

September – December 2007



By Mark Zito

The following paragraphs were run on CollegeHumor.com during a series of columns I wrote entitled "The Morning After: Kid Nation." My job was to watch the ill-fated CBS television show and provide a running commentary. The columns had tens of thousands of readers weekly and developed quite the following. Below are my favorite excerpts:

The Morning After: Kid Nation: I'm Trying To Be A Leader Here! 9/20/07

-Basically, the show is just a bunch of kids coming to terms with what life is like with no parents around and them doing crazy (read: stupid) things. It's supposed to remind you of the old west or something like that but in reality, it just reminds me of my freshman year dorm.

The Morning After: Kid Nation: To Kill Or Not To Kill? 9/27/07

-Emilie, 9, from Nevada, is also quite anti killing. She claims that animals are friends and "people just don't realize it." I'm sure she writes some really meaningful journal entries about that when she's sitting alone at her lunch table putting unicorn stickers on her Lisa Frank binder.

-A vote confirms that 2 chickens are to die. Emilie informs the council that she will go home if they kill chickens. She and two others then run off to have the most haphazard, terrible protest in the history of protests. They scramble out of Town Hall and lock themselves in the chicken coop for a grand total of...ready?...ready?...drum roll please!!! 45 SECONDS! All together now: Emilie, ARE YOU FRIGGEN' KIDDING ME? What type of a protest was that? Very poorly planned. Downright disrespectful! Jesus, if we left it up to you, you wouldn't even be able to vote in 9 years!

-If Emilie had been in Tiananmen Square she would have stood in front of the tank for like 10 seconds and then realized that there was a sale at The Limited Too. A true visionary.

-I mean, it was like the equivalent of when you run away from home when you're like 9 and then realize how screwed you are with no supplies. It sucks. Unless of course you're living out this scenario on a TV show. Then it's a bit worse.

-CBS put this message on the screen as the chicken was brought to the chopping block: "Caution: The following scene may be intense for young children." The irony of that is not lost on me.

The Morning After Kid Nation: Deal With It! 10/4/07

-As a struggling writer there is a problem I'm dealing with here...do I save my jokes for all 13 weeks of Kid Nation, or do I use them rapid fire in case the show is cancelled? I know this may not seem like a big dilemma, but after putting so much work into my "The Morning After: Anchorwoman" column (you burned me FOX!), I can't be wronged like that again.

-The kids of Bonanza City decided to have a party. As Mike said, "I think we just need one night to party on, baby!" Let me just tell you, reading that statement in text form is not nearly as disturbing as it was verbally.

-Basically, the party was like a frat party with soda instead of beer. Or, I guess you could say it was exactly like every party ever hosted by Campus Crusade For Christ...just without the ping pong and scripture reading. The kids did "soda bombs" which seemed a little strange. I mean the only advantage (if you can even call it that) to dropping a shot glass into a glass of soda is that it makes a huge mess.

-All of a sudden, a huge sandstorm is on the horizon. The kids all take cover as the storm blows shit all of over their town. And I mean that quite literally...the storm blows the outhouses over and spills their contents everywhere. The kids think this is awesome and go out in the sandstorm to watch poo spill everywhere. They then have to run back inside when the sand becomes too painful to stand in. This is the perfect example why kids should not be left alone to run their own society. Poo watching.

The Morning After Kid Nation: Viva La Revolucion 10/18/07

-We then learn that a kid I've never heard, of named Guylan wants to run against Mike. From what he tells us, he's home schooled...which means he's really good at Magic: The Gathering and could probably win the National Spelling Bee. He's probably President of his class, and I'm sure his Mom definitely cuts the crusts off his bread.

-Taylor asks if anyone wants to oppose her. The following is a list of people who thought they would be a better leader than Taylor: Jimmy Carter, Hitler, the lady who hosts Big Brother, Cuba Gooding Jr. (playing the part of Radio), John Wilkes Booth, Gallagher, The Autistic Kid That Made All Those 3 Pointers, and last, but not least, Dennis Kucinich. And, oh yeah, Zach. The lesson? Taylor is not the best representative.

The Morning After Kid Nation: Starved For Entertainment 11/8/07

-The producers quickly have the journal reflect what was said a couple of hours ago. It suggests that the pioneers have a talent show. I guess we're supposed to believe that pioneers of 1850 had a lot of trouble with boredom. Personally, I'm more likely to think they had more trouble fighting wars with Native Americans or trying not to get Yellow Fever...but I'm sure being bored was a close third.

The Morning After Kid Nation: Let Me Talk 11/22/07

-Best moment of the challenge so far, Blaine gets a pie tin with "phonograph" written on the bottom. He then remarks, "What the f*** is that?" It's really good to see that his parents thought missing 40 days of school to film a TV show was an acceptable idea.

The Morning After Kid Nation: I Only Like The Recess Part 11/29/07

-Jared says that education is the root of civilization and if someone isn't educated they could "end up flipping burgers at the supermarket." And that person would be especially stupid because they would have showed up at the completely wrong location for their job.

The Morning After Kid Nation: Where's Bonanza, Dude? 12/6/07

-This week, The Journal encourages the kids to go exploring a find a culture that is not there own. You know, so that they could learn something. Here's a suggestion: Maybe go to a real city? With running water and supermarkets? Just an idea.

-I'd like to note that Host Guy is wearing some type of ridiculous cowboy hat for some reason. Look people, if you're above the age of 11 and you wear a cowboy hat you're either really strange or Don Imus. There really isn't any gray area.

-Alex comments that using "kid power" you can haul a lot of things. After my own research, I've learned that kid power can make a lot of things too. You know, like boxes and boxes Nike shoes.

-Laurel also notes that "The last day (in Bonanza) will be the saddest and happiest moment of my entire life." I wonder what I considered the happiest day of my life at age 12. Finding blurry Spice Channel? Pizza Fridays in elementary school? I have to think about this.