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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE  
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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## Popsurfing Through The Emmys

Well, the show was a fitfully entertaining mess, even if the awards are the most frustating, puzzling and downright stupid around. Conan did a fine job hosting and his Billy Crystal-like opener (where he popped into a bunch of different shows) was pretty good. His song-and-dance number about how much trouble NBC is in was even better. The biggest mistake was forcing presenters to make chit-chat or (even worse) jokes before announcing the nominees and winners. Don't they know you could cut half an hour out of the show and save us all a lot of misery by skipping all that? Sure, Stephen Colbert's bit with Jon Stewart was funny, but that's one out of about 20. Further, when the winners are announced, the producers are so afraid of dead airtime while the people walk to the mike that they try to fill in with random clips of shows that are invariably confusing and cut off in the middle. Also, who decided what categories should get brief clips and which categories would just be named? Some idiot decided Supporting Actress in a Miniseries or Movie should feature a clip, which meant we saw about half of Ellen Burstyn's entire performance. Presenters were notably dull, with most of them mumbling out the name of the winner. I don't need high drama, but a slight pause and a note of congratulation in their voice would surely be a lot more appropriate than "andthewinneriselizaebththefirst."

The best speech was from the "My Name Is Earl" scribe who named people he DIDN'T want to thank. Otherwise, the producers seemed rudely focused on cutting off acceptance speeches. Sure, the director of "Elizabeth I" sounded so comatose he was probably glad. But most of the stars, deserved their moment. And like the Oscars, they failed completely to give you an idea of the performances and shows that were being honored. Most award presentations didn't feature any clips and the ones they did show were too short. How about cutting comedy routines and actually celebrating the shows you're supposed to be honoring?

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