

Appendix: Additional Images of Journalists in *South Park*

By Todd Smilovitz

Episode 1: “Cartman Gets an Anal Probe.” First aired August 13, 1997. Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

Aliens abduct Eric Cartman and install a satellite dish in his rectum. News 8 reports on crop circles, which actually look like Eric in outline. A field reporter says, “Could it be that aliens are trying to make contact with us here on Earth?”

Episode 2: “Volcano.” First aired August 20, 1997. Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

A volcano erupts near South Park while the boys are camping on its mountainside. Mostly banal reporting on the story by HBC standards, but Tom’s thoughts on the successful rescue of the boys is a bit melodramatic. “And now these humble people can rejoice and celebrate their jovial victory over nature. I’m getting word that the chef of the school cafeteria wants to sing a song about this thrilling struggle of humanity.”

Episode 3: “Weight Gain 4000.” First aired August 27, 1997. Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

Eric Cartman, already overweight, begins inhaling Weight Gain 4000 to become buff. Instead, he becomes a Jabba the Hut look-alike. Meanwhile, Kathy Lee Gifford is coming to town to present Eric with an award for best essay on the rainforest. He actually wrote the essay by copying from *On Walden Pond*. Unfortunately for Eric, Kathy Lee is almost assassinated and leaves town just before handing the award to Eric. Eric says, “Hey, wait a minute, when do I get to be on television?” The reporter answers, “Forget it, kid. No Kathy Lee, no public interest.”

Episode 4: “Big Gay Al’s Big Gay Boat Ride.” First aired September 3, 1997. Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

A sportscaster from South Park Public Radio AM 900 reports on a football game between the South Park Cows and the Middle Park Cowboys. When the Cows fall seriously behind, the sportscaster remarks, “I haven’t seen a beating like that since Rodney King.” When one Cow gets clobbered, he also chips in that, “I haven’t seen an Englishman take a blow like that since Hugh Grant.”

Episode 5: “An Elephant Makes Love to a Pig.” First aired September 10, 1997. Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

A mutant Stan Marsh runs loose in South Park. Tom reports from the field that, “When asked why he was wreaking such havoc on his hometown, the little boy replied simply, ‘Me Stan, pa chomp, pa chewee chomp, pa, chewee chomp. Back to you in the studio.’” The in-studio anchor replies: “Thanks, Tom. Police are requesting that if you see this little 8-year-old boy, you immediately kill him and burn his body. That’s all for now.”

Episode 6: “Death.” First aired September 17, 1997. Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

A rally is held in front of the Cartoon Central offices and is covered by News 4. Protesters show their displeasure with the network airing *The Terrance & Phillip Show* by using a slingshot to propel themselves into the side of the network’s building.

Episode 7: “Pink Eye.” Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker, Matt Stone and Philip Stark.

Kenny McKormick is hit and killed by a Russian spacecraft. He becomes a zombie during the embalming process. In an HBC Special Report, Tom comments: “And the president responded to the incident by saying, ‘Screw those commie bastards and screw their little wussie space station.’” In other news, a pink eye epidemic is now sweeping the town of South Park.” Signs of zombie-like behavior are mistaken for pink eye. A field reporter described as a midget wearing a bikini declares, “Symptoms include a complete loss of heart function, blood pressure, lung activity and, of course, sticky, puffy eyes.”

Episode 8: “Starvin’ Marvin in Space.” First aired November 19, 1997. Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

Pat Robertson and the Christian Broadcasting Channel try to spread Christianity at all costs.

Episode 10: “Damien.” First aired February 4, 1998. Directed by: Uncredited. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

The new kid at South Park Elementary school is Satan’s son. A Jesus vs. Satan boxing match is promoted by Don King. The media interview the two superstars at a press conference.

Episode 12: “Mecha-Streisand.” First aired February 18, 1998. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker, Matt Stone and Philip Stark.

Kyle Broflovski and the overweight Eric Cartman both claim ownership of a mysterious, triangular object found on a field trip. As usual, an HBC reporter is “Live” with a “Special Report” and interviews the boys. Comments Tom about the interview: “Those are some cute, cute kids. Except for that last one, he’s a little tubby.” Barbra Streisand eventually gets hold of the object, giving her superpowers, and uses it for her evil ends. Robert Smith of the rock band The Cure eventually defeats Mecha-Streisand. Tom sums it up: “And so weeks after the devastating attack of mutant, genetic creatures, zombies and Thanksgiving turkeys, the town of South has managed to rebuild itself once again [Mecha-Streisand approaches] ... oh, god damn it, not again!”

Episode 14: “Terrance & Phillip in Not Without My Anus.” Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker and Trisha Nixon.

The evil Scott helps Saddam Hussein take over Canada. A CNN anchor reports, “And, in other news, it appears that Saddam Hussein has finally signed an agreement to let the U.S. inspect his military operations. When asked if he would uphold his side of the agreement, Hussein replied, quote “Hey, relax fella. You need a rest, guy.”

