

FlashNews Pop Culture Datebook

Monday, August 23, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

KOBE BRYANT 32 (In early August 2008, film director Todd Fligner revealed exclusively to Flash News sordid secrets about the Lakers all-star player. Fligner accuses Bryant of taking orders from the Gambino crime family and shaving points during games to ensure specific results to benefit mob gamblers. The Lakers' shooting guard rose to national prominence in 1996 when he became the first guard in league history to be drafted straight out of high school. Years later, Bryant made headlines when he was accused of sexual assault by a Colorado hotel employee. Although he admitted to an adulterous encounter with the accuser, prosecutors dropped the case after his accuser refused to testify.)

JULIAN CASABLANCAS 32 (Singer with The Strokes. His parents are John Casablancas, the founder of Elite Model Management, and Jeanette Christiansen, a former Miss Denmark and model. He met bandmates Nikolai Friature in kindergarten, Albert Hammond Jr. at boarding school in Switzerland, and Fabrizio Moretti and Nick Valensi at the prestigious Dwight School. He married assistant band manager Juliet Joslin in 2005. Courtney Love's song "But Julian, I'm a Little Bit Older Than You" is said to be inspired by Casablancas.)

JAY MOHR 39 (Comedian and actor. Appears on the supernatural drama *Ghost Whisperer*. Was a cast member on *Saturday Night Live* from 1993 to 1995. He created, executive produced, and hosted the reality show *Last Comic Standing* in 2003, but left the show in 2006. He married actress **Nikki Cox** in 2006. Mohr flicks: *Street Kings* (2008), *Groomsmen* (2006), *Community Service* (2006), *Are We There Yet?* (2005), *King's Ransom* (2005), *Seeing Other People* (2004). *Pluto Nash* (2002), *Cherry Falls* (2000), *200 Cigarettes* (1999), *Mafia!* (1998).)

EMILIO NAVAIRA 48 (Grammy award-winning Country/Tejano singer. He has charted more than ten single on the *Billboard* Hot Latin Tracks Charts and six singles on the *Billboard* Hot Country & Track charts. He is also the only Tejano artists to have a significant success in both the United States and Mexico.)

DEAN DELEO 49 (Guitarist for the rock band Stone Temple Pilots. Their music has been featured on such soundtracks as *The Crow* (1994) and Deleo has also appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* in 2006.)

QUEEN NOOR 59 (The queen of Jordan was born Lisa Najeeb Halaby.)

SHELLEY LONG 61 (Carol Brady on *The Brady Bunch* movies. Diane Chambers on TV's *Cheers*. Other flicks: *The Last Guy On Earth* (2006), *Dr. T and the Woman* (2000), *Troop Beverly Hills* (1989), *The Money Pit* (1986).)

RICK SPRINGFIELD 61 (Rumors about the feminine spelling of "Jessie" in Springfield's 1981 hit "Jessie's Girl" have left fans wondering whether the girl who left Rick fled to the arms of a lesbian lover. Not so, says Rick. "Jessie" is a surname. He came up with the fictitious name in order to protect the identity of the real guy who stole his girlfriend. Springfield admits to FlashNews that he does his best writing when he's down, and explains, "When I'm feeling good, I don't write." Other trivia: Springfield claims he first heard the strains of **Jimi Hendrix's** guitar as a 17 year old who was getting stoned with soldiers in Vietnam. He says he performed for the troops and was shot at, shelled at and flown from gig to gig in a Huey helicopter. At one point, Springfield even fired back at attacking North Vietnamese troops. In 1974, he dated and lived with then 15-year-old actress **Linda Blair**, star of the classic flick *The Exorcist*, who was 10 years his junior. He was a former cast member of the soap *General Hospital* from 1981 to 1983, where he played Dr. Noah Drake. After a 23-year absence, he returned to the soap in 2005 and appears on-and-off ever since.)

MARK RUSSELL 78 (The piano-playing political satirist has appeared on the American public broadcasting network PBS at least four times a year for the past twenty-five years. He comedy specials are a mix of political stand up comedy covering current events and musical parodies, in which Russell accompanies himself on his trademark piano. For several years, he also made annual appearances on the NBC news program *Meet the Press*.)

BARBARA EDEN 80 (The editors of *Playboy* magazine selected Eden as one of the "100 Sexiest Women of the Century." She came in at No. 58 - higher than supermodels **Claudia Schiffer** (No. 59), **Christie Brinkley** (No. 60), and **Stephanie Seymour** (No. 61). Eden's real last name is Moorhead. She's best known for the role of Jeannie on TV's *I Dream of Jeannie*. Jeannie supposedly was "born" on April 1, 64 B.C. The bottle that Jeannie lives in is actually a 1964 Christmas-edition Jim Beam whiskey bottle painted black and gold. The bottle colors were later changed to a bright, sparkling purple and '60s day-glo pink and turquoise. Eden's high school graduation reveals she was born in 1930 not 1934 as reported by sources. (She graduated in 1949 from San Francisco's Lincoln High School at the age of 18.) You can see Barbara on the series *Army Wives*.)

VERA MILES 81 (Actress. *Psycho* (1960), *Psycho II* (1983).)

RIVER PHOENIX would have been 40 today. (The actor died on October 31, 1993, after suffering a seizure outside the Viper Club in Los Angeles. River's last completed film was 1993's *The Thing Called Love*. Some **insiders claim Phoenix was bisexual** and was struggling with his sexual identity at the time of his death. He was raised as a member of the Children of God — a religious group that preaches sex with multiple partners as a way to reach God. Phoenix often claimed he lost his virginity at the age of four because Children of God members would encourage their children to "play" doctors and nurses at an early age.)

