



BOBSERVATIONS

Observations on life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness from the internet's "[Wandering Tax Pro](#)".

I talk about, but not exclusively, Popular culture (theatre, tv, movies, and the internet), Personal finance (and, yes, taxes), Politics, and Travel.

JUNE 2016

THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN



"NO TRUMP" by Trumpism.com

Zusatz

As a concerned citizen and taxpayer I feel obligated to begin the premiere issue of BOBSERVATIONS by addressing the most disturbing political development in my lifetime (I was born in 1953) – the fact that dangerous buffoon Donald Trump is being seriously considered as a legitimate candidate for the office of President of the United States.

It is truly inconceivable to me that anyone with any intelligence, or any concern for the future of the country, would ever seriously consider voting for Donald Trump for any elected office – and certainly not for

President. Every single time he opens his mouth he provides another reason why he must never become President. If Trump is elected it would be very literally be the worst thing that could happen to the country and the world!

The success of Trump's Presidential campaign is the ultimate proof that the "dumbing down of America" has become a reality.

However the problem with Donald Trump for President is not his ridiculous policies, proposals, and pronouncements, which are constantly changing and which usually contradict what he has said in the past, or his refusal to release his tax returns – although these items would normally have derailed any legitimate candidate. The problem with Donald Trump for President is . . . *he is Donald Trump!*

✓ He is the classic example of "Narcissistic Personality Disorder" – "*a mental disorder in which people have an inflated sense of their own importance, a deep need for admiration, and a lack of empathy for others; behind this mask of ultra-confidence lies a fragile self-esteem that's vulnerable to the slightest criticism*". The only reason he does anything is to feed his undeservedly enormous ego. And he is totally incapable of dealing with criticism or challenges like a mature adult.

Trump's response to anyone who criticizes him, disagrees with him, or challenges him is "*You're fat, you're ugly, you're hormonal, you're a loser, you're a liar, you're a nobody*", etc, etc, etc. The classic example is Rosie O'Donnell. When Rosie correctly criticized Trump for screwing his shareholders his response was "*You're fat*". What will happen if "President" Trump is criticized or challenged by another world leader? Will his response be, "*You're ugly*"?

✓ He has had at least as many, if not more, business losses than he has had business successes. He has consistently, and unapologetically, screwed his shareholders, employees, lenders, and sub-contractors. While his questionable business practices may not be illegal, most of them are most certainly unethical.

Here is a real life example of Trump screwing lenders and sub-contractors from someone I know well and trust. In the early 2000's a long-time friend and client purchased a condo in a Trump building in NYC. The lawyer for the bank representing the seller told my friend that he did not trust Trump because he had

renege and screwed the bank multiple times in the past. He went on to explain that Trump always shorted his sub-contractors by 5 to 10% and didn't care if they sued him. Ultimately they would settle with him, taking a 5%+ haircut, and Trump still came out ahead.

✓ He is a Reality TV cartoon clown. His major claim to fame is telling other self-absorbed buffoons "You're fired" on reality television excrement, of which it has been correctly observed " 'The Apprentice' is to the real business world what Homer Simpson is to real fatherhood".

Speaking of the famous television cartoon character – the animated one and not the flesh and blood one - I have always said I would rather vote for Homer Simpson for President than Donald Trump.

The recent acceptance, and even support, however reluctant, of Trump as a legitimate candidate by some Republican politicians and leaders is truly disturbing. It certainly shows that most politicians really do value Party above country.

The only thing that keeps me from giving up all hope for the future is my belief that, regardless of what voters may say now, when they are actually in the voting booth in November and realize that their vote will decide the future of the country, and the world, those with any intelligence and true concern will not be able in good conscience to pull the lever for Trump.

Let us all pray that I am right – or else we are all in very serious trouble!

In the classic musical comedy A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM Stephen Sondheim suggests "Everybody Ought To Have A Maid". I do not disagree. But I also believe **"Everybody Ought To Have An IRA"**.

Click [here](#) to read this post from my popular tax blog THE WANDERING TAX PRO.

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME



Let me introduce myself. My name is Robert D Flach. I am the "Bob" making the observations.

I was born and raised, and lived most of my life, in Jersey City, NJ. But I recently moved to the peace and quiet of rural Northeast Pennsylvania - to the area I had been visiting as a tourist for just about every summer for close to 50 years.

I have been preparing 1040s for individuals in all walks of life since 1972. I am currently "winding down" my tax practice and no longer accept new clients.

