · /		The Wire "Game Day" (CC)				Grease: You're the One		
	BRAVO			Top Design (CC)		Real Housewives		Real Housewives			ne One	
	CNBC On the Money			Fast Money		Deal or No Deal (CC)		The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch		,		
-	СМТ			100 Greatest Du			100 Greatest Duets		100 Greatest Duets		100 Greatest Duets Concert	
		The Situation Ro		Paula Zahn Now	. ,	Larry King Live	. ,			oact on inner-cities	. , , ,	
		Scrubs (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Daily Show	· ·	Chappelle's	South Park	South Park	Silverman Prog		Colbert Report	
	DISC	A Haunting (CC)		A Haunting (CC)		Best Evidence A	ircraft vapor trails.	Mystery Diagnos	sis	Stunt Junkies	Stunt Junkies	
	E!	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	Laci Peterson: T	he E! True Holly	wood Story Laci	Peterson. (CC)	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	E! News	The Daily 10	
<b>!</b>	ESPN	College Basketb	all Rice at Memph	nis. (CC)		College Basketh	oall Duke at Clems	son. (CC)		SportsCenter (C	C)	
	ESPN2	High School Bas	sketball: St. Patrio	ck at Huntington	Super Bowl XLI	360 From Miami.	Madden Nation	College Football	All-Star Challen	ge (CC)		
	FAM	Smallville "Shimr	ner" (CC)	Beetlejuice (PG)	('88) ★★★ Michael	Keaton, Geena Da	avis. Comedy. (CC)	Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club (C	C)	
	FNC	Fox Report With	Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Fac	tor (CC)	Hannity & Colm	es (CC)	On the Record-V	an Susteren	The O'Reilly Fac	tor	
	FOOD	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Emeril Live Pete	r Frampton.	Iron Chef Ameri	ca	Bobby Flay	Ace of Cakes	Good Eats	\$40-a-Day	
-		Does This Mean W	le're Married? ('92)	Road to Ruin (R	) ('92) ★★ Peter W	Veller, Michel Duc	haussoy. Comedy.	All That Jazz (R)	('79) ★★★ Rov S	L cheider, Ann Rein	king. Musical.	
		Poker Learn		Destination Wild				Best Damn Spor	. , ,	College Basketb		
,		That '70s Show That '70s Show Spider-Man 2 (PG-13) ('04) *** T				l obey Maguire. Pe	ter Parker fights a	nan who has mechanical tentacles.		Spider-Man 2 (PG-13) ('04) ***		
	HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC) Walker, Texas Ranger (C		anger (CC)			erine Heigl, Dale Midkiff. Drama. (CC)		The Locket ('02) ** Drama. (CC)			
		Walls Could House Hunters Designed to Sell Buy Me		, , ,		House Hunters House Hunters		` ' '				
	HIST	Modern Marvels	"80s Tech" (CC)	Secret Societies	(CC)	Decoding the Pa	ast (CC)	Modern Marvels	L "B-2 Bomber"	Sex in World Wa	ır II	
	LIFE	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	The Accidental	Witness (NR) ('06)	l ) Natasha Wagner	Suspense. (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	
	MSNBC	Hardball (CC)	ardball (CC) Countdown With Keith Olb		Keith Olbermann			Death and the Dentist		Nightmare Behind Closed Doors		
	MTV	Date My Mom	Road Rules	True Life Step te	ams compete.	Juvies Drug-dea	ling boyfriend.	Juvies "Kashmei	re; Francesca"	Scarred	True Life	
•	NICK	OddParents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	Full House (CC)	Growing Pains	Growing Pains	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	
,		Snapped	Snapped	· -			/an Gosling, Micha	el Pitt. Suspense.	Snapped	The Tyra Banks	Show (CC)	
	-	Spiders (R) ('00) * Lana Parrilla, Oliver Macready. Science Fiction. (		. , , ,	Arachnid (R) ('01) ** Alex Reid, Chr		ris Potter, Pepe Sancho. Horror. (CC)		` '			
	SPIKE							Pros vs. Joes		UFC Unleashed		
		Every-Raymond Every-Raymond Friend							Deep Blue Sea (R) ('99) ★★ Thoma			
s						. ,						
_		, ,,,,		( / ( .	en-Hur (G) ('59) **** Charlton Heston, Stephen Boyd. In Prican Hot Rod "31 Truck 2" American Chopper (N)			Biker Build-Off (N)		American Chopp	` '	
				Cleveland Cavalier		o.roun onop	,	Miami Heat at Dal		· · ·		
,					. ,	Camp Lazlo			,	<u> </u>	Family Guy	
•	TOON			Ed, Edd n Eddy	•		Squirrel Boy	Gym Partner	` ′	Futurama (CC)	Family Guy	
	TVL	Gunsmoke "Kimb		Andy Griffith	•	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)		The Jeffersons	Sanford & Son	Sanford & Son	
	USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC) Law & Order: Special Victims Uni The White Rapper Show Bling: Blood, Diamonds and Hip				. , , ,			minal Intent (CC)			
						, . ,	Hogan Knows	Love New York		The Agency	Shoot Sizemore	
			_	Dharma & Greg  7) *** Demi Moo	_		,	PG-13) ('94) ★★ S WGN News at Ni		Sex and the City	Guarding Tess	
							. ,				` ′	
		Phil of the Future (CC)	The Suite Life of Zack & Cody	Zenon: The Zeque Fiction. The 21st-	uel ('01) ★★ Kirste century girl helps			Life With Derek "The Poxfather"	Phil of the Future (CC)	The Suite Life of Zack & Cody	That's So Raven (CC)	
		Cool Runnings (	6:15) (PG) ('93)	Edward Scissorl	hands (PG-13) ('9	(0) ★★★ Johnny	Blast From the Pa	 ast (9:45) (PG-13) (	99) ★★ Brendan Fi	raser. Alicia	The Prophecy	
				Depp, Winona Ry				emerges from a bo			(11:45) ('95) **	
		Star Wars: Episode II		PG-13) ('05) ★★ loa			Ghosts of Abu G U.S. soldiers abus	hraib (NR) ('07) Do		Thinking XXX (CC)	Music and Lyrics: First Look	
											,	
	SHOW	Wharf Rat (6:15) (R) ('95) ★★	Documentary. (Co	13) ('05) ★★★ Tom C)			5) (R) ('86) ★★ Ru nicidal hitchhiker ta			The L Word Jenr sparks interest. (0		
			<u> </u> R) ('05) ★★ Keira ŀ				wrence. A college					
1						Comedy. Delta Ho	use members try t	o save their repuls	ive fraternity. (CC)			
	T140	Permanent					Reindeer Games				Art Heist (R) ('04)	
	.1110			heads for a high-s			Crime Drama. An				** Action. (CC)	
t	STARZ	On the Set Film production.		nger (7:20) (PG-13 Taylor. Romance-			me Ever Played (I s a champion golfe			The Squid and to (R) ('05) *** Je		

