

BRINGING BC'S COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

BCLocalHomes | flyerland.ca

[Mobile Edition](#) [Photo Store/Gallery](#) [Classifieds](#) [Auto](#) [Travel](#) [Jobs](#)

HOME NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY LIFESTYLES OPINION

Calendar Weather Horoscopes Lotteries Comics Obituaries Blogs

LOCAL OPINIONS | BC OPINIONS | LETTERS

part of bclocalnews.com

Arthur Black - Parksville Qualicum Beach News

Art Black is a well-known Canadian humour columnist, radio personality and author from Salt Spring Island. He is a two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal of Humour.

PARKSVILLE QUALICUM BEACH NEWS

Hey Suzuki — sorry about the 20-year misunderstanding

By Arthur Black - Parksville Qualicum Beach News

Published: July 06, 2009 4:00 PM

0 Comments

Fame is a mask that

eats the face.

— John Updike

Shall I tell you why I don't like David Suzuki?

First, I'll tell you why I do like Edie Falco. Then I'll tell you about my Suzuki aversion.

Edie Falco? You know her — Carmela. Carmela Soprano. She of the spun-candy hairdos, the eagle talon fingernails and the Joisey accent. The Sopranos is now TV history and so is Carmela. Tony Soprano's wife has moved on to a new TV series called Nurse Jackie.

I haven't seen an episode of Nurse Jackie, but I'm betting that when I do I won't catch a whiff of mafia mama in Falco's performance. I'm guessing I'll barely recognize her. That's not because of the cosmetic makeover — it's because she's such a fine actor.

Call it stage presence, or charisma, or just the It factor — but when the TV camera pans over to Edie Falco, she owns it. The rest of the cast might as well break for lunch.

And now I'll tell you why I never felt much warmth for David Suzuki.

It's because of something I witnessed at a luggage carousel in Vancouver airport about 20 years ago. I was at the tag end of a late night flight from Toronto waiting for my bags to be regurgitated. So were about 30 other passengers, among them David Suzuki.

Well, it happens, right? How many times have you been on an airplane or at a train station when some NHL star or Ottawa politico or TV luminary practically bumps into you? Happens often enough. The correct procedure is just to go about your business — maybe fire off a little smile of recognition, but that's it. We're not in LA or on West Broadway. This is Canada, eh? We don't fuss.

Except this time, somebody did. An earnest, middle-aged, middle class guy walked up to Suzuki beaming. He was clearly in awe. He told Suzuki how much he enjoyed his work and how he thought Suzuki was a Great Canadian. And Suzuki stoned him. Just stood there, staring woodenly, waiting for the guy to stop talking and go away. After a few seconds of icy silence, the unabashed admirer got the message and slunk off. It was not a nice thing to witness.

Though it was none of my business, it pissed me off. Sure, the fan was pushing the boundaries, but he meant no harm.

In any case, it coloured my opinion of one of Canada's most illustrious citizens.

Right up until I read an interview with the aforementioned Edie Falco. She was talking to a reporter about her old TV series and what was good about it.

And what was not so good about it. The Sopranos was only on the air for six years but it embedded Carmela Soprano's face onto the brainpans of hundreds of millions of people. "It's hard for me to have so many people know me," Falco says. "I'm a private person. But people are going, 'Oh my god — it's you!' and they want some kind of equally excited response. I used to feel obligated to join them. I'm feeling less obligated now, and I'm afraid it makes me come across as being cold or unkind or ungrateful, which is not the case. It's just a way of holding on to your selfness."

Yeah. I guess I never thought of that.

Bob Dylan is both more famous and blunter about celebrity. "Just because you like my stuff" Dylan says, "doesn't mean I owe you anything." Good point.

And Suzuki? Sorry about the 20-year misunderstanding, man.



Email Print Letter to Editor Share

OTHERS ALSO READ...

- Parksville Qualicum News**
 - Joe should visit his own woodshed
 - City seeks change to logging rules
 - Cantelon defeats Salter in Parksville-Qualicum
- Vancouver Island Central**
 - We are the environment, Suzuki tells Shawnigan students
 - No time to think with rapid-fire life
 - May 17 BC Bestsellers
 - B.C. Bestsellers

Text

Not that I'll be coming up to you at the luggage carousel to apologize.

COMMENTS

COMMENTING ETIQUETTE: To encourage open exchange of ideas in the BCLocalNews.com community, we ask that you follow our guidelines and respect standards. Simply, don't say anything you wouldn't want your mother to read. [More on etiquette...](#)

Discussion by DISQUS

Add New Comment

 Profile



- Logged in as
-  Logout from DISQUS

Required: Please log into Disqus to comment on **Parksville Qualicum Beach News**.

Use Media ▼

Community Page Subscribe by email

Most Read Stories		This week Last week
<p>Most read in your Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  City offers views of space station <i>Nanaimo News Bulletin</i> • Jul-10-2009  He protected an angel <i>Parksville Qualicum Beach News</i> • Jul-06-2009  Young mom sexually assaulted in her home 	<p>Most read across BC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Space station glides over Capital Region <i>Goldstream News Gazette</i> • Jul-09-2009  Video captures racial attack in Courtenay  <i>Comox Valley Record</i> • Jul-09-2009  UPDATE: Friends shocked by murder of 	

<p> About Us Advertise Contact Us Terms of Use RSS Community Partners Mobile Editor Site Map </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KD Air declares mayday  Parksville Qualicum Beach News • Jul-09-2009 Man's determined effort to find work successful  Nanaimo News Bulletin • Jul-10-2009 Duncan motorcyclist dies nearly two weeks after crash  Cowichan News Leader and Pictorial • Jul-10-2009 House sales up, prices down  Nanaimo News Bulletin • Jul-07-2009 Police fear rapist may strike again  Cowichan News Leader and Pictorial • Jul-09-2009 Developer ordered to stop selling lots, faces thousands in fines  Parksville Qualicum Beach News • Jul-09-2009 Catalyst follows up on promise to pay only a portion of its tax bill  Cowichan News Leader and Pictorial • Jul-07-2009 Missing Ladysmith woman found in forested area  Ladysmith Chronicle • Jun-16-2009 Motorcyclist injured in crash  Cowichan News Leader and Pictorial • Jun-30-2009 	<p> News • Jul-09-2009 </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courtenay rally set to protest racial attack, hate  Comox Valley Record • Jul-08-2009 Search continues for Harrison drowning victim  Chilliwack Progress • Jul-07-2009 Double fatal shuts down Highway 1  Chilliwack Progress • Jul-11-2009 Skateboarder dies after hitching a ride on friend's car  Kelowna Capital News • Jul-03-2009 TransLink can't muzzle political ads on buses: high court  BC Local News • Jul-10-2009 Lagoon a 'death trap' for swimmers, says Surrey mom  Chilliwack Progress • Jul-09-2009 UPDATED: Six-year-old victim's bravery impresses police  Surrey North Delta Leader • Jul-07-2009 Abbotsford man shot to death in dispute  Abbotsford News • Jul-08-2009 Losing their son: Parents struggle with aftermath of traffic fatality  Surrey North Delta Leader • Jun-30-2009 <p style="text-align: right;"> more local news from around BC > </p>	<p>© Copyright  Black Press. All rights reserved.</p>
---	---	--



Oceanside

CHEVROLET A Harris Family Company CORVETTE

BUICK GMC PONTIAC

CLICK HERE

to see our great selection of new and used vehicles