In 45 years of preparing individual income tax returns I have never used tax preparation software. One of the last of the dinosaurs, I prepare close to 300 sets of returns each year manually.

I learned how to prepare 1040s by preparing 1040s. On my first day of work for my uncle's tax preparer, having never prepared a tax return before, my boss led me to a desk. He gave me a copy of a client's prior year 1040 and a briefcase with the current year's 'stuff' and told me to "jump in and swim!"

I am an "unenrolled" preparer. I am neither a CPA nor an EA. I have never had any desire to audit financial statements, so I did not become a CPA. And I have never had any desire to represent taxpayers before the IRS, so I did not become an EA. And I have chosen not to enroll in the IRS, in my opinion valueless, voluntary Annual Filing Season Program (AFSP).

I have a great love for the musical theatre, and many years ago produced amateur and semi-professional local theatre. My uncle took me to my first Broadway musical – "The Music Man" with Robert Preston –

when I was 5 years old. From age 5 to age 18 I saw a Saturday matinee performance of just about every "age appropriate" Broadway musical, including the original productions of classics "My Fair Lady", "Camelot", and "The Sound of Music", Andy Griffith in "Destry Rides Again", Lucille Ball in "Wildcat", Barbra Streisand's Broadway debut "I Can Get It For You Wholesale" (it also starred her then husband-to-be Elliot Gould), and Liza Minelli's debut "Flora the Red Menace". We usually sat in the first row of the Mezzanine.

When I was 8 years old my father took me to a Rutgers football game. I was totally bored. To this day I am glad that my uncle got to me first!

I also love to travel, by all venues – car, bus, boat, train, and plane. That is one of the reasons I am known as "The Wandering Tax Pro".

I am a "cat person" and currently share my digs with a male tabby named Turbo.

I have been writing the tax blog THE WANDERING TAX PRO (<http://wanderingtaxpro.blogspot.com>) since the summer of 2001. I am also the creator and author of the websites FIND A TAX PROFESSIONAL (<http://www.findataxprofessional.com>) and THE TAX PROFESSIONAL (<http://thetaxprofessional.webs.com>), and the founder of TAX PROFESSIONALS FOR TAX REFORM (<http://www.taxprosfortaxreform.com>).

I have been a member of the National Association of Tax Professionals for over 30 years, and often write for the Association's TAXPRO JOURNAL as well as the newsletter of the New Jersey state chapter. I have created and compiled several packages of forms, schedules and worksheets and special reports and guides on tax planning and preparation for the average taxpayer.

I am available to write articles and columns for websites and portals and print or email newsletters, on general tax topics, or specifically for your individual audience. You can find samples of my writings at <http://robertdflach.blogspot.com>.

And you can follow me on Twitter at [@rdftaxpro](https://twitter.com/rdftaxpro).

I look forward to sharing my observations on life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness here in the pages of BOBSERVATIONS.

Any questions?

Click [here](#) to download the premiere issue – June 2016 – of my new **TOTALLY FREE** monthly newsletter **ROBERT D FLACH'S THE 1040 LETTER**.

It is chock-a-block with tax planning and preparation advice, information, and resources. Feel free to share it with your family and friends and colleagues and co-workers.

I FOUGHT THE LAW AND THE LAW WON



On May 25th NBC aired the finale episode of the 17th season of "Law and Order SVU".

Dick Wolf's Law and Order franchise is perhaps the most successful one in prime-time television history. It began with the premiere of "Law and Order" in September of 1990 and shows no sign of ending - as "SVU" returns in the fall for season #18.

Did you ever wonder how Wolf came up with the concept for the original "Law & Order" – first half "law" (police capturing the "perp") and second half "order" (the trial)?

Successful broadcast television shows can make lots of money in "syndication", often more than the original production. Some shows have been known to operate at a loss on the initial broadcast episodes (they cost more to make than the network pays for airing) just to be able to create a sufficient syndication "inventory". As one online explanation of the process put it - "If you can get a television show in syndication, you can live off that money for the rest of your life."

25+ years ago it was easier, and more profitable, to syndicate a half-hour series than it was an hour-long program. But the networks were looking for hour-long drama series. The "Law and Order" format - basically a half hour of police and a half hour of lawyers - was essentially created so it could be run as two-part half-hour episodes in syndication. Dick had toyed with several such two-part shows, with names like Night and Day.

As it turns out DW did not have to worry about creating half-hour segments for syndication. I expect that the L&O franchise is the most syndicated in history, and that every hour of every day an episode of L&O or one of its spin-offs is running somewhere in the world.

