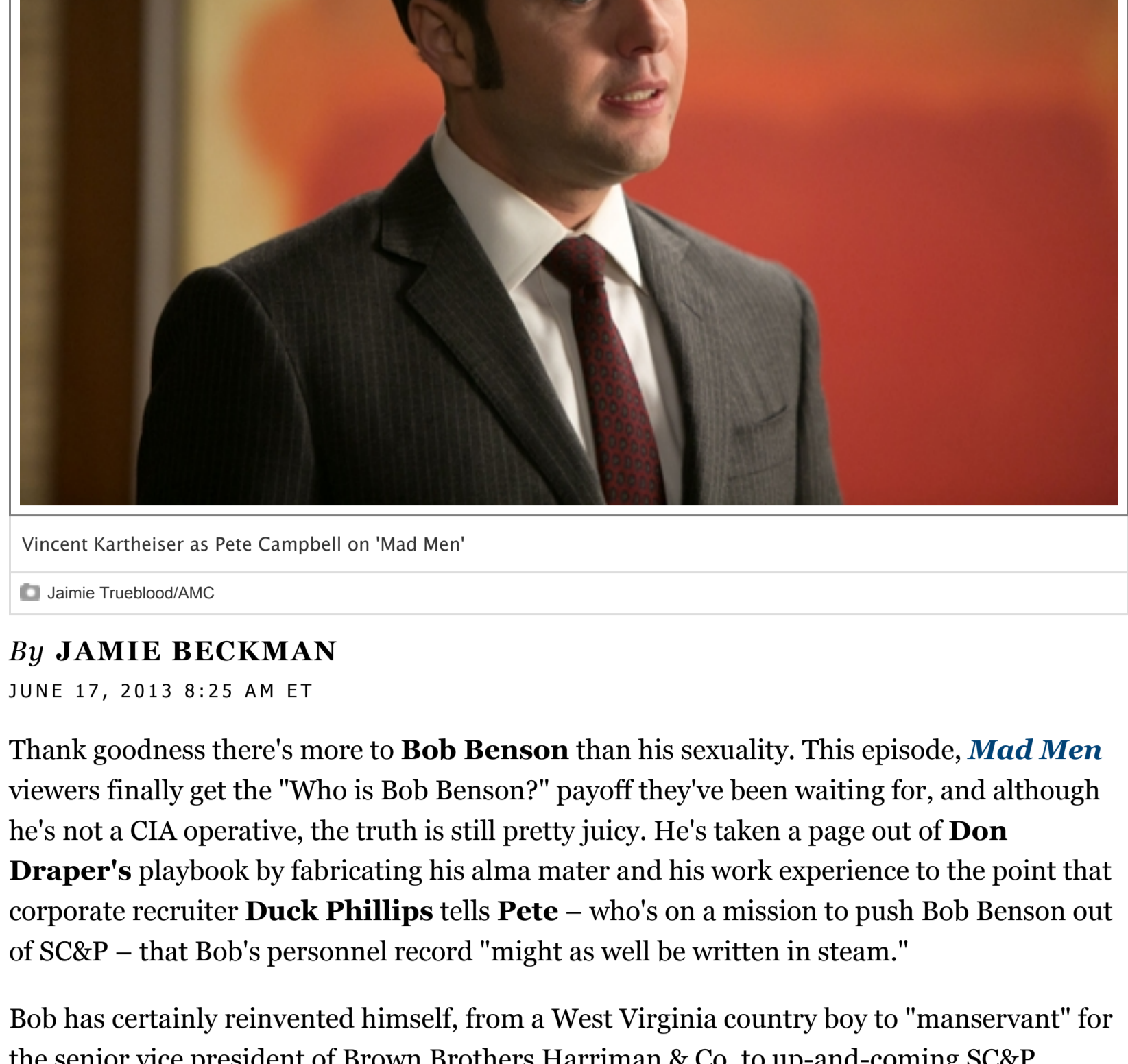


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'Mad Men' Recap: Off-Limits

Bob Benson's past comes to light, Sally does a lot of growing up in very little time

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Vincent Kartheiser as Pete Campbell on 'Mad Men'

By JAMIE BECKMAN

JUNE 17, 2013 8:25 AM ET

Thank goodness there's more to Bob Benson than his sexuality. This episode, 'Mad Men' viewers finally get the "Who is Bob Benson?" payoff they've been waiting for, and although he's not a CIA operative, the truth is still pretty juicy.

Bob has certainly reinvented himself, from a West Virginia country boy to "manservant" for the senior vice president of Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

Inside 'Mad Men': The Cast in Their Own Words

Sally The episode opens with Megan waking up alone, then going to check on Don, who's lying in the fetal position, hungover and sleeping in Sally's room.

While doing some numb channel-surfing -- including a Nixon ad, 'The Patty Duke Show,' and some fantastically bad acting by Megan as Colette on 'To Have and to Hold' (Don looks horrified -- he's never really seen her act past his one visit to cock-block her performance on set) -- Don gets a call from Betty, who says Sally is not going to Don's this weekend.

Later, in the car with Betty, Sally's eating her feelings with McDonald's french fries and wearing her hair in a low side ponytail, a style that can't be an accident, as we last saw that while on her world-weary, sycophantic friend Julie last episode.

Sally visits boarding school and encounters a pair of mean girls that would make Regina George shake in her pink pumps. "Our opinion is crucial to your acceptance," they tell Sally.

The answer is boys, obviously. The brunette is smoking a cigarette, the blonde has hemmed her plaid skirt to a decidedly un-Catholic level, and soon Glen enters through the window.