KEITH MOON would have been 63 today. (The drummer for **The Who** died in 1978 after overdosing on a drug prescribed to ease him through alcohol withdrawal. He died in the **same London apartment building where Mama Cass Elliott had died four years earlier**. In 1973, Moon gave one lucky Who fan the opportunity of a lifetime when he took a horse tranquilizer before hitting the stage and passed out during the set. The band, in need of a drummer, asked the audience if anyone could play. Concert goer Scott Halpin answered the call and played the remainder of the show with the band.)

AL GREENWOOD was born in 1907. (Greenwood promoted his image as the "Bedspreed King" with comical TV ads in which he wore a royal crown and cape. One time he claimed he was creating the world's first "bulletproof bedspread," and on another occasion, the "King" declared his store a sovereign nation and demanded economic aid to help "oppressed bedspreads forced to live in plastic bags." Greenwood was also the consumer reporter on *Comedy Central's Daily Show*, where he railed against what he called the "burly bastards of big business." After his death, Greenwood's daughter was crowned "Queen Susie" and took over the family dynasty. Greenwood went to his final resting place June 10, 2001, at the age of 93.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

18 Years Ago Today: Millions of people in Florida were asked to evacuate after **Hurricane Andrew hit the Bahamas** and started heading toward the Florida coast. (1992)

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33 Years Ago Today: Sebastian Cabot — the actor who played Mr. French on *Family Affair* — died. (1977)

35 Years Ago Today: “Fallin’ In Love” by Hamilton, Joe Frank & Reynolds was the No. 1 song. (1975)

84 Years Ago Today: Sexy silent film star **Rudolph Valentino died at the age of 31 from a ruptured appendix.** Many female fans of Valentino killed themselves in grief over his death. There were rumors that Valentino was gay, and a few days before his death, the *Chicago Tribune* described Valentino as a “...pink powder puff...” who was a role model for homosexuals. (1926)

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Tuesday, August 24, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

RUPERT GRINT 22 (Plays Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter films. Bought an ice cream van with his earnings from the Harry Potter movies and said he could always fall back on the van if his career falls out after the end of the seven-part series. Flicks: *Driving Lessons* (2006), *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (2007), *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (2005), *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004), *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2002), *Thunderpants* (2002), *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (2001).)

CHAD MICHAEL MURRAY 29 (Actor. Plays Lucas Scott on the teen drama *One Tree Hill*. He was married to co-star **Sophia Bush**, but after five months Bush filed for an annulment. After their divorce was finalized, Murray became engaged to a former extra on the show. Flicks: *Home of the Brave* (2006) *House of Wax* (2005), *A Cinderella Story* (2004), *Freaky Friday* (2003).)

BARRET OLIVER 37 (Played Daryl, the robot boy, in *D.A.R.Y.L.* (1985), Bastian in *The Never Ending Story* (1984). He now teaches photography classes in Los Angeles.)

DAVE CHAPPELLE 37 (Comedian and actor and former star of *The Chappelle Show*. He signed a reported \$50 million contract to keep him and *The Chappelle Show* at Comedy Central, but it didn't last long. Chappelle checked himself into a mental health facility in South Africa in May 2005. He had shot four of five episodes for the second season of *The Chappelle Show*, which was to premiere May 31, 2005, but Chappelle went AWOL. The comedian reportedly called off the entire popular comedy show. He later explained his departure was due to stress, saying, "I would go to work on the show and I felt awful every day." He also felt the show had become "socially irresponsible" and that he didn't need that much money. In 2007, Chappelle shattered the Laugh Factory's endurance record by performing a stand-up show for six hours and seven minutes. These days, Chappelle spends most of his time with his wife and two sons on a 65-acre farm that he calls "*Fuck You Hollywood Farm*" Flicks: *Undercover Brother* (2002), *Screwed* (2000). *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* (1993).)

MARLEE MATLIN 45 (Played Joey Lucas on *The West Wing*. The deaf actress won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in *Children of a Lesser God* (1986) at 21, becoming the youngest winner in that category.)

REGGIE MILLER 45 (The guard retired from basketball in 2005. While he was great at basketball, he was a dud at golf. Reggie admits he can't hit a golf ball into the air, so he usually has someone else tee off for him and he handles the putts. Reggie also suffers from an odd phobia: he claims he freaks out if he sees someone in a clown suit driving an automobile.)

CRAIG KILBORN 48 (He was replaced as host of the *Late Late Show* by Craig Ferguson. As the former host of the *Late Late Show*, Kilborn didn't have the highest late night ratings — but he topped the sex appeal. According to a 2000 poll by *eCrush.com*, 27 percent of Americans think Kilborn was the sexiest late night host followed by **Ted Koppel**, **Jay Leno** and **David Letterman**.)

CAL RIPKEN, JR. 50 (In 1995 Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record of consecutive games when he played his 2,131st game. Fans cheered for more than 22 minutes during a presentation that honored Ripken as the most durable athlete in the history of major league baseball. He retired in 2001. In 2007, he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.)

STEVE GUTTENBERG 52 (Motion picture publicists once touted Guttenberg as the "Jewish **John Travolta**." The same publicists also predicted Bruce Jenner would become "The **Robert Redford** of the '80s." Guttenberg flicks: *Bo Selecta* (2006), *Domino One* (2005), *P.S. Your Cat is Dead* (2001), *Cocoon*, *Police Academy*.)

GERRY COONEY 54 (Former heavyweight boxer best known for his loss to **Larry Holmes** in one of the largest boxing spectacles in history.)

MASON WILLIAMS 72 (The guitarist and songwriter composed the 1968 hit, "Classical Gas," which reached No. 2 on the charts.)

KENNY BAKER 76 (The 3'8" actor played R2D2 in the *Star Wars* series.)