Actually the idea of half police procedural and half courtroom drama was not new to television. "Arrest and Trial" was a 90-minute series that aired one season on ABC, ON Sundays from 8:30-10:00 pm during the 1963-64 season. According to Wikipedia - "Each week's program was actually two 45-minute segments. The first segment followed Sgt. Nick Anderson (Ben Gazzara) of the LAPD as he tracked down and apprehended a criminal. The person Anderson arrested was defended in the second half of the show by criminal attorney John Egan (Chuck Connors)."

You will note that it differed from L+O in that the trial portion was presented from the defense point of view and not that of the prosecution.

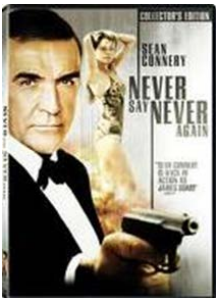
As a bit of side trivia - "Arrest and Trial" became the first American import to be broadcast on the UK's BBC2.

Coincidentally, Dick Wolf used the title "Arrest and Trial" for a short-lived 30-minute syndicated "docudrama" hosted by Brian Dennehy in 2000. The show followed individual criminal cases (commission, police investigation, and actual trial) via a combination of reenactments and real trial footage.

A fellow tax pro "twit" (you can follow me on Twitter @rdftaxpro) has told me that "Law and Order" ties "Gunsmoke" for the longest-running television show - with 20 seasons each. But in terms of number of episodes "Gunsmoke" beats L and O - with about 200 more over the 20-year period. But from 1955-1961 "Gunsmoke" was a 30-minute show, expanding to an hour in Sept, 1961 - so when it comes to hours of episodes the race is closer.

Have you seen the "Law & Order: UK" hands across the water spin-off that had been running on the BBC AMERICA cable channel. I believe it is the first US television series to be adapted for British television (it is usually US television that steals from British tv)? It seems that the British just do television better - they make rehased US "Law & Order" scripts look fresh.

NEVER MY LOVE



Despite what the title of the remake of the James Bond film "Thunderball" suggests, sometimes it is OK to say "never".

When it comes to taxes I can think of at 10 examples -

(1) NEVER file a fraudulent return.

As the former British Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey said - "The difference between tax evasion and tax avoidance is the thickness of a prison wall".

Tax avoidance is the lawful and ethical use of accepted procedures to reduce your tax liability. Tax evasion is a willful misrepresentation or concealment of information. Despite growing public acceptance of cheating on tax returns, reckless tax evasion is a very dangerous matter. There are many legal ways to reduce your tax liability – too many to risk your future with tax fraud.

Normally the IRS has 3 years to audit a tax return. If fraud can be proven the Service can go back and audit every return you have ever filed.

(2) NEVER pay a person to prepare your tax return who has not registered with the IRS and received a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN).

And never use a preparer who will not sign the finished returns (if he/she refuses to sign you refuse to pay), or who charges a fee based on the amount of your refund.

(3) NEVER ignore a notice or correspondence from the Internal Revenue Service or a state tax agency.

If you receive a notice in the mail give it to your tax preparer immediately. If you prepared your own return and do not understand the notice, consult a tax professional.

(4) NEVER assume that a notice or bill you receive from the Internal Revenue Service or a state tax agency is correct.

Do not automatically pay the balance due on a notice from the IRS or the state. More often than not the notice is wrong. To repeat - If you receive a notice in the mail give it to your tax preparer immediately. If you prepared your own return and do not understand the notice consult a tax professional.

(5) NEVER hold up filing your return, or an automatic extension request, by the April statutory deadline simply because you do not have the money to pay the tax you owe.

It is vitally important that you file your 1040 or 1040A, or 4868 extension application, by the April deadline, even if you cannot pay all or any of the tax due on the return. Along the same lines, if you have requested an extension be sure to get your tax return in the mail by October 15th, again even if you cannot pay all or any of the tax due. The penalty for paying late is .5% (1/2 of 1%) of the tax due per month. The penalty for filing late is a full 5% of the tax due per month – 10 times more!

(6) NEVER respond to an unsolicited email or phone call allegedly from the IRS.

As a fellow tax blogger put it *"If the IRS sends you a notice via e-mail, the IRS did not send it"*. The IRS does not send notices via e-mail, and never initiates contact by telephone.

If you receive an email allegedly from the Internal Revenue Service delete it unopened. Don't click any of the links - the link will either try to collect your bank information or it will dump malware on your computer. And if you get a phone call tell the caller to put it in writing and hang up.