Episode 17: “Chickenlover.” First aired May 27, 1998. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker, Matt Stone and Daniel Goodman.

Chickens are being violated in South Park by an unknown assailant. At a news conference, the town’s head enforcement figure, Officer Barbrady, is revealed as illiterate. Switching gears like a BMW, Tom anchors an HBC “Special Report” on the story until an even newer one develops. “Exactly two seconds after the retirement of Officer Barbrady, looting and pillaging erupted in the quiet mountain town.”

Episode 20: “City on the Edge of Forever (a.k.a. Flashbacks.)” First aired June 17, 1998. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker and Nancy Pimental.

A school bus the boys are on is precariously hanging at the edge of a cliff. The bus driver shows the kids a video hosted by Tom prepared for just such an emergency. Tom later reports on the “lost” students: “And all over America kids are turning to the streets and running away. Tonight, a very special message from the parents of some runaway children, in hopes that their young will hear their cry.”

Episode 21: “Summer Sucks.” First aired June 24, 1998. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

A giant Fourth-of-July fireworks snake threatens to destroy the country as it expands. Tom relates these words of advice to a frightened populace: “Police are advising all citizens to stay indoors, not breathe the ash and air, and not ever light any giant snakes in the near future.”

Episode 22: “Chef’s Salty Chocolate Balls.” First aired August 19, 1998. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker and Nancy Pimental.

Hollywood types launch an evil plan to bring their culture to small towns across America by hosting film festivals. This year the festival is in South Park. Says Tom, reporting from the field: “This is just a small, quiet mountain community where nothing out of the ordinary every really happens, except for the occasional complete destruction of the entire town.” Later, looking for Hollywood types attending the festival, Tom comments, “Ladies and gentlemen, TV’s Fred Savage ... well, I’m sure a real person will show up soon.”

Episode 24: “Roger Ebert Should Lay Off the Fatty Foods.” First aired September 2, 1998. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker and David Goodman.

At a planetarium show, Ebert’s image appears as a constellation. The planetarium’s evil director revives interest by employing a brainwashing technique. During an HBC Special Report on the renewed enthusiasm, a reporter comments that: “Yes, indeed, the planetarium has become very popular as word spreads that it really isn’t as lame and stupid as once suspected.”

Episode 27: “Chef Aid.” First aired October 7, 1998. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

Johnny Cochran represents a record company suing Jerome “Chef” McElroy, whose song was stolen by Alanis Morissette. Comments a reporter: “And so, on the fifteenth day of what is considered the most important trial of the ... day, Johnny Cochran has appeared to defend Capitalist Records. The question now is, will Cochran use his famous Chewbacca defense?” He does and Chef is found guilty. The boys put together “Chef Aid” and Cochran ends up taking Chef’s case and getting him off the hook. Chef is given a name credit for the song, “Stinky Britches.”

Episode 29: “Merry Christmas, Charlie Manson!” First aired December 9, 1998. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker and Nancy Pimental.

Charles Manson breaks out of jail with a relative of Eric Cartman’s and holes up at the Cartman residence. Later, a car chase ensues ... with the boys in Manson’s car! A Sky 5 reporter has this to say about the chase: “We understand that Charles Manson is inside the car with several hostages, all of whom are children. My God, what is this world coming to? Well, we’d like to

take a moment to tell you that this car chase is being brought to you by Snacky S'mores. The creamy fun of S'mores in a delightful cookie crunch." A Channel 4 reporter shows Channel 5 is not the only station willing to be sponsored. In a story broadcast a little later in the episode, the HBC field reporter tells his audience "that this live hostage crisis is being brought to you by Palmoral Sun Block. Remember, if it isn't Palmoral, you're gonna get cancer."

Episode 31: "Prehistoric Ice Man." First aired January 20, 1999. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker and Nancy Pimental.

A man frozen in ice in 1996 is brought back to life, but 1999 is too much for him. Speaketh Tom: "Fascinating news tonight from South Park. An ancient discovery of a prehistoric man actually frozen in ice ... The prehistoric ice man is thought to be from the late-Neopost Jurassic era, where he was probably part of a hunting-and-gathering tribe that lived on Watterson Street."

Episode 32: "Rainforest Schmainforest." First aired April 7, 1999. Directed by Trey Parker and Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

The boys join the song-and-dance group Getting Gay With Kids and travel to Costa Rica for a save-the-rain-forest benefit. A co-host for the event remarks: "And, of course, the main attraction here today is the darling kids' choir, Getting Gay with Kids, all of whom must be backstage preparing at this very moment."

Episode 33: "Spontaneous Combustion." First aired April 14, 1999. Directed by Matt Stone. Written by Trey Parker, Matt Stone and David Goodman.