YASSER ARAFAT would have been 81 today. (Former President of the Palestinian National Authority. Arafat, along with Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres, shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize. He held a degree in Architectural Engineering. (Confusion abounds over Arafat's exact date of birth. ABC News claims he was born August 1. Associated Press claims it's August 4. CNN reports it's August 24, as do most documents from official Palestinian sources.) He died November 11, 2004.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

1931 Years Ago Today: The towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum in southern Italy were **destroyed as Mount Vesuvius erupted**. Volcanic ash buried the cities, killing an estimated 20,000 people. (79)

15 Years Ago Today: Microsoft released its **Windows 95 operating system**. (1995)

18 Years Ago Today: At 5:05 a.m. Eastern time, **the eye of Hurricane Andrew hit near Homestead, Florida**. Winds as high as 175 miles per hour were recorded and storm surges swelled almost 17 feet. Hurricane Andrew left behind a trail of destruction: at least 20 people were found dead and 50,000 lost their homes. (1992)

19 Years Ago Today: The Soviet Union's **Communist Party began to collapse after Mikhail Gorbachev resigned** as secretary-general of the Soviet Union. (1991)

21 Years Ago Today: **Pete Rose, the manager of the Cincinnati Reds, was banned from baseball for life** after he was caught betting on baseball games. (1989)

25 Years Ago Today: "Power Of Love" by Huey Lewis & The News was the No. 1 song. (1985)

29 Years Ago Today: **Mark David Chapman, the murderer of John Lennon, was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison**. (1981)

61 Years Ago Today: **The North Atlantic Treaty went into effect**. (1949)

78 Years Ago Today: Amelia Earhart became **the first woman to fly non-stop across the United States**. The flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, took just over 19 hours. (1932)

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Wednesday, August 25, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

RACHEL BILSON 29 (While shooting the action/sci-fi thriller *Jumper*, Bilson had to use some "liquid courage" to act out a steamy sex scene with co-star **Hayden Christensen**. In early 2008, Bilson told Flash News that she was so terrified of the sexy scene that she and Christensen downed shots of booze right before filming to calm her nerves. She added "[The scene] was just so awkward and nerve-wracking. I don't think that it's ever going to be a comfortable thing for me. It's just something that goes against nature". The brunette beauty also played Summer Roberts on *The O.C.*, and dated co-star Adam Brody from 2003 to 2006. Movies: *Jumper* (2008), *The Last Kiss* (2006).)

CLAUDIA SCHIFFER 40 (The model's measurements are 35-24-36, she's 5-feet, 11-inches tall and, on a good day, weighs 127 pounds. Catfights between supermodels are nothing new. *Cosmo* magazine reports that Naomi Campbell once called Schiffer "a fat German cow." Australian skate boarders refer to pretty girls as "Schiffers." *YM* magazine once told its readers that girls who are fans of Schiffer are total romantics who fall in love at the drop of a hat and ignore their friends. Schiffer states she was born on August 25, 1970, not August 24 as reported by some sources.)

BLAIR UNDERWOOD 46 (Starred in the drama *LA Law*. When the readers of *Mademoiselle* magazine tried to construct the "Ultimate Sexy Male of 1990," the women chose Peter Horton's hair, Aidan Quinn's eyes, Kevin Costner's chest, Harrison Ford's hands, and Underwood's butt. Flicks: *Medea's Family Reunion* (2006), *Something New* (2006), *How Did It Feel?* (2003), *Malibu's Most Wanted* (2003), *Full Frontal* (2002), *G* (2002).)

BILLY RAY CYRUS 49 (Best known for his "Achy Breaky Heart" (1992), Cyrus helped the town of Throckmorton, Texas, during a drought in the summer of 2000 when the town's water supply went bone dry. Cyrus sent a semi-truck filled with bottles of drinking water to quench the thirst of the town's 1036 residents. Billy Ray was the first male spokesperson to sport a milk mustache as part of the Milk Advisory Board's Mustache Campaign. He was also the first artist to receive a Bob Hope Artists Award for his donations of time and money to aid veterans of wars. A survey sponsored by 1-800-MUSIC-NOW reports that 27 percent of Americans believe "Achy Breaky Heart" is such an obnoxious song, that playing it to hostile extraterrestrials would defuse any plans for a takeover of Earth. In 2007, Cyrus joined the cast for the fourth season of *Dancing with the Stars*. He was eliminated in the eighth week. You can see Cyrus alongside his daughter Miley in the Disney show *Hannah Montana*, where he plays a famous singer whose pop star daughter lives a double life.)

ALLY WALKER 49 (Played Dr. Sam Waters on *Profiler*.)

TIM BURTON 52 (Film director. Burton is engaged to actress Helena Bonham Carter; they have one child together and are expecting another. Burton was groped by an ape during the filming of *Planet of the Apes*. In 2001 *Playboy* magazine reported Burton and his actors all went to "ape training school" where they learned from real apes — but while there he was molested by the creatures. Burton claims the sex-crazed simians acted intensely horny toward him, groped him and one even humped his leg. On another occasion, he caught one of the apes staring at him and thought, "If a human ever looked at me that way, I'd run in the other direction." He is currently working on the film version of the Stephen Sondheim musical *Sweeney Todd* which will star long-time collaborator Johnny Depp. Flicks: *Corpse Bride* (2005), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005), *Big Fish* (2003), *Planet of the Apes* (2001), *Mars Attacks!* (1996), *Ed Wood* (1994), *Batman Returns* (1992), *Edward Scissorhands* (1990), *Batman* (1989), *Beetlejuice* (1988), *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* (1985).)

