

Attitude Era vs. PG Era

So it's only going to be one post instead of a series. Sorry if that disappoints anyone.

I read a lot of posts and opinions of people that talk about how the Attitude Era was so great and how awful the PG Era is so bad and how things need to be more like what they were back in the late 90s. This is one of the dumbest things I've ever heard because people aren't thinking when they say stuff like this. Either that or the more likely reality: they don't know what they're talking about.

Wrestling today is pretty awesome and in a lot of ways it's better than what we have back in the 90s. Now before I get into this, let me make something clear: I'm not saying this era is better nor am I saying it's worse. I'm saying that there are a lot of people that blindly say we need to get back to the Attitude Era way of thinking and style of airing TV and I'm going to explain why they have no idea what they're talking about.

Note that this is just about WWE, not TNA and/or WCW. Also I won't be going past the end of the year 2001 with this so don't bother mentioning stuff from January 1, 2002 on because it's not what I'm talking about. For a starting point, let's say January 1, 1998. I know the Attitude Era was longer than that but it's an easy date to work with.

First and foremost, people seem to think that the Attitude Era was all Austin and Vince tormenting each other and Rock cracking people up and Foley getting beaten up and then cracking a witty line. See, here's the thing: that was about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the show. The fact of the matter is that a lot of the Attitude Era's TV time SUCKED. I've been watching some 98 Raws and you get a lot of stuff like the DOA vs. the old Road Warriors, a multiple months long Jeff Jarrett vs. Steve

Blackman feud, the NWA faction sucking the life out of the place, and about 15 minutes of Austin vs. McMahon per show.

People remember the cool moments of the late 90s but they forget about a lot of the really awful stuff and believe me, it got bad. You had stuff like Mark Henry getting oral sex from a transvestite, May Young giving birth to a hand, a story about Stephanie McMahon's teddy bear, William Regal as the Brawny Man, the J.O.B. Squad, a trio of vampires, human sacrifices, people almost being embalmed, live burials, Chyna turning three times at one show, Jeff Jarrett getting hit in the back by a frozen fish, a championship changing hands at a Days Inn, a wrestler whose gimmick was he could vomit on command, and Mae Young being topless on PPV.

In short, the Attitude Era had some really stupid ideas. Some of those might not have been in the time period I mentioned, but you get the idea. People want to complain about Cena being impossible to beat and call him Superman or something like that, but is John Cena saluting people more childish than Austin holding his boss at gunpoint and having a flag come out of it that says Bang 3:16? That's something I've seen in Bugs Bunny cartoons.

People want to argue about how silly and childish things are today. Yeah, there are some pretty stupid ideas like Hornswoggle and Sheamus being related to a Muppet, but at the same time we have Punk and his Pipe Bombs, Cena standing tall against a guy that talks about Fruity Pebbles and talks in funny voices (there's a long chat in that feud that I'll save for later), anti-bullying stories which can inspire kids (corny but true), and comedy bits that aren't that bad when you remember your audience.

That brings me to one of the bigger points: the show isn't for us anymore. Back in the 80s, everything was based around kids. Hogan's feuds were never more than "I can beat this giant because the Hulkamaniacs are behind me!" You had a guy with a

snake who beat up everyone else with the DDT. You had Savage being incredibly colorful and over the top. You had simple villains like Bobby Heenan and Jimmy Hart. It was a simple time for simple minds. Know what else it was? The biggest era ever for wrestling.

Then the 90s happened and those fans grew up. They got tired of seeing guys like Hogan and hearing the "you all be good" stuff. The fans rebelled and we got stuff like ECW and Steve Austin and DX and The Rock and all that jazz. The problem became that everything had to top what we had before, which is how in 1999 we had the Ministry of Darkness and crucifixions and Mideon drinking blood and vampires and all that stuff. It stopped being about wrestling and was all about drama.

Finally Austin got too hurt to wrestle and things got even better in the year 2000. What was different about 2000 rather than 98 and 99 you ask? The focus was on the ring. You had Angle and Benoit and Jericho and Guerrero coming in and Rock vs. HHH going 25 minutes every PPV and Undertaker being a biker instead of a demon.

Nick Bockwinkel used to say "That's what it says on the marquee: Wrestling." It sounds corny and stupid, but at the end of the day he's right: if you put good wrestling out there, people will watch, because that's what they're here to see. I don't watch Raw to see pure drama or comedy. If I wanted to see that, I'd watch a drama or a comedy. Look at the biggest angle of the year in Punk vs. Cena. In every promo Punk had, it ended with him saying that he was the best in the world and that he would prove it by beating John Cena in the middle of the ring. It wasn't about power or some obscure thing. It was about pinning John Cena to the mat for 3 seconds. It was about wrestling.

