

Sunny

From Page 6B

television show, also. And so instead of pretending that just doesn't exist, we wrote to it and had the characters realize, well, just because we've done it before, doesn't mean it doesn't work. In fact, if we just make better decisions all the way through it, then maybe it'll work this time," he said.

"The original plan (from Season 4's "The Gang Solves the Gas Crisis") was to sell gasoline door to door, which kind of makes sense. So you never have to go to a gas station ... The problem is that the characters aren't smart enough to fully execute it," he said.

"So we have a parallel story where there's a trash strike in Philly," and the characters have a plan to capitalize on it, one that is, as usual, less than politically correct.

McElhenney, 35, "was a little kid" in South Philly during the city's 1986 garbage strike, which ran for 20 days in the heat of July. "But I remember piles of trash everywhere."

And now he has a son who lives in Southern California and is, he said, "obsessed with garbage, garbage trucks, garbage cans."

When Axel arrived a few minutes later, he wore a Phillies cap backward and an intent expression as he sat on his mother's lap, high above the street in the driver's seat of the Volvo trash truck.

As Olson and McElhenney took turns in the cab with Axel, showing him how the claw that picks up the trash bins worked, he was wide-eyed, but seemed more interested in beeping the horn.

Clearly, his father wanted to play with the claw. "I'm into it, too," he admitted. "He doesn't care as much about the arm."

Later, after Axel had been lured from the truck and the couple returned to the production's base camp so Olson could feed Leo, I asked McElhenney about the transition from being a single guy in his 20s with an idea for a TV show that actually ended up getting made to heading into an eighth season — with a ninth already ordered and talk of a 10th — with a wife and kids.

"Yeah, we're full-fledged grown-ups now," he said.

One reason the season's starting a little later this year was that "Kaitlin was pregnant with Leo. Although she gave birth in April, we still wanted to have enough time that we could both spend not sleeping and being up three, four times a night. And being able to focus on him and not being worried about anything else. And that was a key factor. And then Charlie was doing this movie, so he was in Canada for a while, and Danny was doing a show in the West End of London," he said.

A 10-episode season allows the actors time for outside work and gives McElhenney and Olson time to “raise two kids,” but “the schedule is still fairly extended because we’re writing the episodes and we’re editing the episodes (as well as acting in them). So it’ll still take seven months, eight months out of a year. But the true advantage of a 10-episode season is that we can stay fresh, and that from a creative standpoint, we can still surprise people.”

Though McElhenney's working on a couple of screenplays in what he jokingly calls his "spare time," his weekends, he said, are now off-limits.

“You can very easily start to compromise that and say, ‘Well, I’ll just work this Saturday.’ Or, ‘Well, I’ll just work a few hours on Sunday.’ And we realized that that’s a slippery slope. And if you just make a rule that Saturdays and Sundays, no matter what, are completely and totally off-limits and just devoted to spending time with your family, then you can’t go wrong.”

But from the somewhat less family-friendly perspective of "It's Always Sunny," "it's still about what we find interesting and funny to talk about. And really, watching other television shows and trying to explore what isn't being explored elsewhere" because "people are afraid, oftentimes ... to go into areas that are considered dark or untouchable. And we feel like those are the areas that we want to hit."

Is there anything he would have done eight seasons ago that he wouldn't now?

McElhenney didn't even pause. "I don't think so. And if you've got any ideas, let me know. Because we're always looking."