ELVIS COSTELLO 56 (His real name is Declan Patrick McManus. In 1979 an inebriated Costello put his foot in his mouth and made music headlines after he described legendary blues singer Ray Charles as "...a blind, ignorant, nigger." He later made a public apology about his not-so-politically-correct comment. He's married to singer Diana Krall. Costello hits: "Veronica" (1989), "Oliver's Army" (1979). Costello states he was born in 1954 not 1955 as reported by some sources. Flicks: *Prison Song* (2000), *Sans Plomb* (2000).)

GENE SIMMONS 61 (Long-tongued guitarist with Kiss. It may be a while before Kiss tours again. Simmons told a reporter last year, "We've been touring for 32 years. It's a time for all of us to take some time off, maybe two years." His real name is Gene Klein, or Chaim Witz. Simmons says of his large tongue: "It's the stupidest thing to be known for. But at some point I did come to understand that it is a religious instrument, an extension of God. Because when I use it, women say, 'Oh...my...God!" Simmons claims Kiss shows are the last place on Earth where normal women feel free to dress up in stiletto heels, tight pants and lingerie. In 1977 Marvel Comics published a Kiss comic book using ink that supposedly contained traces of actual blood drawn from the band members. Simmons spent his pre-KISS days teaching junior high school students in Spanish Harlem. He says his favorite part of the job was using *Spider-Man* comics to show kids how fun reading can be. In 2001 Kiss introduced a line of "KISS Kaskets" that are laminated with the words "KISS forever" and feature photographs of the band members in full regalia. Simmons plans to purchase one of the \$4500 coffins for himself, which means he'll truly rock the heavens when he dies. The band claims you can also use the coffin as a large beer cooler. Simmons claims to have slept with 4,897 women. He now appears on *Gene Simmons' Family Jewels*, a reality show where cameras follow him and his family in their day-to-day lives.)

ANNE ARCHER 63 (You can currently see her on three television shows: *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *The L Word* and *The Ghost Whisperer*. She has also appeared in such films as: *End Game* (2006), *Man of the House* (2005), *November* (2004), *The Art of War* (2000), *Rules of Engagement* (2000), *Patriot Games* (1991), *Fatal Attraction* (1987).)

TOM SKERRITT 77 (Played Sheriff Jimmy Brock on *Picket Fences*. Skerritt flicks: *Fallen* (2006), *Swing* (2004), *Colored Eggs* (2002), *Texas Rangers* (2001), *Contact* (1997), *A River Runs Through It* (1992), *Steel Magnolias* (1989), *Top Gun* (1986), *SpaceCamp* (1986), *Alien* (1979), *Up in Smoke* (1978).)

REGIS PHILBIN 79 (*Live with Regis and Kelly*. Billy Corgan, the lead singer for the Smashing Pumpkins, claims his real life hero is Philbin — probably because of a Las Vegas-style album Philbin recorded in the early 1960s. On the back cover of the album is a photo of Regis, Joey Bishop, and Sammy Davis, Jr. wearing matching Nehru jackets. In 1992, a section of Cruger Avenue in Philbin's hometown of the Bronx, New York, was renamed "Regis Philbin Avenue." Born in 1931 not 1933 or 1934 as reported by some sources.)

SEAN CONNERY 80 (Connery says he doesn't want to act in movies anymore because he was "fed up with the idiots" now working in Hollywood. He says, "I'm fed up with the idiots...the ever-widening gap between people who know how to make movies and the people who green-light the movies. I don't say they're all idiots. I'm just saying there's a lot of them that are very good at it." **Pierce Brosnan's** portrayal of James Bond isn't enough to make folks forget Connery. According to a poll by Blockbuster Video, Americans still think Connery is the best Bond followed by **Roger Moore**, then Brosnan, **Timothy Dalton** and **George Lazenby**. In the 1960s, actor Patrick McGeehan was the first choice to play the role of Bond, but he turned it down and Connery accepted the part. Connery once worked as a coffin polisher and bricklayer. He also was a weight lifter who competed in the 1950 Mr. Universe contest. In 1998 the editors of *New Choices* magazine asked women over the age of 50 to pick the "Sexiest Men On Earth." The majority of women selected Connery and Paul Newman. Even Elizabeth Taylor finds

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Connery's aging good looks irresistible. She told *Good Housekeeping* magazine that Connery "...can put his slippers under my bed anytime." As for his most famous role, Connery once confessed, "I've always hated that damn James Bond, I'd like to kill him." Connery flicks: *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* (2003), *Finding Forrester* (2000), *Entrapment* (1999), *Dragonheart* (1996), *The Rock* (1996), *A Rising Sun* (1993), *Medicine Man* (1992), *The Hunt for Red October* (1990), *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989), *Highlander* (1986), *The Man Who Would Be King* (1975), *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971), *You Only Live Twice* (1967), *Thunderball* (1965), *Goldfinger* (1964), *From Russia with Love* (1963), *Dr. No* (1962.)

MONTY HALL 87 (Former TV game show host of *Let's Make A Deal*, which premiered in 1963.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

31 Years Ago Today: "My Sharona" by the Knack was the No. 1 tune. (1979)

34 Years Ago Today: General Motors raised the prices on its new model cars. The average price for a new GM car: \$6,000. (1976)

39 Years Ago Today: President Nixon announced the end of the gold standard and floated the U.S. dollar against foreign currencies. (1971)

66 Years Ago Today: Paris was liberated from the Nazis by the 2nd French Armored Division. Later in the day, a parade through the city was led by General Charles de Gaulle. (1944)

135 Years Ago Today: Captain Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel. It took Webb 22 hours to swim from Dover, England, to Calais, France. (1875)

FlashNews Pop Culture Datebook

Thursday, August 26, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

MACAULAY CULKIN 30 (Culkin testified at Michael Jackson's trial, where he testified that "Wacko Jacko" never touched him inappropriately. Culkin plays New York party promoter-turned-murderer Michael Alig in the film *Party Monster*, but Michael's real-life mother says she's unhappy about the film and its title. Elke Alig says the title upsets her because her now 36-year-old son is not a monster. She claims Michael is rehabilitated and is "very remorseful" for murdering his drug dealer in the early '90s by injecting him with Drano and throwing him in New York's East River. Culkin was paid \$100,000 for his role in 1990's *Home Alone*. Four years later, he commanded \$8 million for the starring role in *Richie Rich*. He was married to actress Rachel Miner from 1998 to 2000, and is now dating *That 70's Show* actress Mila Kunis. Other Culkin films: *Sex and Breakfast* (2007), *Saved!* (2004), *Party Monster* (2003).)