People in South Park are blowing up because they are holding in their farts. Stan Marsh's dad thinks he's discovered the problem, but the solution leads to ozone depletion. Tom gives some thoughtful analysis in an HBC Special Report: "As we all know, the cause for all of this is Randy Marsh, the son-of-a-bitch who calls himself a scientist. We caught up with Mr. Marsh earlier today and he had this to say:" At this point, the header says "Randy Marsh Son of a Bitch" and Marsh says "Uh, I don't know what to say." Responds Tom: "What an asshole! I hate that guy and so do you. And now on to the weather. It's fucking hot, thanks to Randy Marsh, son-of-a-bitch."

Episode 36: "Sexual Harassment Panda." First aired July 7, 1999. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

Stan's dad, lawyer Gerald Broflovski, sues South Park Elementary School over incidents of prepubescent sexual harassment. Eric Cartman is his first client, for whom he files a suit against his own son, Stan. The court awards Eric half of Stan's possessions and \$1.3 million from the school. The school has to sell off everything from desks to chalk. After anchor Kevin McCarty says some not very nice things on air about the lawyer, he cuts into his own report by saying

“and ... this just in, newscaster Kevin McCarty is being sued by Kyle’s dad for slander. The newscaster has yet to be reached for comment. Wait ...”

Episode 39: “Two Naked Guys in a Hottub (a.k.a. Melvins.)” Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker, Matt Stone and Daniel Goodman.

The ATF surrounds a house the boys are being cooped up in while their parents party. The ATF thinks the parents are going to commit mass suicide when a meteor shower starts. This episode parodies former Attorney General Janet Reno’s handling of the 1993 stand-off between federal agents and the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. At a certain point, the boys catch on to the misunderstanding and try to get a broadcast report out to the media. The boys’ even younger friend, Dougie, shows that even a very small child can give a formulaic broadcast report. Dougie had been saying, “I want to be a reporter.” Now he gets his chance. “This is Jill Monroe reporting live from inside the meteor shower party,” Dougie begins. “As you can see, this is a perfectly normal party. Nobody is killing themselves. We tried to tell the ATF people, but they shot at us ... Oh, yeah. Please don’t burn us, please. Jill Monroe, GFN News.”

Episode 45: “The Red Badge of Gayness.” First aired November 24, 1999. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

South Park is reenacting a Civil War battle. But Eric Cartman persuades townspeople playing soldiers from the South that they can win this time. The troops rampage across the nation, fueled by Schnapps. Tom’s report follows one of obviously more importance: “... and was forced to live off her own feces for days. In national news, a frightening radical group from Colorado is making its way across the Southern states of America. The group is recruiting new members in each town they pass through and rapidly growing in number. So authorities have decided to call in the national guard. The group seems to be led by military mastermind and right-wing radical Jimbo Kearn, who is known for his guerilla fighting and leadership skills.”

Episode 46: “Mr. Hankey’s Christmas Classics.” First aired December 1, 1999. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

During breaks between the classics, a non-animated John Stossel lookalike states things like, “Fighting the frizzies at 11,” “Frizzies at 11,” “Fighting frizzies at 11” and finally “And now, fighting the frizzies.”

Episode 47: “Are You There, God, It’s Me, Jesus.” First aired December 29, 1999. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

People from all over the world come to South Park as the millennium approaches to see Jesus. They gather outside Jesus's home. An HBC reporter states: "Everyone is giddy with anticipation for Jesus to come out, because, as we all know, if Jesus comes out of his house and is not scared by his shadow, it means the next thousand years will be full of peace and love." The people look to Jesus to put on a show; He doesn't let them down: "Tom, I'm standing here live in Las Vegas where tomorrow night THE New Year's event is going to happen. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is presenting Rod Stewart, the undisputed king of pop, right here at the hotel behind me. It looks as though Jesus has really come through. Everyone is very excited because rumor has it that God himself is going to show up at the event." And then there's the HBC report filed after Stewart's poor performance and God's non-appearance are blamed on Jesus: "Well, Tom, I'm here live in Las Vegas in what is quickly becoming known as the gayest party ever. Everyone is so outraged that they are building a large cross in which to once again crucify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Episode 48: "World Wide Recorder Concert (a.k.a. The Brown Noise.)" First aired January 12, 2000. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

Children from all over the world come to South Park for a recorder concert. When they all play at the same time, the devastation is global. HBC reports from New York. The News 4 reporter starts off by saying that, "It's been just over 20 hours since everyone on Earth pooped their pants and people still roam their damaged homes with disbelief and loss."

Episode 49: "The Tooth Fairy TATS." First aired April 5, 2000. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker and Nancy Pimental.

This episode's journalistic highlight is HBC field reporter Don Akawa's bizarre interview of a little boy in need of a bone marrow transplant. It turns out to be a bogus report done to catch members of a tooth fairy crime syndicate the boys get mixed up with.

