

THE GREATEST TV SHOW EVER!!!



It's easy to see why my favourite show is called Most Haunted. In all of the expected editions of my favourite places, there's a ghost story involved. I've always loved ghosts (and I recently joined an APA, The Everlasting Club, dedicated to the love of ghost stories). So, when Gen and I started regularly watching The Travel Channel on Fridays, Most Haunted stuck out.

Most Haunted is a British show where a team of investigators go to haunted places around the UK and film stuff. It's not at all scientific, and it may be a complete hoax, but they get some nice results. The team is led by the hostess, the adorable-when-she's-scared Yvonne, and a psychic named Derrek with a 'spirit guide' name of Sam. There's a sure way to lose all credibility in the arena of parapsychology by including a medium, but he's at least entertaining.

The things they show are great, and always inconclusive. They visited a working brewery where folks have seen all sorts of strange things, and they encountered things falling or being thrown at them. A barrel, full and weighing a bunch of kilos, started rolling on its own. Strange, but hardly enough proof to convince the Amazing Randi.



They've done investigation of some of my favourite places in the UK. Chillingham Castle, featured in a 2000 series where a family had to

spend the night, is great with one of the best known ghosts in the world wandering its halls, the famous Blue Boy.

The list of places they've investigated makes me think that maybe getting a PAL-enabled TV and DVD player might be worth it just so I could watch the past seasons. Derby Gaol, which has had several TV series shoot there, and Caesar's Nightclub are both places that I've said I'd visit if I ever make it out there. Though I've only seen a few episodes, every one featured something cool enough to warrant my watching again the next week.

I'm so excited to say that they're coming to America! They are planning on doing episodes from my three favourite. They've already taped episodes at the Whaley House in San Diego (a truly sinister place, to hear tour guides talk of it) as well as the Queen Mary, and they're coming to do the CalNeva (haunted by Marilyn Monroe, or so the saying goes) and then to Alcatraz (creepy again in some parts) and then to the Brookdale Lodge, not but 20 minutes away from my house. What I wouldn't give to be able to chat with these folks.

The Brookdale Lodge one should be interesting as I've spoken with many people who have seen the little girl that runs around the lobby, bumping into people and then disappearing. I've never seen her, but I did have a drink mysteriously knocked over once when I was drinking there. It's a great place, with a stream that runs through the middle, and the late night crowd includes Jazz fans (after shows in the lounge) and Ghost Aficionados. What a great combination!



***THE DRINK TANK TURNS 40
STARTS JUGGING
AND BUYS A NEW SPORTS CAR!***



There's a New Form of Genius

I can't say that I'm shocked. When I was going through my daily email, I found a note from a friend who had found the site. I'm used to getting emailed links to porn and other distasteful things, but not stuff like this. This was the link to a page called FedExFurniture.com. That's right, FedExFurniture.com. That's all you need to know, and I thinking that there was no way that I'd find it's equal ever.

And then I read the story and I was even more bothered.

It seems that some poor schmuck was broke after getting an apartment and didn't have money for furniture. That being the case, he did have access to a FedEx account and asked for a bunch of boxes and envelopes to be sent to him. He then used them to make furniture. He made himself a couch and a bed, but then he had to move again and was paying rent on TWO places, and without furniture, he reupped his orders and built an entire houseful of furniture. He made a desk, and then a bed. The bed's design is brilliant as it uses FedEx boxes for the framing and then padded envelopes for the mattress. He also



made a very complicated Desk system and then a large couch.

He's not the first guy to ever take free objects and make furniture out of them. There are a great many people who have stolen milk crates and turned them into beds and couches and bookshelves, and discarded cardboard boxes have furnished entire dorm rooms, but this is the first time I can think of that an off-the-shelf free commodity has been used this way.

