

# Entertainment Outlook



## ASK DICK KLEINER

### Which Smothers is which?

By Dick Kleiner

**Q.** How many Smothers Brothers are there? Didn't one of them die a short time ago? How long have the two who are the current Smothers Brothers been together? — M.G., Roseburg, Oregon.

**A.** That's one of those silly rumors that somehow gets started and never stops. Tom and Dick Smothers are the original Smothers Brothers. Neither died. Neither is a replacement. They are the genuine article. They first gained fame together on TV in the 1960s. The current rumor began when they did a skit on "Saturday Night Live" about one dying, but it was just a skit.

**Q.** I heard that comedian Paul Reubens, otherwise known as Pee-wee Herman, died in April. What was the cause and why was it hushed up? — B.H., Myeraville, Md.

**A.** Another incorrect rumor. Nothing to it. The only thing that was hushed up was the truth, which was that it never happened.

**Q.** I have been watching "Days of Our Lives" for years and I say Alice Horton is a great-great-grandmother. My friend says no way. I have a lobster dinner riding on this. — R.M., Sugarland, Texas.

**A.** Who gets the lobster depends of whether you are talking about the character or the actress who plays the role. Alice Horton, the character on



Tom Smothers



Pee-wee Herman

that soap, is a great-great-grandmother — twice. But Frances Reid, who plays that part, is not.

**Q.** My cousin says Richard Dawson of "Family Feud" is dead. I don't believe it. If so, from what, and when? — Mrs. J.R., Pasadena, Texas.

**A.** You are right in not believing it. Dickie is still kicking. In fact, he is preparing a new game show, a remake of Groucho Marx' old "You Bet Your Life," for NBC for next fall.

**Q.** I would like some information about Joan Blondell's family name, because it's a rare name and it happens to be my first name. — B., Rock Hill, S.C.

**A.** Blondell is an old English name.

Joan used to boast that one of her ancestors had been a jester in the court of King Richard the Lion-Hearted. So wear your name proudly.

**Q.** I have asked around and no one seems to know why Ricardo Montalban has a limp. Was he injured some time ago? — A.C., Canton, Ohio.

**A.** Yes. Ricardo fell off a horse in one of his first movies, and he has had problems with his leg ever since.

**Q.** A friend and I have a bet on the TV series, "Mod Squad." I say Peggy Lipton was the girl star but my friend says it was Susan Dey. Would you please resolve this, please? — M.W., Corpus Christi, Texas.

**A.** It was Peggy Lipton, or as she was known around the show, Leggy Pipton. She is separated from musician Quincy Jones. Susan Dey, now part of the "L.A. Law" cast, was only 15 when "Mod Squad" began.

**Q.** I collect professional and real names. I have over 4,000, but I can't find the real names of Nipsy Russell,

Loni Anderson, J.D. Cannon and L.Q. Jones. Can you help me with those? — Mrs. M.D., Mannington, W.Va.

**A.** Three out of four, OK? I can't find Nipsy Russell's real name, ei-

ther. Loni Anderson's real name is Loni Anderson. J.D. Cannon is Jack Cannon. L.Q. Jones was born J.E. McQueen.

**Q.** Whatever happened to Melvin Miller of "The Millionaire"? Is he living or dead? And was that a true story? If so, who was the man giving out the millions and does he still do that? Is he living or dead? — J.H., Savannah, Ga.

**A.** No, that old TV series about a man giving away a million dollars every week was pure fairy tale. So the millionaire was fictional. Marvin — not "Melvin" — Miller, who starred in that TV show, died in 1985.

**Q.** In the film "No Way Out," was the actor, Will Patton, who played Scott, the same actor who played Hutch, the hit man on "General Hospital" a few years ago? My friends think I'm crazy, but I say the same actor played both roles? — B.B., Loaconis, Md.

**A.** Your friends may have a point. Rick Moses played Hutch.



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