Episode 50: "Cartman's Silly Hate Crime." First aired April 12, 2000. Directed by Trey Parker and Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

Eric Cartman hits Token Black [the only black student in South Park] with a rock and is charged with a hate crime. Trial TV covers "the hate crime trial of the century." Eric is sent to juvenile hall, but makes a break in Kenny McKormick's "go-go action Bronco." HBC's "eye-in-the-sky" covers the ensuing chase of "the fugitive." The toy car's batteries run out just short of the Mexican border and Eric is sent back to Juvenile Hall.

Episode 51: "Timmy!" First aired April 19, 2000. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Phil Collins appears on *The Charlie Rose Show* (PBS) to protest the disabled boy, Timmy, becoming the lead singer of a rock band. MTV's Kurt Loder reports on Timmy's band headlining at Lollapalooza. Comments Loder: "Phil Collins, by the way, divorced his wife by FAX and then married a 22-year-old." VH1 later reports that Timmy's band has broken up. By the end of the episode the band reunites.

Episode 52: "Quintuplets." First aired April 26, 2000. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Five Romanian circus performers are given temporary refuge in Stan Marsh's home. HBC broadcasts a fraudulent video from the girls' supposed parents pleading for their return. A reporter in a fedora, synonymous with print journalism in *South Park*, takes a picture of Janet Reno sneaking into the house in a bunny suit to forcibly extract the girls and extradite them back to Romania.

Episode 53: "Cartman Joins NAMBLA." First aired June 21, 2000. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

The episode kicks off with the boys playing "Investigative Reports With Bill Curtis Board Game!" At one point, Eric Cartman gives Stan Marsh a UFO crash landing card: Stan can either deny it or cover it up. Stan chooses to cover it up. Eric hits the tops of what's supposed to represent Curtis's head in the middle of the board, prompting, "Hello, I'm Bill Curtis. Many believe the U.S. government covered it up. I'm Bill Curtis." The episode title speaks for the mix-up Eric gets involved in after he leaves the game in a huff.

Episode 55: "Chef Goes Nanners." First aired July 5, 2000. Directed by Trey Parker and Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

South Park unveils a flag showing white men hanging a black man. Jerome, "Chef" McElroy, the black elementary school cafeteria chef, is not impressed and launches a campaign against it. An HBC reporter is on the scene: "On Friday, South Park Elementary will present a debate, and after the debate there will finally be a vote. Preliminary polls [show] three in favor of changing the flag, three against changing the flag and 4,382 undecided. So the pressure is on those South Park kids."

Episode 59: "4th Grade." First aired November 8, 2000. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

A couple of Trekkies hook up Timmy's wheelchair with rocket-powered devices so it can travel back in time. Unfortunately, the wheelchair instead rockets out of control and police are informed that, *Speed*-like, it will explode if stopped. An HBC field reporter has this to say: "Tom, I'm standing about two miles outside Denver, where the darling handicapped boy fights for his life on a wheelchair of death." The reporter tries to interview the *Star Trek*-loving geeks who rigged the wheelchair, but it breaks down into an argument between the two of them over whether there are 72 or 73 episodes of the original *Star Trek*.

Episode 64: "The Wacky Molestation Adventure." First aired December 13, 2000. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Kyle Broflovski wants to go to a Raging Pussies concert. Kyle's parents tell him they'll let him go if he brings democracy to Cuba. Kyle writes a letter to Castro asking him to free his people. Soon a report is being aired that Cuba is now a free country. But Kyle's parents still won't let him go to the concert.

Episode 65: "A Very Crappy Christmas." First aired December 20, 2000. Directed by Adrien Beard. Written by Trey Parker.

South Park citizens lose faith in Christmas. Tom has the scientific proof: "In an HBC poll, 38 percent said they were fed up and tired of the holiday, 5 percent said they were indifferent to it and a whopping 57 percent said they would kick Bon Jovi square in the balls if given the opportunity."

Episode 66: "It Hits the Fan." First aired June 20, 2001. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

"Shit" is said on the show *Cop Drama*, making it OK for everyone to say ... and they do throughout the episode. An HBC reporter covering the story catches the essence of South Park news with this gem: "A recent poll that 24 percent of Americans thinks the show has pushed the envelope too far, while a whopping 76 percent say they don't really give a shit. In other news, a strange virus which causes victims to vomit up their intestines is making life shitty for a small farming community."

Episode 67: "Cripple Fight." First aired June 27, 2001. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Big Gay Al is replaced as Boy Scouts leader with an unrevealed child molester. Meanwhile, Timmy is jealous of a new kid who's also disabled and gets into a brawl with him. An HBC field

reporter tells a different story: “Tom, I’m standing out front of Henry’s Supermarket, where five little boys are holding a rally to support gays in scouting. The rally is gathering so much attention that people from all over the country are taking media notice.” The molester is finally found out. Tom reports that, “In other news, the FBI has finally caught the child molester known as Mr. Slippy Fist. This sick child molester was found with disturbing, graphic photos of young boys naked, which we will show you now. [Viewers can’t see photos as Tom talks about them] Here’s one. And here’s another.”