So then Rock and Austin leave and you have guys like Brock Lesnar and Kurt Angle to take their place. The pendulum has swung back to pure mat wrestling....and people don't care as

much. Starting around 2003-2004, things started to go downhill again, especially interest in the product. It appeared as if the pendulum would be swinging back towards the Attitude Era as things were getting insane again....and then something happened.

In June of 2007, Chris Benoit went over the edge and murdered his wife and son before committing suicide. Wrestling was on the front page of the paper as you had someone that was a big deal in WWE and was on the verge of winning a world title on the news for killing three people. This made the steroids trial in 1993 look like a walk in the park. Everything was changed and WWE had to change too. They had just come through an era where Angle and Benoit would drop each other on their heads ten times a match 4 nights a week. Benoit went crazy and Angle can't go a year without a neck injury. Things had to change.

With WWE and the wrestling world being turned upside down, everything more or less had to be reset. Benoit is still less than five years ago and it's not like you can hide things in the modern age where there are cameras everywhere. People complaining about the lack of chair shots to the head and blood don't get the bigger picture: if something else like Benoit happened, the WWE would cease to exist. Sponsors would pull out, people would leave, fans would go away. Vince is protecting himself and his company by doing what he's doing and there's nothing wrong with that. If you can't watch wrestling without someone taking an unprotected chair shot to the head, I feel very sorry for you.

So in the aftermath of that, Vince reset things back to the most basic things he could think of. Wrestling fans being wrestling fans, they didn't want something that wasn't geared exactly to them, so when the product wasn't aimed at them anymore, they declared that it sucked. Wrestling is geared towards kids right now and you know what? It's freaking good. We're getting John Cena vs. the Rock and Christian getting the

push the fans have demanded for years and Sheamus being all big and awesome and Orton having his best matches in years and Punk being the voice of the voiceless and Ryder's internet show getting him on TV and a dozen other awesome things.

"But it's not the Attitude Era!!!" Get over it. It isn't your time anymore so stop thinking it's going to be. Things in life aren't always going to go your way and you need to accept that. You think your parents liked listening to Hogan telling you to take your vitamins or Warrior wanting to load up the spaceship with the rocket fuel or Hawk and Animal rambling about absolutely nothing that made sense to anyone that was human? It's not about us anymore. It's about the kids and catching their attention with bright colors and low level humor. And as much as you don't want to admit it, it's working. Mania broke 1,000,000 buys last year and the Trump record will fall with Cena vs. Rock. It's their era now, not ours.

This next part I wrote earlier but I got on a roll with the previous section so it's going to seem a little out of place for an ending.

Also you want to complain about title changes? From 1998-1999, no WWF World Title reign lasted longer than 90 days. Think about that. No one held the world title longer than 3 months for over two years. This would include three title reigns (one by Rock, Foley and Vince) that combined to last ten days. Midcard titles more your thing? In 1999-2000, the Intercontinental Title changed hands 23 times. In 24 months, there were 23 title reigns. Think about that for a minute. The tag titles weren't as bad as they only changed 22 times in that span of time.

Title reigns didn't mean anything back then. Austin won 6 world titles starting in 1998 and ending in 2001. Factoring in the year he was gone, Austin won all of his titles in about two and a half years, or about 2.4 world titles a year. Rock

won his first in late 98 and his last in 2002. He's a nine time champion over a four year span, or about 2.25 a year. By comparison, Cena has won 12 world titles in roughly 6 years (factoring out injury time) or approximately 2 a year. Orton is a 9 time champion, winning his first in 2004, which puts him at about 1.3 titles a year. But hey, Cena and Orton win them too often right? And remember Austin and Rock had one world title to vie for (save for the Alliance Era) so there were fewer titles to go around, making it harder to win them.

I think the big difference is that people stay around longer now. Austin arrived in WWF in 1995 and was gone by let's say the middle of 2002, giving him about 6 and a half years in the company (5 and a half factoring in the year off). Rock debuted in late 96 and was gone by late 2002 for a total of 5 years also (roughly 5 when you consider the time off for movies). Cena has been around for over 9 years now and Orton about the same. Do you remember the end of Austin's run in WWF? It was when he was feuding with Flair and Big Show when he was falling apart. Imagine Austin as a shell of his former self and being so far past his time that he meant nothing. Think people would get tired of him?

You look at guys like Orton and Cena and you have two guys that have had some of their best stuff recently. Cena fueled Punk's push and Orton stole a lot of shows with his matches against Christian. Austin and Rock both left the company (spare me the arguments about them bailing out and abandoning the company. They're bogus) after about 6 years when they were past their primes. Cena and Orton have hit (very) arguably their peaks recently. The difference is that instead of spending years in another company building themselves up, they started in OVW (for the most part) and came through the WWF system, allowing them to be there faster.

