

"Police Shows over The years"  
By PAT/SALTY

COP SHOWS.

BACK IN THE DAY THEIR WAS "DRAGNET,"  
"ADAM-12," "STARSKY AND HUTCH."  
FAR TOO MANY TO LIST, IN FACT.

TODAY, NOT SO MANY.

I MEAN, THERE MUST BE SOME - EVEN  
ONE OR TWO - BUT I CANT NAME THEM  
IF THERE ARE.

T.V. COP SHOWS WERE JUST PLAIN ILLOGICAL;  
THE COPS ALWAYS GOT THEIR MAN, FOR ONE,  
WHICH WOULD, BY ITSELF, ACTUALLY CLASS  
ALL THE OLD COP SHOWS AS FICTION,  
AND T.V. COPS ALWAYS DID EVERYTHING  
BY THE BOOK. EVERYTHING, ALWAYS,  
AS REAL HUMANS CAN NOT DO, AS IF  
THE COPS WERE ROBOTS.

WHICH WOULD CLASS THEM ALL AS SCIENCE FICTION.  
REAL COPS HATED COP SHOWS BECAUSE  
THE VIEWING PUBLIC THEY HAD TO DEAL  
WITH ALWAYS EXPECTED RESULTS EVERY TIME!  
ALWAYS EXPECTED THE COPS TO CATCH WHOEVER  
DID IT. AND TO GET BACK WHATEVER THEY  
HAD STOLEN FROM THEM, JUST LIKE THE COPS  
ON T.V. ALWAYS DID.



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Which of course never has anything to do with the way the real world works, so REAL cops got to HATE T.V. cop shows, even suspects under arrest would act ~~dis~~appointed when the real cops would fail to "read them their miranda warnings" ("you have the right to remain silent," etc.) even petty lawbreakers like drunks and shoplifters would ask their arresting officers why they weren't reading them their miranda rights like the cops on T.V. always did!

So sometimes real cops would dutifully take off their police hats and read them their "miranda warnings" from a card they would keep pinned inside their hats, just to shut them up. The drunks & shoplifters & petty thieves who asked, other times the cops might just tell them to shut up, or ignore them. The cops couldn't explain to them that that was just done every time ~~on~~ on T.V. that every suspect got read his rights. And that - in real life - cops only read such warnings to serious suspects accused

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OF REALLY, REALLY SERIOUS CRIMES,  
SUCH AS MURDER AND SO FORTH,  
NOT TO EVERY SUSPECT ARRESTED FOR  
EVERYTHING.

REAL COPS JUST COULDN'T GET THE PUBLIC  
TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

SO COPS HATED T.V. COP SHOWS MORE THAN  
ANYONE - EVEN MORE THAN CRIMINALS,  
TO CRIMINALS - TO REAL CAREER CRIMINALS -

THE T.V. COP SHOWS HAD YET ANOTHER  
CLASSIFICATION; COMEDYS! THEY WERE  
ALL GOOD FOR A LAUGH.

SO REAL COPS HATED T.V. COP SHOWS  
BECAUSE THEY MADE THEIR JOB HARDER,  
AND REAL CRIMINALS USED TO LAUGH AT THEM.

SO EXACTLY WHO TOOK THEM SERIOUSLY?  
YOU GOT IT: THE PUBLIC!!

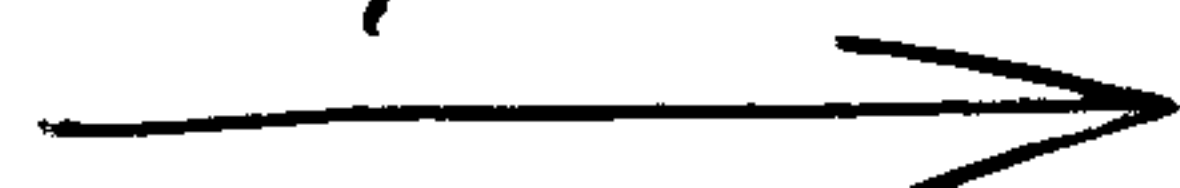
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OF THE 1950'S AND  
1960'S AND 1970'S JUST ATE THEM UP.

SO T.V. JUST CONTINUED TO CRANK THEM OUT,  
AND THEIR T.V. LOOKALIKES, THE PRIVATE  
DETECTIVE SHOWS.

"BARRETTA", STARRING ROBERT BLAKE,

"BARNABY JONES", STARRING BUDDY EBBSON,

"MACLOUD", WITH DENNIS WEAVER,



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"JAKE AND THE FAT MAN," STARING - WELL, A FAT MAN (WILLIAM CANNON, WHO WAS FAT, PLAYED HIMSELF, ALSO, IN "CANNON") ON AND ON AND ON THE SILLYNESS WENT. AND THESE WERE NOT COMEDYS, FOLKS! ALL THAT ~~CRAP~~ <sup>CRAP</sup> WAS CONSIDERED SERIOUS DRAMA BACK IN THE DAY - BELIEVITOR NOT.