Episode 69: “Scott Tenorman Must Die.” First aired July 11, 2001. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

Eric Cartman and his older nemesis, Scott Tenorman, engage in a battle of wits. Though Scott gets the best of Eric early on, he ends up eating a bowl of chili filled with his parents’ body parts - courtesy of Eric - by the time the episode ends. Meanwhile, Kurt Loder interviews Scott’s favorite band, Radiohead.

Episode 70: “Terrance and Phillip: Behind the Blow.” First aired July 18, 2001. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

This episode is a behind-the-scenes look at why the infamous duo split up. The boys get each of them to appear in *South Park* on Earth Day, not knowing the other one is also scheduled to perform. An HBC reporter is also there: “This eco-happy crowd is thrilled and waiting in anticipation for the arrival of Terrance & Phillip, who were promised by these four boys.”

Episode 71: “Cartmanland.” First aired July 25, 2001. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

The hosts of an HBC show with a business theme say Eric Cartman is a genius for buying an amusement park with his inheritance. Eric hadn’t let anyone else in the park, renewing interest in going there.

Episode 74: “Osama Bin Laden Wears Farty Pants.” First aired November 7, 2001. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

The boys are trapped on a plane traveling to Afghanistan after deciding to return a goat given to them by four Afghani children who look and act strangely like themselves. An SNN Exclusive follows: “The Taliban has just released this videotape [actually showing the boys and a goat] in which it is clearly visible that they have indeed captured Stevie Nicks ... with Stevie Nicks in captivity, the other members of Fleetwood Mac have been hidden so the Taliban can’t get to them as well ... the Taliban’s video also shows what appears to be four American children in captivity, though they could just be French.”

Episode 75: “How to Eat with Your Butt.” First aired November 14, 2001. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Kenny McKormick poses for a school picture with his posterior where his face should be. The photo is used by a missing children’s organization, attracting a most interesting-looking couple in search of their son. During a press conference, the couple’s son is actually found to be Ben Affleck. Meanwhile, Tom reports that, “Ms. Hamilton was the fourth person to be run over by a motorcycle this week, leaving a city to ponder, who will be next?”

Episode 76: “The Entity (a.k.a. The Ginger Device.)” First aired November 21, 2001. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Gay South Park Elementary School teacher Herbert Garrison invents a new type of vehicle called “It.” HBC field Jeff Arrando relates that a variety of big-name businessmen are in town for the unveiling. “Their curiosity has piqued, Tom, and so is ours. What is It? What does It do? And when will It be somewhere where I can buy one?”

Episode 77: “Here Comes the Neighborhood.” First aired November 28, 2001. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

Token Black [formerly Williams], the only black kid at South Park Elementary, always wears a “T” on his shirt and has rich parents. He begins a campaign to get other black people to come to town. Black celebrities start arriving and building mansions. This riles the locals, who don’t care for the rich folk and begin isolating them. An HBC reporter is on the scene of the resulting protest march. “A million millionaires are gathering their ranks and will be marching on the town square tonight in South Park to petition the end of separate bars, bus seating and restaurants. It looks like it will be a great turnout as some of the millionaires also paid several thousand Mexicans to march for them.”

Episode 79: “Butters’ Very Own Episode.” First aired December 12, 2001. Directed by Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

Leopold “Butters” Stotch unwittingly witnesses his father’s gay acts and reports them to his mom. Butters’ mom blows a fuse and tries to drown him. A press conference full of reporters in front of the Stotch residence is completely fooled by the parents’ later claim that Butters’ was

abducted “by some Puerto Rican guy.” But after Butters reappears, his parents confess all to the press corps gathered on their doorstep.

Episode 80: “Jared Has Aides.” First aired March 6, 2002. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Another example of journalistic editorializing can be found in this episode. People mistake Jared’s call for aides to help lose weight for urging weight loss through acquiring the AIDS virus. The News 4 reporter is taken in: “Tom, I’m standing out in front of the mayor’s office, where the big liar Jared is about to speak. Apparently, Jared hopes to regain his celebrity hero status, which was lost when he announced it was AIDS, not Sub sandwiches, that caused him to lose weight.”

Episode 83: “Fun With Veal.” First aired March 27, 2002. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

The boys try to save some ill-treated calves from being slaughtered by bringing them to Stan Marsh’s home. They lock themselves in Stan’s room with the sickly calves. An HBC reporter arrives on the scene to file his “Live!” report. “The police chief of South Park says that there will be no negotiations with terrorists ... Tom, it looks like I have an update. Yes, it looks like the boy terrorist story is not interesting news to anyone. Nothing else was going on, Tom, so this was the only story we had to seem important, but people are just simply tuning out. So HBC will now be switching programming once again to puppies from around the world.” Later: “Tom, it looks as though the terrorists are now loading the terrorists into the back of a semi. This is still very uninteresting news, Tom.”

