

EVENTS

Guided Peace Meditation
5 p.m.–6 p.m. Feb. 3
Baldwin Hall 251

Join the Art of Living club for a relaxing hour of light stretching and guided breathing exercises. This free event requires no previous experience and is open to everyone.

Alpha Phi Omega Bake Sale
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 2–5
McClain, Violette and Magruder halls

Stop by one of the Alpha Phi Omega tables on your way to class to grab a baked treat for 50 cents.

CALLING ALL COOKS

THE INDEX IS LOOKING FOR RECIPE SUBMISSIONS. IF YOU HAVE A RECIPE YOU WANT FEATURED, PLEASE SEND:

- LIST OF INGREDIENTS
- INSTRUCTIONS
- PICTURE OF THE FOOD
- SHORT BLURB ABOUT WHY THE RECIPE IS SPECIAL TO YOU
- HEAD SHOT OR SELFIE

TO INDEX.FEATURESEditor@GMAIL.COM.



TOP 5 Police Procedurals That Don't Get Super Repetitive



3

Although "Bones" has been on air for 11 years and counting, the show constantly is able to write interesting and different story lines. The series is also more science-based than other police procedurals because its cast of characters are mostly scientists rather than FBI agents.



1

Unlike most police procedurals, "White Collar" deals with white collar crime, such as art theft, forgeries, fraud, etc. meaning there's hardly any dead bodies to investigate. Neal Caffrey, a con man and art forger, talks his way into being an FBI consultant to the man who put him in prison four years before, FBI agent Peter Burke.



4

Falling under the comedy genre, "Psych" wasn't known for having a completely believable premise. Shawn Spencer is able to con the Santa Barbara police department into thinking he's psychic for 8 years? Not likely. But this crime dramedy was always more about the friendships between the characters than the crimes.



2

Instead of a cast of classic police officers or FBI agents, "Criminal Minds" features a team of profilers who focus on catching the bad guy, not solving the case. Chief Aaron Hotchner and his team travel the country tracing the behavior of their target criminal.



5

A play on James Bond-type spy dramas, "Burn Notice" doesn't get enough credit. After spy Michael Westen gets burned by the CIA, he moves back to Miami to investigate crimes, figure out who burned him and why. Westen's witty and dry narration shows "Burn Notice" knows not to take itself too seriously.

REEL.talk

STILL BELIEVING - "THE X-FILES" STUMBLES, BUT ...

BY KATEY STOETZEL
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I still believe in "The X-Files" revival. We're only two episodes into the new six-episode season, and I've heard good things about later episodes. But we're not off to a great start.

The season 10 premiere, "My Struggle," written and directed by series creator Chris Carter, is all about catching everyone up on the last 15 years of "The X-Files" world. During Kumail Nanjiani's podcast "The X-Files Files," Nanjiani talked about how great a revival of "The X-Files" would be in this post-9/11 world, with rumors of the NSA bugging everyone's phones, drone strikes and Edward Snowden. The good old days of "The X-Files" were all about paranoia and conspiracies, and "My Struggle" delivers on that front. The episode doesn't explore these things, but definitely mentions all of these real-world events to further the idea the government has been keeping secrets from the world, which is what the show was once famous for.

So we get a lot of exposition during "My Struggle." To be fair, this premiere episode had a lot of obligations to get out of the way — clue in general audiences, cover the

last 15 years in real-time and "X-Files" time, re-establish who Fox Mulder and Dana Scully are and where they're at in their lives, and somehow reintroduce the government conspiracy that should have been left alone during 1998. Although "The X-Files" has had its meta moments during the past, a lot of time during "My Struggle" was dedicated to too much self-awareness for my taste, making the episode feel more like an obligation than the joyful return it should have been.

At times, "The X-Files" can be melodramatic. "My Struggle" doesn't stray away from that, spouting off lines such as "It's about controlling the past to control the future! It's about fiction masquerading as fact!" It doesn't help that David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson are having a hard time stepping back into their roles.

After re-establishing a government conspiracy that goes as far back as Roswell, a hurried "I'm coming out of seclusion to find out the truth" arc for Mulder and an unsurprising "I have to rejoin the FBI to investigate aliens so Mulder doesn't get himself in trouble" arc for Scully, "My Struggle" ends with the X-Files investigation reopening. This doesn't sit well with an old nemesis, who is graced with the final shot of the season 10 premiere. Yes, Cigarette Smoking Man is back, even though he was last seen getting blown

up in the series finale. And yes, he's still smoking, though it's through a tracheotomy.

The second episode, "Founder's Mutation," was an improvement from the first one. "Founder's Mutation" leaves the mythology plot behind for the monster-of-the-week formula, a formula "The X-Files" really thrives on. When a scientist working for the Department of Defense commits suicide, Mulder and Scully stumble upon a secret mutation experiment involving kids. It's implied these kids are the result of experiments involving alien DNA, a callback to the original series and Scully's abduction during season two.

"Founder's Mutation" is superior to "My Struggle" because it includes one thing "My Struggle" forgot "The X-Files" was capable of — wit. From Mulder's dry humor to Walter Skinner's exasperated reactions to his agents and Mulder's penchant for blurting out the most ridiculous explanations and expecting people to believe him, we're finally back on track.

The time for a new "X-Files" was right, but it has four episodes left to prove it's going to take advantage of it. I will be continuing discussions about season 10 of "The X-Files" on the TMN website during the following weeks, under the heading "Still Believing." Visit tmn.truman.edu to join the conspiracy theories. **Grade — B+**