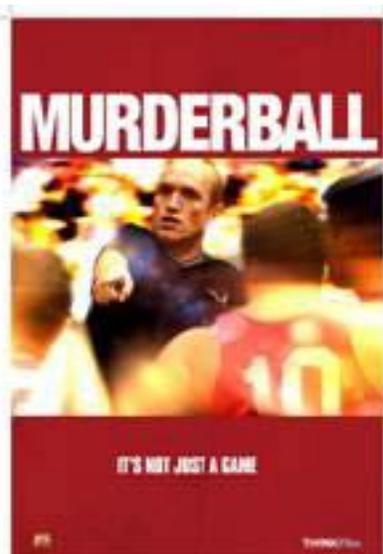
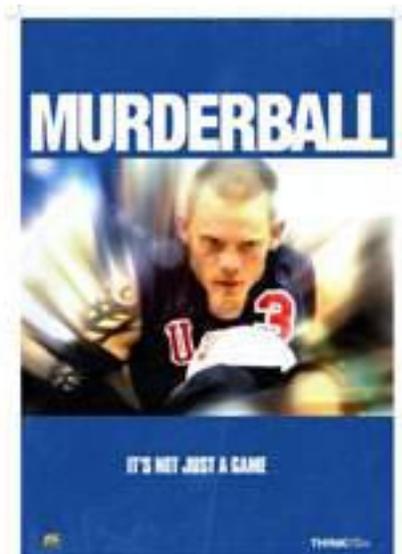
And FedEx is not happy. They've sent many cease-and-desist orders to the chap and he's got some powerful folks on his side (like Stanford Law). The fact is, I actually saw the URL and thought that it might be a site for FedEx getting into the Furniture shipping business. FedEx has a case for confusion, at least over the website, but they claim trademark infringement and misuse of materials, which I'd say are a stretch. The case against Taubman's in Dallas pretty much said that using a place's name in your URL is legal and protected speech, but there is legitimate confusion possible, so we'll have to see how long it sticks around.

MURDERBALL

There are a few really hot docs right now. The Aristocrats, which I haven't seen, is one that has some audiences howling and others reaching for a barf bag. There's

March of the Penguins, which is doing huge business, but the one that moved me most was Murderball, the story of Quad Rugby.

Murderball is now officially called



Quad Rugby, but it started in Canada as Murderball. It's played by Quadraplegics (that's a break high up in the neck with impairments in all four limbs) and it's a violent sport played in wheelchairs on a basketball court. The rules are pretty simple: you gotta get over a line with the ball. They also give every player a number based on how impaired they are. You can only have 8 points on the court at any given time. That's the basics of the game, but the documentary is more than just looking at the game.

The story is split between two things. The first is former Team USA player Joe Soares. Joe was one of the longest serving players on Team USA and his team he regularly played with had a 90+ game winning streak. He was left off of Team USA when he got too old and he ended up going to coach Team Canada.

Joe's tough guy who had polio as a kid, so he's in a chair. He's hard on his kid and himself, but he had set his goal on beating Team USA. As the film goes on, he



manages to get revenge for his ouster, but he also has a heart attack. He's an amazing and flawed character, but he's so interesting. The relationship between Joe and his son is amazing as it's just about the closest thing you'll ever see to a real-life Hank & Bobby Hill relationship, I



tell you what.

The other story is that of Jeff Zupan. He's a badass. There's no other way to but it. He fell asleep in the back of his friend's truck and when his friend got in an accident, he was thrown and ended up in a chair. He's a bad, bad

man and one of the most feared Murderball players there is. We experience the on-court action mostly through Zupan. His intensity is amazing. The animosity between Zupan and Soares is great.

My favourite side-light character is Zupan's girlfriend. She's a very hot chick, but the ultimate thing is she works at a morgue. Take hot girl, add working at a morgue and you get UltraHOT!

The doc also shows that these guys are all real athletes not only on the court, where that's undeniable, but off the court. They talk (filthily, I might add) about how they use their chairs to get woman and there's even a segment about the physics of sex for quadriplegics. It's so natural to see these guys interacting with each other as athletes, doing all the things we associate with sports films.

I'd say Murderball is the best doc I've seen this year, right above My Date with Drew and Accordion Tribe. Powerful stuff that's a little inspirational.