Episode 86: “Simpsons Already Did It.” First aired June 26, 2002. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Leopold “Butters” Stotch becomes the evil Dr. Chaos. However, his evil plans all resemble events from *The Simpsons* episodes. South Park residents are quoted as being actually thankful after Butters cuts the head off an important statue. Tom reports, “The police say that instead of

looking for the missing head, they'd rather leave it off and be reminded of *The Simpsons* every day." Tom also reports on the death of an elementary school teacher, saying that the semen in her stomach belongs to school counselor Mr. Mackey. Continues Tom: "However, the semen apparently did not contribute to the death, so Mr. Mackey's identity is to remain anonymous."

Episode 87: "Red Hot Catholic Love." First aired July 13, 2002. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Father Maxi discovers that the Catholic hierarchy endorses sex with boys. Meanwhile, Tom has another important story to report: "Our top story tonight: The age-old question has been answered. If I put food up my ass, will I crap out my mouth? All over the country, people are discovering that, yes, you will. The Surgeon General had this to say..."

Episode 88: "Free Hat." First aired July 10, 2002. Directed by Toni Nugnes. Written by Trey Parker.

The boys battle against Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, who want to alter their classic films. They appear on *Nightline* with Ted Koppel to debate the issue with the directors. Asks a confused Koppel: "What got you boys interested in this, especially given your pro-toddler murder status?"

Episode 90: "Child Abduction Is Not Funny." First aired July 24, 2002. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

News 4, News 5 and other stations are reporting that studies show children are likely to be abducted when they are outside. The next study reported says the risk is great when children are in their own home. A final study shows a child's own parents are the most likely abductors. Tom relates: "The study shows that nine of every 10 abduction cases are committed by the child's mother or father. The bottom line being that your children aren't safe even from you." After hearing about this latest study, South Park parents have their children leave town to avoid the risk of abduction by themselves. Now Tom can report: "Finally, some good news tonight. It's been several days since any child abductions have taken place. The main reason: parents don't know where their children are."

Episode 91: "A Ladder to Heaven." First aired November 6, 2002. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

The boys begin building a ladder to heaven to retrieve a winning ticket they had given their friend Kenny McKormick to hold onto before he died. The project is misinterpreted by local and national news stations as a "sweet" attempt to reunite with their deceased friend. When Alan Jackson, who apparently wrote a song about the 9/11 tragedy, appears on the scene, an HBC field reporter comments: "And now he's here once again to capitalize on people's emotions."

Let's listen in." Meanwhile, an Asian SNN correspondent is filing bogus reports about a "Japanese ladder [that] extends into space and is growing by 1,000 miles every minute."

Episode 95: "My Future Self n' Me." First aired December 4, 2002. Directed by Trey Parker and Eric Stough. Written by Trey Parker.

Parents in South Park hire 20-somethings to act as if they are their children's selves from the future. The actors make believe they are failures because of their drug use. A hint of plausibility precedes their appearance when Tom states, "And in other news, South Park police are still looking for a crazy man who terrorized the town one hour ago. The man claimed to be from the future and ran naked through the city streets screaming, 'The past, the past, oh my God, it's the past,' which is what one would expect someone from the future to yell."

Episode 98: "Krazy Kripples." First aired March 26, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Christopher Reeve must have a steady supply of fetuses to regain movement. He appears on the *Larry King Show* ["The" left out of show name.] King asks, "And how does someone like yourself make use of the stem cells, Chris?" "Well, it's very simple," Reeve says, proceeding to break the neck of a fetus and repeatedly sucking out the contents. "And now, as you can see, my arms have better movement," Reeve continues. King's response is, "Wow! Wow!" while clapping. Later, when Reeve sucks the essence of enough fetuses to gain superpowers and become a supervillain, an HBC field reporter has this to say: "Tom, if irony were made of strawberries, we'd all be drinking a lot of smoothies right now."

Episode 100: "I'm a Little Bit Country." First aired April 9, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

The adults in South Park take sides about the war in Iraq and begin recruiting their kids to their sides. Tom asks the boys what it's all about and they respond by trying to conform to whatever side their parents are on. Kyle Broflovski: "I-I-It's gay ... No blood for oil." Eric Cartman: Bush is a Nazi." [pronouncing it nayzee.]

Episode 101: "Fat Butt and Pancake Head." First aired April 16, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Ben Affleck falls in love with a Jennifer Lopez image drawn onto Eric Cartman's hand. The news is reported in *The National Inquisition*.