I Want To Talk A Little Bit About John Cena

I was listening to ESPN Radio about ten days ago before the World Series began. The analyst said that he hoped we were realizing what we were seeing with Albert Pujols (baseball player for any confused readers). He's the best player in the game today and is putting up numbers that other players probably dream of. This got me to thinking about wrestling (as almost anything does) and I started thinking about John Cena.

I'm pretty much in the minority on John Cena, in that I'm pretty neutral on him. I have never once been what you would call a Cena hater. I've never reached the point where I'm sick of him and want him gone. I've also never been a huge fan of his. However, and this is partially the whole point of this entire writing: he is without a doubt one of the greatest stars that we'll ever see and one of the greatest wrestlers ever.

Now let's take a look at this from a few angles. First and foremost, John Cena has more detractors and more supporters than anyone else in wrestling right now. That is indisputable. When you watch a show, be it on PPV, TV, DVD or in the arena, one thing is always certain: people react to John Cena. You often read about the size of the pops that someone gets. When is the last time you remember people being silent for anything related to John Cena? The answer to that would be never.

The whole idea of wrestling is to get the fans to care about you. You have to establish a character that people are going to want to watch and when you put that character up against another one and develop a conflict between them, you might be able to get the fans to pay to see the resolution of that conflict, which is the whole point of wrestling. That being said, John Cena is one of the few guys that people are always interested in. Think about this for a second.

John Cena is the face of the company. He's the guy that is put out as a spokesman, he's the guy you see on the posters, he's the guy that you see in K-Mart on WWE merchandise, he's the guy that goes on talk shows, he's the one (current) wrestler everyone knows and he's the guy that Wrestlemania is built around every year. That puts him in rare company: Hogan, Austin, HHH, Cena. In WWE history (as in post-Hogan's first title win), there aren't any other people that are the undisputed top guy in the company.

After that, let's look at what everyone thinks is the most important thing in wrestling: the matches. Let's get the biggest piece of evidence out of the way: when was the last time you saw a bad John Cena match? I don't mean a match you weren't into. I don't mean a match that you didn't care about. I mean a match that was flat out bad. Cena is one of very, very few men that have had a match rated 5 stars by Dave Meltzer. Also on that list: Shawn Michaels, Razor Ramon, Bret Hart, Owen Hart, Steve Austin, Undertaker, CM Punk. Cena was in the first match to get such a rating in almost 14 years. Think back over 14 years. It's the first match in that long to get a perfect score in this company (I'll save a Meltzer rant for later. I'm by no means a follower of his but his opinion is highly valued online).

The main argument against Cena matches is that he uses five moves and that's it. Let's think for a minute and realize why this is stupid. We'll start with AA, STF, Shuffle, Top Rope Fameasser, Protobomb, Shoulder Block. There are your six moves right there. That being said, if you believe the amount of moves that someone uses determines whether or not you're a talented wrestler, you have no idea what you're talking about. If it was about the amount of moves a wrestler knew, Dean Malenko vs. William Regal would have headlined about 8 Wrestlemanias in a row.

Speaking of multiple Wrestlemanias, let's look at Cena's career span. Let's say he became an A-list guy the night he first won the title, which was at Wrestlemania 21. For the sake of math, let's say we take this up to Wrestlemania 27 where he was in the main event. That's six years with him on top and he's going to be there longer than that. By comparison, let's say Austin was on top from Mania 14 through the day he walked out on the company in 2004. That would be 4 years on top, including his year out for neck surgery. Shawn was on top for about 2 years. Rock got let's say 4 (99-02, which is being VERY generous). Other than Hogan and Sammartino, a guy being on top for that long simply does not happen.

Cena has been in a main event/featured match at 7 Wrestlemanias (not including the upcoming one). By comparison, Mr. Wrestlemania Shawn Michaels was in (arguably) 6 main event/world title matches at Wrestlemania. Austin had 4 or so. Rock had even less than that. The only person in the same league as Cena is Hogan who had 8 (I don't count WM 9 as one of these as it was a surprise match and lasted all of 40

seconds but again that's arguable). Even if you count that match, that record will come down in a few years.

Getting to records, we reach the world title record that Cena is going to break one day. As everyone knows, the record is currently held by Ric Flair with 16. You have Hogan with 12, Edge with like 13, HHH with about 13 and Angle with ten I think (don't bother telling me what the actual numbers are as that's not the point). Yes, having two titles makes this a lot easier to reach. Yes, Flair usually held the title longer (except for the two NWA Title reigns that didn't last two months, the five WCW Title reigns that didn't last three months each (with two reigns combining to last 7 days) and the 2 WWF Title reigns that didn't last three months because we don't like to talk about those), and yes that means a little something.