(7) NEVER have your tax returns prepared by one of the "fast food" preparation chains.

You will pay gourmet restaurant prices (H + R ain't cheap!) for fast food service and be pressured to purchase unnecessary additional products and services.

(8) NEVER assume that just because a person has the initials CPA after his/her name that he/she knows his/her arse from a hole in the ground when it comes to preparing 1040s.

The only initials that have any bearing on 1040 competence and currency is "EA" – for Enrolled Agent (an EA is not an employee or representative of the IRS).

There are many CPAs out there who are indeed competent and current in 1040 taxation, and it may actually be possible that the best tax preparer, at the best price, for your particular situation is a CPA. But this is only because of the education, experience, ability, temperament, and other factors that are specific to that individual preparer and absolutely nothing to do with the initials CPA.

(9) NEVER use a tax resolution company that promises to get you "off the hook" with the IRS for "pennies on the dollar".

If you find yourself with a huge balance due to your Uncle Sam, including excessive accrued penalties and interest, do not, under any circumstances, call upon a company whose tv ads promise to resolve your IRS debts for "pennies on the dollar" for help. This is a promise that no one can make!

(10) And perhaps the most important – NEVER accept tax advice from anyone other than a professional tax preparer.

Don't listen to a broker, a banker, an insurance salesman, your neighbor, or your Uncle Charlie! While for the most part those who give you free tax advice are doing so out of a genuine desire to help you, and sincerely think they know what they are talking about. But most of the time they don't.

And don't forget - as a radio ad from a few years ago told us, NEVER wear a fanny pack!

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MORTGAGE INTEREST GUIDE.

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<http://robertdfiach.blogspot.com/p/the-dollar-store-thefollowing-items-are.html>

TRAVELIN' MAN

I live on US Route 6 (aka the Grand Army of the Republic Highway) in Northeast PA. And many of the places to which I go for business and personal errands in Pike and Wayne counties are on Route 6.

I discovered that Route 6 runs the entire length of the State of Pennsylvania, beginning at the New York border in Matamoras and ending at the Ohio border in Meadville. And I also learned that Route 6 actually runs coast to coast, from Bishop CA to Provincetown MA, and at one time was the longest highway in the US. It covers about 400 miles in PA and 3,200+ miles cross-country.

I decided that I would like to eventually travel the length of **Route 6 in PA** and visit the various sites along the way. The route has mile-markers throughout its PA run, beginning at 00 at the Ohio border and ending at 400 at the NY border. I live just before mile marker 368. I had visited Scranton (near mile marker 332), and last year I visited **Wellsboro** (near marker 221). I chose Wellsboro because it is home to the Grand Canyon of PA.

I set out on Route 6 West on a Saturday morning. Unfortunately it rained during the entire trip, stopping just before I arrived at my destination, the **Penn Wells Hotel** on gas-lit Main Street in downtown Wellsboro (bigger than downtown Hawley but smaller than downtown Honesdale), so I could not enjoy the scenery on the way out. Luckily the sky was bright and clear, and traffic was minimal, on my ride home on Tuesday, so I was then able to take in and appreciate the beauty of nature driving through the mountains of northern PA.

Just a few feet off Route 6, on PA Routes 660 and 287, the Penn Wells Hotel, one of Wellsboro's most historic landmarks originally built in 1869, is truly an "old-fashioned" venue, which is why I chose it. The current building, restored in the 1920s, has 73 character-filled guest rooms of varying sizes and types. I had a cozy but comfortable room on the first floor (actually the second - above the lobby). There is free high-speed wifi in all of the guest rooms.



Off the lobby are the Mary Wells Room open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday and brunch (with live piano music) and dinner on Sunday, and the Penn Wells Lounge. I was surprised to find that there was a public pay phone in the lobby (a true rarity these days).

Guests receive a complimentary full hot breakfast Monday through Sunday in the dining room, and a discount on the Sunday brunch charge. I had all my meals (except Saturday night on the train – see below – and lunch Saturday across the street at **Café 1905** located inside Dunham's Department Store) at the hotel - the food and service was impeccable.

Hotel guests are also welcome to use the indoor pool and fitness center, travel market, business center and guest laundry facilities of the more modern 89-room Penn Wells Lodge, two blocks down Main Street and actually on Route 6.

Wellsboro was founded in 1806 as the county seat of Tioga County, and "incorporated" in 1830. It is named for Mary Wells, wife of Benjamin Morris, who purchased the land on which the town was built in 1802.

