

## BITS AND PIECES

## 'Tonight Show' staffer recalls Sam Kinison

Sam Kinison, who died in an April 10 car crash, was remembered recently by Jim McCawley, who has brooked comedians on *The Tonight Show* for 15 years.

"When I first saw him," McCawley says, "he was a very different fellow than he was at the end. He was very mild, trying hard to please everybody. He showed us some material, and it was quite funny. But when we pulled (six minutes out of his act), it wasn't funny. It was very strange. So I said, 'Sam, you're not ready for us. We have to wait on this.' After a time, he went over to HBO and he became the Wild Man. And he wouldn't listen to any censorship. It took several years before he finally came back and performed on *The Tonight Show* he did a musical piece, Elvis Presley's 'Are You Lonesome Tonight?' And that was a big hit on the show. He came back the next time, and again we had worked out material. But Sam wasn't able to stick with the plan, and we ended up editing two minutes out of Sam's piece because he went too far."

Earlier this season, Kinison, who developed his loud vocal skills as a preacher before taking up comedy, struck an uneasy middle ground in broadcast standards with his role as Tim Matheson's wisecracking alter-ego on Fox's *Charlie Hoover*.



Sam Kinison

She was the perfect housewife of the '60s, the quintessential career woman of the '70s. By golly, Mary Tyler Moore has earned her place in Nick at Nite's sitcom hall of fame. When *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* joins the Nick lineup next fall, you can revisit that uproarious Minneapolis newsroom with Moore and co-stars Ed Asner, Valerie Harper, Cloris Leachman, Gavin McLeod, Betty White and Ted Knight. It's a TV Land reunion, as Nick at Nite, which has long carried *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, this year named Van Dyke as its chairman. Oh, Rub!

## TRIVIA, ETC.

## Who played Thurber's dreamer?

By Steven Alan McGraw

## Questions:

1. Who played James Thurber's daydreaming, milquetoast in 1947's *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*?
2. Who said, "I don't want realism—I want magic?" (Identify the actress, the character and the film)
3. In *The Evacuee*, A) who played possessed Regan MacNeil, B) who played Regan's mother, C) how did Mom earn a living and D) who won an Oscar for the screenplay adaptation of his own best-selling novel?
4. This 1958 film was named for character Scottie Ferguson's fear of heights. Name the film, the director and the actor who played Ferguson.
5. What role did Omar Sharif accept after Tony Curtis and Marlon Brando turned it down?
6. Name the John Huston film that features the characters Charlie Allnut and Rosy Sayer.

## Answers:

1. James Stewart played the part of Mitty in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.
2. Peter Dinklage said it in *101 Dalmatians*.
3. A) Faye Dunaway, B) Patsy Kensit, C) as a housewife, D) she won an Oscar for the screenplay adaptation of his own best-selling novel.
4. *The High Hanger*, directed by John Huston, starring Robert Montgomery.
5. He played Omar Sharif in *Lawrence of Arabia*.
6. *The African Queen*.



Friday on CBS, Denzel Washington is co-host of *The 5th Annual Essence Awards*.



Matt LeBlanc stars in *Vinnie and Bobby*, a new comedy series debuting Saturday on Fox.



Heartthrob Jason Priestley is one of the stars of *Beverly Hills, 90210*, Thursdays on Fox.