Glen leaves, saying he needs the ride and he "doesn't want to hitch." Glen flashes a peace sign on his way out the door and the blonde asks Sally, "You like trouble, don't you?"

On the way back from the visit, Betty gives Sally a cigarette, saying, "I'd rather you do it in front of me than behind my back." Because Betty's not a regular mom, she's a cool mom.

"My father has never given me anything," Sally says with the detachment of a woman 20 years her senior.

Peggy and Ted seem to only have gotten closer since the last episode, with Ted eating up her Ocean Spray ideas and battling silly impressions back and forth across the table.

Harry calls Don at home, telling him Sunkist is interested in TV ads now, which would be two and half times the print budget. But Don, of course, sold his Sunkist birthright to Ted.

Later that day, Don and Megan run into Ted and Peggy at a 5 p.m. showing of 'Rosemary's Baby.' Ted and Peggy explain that they're working on a St. Joseph's aspirin ad.

The next day, in a meeting, Roger Sterling tells Ted and Jim that they'll resign Ocean Spray, as Sunkist now has a whopping \$8 million budget.

Later, in the conference room, Ted and Peggy are giggling over the Rosemary's Baby-inspired aspirin ad. Joan's bemused expression says it all.

Don joins Peggy, Ted, Jim and Joan for the St. Joseph's meeting. The ballooning ad budget, with its variety of characters, is a major issue.

And just like that, Peggy's credit and her potential Clieo evaporate like the fumes from a fresh swipe of Glo-Coat.

Peggy confronts Don about his weasel-y move, saying that he hates that Ted is a good man. "Well you killed him," Peggy says. "You killed the ad, you killed everything."

The closing shot is Don in the fetal position again, the strains of the Monkees' "Porpoise Song" (Theme From Head) playing as the credits roll.

Bob Early in the episode, we see Ken Cosgrove in full hunting gear with two Chevy execs. "See that tree over there? Pretend it's Ralph Nader and let's go get a drink."

When Pete meets with Jim, Bert, Roger, and Ken to say Ken wants to resign Chevy and turn it over to Pete, Jim, and Roger try to convince him otherwise.

Pete calls Duck, telling him he has to "get this kid out of here." Duck says he'll do it for a cool grand. Cut to Bob speaking angry Spanish to Manolo.

When Duck calls Pete with some crucial information -- or lack of information, rather -- about Bob's background, he says, "I've never seen anything like this before."

Pete walks into Bob's office the next day. Bob is all smiles, until Pete tells him he knows about his fake background.

The Wrap-Up Pete playing ball with Bob shows a leap in professional maturity from the days when he ham-fistedly threatened Don, but what this "mercy" toward Bob will garner Pete in the end remains to be seen.

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Avatar Esme 3 months ago Miss S's is NOT a Catholic school, and it was not suggested that Bob take over the Chevy account...

Avatar MikeC 3 months ago my take on the ep: http://sparechangeandparadigms...

Avatar Merlinman 3 months ago I loved "GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!" Eat your heart out, Ron Burgundy!

Just my opinion, but Harry Hamlin as Jay Cutler has been under-utilized this season...he could've been so much more!

Avatar rockyroad 3 months ago I love Harry. He is so handsome. He needs a better arc.

Avatar Hapbarb 3 months ago It's not just Jamie; sounded like "cut" to us, too. The dialogue on "Mad Men" is definitely mixed lower than on other shows.

Avatar rockyroad 3 months ago I agree. I kept turning up the sound and missed dialogue. I heard cut the breast and until now learned it was cup.

Avatar Merlinman 3 months ago Seriously, "cut"? C'mon...does one normally "cut" a breast, or "cup" one?

Avatar Hapbarb 3 months ago My point is more about the overall audio mix than that one line. I wouldn't put it past certain characters on "Mad Men" to cut somebody.

Avatar vibe4 3 months ago And Jim says that one once CUPPED his wife's breast, not CUT.

Jamie, maybe you should watch with the captions on?

Avatar Esme 3 months ago I have a problem hearing certain dialogue myself, but I had no problem discerning that he said "cup" here.

Avatar jolineguterzkrueger 3 months ago I heard "cut," too, and thought that was pretty darn sadistic.

Avatar vibe4 3 months ago That would probably be a much harder story to tell with a smile on one's face.

Avatar vibe4 3 months ago Betty says Don must have given her a BEER before. Because, as careful watchers of the show might have noticed, DRINKING is Don's thing.

Avatar Esme 3 months ago Obviously, this reviewer was trying to multitask while watching this episode--lots of screw-ups here.

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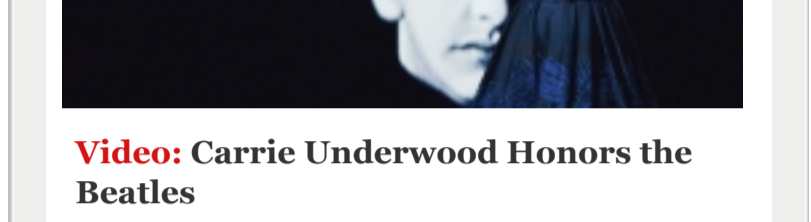
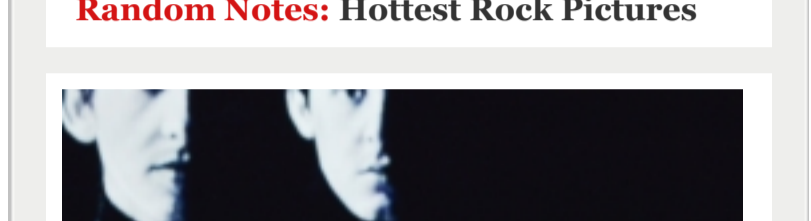
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