THALIA 39 (Mexican singing sensation. Born in Mexico City. She's married to Sony music president Tommy Mottola. The couple welcomed their first child, a daughter named Sabrina, in 2007. In 2002 a kidnapper abducted two of Thalia's sisters. She got her start in Mexican soap operas. She has a gold record for her album "Amor a la Mexicana.")

SHIRLEY MANSON 44 (Lead singer of the band Garbage.)

BRANFORD MARSALIS 50 (Musician. Former band leader for Jay Leno's *Tonight Show*. Brother of jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.)

MARK SNOW 64 (Currently composes the music for *Smallville* however the composer is best known for his work on *The X Files* (both TV and motion picture) and *Millennium*. Snow also created the theme songs for the TV series *T.J. Hooker* and *Starsky and Hutch*.)

GERALDINE FERRARO 75 (In 2001 she announced she has an incurable form of blood cancer. In 1984 she became the first woman to be nominated as a U.S. vice presidential candidate. Ferraro was on the ticket with presidential candidate Walter Mondale. They lost in what became a landslide victory for Ronald Reagan and George Bush. She has lent her support to presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.)

JOHN WILKES BOOTH was born in 1838. (Although he shot and killed President Abraham Lincoln in 1865, "Honest Abe" probably would have survived the shooting if it weren't for his incompetent doctors. Medical experts now believe it was a doctor's probing for the bullet that caused the fatal damage. If Lincoln's physicians hadn't touched the president, he probably would have lived. The 27-year-old Booth was tracked down by Federal soldiers and shot in a burning barn in Virginia — or he may have shot himself. No one knows for sure what happened. **Booth's last words were "Tell my mother I died for my country...I thought I did it for the best!"**)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

1430 Years Ago Today: A crude form of toilet paper was invented by the Chinese. (580)

23 Years Ago Today: Sonny Bono announced his candidacy as mayor of Palm Springs, California. (1987)

36 Years Ago Today: Charles Lindbergh — the first man to make a solo, non-stop flight across the Atlantic — died at the age of 72. (1974)

40 Years Ago Today: More than 250,000 people attended the Isle of Wight Pop Festival in England. The festival featured Jimi Hendrix's last live performance. (1970)

64 Years Ago Today: Marilyn Monroe was signed to a motion picture contract with 20th Century Fox. The one year contract paid Marilyn \$125 a week. Fox let the contract lapse after one year. (1946)

71 Years Ago Today: A major league baseball game was televised for the very first time by experimental New York City TV station W2XBS. The first game of a doubleheader between the Cincinnati Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers was televised from Ebbets Field, with play-by-play provided by Red Barber. Cincinnati won 5-2. The very first televised baseball game of any type took place on May 17, 1939, in a collegiate match between Princeton and Columbia. Final score: Princeton 2, Columbia 1. (1939)

90 Years Ago Today: Women in the United States received the right to vote as the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was declared in effect. Years later, in 1973, congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." (1920)

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Friday, August 27, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

ALEXA VEGA 22 (You can catch Vega is the upcoming rock musical movie *Repo! The Genetic Opera* in which she co-stars with **Paris Hilton**. She will be playing a young woman condemned to her room due to the blood disorder she inherited from her mother. Alexa made her Broadway debut in the musical *Hairspray* as the precocious Penny Pingleton. She starred as the crime fighting Carmen Cortez in *Spy Kids* (2001) and *Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams* (2002) and *Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over* (2003). Other films: *Marrying God*(2006), *Sleepover* (2004).)

"DOWNTOWN" JULIE BROWN 51 (The former MTV Veejay may be known as just a TV host but inside she's an actress capable of much darker emotions. Julie tells Flash News that her idea of a dream role is Rebecca DeMornay's murderous character in *The Hand That Rocks The Cradle*.)

PEE-WEE HERMAN 58 (His real name is Paul Reubens. In 1991 Reubens was arrested in a Sarasota, Florida, adult theater and charged with indecent exposure. Vice cops testified that Reubens exposed himself during a showing of the X-rated flick, *Nancy Nurse Turns Up The Heat*. Pee-wee was fined \$50 and ordered to perform 75 hours of community service. Reubens flicks: *Reno 911! Miami* (2007), *Mayor of Sunset Strip* (2003), *Blow* (2001), *Great Sex* (2000), *Mystery Men* (1999), *Big Top Pee-wee* (1988), *Flight of the Navigator* (1986), *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* (1985).)

HARRY REEMS 63 (The former porno star is best known for his appearance in the 1972 film *Deep Throat*. Reems — whose real name is Herbert Streicher — made his first X-rated film because he needed money to buy Christmas presents. He was paid \$75 for his first adult film appearance, but he later earned as much as \$30,000 a week, spending much of it on alcohol and cocaine. He hit bottom in 1985 in Malibu where he slept behind a grocery store dumpster. Reems entered a 12-step recovery program and is now a trustee of a Methodist church in Park City, Utah, where he also sells real estate.)

