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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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"Miami Vice" -- Would Anyone Call It Realistic? Except The New York Times?

Their writers get paid much better than I do, so I'm sure they can take the heat. And yes, I'm sure any of my own hack work could be just as easily mocked. But then, I don't work for the paper of record, so no one cares when I write something silly. So with that out of the way, here's my latest beef.

The NYT is never worse than when trying to glibly deal with pop culture and/or trying to treat glib pop culture too seriously. They're not Entertainment Weekly and shouldn't try. Here's [the NYT on "Miami Vice"](#) from Friday's paper:

[Crockett and Tubbs] were hardened, dedicated officers, but they also made their fair share of blunders, mistakes and dumb assumptions. They were dissolute but human, gritty but glamorous: the MTVification of "Hill Street Blues."

Crockett and Tubbs were hardened and dedicated? "Miami Vice" -- the show in which, as the NYT mentions, Crockett kept a pet alligator, they floated around Miami in designer clothes and drove ultra-expensive automobiles to the sounds of Phil Collins -- was realistic, in the tradition of "Hill Street Blues?" It was fun, but gritty? Really? And then there's this from the intro:

It's settled. The '80s were more fun. Aerobics, unlike elliptical machines and Pilates, were inclusive.

Huh? I'm still arguing with Monkeyboy about what that means. I thought it was referring to class, as if aerobics were for the masses and Pilates and elliptical machines for the wealthy. Monkeyboy says it refers to the way they were done, aerobics typically in classes and Pilates more often with a one-on-one instructor and elliptical machines in the isolating world of the gym, I suppose. He couldn't be bothered to put up much fuss when I argued the classic '80s image of aerobics was

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