I did it right this time, and booked my activities in advance online, except for Monday's which I booked online while at the hotel.

Saturday night was the dinner ride on the **Tioga Central Railroad's** Broadway Limited – an extended excursion through the PA countryside from Wellsboro Junction (3 miles north of downtown Wellsboro on RT 287) past Hammond Lake to Tioga and back. We left at 6:00 PM and returned about 8:15 PM. I chose the turkey dinner and strawberry shortcake, which was delicious. The stuffing was especially good, and the chef gave my table companions, a couple from nearby upstate NY, his special recipe while walking through the dining car after dinner gathering praise. The cost of the all-inclusive dinner was included in the price, with only beer and wine being extra.



The railroad was built in 1872 to carry coal. It still maintains regular freight service between Wellsboro and Corning NY. Tioga Central Railroad offers several excursion options from the end of May through October, with a special Santa Express in November and December.



Sunday's activity was a matinee performance of A R Gurney's THE DINING ROOM by **Hamilton-Gibson Productions**, a community performing arts organization that began in 1991, at the Warehouse Theatre, on Central Avenue just off Main Street two blocks from the hotel. The show, and cast, was great.

Prior to the show I read my mystery book sitting in the public square known as "The Green" (where I also found a public pay phone) across the street from the county courthouse,

Monday I had planned to visit Pine Creek Gorge, aka the **Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania**, which stretches for over 45 miles with depths of nearly 1500 feet. It is part of the Tioga State Forest. I originally intended to drive to the gorge and the various scenic vantage points (I am not a hiker), but learned about "**Ole Covered Wagon Tours**" via a brochure from the display rack in the hotel lobby and booked the 12:30 horse-drawn wagon ride through the canyon.

The 2-hour round trip ride, with an Amish driver (very few others are still trained in "driving" horse-drawn vehicles) began at a family-run farm in Ansonia and took the eight of us along the Pine Creek Rail Trail and back, with colorful commentary on the history of the area and its logging days from our guide. He pointed out that every component of the trip was made in America, except for the public-address system on the wagon which was made in China. It was the only thing that did not work properly.



It was a wonderful, practically perfect, trip, with many of my favorite vacation components – a scenic drive (and rides), an historic old-fashioned hotel, theatre, a train ride, relaxation, and great food and drink. I look forward to another trip along Route 6 in PA soon.

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I BELIEVE



Our Tax Code has grown into a complicated and convoluted mess. The major reason for tax return errors, by both paid tax preparers and taxpayers who self-prepare, is the excessive complexity of the Code.

I believe

- ✓ the current US Tax Code should be totally rewritten, and
- ✓ the one and only purpose of the Tax Code is to raise the money necessary to fund the government.

The new Tax Code must –

- (1) Be simple – easy for everyone to understand. Simplicity for simplicity's sake.
- (2) Be fair and equitable - treat all taxpayers equally.
- (3) Be consistent – treat specific conditions, situations, and activities, and maintain specific definitions and descriptions, the same in all instances.
- (4) Encourage savings, investment, and growth.
- (5) Index for inflation all allowable deductions and credits.

The new Tax Code must not –

- (1) Be used for social engineering, to redistribute income or wealth, or to deliver social welfare and other government benefits.
- (2) Encourage or discourage certain economic decisions (other than savings, investment, and growth), or provide exclusive benefits for specific industries, business activities, or classes of taxpayers.
- (3) Contain any refundable credits, or any phase-outs, exclusions or adjustments based on Adjusted Gross Income or Modified Adjusted Gross Income.
- (4) Contain any "alternative" tax calculation systems (such as the current "Alternative Minimum Tax").
- (5) Contain any temporary deductions, credits, benefits, or provisions."

This new Code would state *"Everything is taxable, except . . ."* and *"Nothing is deductible, except . . ."*. Only those "excepts" – exclusions and deductions - that are absolutely necessary and appropriate, in the context of the "musts" and "must nots" listed above, should be added back.

One of the biggest problem with the current system, and a large source of its complexity, is the use of the Code to deliver government benefits. The Internal Revenue Service, and the tax professional community, should not be required to act as Social Workers and administer and verify government program benefit payments. This practice is not only inappropriate, but it also invites and encourages tax fraud.

I am not saying that the government shouldn't provide financial assistance to the working poor and college students, provide encouragements for purchasing health insurance, making energy-saving purchases and improvements, and other 'worthy' actions. What I am saying is that such assistance and encouragements should not be distributed via Form 1040.