AND, YEP, ~~CRAP~~ <sup>PEOPLE</sup> WATCHED THEM, TOO. hey, ~~CRAP~~ BACK WHEN YOU ONLY HAD 3 MAIN NETWORK CHANNELS AND 3 OR SO LOCAL CHANNELS, MOST EVERY NIGHT - IF YOU WANTED TO WATCH THE BOOB TUBE - YOU WOULD HAVE MAYBE TWO COP SHOWS OR "PRIVATE EYE" SHOWS AND MAYBE TWO "WESTERNS" ON T.V. TO CHOSE FROM. WITH MAYBE A KIDS SHOW ON ANOTHER CHANNEL AND - OF COURSE - THE PUBLIC EDUCATION CHANNEL ON 13.

SO, IF THE ONLY CHOICE A STARVING MAN IS GIVEN IS EITHER, SAY, 3 LUMPS OF COW SHIT, ~~CRAP~~ TWO LUMPS OF LARD, OR A CAN OF SPAMM - GUESS WHAT? A WHOLE LOT OF SPAMM IS GONNA GET EATEN; SO - YEA - WE WATCHED THOSE OLD COP SHOWS + DETECTIVE SHOWS - SURE - BECAUSE THE CHOICES ON T.V. WERE REALLY, →

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REALLY Limited in those days before  
D.V.D.s, 24 hour channels, cable,  
satellite, and all.

THINK OF IT THIS WAY; WHEN YOUR CHOICES  
TO EAT ARE LIMITED TO SPAM OR  
COW SHIT - YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'LL ~~choose~~  
choose.

ALL THOSE T.V. COP SHOWS PROBABLY  
SET BACK LAW ENFORCEMENT 10 OR 20 YEARS.  
NO WONDER THE CRIMINALS LAUGHED.

ALL THOSE T.V. SHOWS ABOUT PRIVATE  
DETECTIVES WERE JUST AS BAD, JUST AS  
STUPID, AND JUST AS UNREALISTIC AS THE COP SHOWS,  
SHOWING PRIVATE DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING  
MURDERS AND ALL EVERY WEEK.

WHEN REAL PRIVATE DETECTIVES HARDLY  
EVER DID OR DO OR EVER WILL DO SO.

BECAUSE 99% OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE  
ASSIGNMENTS ARE ~~THE~~ CASES LIKE  
GETTING HIRED BY A WIFE WHO SUSPECTS  
HER HUSBAND IS CHEATING ON HER.

OR HIRED BY SOME HUSBAND SUSPECTING THE SAME.  
OR BY SOME FACTORY OWNER WHO HIRES  
YOU TO COVERTLY PUT HIS LOADING DOCK  
AREA UNDER SURVAILANCE BECAUSE HE SUSPECTS

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Employee Theft or some ~~other~~ CRAP.  
NONE OF IT WOULD MAKE<sup>A</sup> VERY COMPELLING  
~~show~~ Show - "MUST SEE T.V." IT WOULD  
NEVER BE.

THIS IS SIMPLY THE REALITY.

YOU WANT TO SUM UP 90% OF EVERY  
COP T.V. OR PRIVATE DETECTIVE SHOW  
PLOTLINE?

- A) GUY - RICH GUY USUALLY - GETS KILLED
- B) AFTER THE USUAL FALSE SUSPECT OR  
TWO, AND YET ANOTHER "CREATIVE"  
TWIST ON THE SAME OLD FORMULA,
- C) THE REAL SUSPECT GETS CAUGHT BY THE  
END OF THE HALF HOUR OR HOUR SHOW.

AND SO WENT 90% OR MORE OF THE  
WEEKLY PLOT LINES TO THE FORMULA SHOWS.  
IT'S A WONDER DECADES OF VIEWING SUCH JUNK  
~~WAS NOT ENOUGH TO~~ DIDN'T LOWER THE ENTIRE  
COUNTRY'S I.Q. LEVEL BY 20 OR 30 POINTS.  
WAIT, MAYBE IT DID!

~~WAS NOT ENOUGH TO~~ LETS FIND THE GUILTY PARTYS!  
CALL STEVE MAGGARIT, DANNO, CALL OUT  
5-0! ADAM-12, DO YOU READ ME?  
10-4! WE READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR!  
"ANYTHING YOU SAY MAY BE HELD AGAINST YOU" - OVER  
"RRRRRRRRRR" AND OUT! X