Episode 102: "Lil' Crime Stoppers." First aired April 23, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

The boys form a junior detectives squad. They arrive at an elderly woman's home, asking for an assignment. She invites them into her living room, where Tom is anchoring an HBC report in the background. The woman says she will pay the boys \$1 to find out who stole the cherry pie from her windowsill. Although the boys quickly discover the dog did it, they tell the woman it only happened after her husband's plan to kill and dismember her so he could eat the cherry pie didn't work out. The woman asks, "Oh my God, what kind of television have you kids been watching?" Stan responds for the boys, "Just the news."

Episode 103: "Red Man's Greed." First aired April 30, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Native Americans who have gotten rich by building a gambling casino on their reservation want to build a super highway through South Park. When the townspeople fight back, the Indians give them infected blankets. The HBC field reporter doesn't get it: "What an incredible display of compassion. I certainly hope there's nothing sinister is behind it."

Episode 104: "South Park Is Gay!" First aired October 22, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Queer Eye for the Straight Guy folk turns out to be "Crab People." Meanwhile, an HBC field reporter declares, "Tom, I'm standing in South Park, Colorado, where the first annual metrosexual pride parade is underway."

Episode 105: "Christian Rock Hard." First aired October 29, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Eric Cartman starts a Christian rock band because that's where the money is. Later, famous, rich musicians won't play at a concert because they're upset about their songs being downloaded free of charge. An HBC field reporter comments: "This is a veritable strike-a-palooza."

Episode 106: "Grey Dawn." First aired November 5, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Senior citizens are striking and killing people with their cars while trying to find Country Kitchen Buffet. The seniors are ticked off when the deadly driving by some in their midst sparks a campaign to take away their licenses. They take over South Park, only to be stopped after being locked out of Country Kitchen Buffet.

Episode 107: “Casa Bonita.” First aired November 12, 2003. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Eric Cartman can’t go to Casa Bonita for Kyle’s Broflovski’s birthday unless Leopold “Butters” Stotch is unavailable; Eric makes him unavailable by convincing him the world will be destroyed by a meteor and he must hide in a bomb shelter. A News 4 reporter says, “Tom, it has now been three days since the Stotch child has gone missing. Townspeople continue to search, but hope is dwindling.”

Episode 118: “Goobacks.” First aired April 28, 2004. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Not available for viewing at the time this paper was written, but according to the website TV.com:

People living in the year 3045 use a time machine to come back to the present in order to find work. A debate erupts: “On *The O’Reilly Factor*, in the No-Spin Zone, both sides are represented by a pissed-off white trash conservative and an aging hippie liberal douche.” A reporter later comments: “Yes, this time border apparently follows the rules of *Terminator* time traveling, which is one way, and no going back, as opposed to *Back to the Future* rules, which allows going back and forth freely, and of course, *Timerider* rules, which are just plain silly.”

Episode 119: “Douche and Turd.” First aired October 27, 2004. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Not available for viewing at the time this paper was written, but according to TV.com: South Park Elementary School must pick a mascot. The choices: a giant douche or a turd sandwich. A reporter states: “On the South Park Access Channel there is a televised debate between the Giant Douche and the Turd Sandwich, moderated by Jim Lehrer. Neither candidate comes off as a winner.”

Episode 122: “Quest for Ratings.” First aired November 17, 2004. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker

The boys form a school news team, Super School News. Eric “Rick” Cartman and Jimmy Vulmer are the anchors, with Stan Marsh in the field, Kyle Broflovski doing sports, Token Black handling weather and Leopold “Butters” Stotch on celebrity watch. Puffy “News Hair” is already a given at this stage [except for the pure-hearted Jimmy.] Their first report is factual, but very

vanilla and only gets only a “4” rating [four viewers.] For example, Stan reports from the school cafeteria that, “Eric, it looks as though the school will be serving a chicken cutlet. Now, that’s traditionally a, uh, white meat chicken breast, if you will, that has been breaded and then cooked. I’ve been told there will also be tater tots and a vegetable dish. It’s really shaping up to be a fantastic lunch, Eric.” Beyond the show’s blandness, a rival non-news show by a fellow student named Craig called Close-up Animals With a Wide Angle Lens gets a 57 rating.

The boys must come up with a higher-rated newscast to avoid cancellation and so the sensationalistic Eyewitness Sexy Action School News is born. The new outfits of the prepubescent Raisin girls are one focus, with Stan reporting that, “Eric, the outfits are even skimpier than before, leaving very little to the imagination. No doubt that if I were a little older I would be aroused.” After the sensationalistic newscast, the boys’ adviser tells them that the show beat Craig’s by 3 viewers. However, the adviser also says Craig’s new show, Close-Up Animals With a Wide Angle Lens Wearing Hats still topped the ratings.

