



The Soap Box (vol.30) February 2005

You know, I've probably enjoyed this hockey season more than any in recent memory.

I was watching the Pacers play the other day and they were wearing some retro jerseys from the late 80's-early 90's and I saw Reggie Miller and thought . . . you know Reggie actually wore those jersey's when they WEREN'T retro. That's when you know a guy's been playing for long time, when the equipment manager hands out 'retro' jerseys to the rest of the team and Reggie just goes to his closet.

I flipped to MTV the other day and saw Eric Nies (from Real World New York, *the first one*) and he was on some Road Rules/Real World Challenge or some bullshit, and I started thinking, that's a little sad. I mean when does it go from 'cool' to 'sad' to still be doing this crap when you're in your mid-thirties?

Eric is starting to look like that 'old guy in the club'.

I went to McDonald's the other day and got my Bobby Jackson/Kings collector's cup and what was cool about it, was that it was so 'real' that the picture of Bobby was of him in 'street' clothes.

I saw this headline in the Sacramento Bee the other day: "Webber Misses Key Shots" . . . just too many jokes to go with this one, so I'll move on.

I was glad to see Wade Boggs and Ryne Sandberg make the Hall of Fame. Their numbers may not look like much in this 'BALCO' injected era, but they were the best players at their positions for a decade. A decade when baseball was still pure. They played the game the 'right' way and they deserve to go . . . good for them.

This Peyton Manning/Tom Brady thing looks a lot like Dan Marino/Joe Montana. Manning has the gaudy numbers and Brady has the gaudy rings. Although, one of my favorite stats from this past NFL season was from Peyton on Thanksgiving: 6 touchdowns, 5 incompletions. That's just stupid.

Early this NFL season, I had what I call the 'Sports Fan Eclipse' when all of my favorite teams from the three major sports all played on one day. The Kings, the Cowboys and the Dodgers . . . they all lost.

For some reason Queen Latifah's voice overs on Pizza Hut commercials make me uneasy.

Another thing that makes me uneasy: Gary Payton in a Celtics uniform.

There's a new line at K-Mart that I am enjoying, it's the Martha Stewart Prison Collection. Very chic.

How come it's so important for poor people to have \$3,000 rims and \$5,000 stereos in cars worth \$2,000?

Shandon Anderson got a \$20 Million buy-out from the Knicks so he could go sign with the Heat. You have to love guaranteed contracts. And you wonder why baseball players want no part of a salary cap.

The older I get, the more I make noises like Nick Nolte in North Dallas Forty.

So, in the long run was Gilley's good for Bud and Sissy relationship or bad?

This is no lie: there was a classic WNBA game on NBA TV the other day. Do you ever think that there might just be *too* many channels?

Another great programming offer: MLS, 'Direct Kick' for only \$69! It was a tough call between that and my NFL Sunday Ticket.

I was in a public bathroom the other day, a guy walks in talking on a cell/headset . . . goes and takes a piss, washes hands etc, all the time keeping up the conversation. Now that's what I call multi-tasking!

One of the coolest things I've seen in a long time was the Pistons' fan who was selected to get a championship ring with the team. Awesome. What a great idea to thank the fans and how cool is that to have a *real* NBA championship ring . . . and it's also one more than Charles Barkley has.

Remember when Jerry Rice was still on the Raiders and his 'streak' was broken because he didn't catch a pass in a game. Well you know what, if you only get one ball thrown to you all game and that's it! . . . then how much are you really part of the offense? How much does the streak really matter at that point? And why the fuck are you still playing? I mean I love and respect everything Jerry has done in this game, but running around in a Seahawks uni, is just not the way a 'great' one should go out.

In the same year Rick Fox retires *and* gets a divorce and this for some reason makes me weirdly happy.

Little joke I made up . . . whether you're watching a Kings game or a Monarchs game . . . it's still just 5 bitches running up and down the court. (See what I did there?)

Why at the end of NFL games do the 'same' position guys always shake hands? I mean is it necessary that the rival punters always have to shake hands? I guess I just don't get the 'code' there. I mean what do they say: "Hey Craig, nice hang-time tonight, you were really booming it"

Maybe I read too much into things.

Speaking of things that irritate me . . . I stopped at a 7-11 the other day, and bought a 12-pack. So I ask the Arab if I can use the restroom: "No." What the fuck? I mean, I even bought something, and I bring that to his attention . . . again: "No." So I go outside and go around the side of the building and take a piss on the wall. Yes juvenile, but why the fuck can't a paying customer use the fucking toilet?! And besides, it's those 'little' things in life, those little battles, that help me sleep better at night.

I don't know how many of you catch the *Surreal Life* on VH1, but this show is a reality train wreck and it's worth the TiVo time. The show that gave us Flava Flav living and talking (in sub-titles) to Charo, now gives us Verne Troyer (Mini Me) drunk, naked, on a scooter, pissing in the corner of the weight room, all the while trying to be coaxed back into bed by Peter Brady. (Christopher Knight) You couldn't even begin write this kind of comedy.

You know as I get older there is this euphoria I seem to get when I wake up and it's like 6 AM and I realize that I don't have to get up and go anywhere for work . . . weekend etc. Is that sad? I mean that is really the best part of my day, realizing that I can sleep for a few more hours.

Well I guess I could be doing some lame Road Rules/Real World Challenge . . .

Until next time . . .



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