TUESDAY WELD 67 (Actress. Ex-wife of Dudley Moore. Played Thalia Menninger on *The Many Loves of Doby Gillis*. Flicks: *Investigating Sex* (2001).)

DARYL DRAGON 68 (The Captain of Captain & Tennile.)

MOTHER TERESA was born in 1910. (The well-known missionary and nun won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was born with the name Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Mother Teresa started her own charity when she was 40 but she received little publicity for more than 20 years. Her claim to fame started in 1971 after a BBC documentary hailed her as "...a miracle worker." Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997.)

LYNDON JOHNSON was born in 1908. (The 36th president of the United States was also a bully who once told his vice president, Hubert Humphrey, "**When I want your advice, I'll give it to you.**" According to Capitol Hill insiders, one of LBJ's favorite sayings was "**I don't trust a man unless I've got his pecker in my pocket.**" Christmas dinners at the Johnson White House usually included a batch of Johnson's special deer meat sausage which he whipped up himself. LBJ ordered White House plumbers to install a custom shower with five nozzles — including one nozzle which was aimed at his rear end. President Nixon ordered the unusual shower dismantled after he was elected. Johnson loved soft drinks so much that he installed a Fresca tap in the White House. He reportedly enjoyed reading secret FBI files maintained by J. Edgar Hoover which probed into the sex lives of prominent politicians. Bob Hope once said that of all the presidents he met, Johnson had the worst sense of humor. LBJ died at the age of 64 after suffering a heart attack.)

Chinese philosopher CONFUCIUS was born in -551. ()

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

20 Years Ago Today: Singer and guitarist **Stevie Ray Vaughan died in a helicopter crash** after leaving a concert in East Troy, Wisconsin. He was 35 years old when the helicopter slammed into a hill near a ski resort outside of East Troy. (1990)

34 Years Ago Today: Transsexual tennis player Renee Richards — formerly Dr. Richard Raskind — was **barred from competing at the U.S. Open tennis championship** after refusing to undergo a chromosome qualification test to determine if she was a he or a she. (1976)

45 Years Ago Today: **The Beatles and Elvis Presley met for the very first — and last time — in Bel Air, California.** (1965)

46 Years Ago Today: The Disney classic *Mary Poppins* premiered at **Grauman's Chinese Theater** in Los Angeles. (1964)

55 Years Ago Today: **The very first Guinness Book of World Records was published.** (1955)

127 Years Ago Today: The volcanic island of **Krakatoa exploded**, hurling five cubic miles of earth almost 50 miles into the air. **The explosion was heard 3,000 miles away** and created 120-foot tidal waves that killed 36,000 people. The shock wave created by the eruption encircled the earth seven times before dissipating. (1883)

FlashNews Pop Culture Datebook

Saturday, August 28, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

LEANN RIMES 28 (In 1997, the singer became the youngest person to win a Grammy award. Rimes has won an American Music Award, two Grammy Awards, three Academy of Country Music Awards, and 12 Billboard Music Awards. She hosted country music's version of *American Idol*, *Nashville Star*, in 2005, although she missed part of the gig after she broke a blood vessel in one of her vocal chords. It seems Rimes and **Britney Spears** are both at risk of losing their voices in the future. Two Los Angeles-based singing experts say both women sing in keys that are lower than their natural ranges. The former child singers also sang in front of crowds before their vocal cords were fully mature and could end up with serious throat problems. LeAnn admits that as a 12 year old, rich kids at her school would smash eggs against her locker and attack her almost every day. Flicks: *Coyote Ugly* (2000).)

JASON PRIESTLEY 41 (The actor had a rough ride while driving his Indy racing car on August 11, 2002. He crashed head-on into a brick wall at 180 mph. He suffered a broken back and a concussion. The former *Beverly Hills 90210* star once claimed he was born in 1956. The statement prompted noted anti-aging expert Julia Busch to theorize that either Priestly has a great genetic background or he's practicing an ancient beauty secret involving wiping baby urine on his face. The practice supposedly can take years off your age.)

BILLY BOYD 42 (Pippin Took in *The Lord of the Rings* (2001). He voiced the devil doll in a fifth sequel to *Child's Play* called *Seed of Chucky* (2004). Other films: *The Flying Scotsman* (2005), *Save Angel Hope* (2005), *On a Clear Day* (2005).)

SHANIA TWAIN 45 (The belly button-baring country singer may look sexy in her videos, but in real life Shania says she's "not a sexual person" and that she always has total control of her sexual habits. She's also shy about showing off her bod, and whenever she's at the beach, she covers her bathing suit with a wrap. Despite her status as a sex symbol, Shania doesn't think she's all that great. She thinks she has good strong teeth and nice cheekbones, but she believes her nose is dented, her eyes are too small and her legs are "stumpy." When Shania was growing up, her family was so poor they had to hunt rabbits for food. She actually set up the rabbit traps designed to strangle the critters. These days Shania is a vegetarian. Other trivia: Shania's first public performance was singing John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" during her kindergarten show-and-tell. Although Shania has often claimed she's one-half Ojibway Indian, her grandmother has a different story: namely that Shania doesn't have one drop of Indian blood in her. Shania's real father was a Caucasian railroad engineer who deserted the family when Shania was two. Her mother later married an Ojibway Indian.)

JIMMY JAGGER 45 (Mick Jagger's son.)

EMMA SAMMS 50 (Actress. Played Falon Carrington-Colby on *Dynasty*, *The Colbys*)

SCOTT HAMILTON 52 (The figure skater won a 1984 Olympic gold medal. Hamilton, an adopted child, reports that he doesn't want to track down his biological parents because he considers the folks who raised him to be his "real parents." He says adoption is a complex subject, but he feels very strongly that genetic parents should not have the right to take a child away from the adoptive parents.)