The boys go back to the drawing board and come up with an investigative report on cough medicine abuse at South Park Elementary School. With haunting music in the background, anchor Eric begins the report by informing viewers that, “They call it cough syrup. Cold medicine. Cold and flu remedy. But behind closed doors at South Park Elementary it also has a street name: coochie, wombat juice, tigger yum-yum. Hello, I’m Rick Cartman. Today, the Sexy Action News Team takes you inside the dark and lonely world of cough medicine abuse.” The boys use undercover footage to expose that world. And later Token adds, “The cough medicine companies claim they don’t intend for their product to be used by kids to get high. But one look at the packaging tells otherwise. Theradrill DM *for kids*. Dexacough. Children’s formula.” This “Special Report” by the Sexy Action News Team finally puts the boys in the top spot with a “22” rating. Craig’s ratings are down because students only like the show while high on cough medicine and abandon it after sobering up. The adviser tells the boys that because of his plummeting ratings, Craig will be suspended and a request put in to have his testicles surgically removed. On the other hand, the boys are approved for 27 news shows. But it doesn’t matter: they can’t come up with anymore good ideas while sitting around in a conference room and decide to “bail” the show.

Episode 124: “Cartman’s Incredible Gift.” First aired December 8, 2004. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Law enforcement officers believe Eric Cartman has gained psychic powers after he falls from a tall building while attempting to fly. Detectives employ him to find the “Serial Copycat Killer,” but with dubious results. An HBC field reporter covers the resulting arrest: “At the crime scene the young psychic had visions flash before his mind and the police immediately arrested the owner of Kentucky Fried Chicken.” When other psychics start bothering Eric for crowding in on their act, their fate is sealed. The HBC reporter’s next story is about how “The psychic detectives’ horrible crime was found out by psychic detective Eric Cartman, who is now the only psychic not behind bars. What an amazing coincidence.”

Episode 131: “The Death of Eric Cartman.” First aired April 13, 2005. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Eric Cartman believes he has died and is a ghost walking the Earth whom only Leopold “Butters” Stotch can see. HBC carries a “Live” report of a prison escape in which the escapees are holding 12 hostages at a Red Cross building. Thinking he cannot be hurt, Eric attempts to free the hostages. The HBC field reporter doesn’t understand Eric’s motivation: “An incredible development here, Tom. Two little boys have fearlessly gone inside the Red Cross. Later: “Tom, an incredible story of courage. Two little boys armed only with the weapon of confusion managed to go in and save the Red Cross. Nobody seems to know who the boys are or where they went off to, but they are heroes.”

Episode 133: “Two Days Before the Day After Tomorrow.” First aired October 19, 2005. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Assured it’s all right by Eric Cartman, Stan Marsh pilots a boat that destroys a dam holding back water from the town of Beaverton, Colorado. Among the possible culprits mentioned in the media: Al Qaeda, George Bush and global warming. This last thesis leads to a FOX News story, “Global Warming Disaster!” HBC winds up a series of wacky reports with one of its reporters claiming, “Tom, I’m standing just outside of Chicago, where the panic of global warming has already caused countless deaths. Already, we’re reporting that the death toll here in Chicago is over 600 billion people.”

Episode 135: “Follow That Egg.” First aired November 2, 2005. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Tom does a field report on the governor’s statement on gay marriage.

Episode 139: “Bloody Mary.” First aired December 7, 2005. Directed by Trey Parker. Written by Trey Parker.

Not available for viewing at the time this paper was written, but according to TV.com:

A statue of the Virgin Mary at St. Peter’s church begins bleeding out of its posterior. Stan Marsh’s father, Randy, learns of the miracle while watching HBC and travels to St. Peter’s to be healed of his alcohol-related problems. But a reporter later states: “The Pope said, quote, “A chick bleeding out her vagina is no miracle. Chicks bleed out their vaginas all the time.”

This episode has not been shown on at least one occasion after its premiere because of the content. The same can be said for another episode from Season 9, “Trapped in the Closet,” most likely because of its references to Tom Cruise as a closet homosexual and a follower of

Scientology. The show's depiction of Scientology also caused the voice of Jerome "Chef" McElroy, Scientologist Isaac Hayes, to quit before the start of the 10th season.

South Park's creators were unimpressed: The first show of the 10th season expressed their sorrow for the loss of Hayes in the context of an even more strenuous bashing of Scientology. If anything, the show is becoming even more politically and socially irreverent as it matures.

ADDENDUM

* Information on Seasons 8 and 9 may be incomplete because all of the episodes were not available to be viewed when this paper was written. Information on the following episodes from those seasons was derived from the website, www.TV.com:

- Season 8: Episode #118 "Goobacks"

Episode #119 "Douche and Turd"

- Season 9: Episode #139 "Bloody Mary"

* Season 10 began as this paper was being written. Although this paper focuses on Seasons 1-9, several episodes from that season have journalism-related references

* This paper focuses on the *South Park* television series. However, *South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut* is a movie version released in 1999 that also has several journalism-related references