

# Old black-and-white shows are fine, but nostalgia needs to be good, too

## The Glassy Eye

By Dave Meile

documentary on ring-tailed lemurs. This must stop. Here's a look at some old TV, good and bad.

"Car 54, Where Are You?" starring Joe E. Ross and Fred Gwynne.

At last, an old show for Blatz-guzzlin' working-class Joes in loud Hawaiian shirts at Yankees' games. Shot on location in the Big Apple, "Car 54" is the story of two dopey cops: Gunther Toody, a moronic, adenoidal little pudge who utters the immortal "ooh-ooh" whenever excited, and Francis Muldoon, a tall, long-faced Irishman who still lives at home and has milk and cookies every day after work.

"Car 54," created by Nat Hiken of "Sgt. Bilko" fame, is low-brow humor but consistently charming. The police precinct is actually integrated (rather daring for its time) and features the immortal Nipsey Russell (didn't you ever watch the "\$20,000 Pyramid" and wonder exactly what it was that Nipsey did?). It's weird to see Al Lewis (as Sgt. Schnausner) and Fred Gwynne in pre-"Munsters" days sans makeup. The theme song rates a 10.

"Perry Mason," weekdays, 11 a.m., ch. 4; noon, ch. 9.

Probably the brunt of more lame variety-show skits than any show in history, but still the granddaddy of courtroom dramas. Reports differ as to how many cases the big guy actually lost, but most triviaphiles say four out of 400 shows. Highlights include Perry browbeating the witness into the obligatory crybaby confession and Hamilton Burger's "Your honor, the prosecution is tiring of Mr. Mason's sideshow tactics." This show is great for film buffs playing "spot the star."

Perry Mason trivia: The last episode aired in 1964, and the murderer is ... Dick Clark. The best argument for capital punishment I can think of.

"The Monkees," weekdays, 1:30 and 5:30 p.m., ch. 16.

Somewhere in the Monkees' saga lurks the epitome of capitalism. Despicable hack Don Kirshner created the legendary prefab four, and then when they wanted to actually write and play their own instruments, he refused to

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