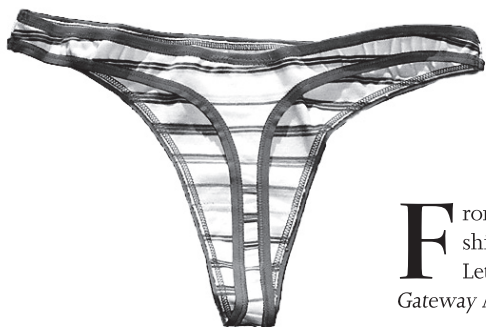




2006's best and worst moments in entertainment



From invigorating speeches to shitty rhymes, 2006 had it all. Let's see what the illustrious Gateway A&E writers had to say:

Elizabeth Vail

BEST: CELEBRITIES BANISHED TO THE DOGHOUSE

Although 2006 was the year of the dog, the best 2006 moments came when a pair of down-on-their-luck divas got rid of theirs. First, Whitney Houston realized her love for abusive hubby Bobby Brown was *not* the greatest love of all and kicked him to the curb. Following that, Britney Spears did it one more time and divorced professional hobo and Vanilla Ice protégé Kevin Federline, informing him of their split with a humiliating text-message. Free at last, Whitney's looked healthier than she has in years and Britney's already working on a new album.

WORST: SERIOUS LACK OF PANTIES

What kind of guilty pleasure would Britney be if she wasn't part of the best and worst moments of 2006? Following the dubious trend set by the rapidly-degenerating Lindsey Lohan and ho for sho' Paris Hilton, Britney Spears recovered from her successful divorce by taking a spread-eagled leap onto the no-panties bandwagon. As faithful paparazzi have discovered, Britney, Lindsey and Paris have apparently lost the ability to get out of a car, dance at a club or walk in a high wind without inadvertently baring their secret gardens (or in Paris' case, her public recreational facility) to the world. We know you've got kids, Britney; there's no

need to show everyone where they came from.

Kristina De Guzman

BEST: GUIDING LIGHT WINS FOUR ACTING AWARDS AT THE DAYTIME EMMYS

A woman leaves a revealing message of loneliness on an answering machine. A young man hacks off his hair with a switchblade in front of his mother. Another man, after 15 years of sobriety, falls off the wagon. A woman in a mid-life crisis selfishly laments over no longer being the center of attention.

These scenarios won a handful of Daytime Emmys for television's oldest show. Actors Gina Tognoni, Tom Pelphrey, Jordan Clarke and Kim Zimmer won four of the six acting awards—for Supporting Actress, Younger Actor, Supporting Actor and Lead Actress respectively. Amidst low ratings and budget cuts, *Guiding Light's* acting has remained consistently good, so the acknowledgement was a nice surprise and more than well-deserved.

WORST: GUIDING LIGHT COMES UP WITH THE LAMEST CURE FOR CANCER

Love! Menopause wasn't enough for Kim Zimmer's Reva Shayne in 2005; she had to get terminal breast cancer the year after. She's become indestructible, and not in a good way. The best part of the story is when Reva dies. Not because she became one of the most annoying characters on TV during her sickness (long story) but because her death seemed so final and left viewers wondering if the actress

had secretly quit the show. Sadly, that lasts a whole two minutes before Reva's ex-husband asks her to come back to him. Just as her heart starts beating, I roll my eyes in response to this illogical drivel.

Maria Kotovych

BEST: SPELLING BEES BRINGING SEXY BACK

In June, Finola Hackett achieved an amazing second place in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. Hackett, 14, hails from Tofield, Alberta, and she was the only Canadian in the finals of the prestigious spelling bee.

Hackett conducted herself with incredible grace and maturity during and after the event. Unfortunately, the word that cost Hackett the top prize was *weltschmerz*, a German word that means "sadness over the evils of the world."

Hackett, as well as movies like *Akeelah and the Bee*, brought spelling bees to Canadians' attention in '06. Spelling even became—dare I say it—cool. Word nerds everywhere rejoiced!

WORST: AN EVEN MORE SERIOUS LACK OF PANTIES

Can something be a "worst moment" when it occurred several times? I'm talking about Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton, who chose to go commando under their miniskirts, thus exposing their genitals when getting in and exiting a car. Hearing about this, I was overcome with deep *weltschmerz*. So I wrote a poem to explore my feelings: "How much flesh would some white trash flash if

some white trash could flash flesh? Some white trash would flash as much flesh as they could flash if some white trash could flash flesh."

Thank you for listening.

Ryan Heise

BEST: THE LAUNCH OF MICROSOFT'S ZUNE

The iPod is ubiquitous; it's a fashion statement it's a pop culture icon, it's unparalleled even if you hate its DRM and want to punch Steve Jobs in the face. But Microsoft wanted a slice of the ever-growing portable digital-music market and made a stab at it by releasing the Zune in November.

Don't get me wrong; I'm an iPod guy and think the Zune is a piece of garbage, but the iPod needs some competition. Microsoft has the money to keep making the Zune better even in the face of losing money on it. The Zune will hopefully challenge Apple to step up their game, something they haven't really done since the iPod was released.

WORST: LOST MINISERIES

What was ABC thinking? Six episodes—and not great ones—of what is one of the highest rated shows on TV followed by a three-month hiatus due to college football or something? Ridiculous.

I know that they're airing the remainder of the season for 16 straight weeks come February, but I'm going to have a hard time reinvesting time into this show after the mediocre first six episodes and a lengthy hiatus. I hear 24 has a guy torturing terrorists and shooting people in the face. Is this true? I may have to have to check it out.