DANIEL STERN 53 (Was the voice of Dilbert. He was also the narrator of *The Wonder Years* (as the adult Kevin). Flicks: *Bachelor Party Vegas* (2006), *Viva Las Nowhere* (2000), *City Slickers* (1991), *Home Alone* (1990).)

WAYNE OSMOND 59 (Brother of Donny. Vocals with The Osmond Brothers)

RON GUIDRY 60 (Nicknamed "Louisiana Lightning," Guidry pitched for the New York Yankees from 1975 to 1988.)

DAVID SOUL 67 (Played Det. Ken Hutchinson on TV's *Starsky and Hutch*. In 1977 Soul had a No. 1 hit song, "Don't Give Up on Us.")

BEN GAZZARA 80 (Played Paul Bryan on TV's *Run For Your Life* (1965-68).)

DONALD O'CONNOR would have been 85 today. (Actor and dancer. He died in September 27, 2003 from heart failure. Movies: *Singing in the Rain*, *The Colgate Comedy Hour* (1951-54).)

Actress NANCY KULP was born in 1921. (She played Miss Jane Hathaway on TV's *The Beverly Hillbillies*. The character had the hots for Jethro Clumpett but, in real life, the actress was probably more attracted to Elly Mae. Entertainment journalist Boze Hadleigh claims Kulp was long the subject of lesbian rumors and when confronted about it she merely said, "Birds of a feather flock together." Singer Chris Isaak admits he has a secret crush on Miss Hathaway. Says Chris: "She's was hot. All thin and scrawny..." In 1984 Kulp entered politics and ran as a Pennsylvania Democratic congressional candidate. She lost the race and later blamed her failure on fellow *Beverly Hillbillies* star Buddy Ebsen, who had appeared in political commercials endorsing her Republican opponent.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

14 Years Ago Today: The 15-year marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana officially ended in divorce. (1996)

17 Years Ago Today: The *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* debuted on Fox. (1993)

37 Years Ago Today: The 1962 novelty tune "Monster Mash" hit the charts for the third time. (1973)

46 Years Ago Today: The Beatles were turned on to marijuana for the first time by Bob Dylan in a New York hotel. (1964)

47 Years Ago Today: 200,000 people flocked to Washington, DC, for a Freedom March in support of civil rights. Marchers listened to speeches by 10 civil rights leaders, the most inspiring being Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream..." speech. (1963)

55 Years Ago Today: A 14-year-old boy named Emmett Louis Till was murdered in the town of Money, Mississippi. The senseless reason for the murder? **He was a black teenager who was caught speaking to a white woman.** (1955)

72 Years Ago Today: Northwestern University awarded an honorary college degree to Charlie McCarthy — a dummy owned by ventriloquist Edgar Bergen. (1938)

88 Years Ago Today: The world's first radio commercial was aired by New York City's WEA radio. The ad was for the Queensboro Realty Corporation which was pitching its new apartment buildings in Queens. The 10-minute ad for the Hawthorne Court Apartments cost only \$100. (1922)

103 Years Ago Today: United Parcel Service began operation when it delivered its first package in Seattle. Back then it was known as the American Messenger Company. (1907)

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173 Years Ago Today: Two pharmacists — **John Lea and William Perrins** — began manufacturing **Worcester Sauce** from Worcester, England. (1837)

FlashNews Pop Culture Datebook

Sunday, August 29, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

A+ 28 (Rapper.)

CARLA GUGINO 39 (Played Dr. Gina Simon on *Chicago Hope*. Flicks: *Night at the Museum* (2006), *Sin City* (2005), *Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams* (2002) and *Spy Kids* (2001).)

TERI POLO 41 (Actress. Flicks: *Meet the Fockers* (2004), *Domestic Disturbance* (2001), *Sins of the Father* (2001), *Meet the Parents* (2000).)

REBECCA DE MORNAY 48 (In 2007, De Mornay appeared in a starring role in the HBO series *John from Cincinnati*. Shortly after receiving this role, the blonde beauty was charged with misdemeanor DUI. In February 2008, she was sentenced to complete a three-month program for first time offenders. She was born Rebecca George in Santa Rosa, California. De Mornay flicks: *Lords of Dogtown* (2005), *Identity* (2003), *I.D.* (2003), *Salem Witch Trials* (2002), *A Table for One* (1999), *Never Talk to Strangers* (1995), *The Three Musketeers* (1993), *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle* (1992), *Backdraft* (1991), *Beauty and the Beast* (1987), *Risky Business* (1983).)

SPEEDY GONZALES 57 (The Warner Bros. cartoon character debuted on this day in 1953. Los Angeles-based Latino activist Irene Ayala claims Speedy reinforces negative stereotypes of Hispanics because he runs around in a sombrero, yelling "Arriba, arriba." She says the fact that Speedy Gonzales is the only famous Hispanic cartoon character proves Hollywood is still in the dark ages when it comes to race relations.)

ROBIN LEACH 69 (Former host of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*.)

JAMES BRADY 70 (The former White House Press Secretary was shot in 1981 and left partially paralyzed during an attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan. Congress later passed the "Brady Bill" which requires the purchaser of a handgun to wait five days before actually receiving the weapon.)

ELLIOT GOULD 72 (The actor was once married to Barbra Streisand. Played Jack Geller, the father of Monica and Ross, on *Friends*. Flicks: *Ocean's 13* (2007), *Voltage* (2003), *Ocean's 11* (2002), *MASH*, *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice* (1969).)