The benefits provided by the Earned Income Tax Credit and the refundable Child Tax Credit should be distributed via existing federal welfare programs for Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The benefits provided by the education tax credits and deduction for tuition and fees should be distributed via existing federal programs for providing direct student financial aid. The benefits provided by the Premium Tax Credit, the energy credits, and other such personal and business credits should be distributed via direct discount payments to the appropriate vendors or direct rebate programs, similar to the successful Cash for Clunkers program of a few years ago, funded by the budget of the appropriate Cabinet department.

Distributing the benefits in this manner is much better than the current method for many reasons:

1. It would be easier for the government to verify that the recipient of the subsidy, discount, or rebate actually qualified for the money, greatly reducing fraud. And tax preparers, and the IRS, would no longer need to take on the added responsibility of having to verify that a person qualifies for government benefits.
2. The qualifying individuals would get the money at the "point of purchase," when it is really needed, and not have to go "out of pocket" up front and wait to be reimbursed when they file their tax return.
3. We would be able to calculate the true income tax burden of individuals. Many of the current "47 percent" would still be receiving government benefits, but it would not be done through the income tax system, so they would actually be paying federal income tax.
4. We could measure the true cost of education, housing, health, energy and welfare programs in the federal budget because benefit payments would be properly allocated to the appropriate departments.

Why am I, a tax professionals calling for a simpler tax system? Doesn't each new tax law, and each new complexity added to the code, put money in my pocket? Isn't a more confusing Tax Code better for business?

I believe that a much simpler tax system would not hurt my business, or that of most tax preparers. I sincerely believe that if I did nothing but 1040As all day during the tax season I would make more money, experience less aggravation, and substantially reduce the potential for error and the number of GD extensions. I also believe clients would not decide to do their own returns if the tax system was simplified. Most taxpayers who use a tax professional simply don't want to be bothered with the task of preparing their own returns, and also want to be sure that they do not miss any tax benefits.

So, what do you think?

Support your local animal shelter by making a contribution, becoming a volunteer, and/or adopting a pet.
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SURFIN' USA



www.moviepooper.com

Want to learn the "surprise ending" of classic, near-classic, recent and new movies? Then go to this site. Why would you want to?

* Sometimes the surprise ending is the only reason you would pay \$8.00 or more to see what is otherwise a turkey.

* Sometimes you aren't interested in seeing the movie that everyone is talking about, but you are dying to know what all the talk is about.

* Sometimes you fall asleep watching an old movie on tv and don't want to wait for it to come around again to find out how it ends, and

* Sometimes a colleague who is such a jerk needs to be put in his or her place, and how better than to ruin the ending of a movie he or she has been looking forward to seeing for the past three weeks!

Thinking of going into NYC to see a Broadway musical this summer?
Let me suggest [SOMETHING ROTTEN!](#)
A true, and highly entertaining, Musical Comedy. Two thumbs way up from me!

TELL MY WHY



For years I have found myself faced with many questions – longing for answers.

Some answers are self-evident. Why do fools fall in love? Well, they are fools aren't they?

I have determined the answer to some questions based on history and experience. When will they ever learn? Probably never.

Some questions will probably never be answered. What's it all about, Alfie? A totally unnecessary remake could shed no new light on the question.

With some questions only time will tell. Will you still need me, will you still feed me when I'm sixty-four? I'll find out in 2 years. This question is for the very few remaining long-time clients for whom I still make a house call in exchange for a home-cooked meal.

Some are no longer relevant. Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio? Joe went to his "final audit" in 1999.

And I have given up on others. Does your chewing gum lose its flavor on the bedpost over night? Easy enough to find out – but who cares? Actually I don't have a "headboard" as I sleep on a convertible couch.

There are still questions that haunt me. For example, I would really like to know what the mama saw. All I know is what the mama saw it was against the law.

I also want to know what Billy Joe MacAllister and friend threw off the Tallahatchie Bridge when they were seen by Brother Taylor.

And while we are at it – I always did wonder why Mr. Baker's secretary had to leave Harper Valley.

Can anyone provide me with answers?

I STARTED A JOKE

Always leave 'em laughing.

If a lawyer, an IRS agent, and a reality tv "star" were all drowning, and you could only save one of them, what would you do?

Go to lunch or read the paper.



So how did you like the premiere issue of BOBSERVATIONS? Did you find it entertaining, interesting, and/or helpful? Your thoughts and comments, and suggestions for future issues, are welcomed and solicited.

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An order form appears at the end of this issue.

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