## McCartney's estranged wife cast in 'Dancing With the Stars'

An underdog plays a champion golfer at the 1913 U.S. Open. (CC)

By David Bauder

### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS **NEW YORK**

Here's a bet there won't be any Beatles songs on the next

"Dancing With the Stars." **ABC** announced Wednesday that Paul McCartney's estranged

wife, Heather Mills, will be among the competitors. Mills will be the first contestant with an artificial limb to compete on the series, which

returns for its fourth season March 19. She lost the leg in a motorcycle

accident in 1993. Olympian Apolo Anton Ohno, boxer Laila Ali, former basketball star Clyde Drexler and actor Vincent Pastore, who played gangster Salvatore Bonpensiero on "The Sopranos," are also in

Jerry Springer, one of last season's competitors, teased ABC's 'Good Morning America" audience before tossing out Mills'

the cast.

"She may be a sentimental favorite," said Springer, even though Mills has Yoko Ono-like favorability ratings among many Beatles fans.

Her selection delivers a message that whatever challenges people face in life, they can dance, he said.

Mills is an activist for animal rights and elimination of the use of land mines.

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www.historicartcrafttheatre.org

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"Dancing With the Stars" has 12:30 5:00 7:15 NORBIT (PG-13) Shawshank Redemption February 23rd · 2pm & 7:30pm

Canary Creek 8 Mile West of Applebee's on Mallory Parkway
Showtimes for Thursday GHOST RIDER (PG-13) 12:30 5:00 7:15 BRIDGE TO TERIBITHIA (G) MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG-13)

ABC, although this is the first

time it will air when a season of

Fox's "American Idol" is under

ABC will air its dancing com-

<u>-----</u>

DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL (PG-13) HANNIBAL RISING (R) BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) 12:30 5:00 7:15 **THE MESSENGER** (PG-13) 12:30 5:00 7:00

STARTING FRIDAY

NUMBER 23 (R)

RENO 911: MIAMI (R) THE ASTRONAUT FARMER (PG-13) www.canarycreekcinemas.com Movie Info Line 738-1041



who will be part of the show's new season. The contestants include Paul McCartney's estranged wife, Heather Mills. proved to be a substantial hit for petition on Monday and Tuesday

member Joey Fatone, Miss USA

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nights to avoid going head-to-

Actor and former country star

Billy Ray Cyrus, former 'N Sync

head with "American Idol."

BREACH (PG13) ✓ 2:00, 4:50, 8:20 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA (PG) ✓ 1:30, 4:00, 7:15

HOST RIDER (PG13) ✓ 1:50, 2:50, 4:40, 5:30, 7:30 MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG13) \( 2:20.5:20.8:00 TYLER PERRY'S DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS (PG13) / 3:30, 5:50, 8:10 HANNIBAL RISING (R) 2:30, 5:15, 8:15 NORBIT (PG13) 2:10, 5:10, 7:45 ECAUSE I SAID SO (PG13) 1:40, 4:10, 7:20

'HE MESSENGERS (PG13) 2:40, 5:00, 7:40 CATCH AND RELEASE (PG13) 3:00, 8:00 IC MOVIE (PG13) 5:40 MOKIN' ACES (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:50 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 1:50, 4:30, 7:30 LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) 1:40, 4:45, 7:55 2004 Shandi Finnessey, former "Entertainment Tonight" host Leeza Gibbons, model Paulina Porizkova and former "Beverly Hills, 90210" star Ian Ziering round out the cast.



REGULAR ENGAGEMENT REGULAR ENGAGEMENT
1:50 4:30 7:00 9:30

GHOST RIDER (PG-13) 1:10 1:40 2:10 3:50
4:20 4:50 6:40 7:10 7:40 9:20 9:50 10:30

MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG-13)
1:15 4:10 7:20 10:10

TYLER PERRY'S DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS (PG-13)
2:20 5:10 8:00 10:35

2:20 5:10 8:00 10:35
HANNIBAL RISING (R) 1:45 4:45 7:45 10:40
NORBIT (PG-13) 1:30 4:15 7:15 10:00
BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) 2:45 6:15 9:10
THE MESSENGERS (PG-13)
1:00 3:20 6:20 8:50
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) 2:50 6:45 9:40
SMOKIN' ACES (R) 2:30 5:15 8:10 10:45
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG)
2:15 5:00 7:50 10:25 2:20 5:10 8:00 10:35