JOHN MCCAIN 74 (Arizona senator and presumptive Republican Party nominee for President of the United States in the 2008 election. Chicago-based astrologer, Barbabra Schermer, tells Flash News that she has looked to the stars to shed some light on the personality of this presidential hopeful. She reports to Flash that McCain, who is part of the Pluto/Cancer Generation, is a Virgo whose priorities lie in the safety and security of our borders, but whose health could be jeopardized by the grueling duties of the presidency.)

MICHAEL JACKSON would have been 52 today. (In 2005 Jackson was acquitted of charges claiming he molested a 13-year-old boy and provided him with alcohol, although at least two jurors later said they believed Jackson was guilty. While on the witness stand, Jackson's old pal Macaulay Culkin testified that Jackson never touched him sexually. The self-proclaimed "King of Pop" always griped about harassment by supermarket tabloids, yet he sold pictures of his newborn son to the *National Enquirer*. Jackson claimed he donated the money to charity. He was briefly married to Lisa Marie Presley. The British paper, *The Sun*, claims Lisa Marie's desire for kinky spanking sessions was the reason for the breakup. The paper claimed Jackson ordered the bugging of every telephone at his Neverland estate. Supposedly, there was a recording of a phone call between Lisa Marie and ex-husband, Danny Keough, in which they both moan in ecstasy while sharing sexual fantasies over the phone. Jackson appeared at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival wearing a pair of white jockey shorts on his head. In 1993 a 13-year-old boy claimed he was seduced by Jackson. The boy claimed Jackson slept with him in the same bed and that Jackson gave him a "French kiss." Meanwhile, a former manager of Jackson's Neverland estate told the *Globe* tabloid that he witnessed Jackson engaging in unspecified sexual acts with Bubbles the chimp. Jackson's lawyer described the claims as "trash." Members of the Jewish community were in an uproar in 1995 over alleged anti-semitic lyrics which appeared in Jackson's video, *They Don't Care About Us*. He removed the original lyrics, "Jew me, sue me, kick me, kike me" only after several religious leaders protested. Jackson's fans are loyal to a fault: A 17-year-old boy in France committed suicide after his mother wouldn't allow him to have plastic surgery that would have turned him into a clone of Jackson. One of Jackson's first public performances took place while he was attending the Garnett Elementary School in Gary, Indiana. He sang *The Sound of Music's* "Climb Every Mountain.")

ISABEL SANFORD would have been 81 today. (Played Weezy on *The Jeffersons*, the spin-off of *All in the Family*. George Jefferson was, in reality, a black version of Archie Bunker. George and "Weezy" eventually moved "...on up to the East side to a deluxe apartment in the sky..." Sanford stated she was born in 1929, not 1933, 1922 or 1917(!) as reported by some sources. She died July 9, 2004.)

Actress INGRID BERGMAN was born in 1915. (Bergman flicks: *Anastasia* (1956), *Joan of Arc* (1948), *Notorious* (1946), *The Bells of St. Mary's* (1945), *Saratoga Trunk* (1945), *Spellbound* (1945), *Gaslight* (1944), *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1943), *Casablanca* (1942). Bergman died in London on her 67th birthday in 1982. Her ashes were scattered at sea off the coast of Sweden.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

5 Years Ago Today: Category four Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of the U.S. The city of New Orleans was initially spared major damage until the heavy rainfall caused the collapse of two New Orleans levees which flooded 80 percent of the city, killing thousands and leaving the city uninhabitable for months. (2005)

33 Years Ago Today: Four men lurking inside the Memphis cemetery where Elvis Presley had just been buried were arrested. They told the cops **they were planning on stealing Elvis's body so they could hold it for "ransom."** The body was later moved to Graceland where it could be guarded. (1977)

40 Years Ago Today: "**War**" by Edwin Starr was the **No. 1 song.** (#2: "Make It With You" by Bread; #3: "(They Long to Be) Close to You" by the Carpenters; #4: "In The Summertime" by Mungo Jerry; #5: "Spill The Wine" by Eric Burdon & War.) (1970)

43 Years Ago Today: Millions of Americans watched the final TV episode of *The Fugitive* to discover the identity of the real murderer of Dr. Richard Kimble's wife, the mysterious "One-Armed Man." At the time, the episode was seen by more people than any other show in the history of TV. The record wasn't broken until 1980 when the "Who Shot J.R.?" episode of *Dallas* aired. (1967)

44 Years Ago Today: The Beatles gave their last live concert appearance. The final show by the Fab Four was held in San Francisco's Candlestick Park where they performed for 25,000 fans in a concert that lasted less than an hour. The **final tune played by the Beatles was "Long Tall Sally."** (1966)

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46 Years Ago Today: Disney's *Mary Poppins* was released across the nation. (1964)

53 Years Ago Today: A **filibuster record was set in the senate by South Carolina's Strom Thurmond**. The senator held the floor for 24 hours, 19 minutes, before he finished his argument against civil rights legislation. The windbag senator started his filibuster on August 28. (1957)

57 Years Ago Today: Warner Bros. cartoon character **Speedy Gonzales made his screen debut** in the cartoon, *Cattails for Two*. (1953)

114 Years Ago Today: Chop suey was invented in New York City by the chef of a visiting Chinese official named Li Hung-Chang. Mr. Li, a governor of a Chinese province, arrived in New York a day earlier where he was greeted by President Grover Cleveland. (1896)

133 Years Ago Today: Mormon leader **Brigham Young died at the age of 76 from what is thought to have been appendicitis**. He specified in his will that **he wanted a redwood coffin large enough that he could turn a little to the left or to the right**. (1877)

252 Years Ago Today: The very **first American Indian reservation was established**. It was a 1,600-acre tract of land in New Jersey. (1758)

477 Years Ago Today: Spanish conquistadors murdered the last remaining Incan King of Peru, Atahualpa. (1533)