YOU'RE NEWS!
The Press & Dakotan

FRIDAY PRIMETIME/LATE NIGHT																	OCTOBER 19, 2012																
		3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30										
BROADCAST STATIONS																																	
PBS KUSD	(2 8 2)	Arthur (N) (DVS)	WordGirl (DVS)	Wild Kratts	The Electric Company	Martha Speaks	Nightly Business Report	PBS NewsHour (N) (In Stereo)	Washington Week (N)	Need to Know (N)	McLaughlin Group (N)	Market to Market	Meet the Candidates 2012	Bird Guys: Vern	BBC World News	Charlie Rose (N) (In Stereo)	Tavis Smiley (N)	America's Heartland	Race 2012 America's complex rural landscape.														
KVC	(4 4 4)	Jeff Probst Sh.	Ellen DeGeneres	News 4	News	News 4	Ent	Whitney	Commun	Grimm (N)	Dateline NBC (N)	News 4	Jimmy Fallon	Daly	News 4	Extra																	
NBC KDLT	(5 5 5)	The Doctors (In Stereo)	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	KDLT	NBC Nightly News (N)	KDLT	The Big Bang Theory	Whitney	Grimm	Dateline NBC (N) (In Stereo)	KDLT With Jay Leno	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Last Call	According to Jim	Paid Program																	
KCAU	(6 6 9)	Dr. Phil	The Dr. Oz Show	News	ABC	News	Inside	Shark Tank (N)	Primetime: What	20/20	News	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Grt Pillow	Inside	Paid	Pillow																
CBS KGO	(1 3 11)	Dr. Phil (In Stereo)	The Dr. Oz Show (In Stereo)	News	CBS Evening News	News	Entertainment Tonight (N)	CSI: NY "Unspoken" The team pursues a shooter. (N)	Made in Jersey "Pay-day" Martina helps land a client.	Blue Bloods	A bride is murdered on her wedding day. (N)	News	Late Show With David Letterman (In Stereo)	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson (In Stereo)	News	The Insider (N)	Weather NOW																
KCBS	(1 3 6)	Jeopardy!	Be a Millionaire	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (In Stereo)	KSFY News at 5 In HD	ABC World News	KSFY News at 6 In HD	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Shark Tank Protein-infused energy drink. (N) (DVS)	Primetime: What Would You Do? (In Stereo)	20/20 (In Stereo)	KSFY News at 10 In HD	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live (In Paid Program)	Extra (N)	Stay Cool With My Pillow	Paid Program																
KMEG	(1 3 6)	The Doctors	Jdg Judy	Jdg Judy	KMEG 14	CBS	Jeopardy	Wheel	CSI: NY "Unspoken"	Made in Jersey (N)	Blue Bloods (N)	News	Letterman	Ferguson	Paid	Paid	Paid																
KFOX	(1 3 6)	Steve Harvey (In Stereo)	Anderson Live (N) (In Stereo)	America's Funniest Home Videos (In Stereo)	How I Met Your Mother	MLB Baseball National League Championship Series, Game 5: Teams TBA. (If necessary). (N) (In Stereo Live)	How I Met Your Mother	Wheel	CSI: NY "Unspoken"	Made in Jersey (N)	The Office	Dish Nation (N)	Friends	Friends	Baggage	New Adv./Old Christine	Paid	Excused	Excused														
KFTW	(2 3 9 7)	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil	News	ABC	News	Ent	Shark Tank (N)	Primetime: What	20/20	News	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Katie (N)	Paid	Daryl's																
KLKN		Ellen DeGeneres	First Four	Jeopardy	News	CBS	News	Wheel	CSI: NY "Unspoken"	Made in Jersey (N)	Blue Bloods (N)	News	Letterman	Ferguson	Paid	Inside	Weather																
KPTH		Jerry Springer	Maury	Big Bang	Two Men	Big Bang	MLB Baseball	Dr. Nasir	CSI: NY "Unspoken"	Made in Jersey (N)	Blue Bloods (N)	News	Letterman	Ferguson	Paid	Inside	Weather																
KSCB	97	S Ade	Winston	Drenda	Zola	Creflo D.	J. Hagee	Parsley	Jon L.	Celebration	Van Impe	Franklin	FLC	Copeland	Life To	J. Meyer	Sound	EVO	Ventures	Celebra													
KSIN	(9 12)	Arthur	Martha	Wild	WordGirl	Curious	PBS NewsHour (N)	Inside	Wash.	Political Debate	Market	Race 2012	Business	Keep Up	Lark Rise	(Off Air)																	
KXNE	(8)	Curious	Super	Arthur	WordGirl	Wild	Electric	PBS NewsHour (N)	Campaign	Wash.	Need	Race 2012	VOCES on PBS (N)	Served?	Served?	(Off Air)																	
PAY CHANNELS																																	
HBO	17 (40)	*** "X-Men: First Class" (2011, Action) James McAvoy. (In Stereo)				** "Antitrust" (2001) Ryan Phillippe, Rachael Leigh Cook. (In Stereo)				** "The Adjustment Bureau" (2011) Matt Damon, Emily Blunt. (In Stereo)				Real Time With Bill Maher (N) (11) (In Stereo)				Real Time With Bill Maher (N) (11) (In Stereo)				*** "X-Men: First Class" (2011, Action) James McAvoy. (In Stereo)				** "The Thing" (2011) (In Stereo)							
HBO2		Green *** "Win Win" (2011) Paul Giamatti.				*** "Unknown" (2011) Liam Neeson.				** "Dream House" (2011) (In Stereo)				Boredom Empire				Hunted Sam Hunter returns to work.				Hunted Sam Hunter returns to work.				*** "Devil" (2010) (In Stereo)				* "200 Cigarettes" (1999)			
MAX	(40)	*** "Live!" (2007) Eva Mendes.				*** "Transit" (2012) Jim Caviezel.				** "The Hangover Part II" (2011) Bradley Cooper.				** "Contraband" (2012) Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale. Premiere. (In Stereo)				Hunted Sam Hunter returns to work.				Hunted Sam Hunter returns to work.				"Emmanuelle Through Time: Forbidden Pleasures"				** "Transit"			
MAX2		* "Envy" (2004) Ben Stiller.				*** "Crazy, Stupid, Love." (2011)				** "Final Destination 5" (2011)				Strike Back				** "Collateral" (2004) Tom Cruise.				"Erotic Karma" (2011)				*** "X2: X-Men United" (2003)							
SHOW	18 (435)	Hours *** "Dr. T & the Women" (2000)				That Guy... Who Was in That				*** "Our Didt Brother"				* "Apollo 18" (2011)				Inside the NFL				Gigolos				Steve Trevino				"The Other F Word" (2011)			
SHOW2		Dickie R *** "Beastly" (2011) Alex Pettyfer.				*** "House of D" (2004)				"I Don't Know How"				*** "50/50" (2011)				Gigolos				*** "Timeline" (2003) Paul Walker.				"Brother's Justice"							
TMC		Camp *** "The Perfect Host" (2002)				* "The Skulls II" (2002) Robin Dunne.				*** "Yalkyrie" (2008) Tom Cruise.				*** "Super" (2010) (In Stereo)				"Elvis Has Left the Building"				*** "Sirens" (1994) Hugh Grant.											
CABLE STATIONS																																	
A&E	57 (41)	Billy	Billy	Billy	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds									
AMC	41 (54)	*** "Pumpkinhead" (1988)	Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan	Fatal Attractions	Infested	*** "Mad Money" (2008)	Diane Keaton.	Reba	Reba	Reba	Cheerleaders	American G	Mad Money	E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan	Anderson Cooper	E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan															



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