However, Cena wrestles in an era with potentially 9 hours of programming (Raw, NXT, Superstars, SD and a PPV) a week. This isn't the days of the NWA where you saw the stars in town once a year at a house show and the title changed hands twice in three years. The amount of title reigns doesn't mean a thing but people like to complain about Cena and Edge and HHH and the amount of quick title changes they have without thinking about it so who cares about stuff like consistency right?

This brings us to the present: John Cena vs. The Rock. It's no secret that Rock is the biggest mainstream star the business has ever produced. He's a big time movie star, he's hosted SNL, he's been the lead guest on the Tonight Show, he's going to be in the new GI Joe movie, he's a legit celebrity. And now he's coming back to wrestling. Who do they put him with? John Cena. This match is going to be one of the biggest in the

history of wrestling and it's going to be built up for over a year when it finally happens.

These are two of the biggest stars of all time and this match is literally going to be over a year in the making. When has there EVER been a match with that kind of build? Off the top of my head, nothing is coming to me. I mean there were matches we knew would be happening at a certain show, but I don't ever recall being told that a match would be happening a full year in advance with build lasting even longer than that. Cena is the one being trusted with this and that says something to me.

Speaking of the build, let's take a look at Cena's mic skills real quick. One of these guys is always talking about childish things, making funny faces and cracking jokes while the guy he's feuding with is being serious. The other is named John Cena. Think back to the night when Rock came back. He cut a promo on Cena and imitated John in a funny voice while talking about Fruity Pebbles. Cena replied in a rap, pointing out that Rock has made some silly movies (true), that he's never around the People he claims to be champion of (true) and how we've barely seen him for seven years (true). Rock's reply: more funny voices, more cereal jokes, more making fun of Cena's clothes.

Cena has responded to everything Rock has said and has made sense the entire time. Every word he has said about Rock has been true. It's been Cena here the last seven years. Rock has been out in Hollywood (and please, spare me the nonsense about Rock turning his back on wrestling. You would have done the same thing and it was smart of him to do). In short, Cena has been the mature one here and Rock has talked down to him like a bully the entire time.

In summation, John Cena isn't the devil in a pair of jean shorts. He's a star the likes of which we haven't seen in a very long time. Is he Austin or Rock or Hogan? No he isn't, but to say he's awful or he has to turn heel to save his career is ridiculous. When the Summer of Punk happened and Cena was having the hottest angle he's had in years, he was the same John Cena we had seen every time and I didn't hear anything but rave reviews for him. Whether you think it's going to be good or not, Rock vs. Cena is going to probably break 1 million buys on PPV and make a fortune for the company and it's going to be the same John Cena. Like him or not, he's the best there is and one of the best ever and that's all there is to it.

Upcoming: AE vs. PG – Comparing the Attitude Era to the Modern Era

This is something that I'll be starting up soon: a series of essays/editorials/those long posts I write about a single topic. This is going to be a special one that I've wanted to write for awhile. I always hear about how this era sucks and how it's not as good as the Attitude Era and all that jazz. However, this era that we're currently in is in fact good, and in many ways better than the Attitude Era that many of us grew up on. In (maybe) a series of posts, I'm going to take a look at various aspects of both eras and explain the good and the bad of both. This is not going to be a totally pro PG

argument because it's far from perfect, but I'm going to explain quite a few things. Look for that in about a week.

KB

Favorite Wrestling Book

What is your favorite?

Mine would probably be Have A Nice Day. It's a great way of telling Foley's story which is fascinating and having him do the writing was a great touch as he personalizes things so well. It's a fell good story too as it ends with him winning the title which was his dream growing up.

Your picks?

Underrated Matches

What are some matches you don't hear people talk about that you're a fan of?

One of the matches I remember liking is the main event of

Uncensored 97. it's a three team 12 man tag with Team Piper vs. Team WCW vs. Team NWO with a stipulation if each of them wins. The whole thing actually works and there's nothing to it that is too far over the top that it gets ridiculous. The post match appearance by Sting and confirming that he's WCW is awesome stuff too.

Your picks?

I Want To Talk A Little Bit About Authority Figures

These guys have been around for years but are really becoming a problem as of late. Let's go back to the past for a bit here because I like doing that. Back in the late 80s, there was one authority figure in the WWF and his name was Jack Tunney. You young whippersnappers might have heard of him and if you ever see him I'd recommend a pillow on standby. He was an old man that occasionally gave a speech from his office about something or other and even on occasion came to the ring. He was a suit but he was THE suit. No one questioned him and arguing with him was usually a waste of time. In short, he was the boss.

Flashing forward (and I'll be skipping some of the names in here due to a lot of them being pretty worthless) we had Gorilla Monsoon who was a very popular old commentator who was the voice of the WWF in his day. He became commissioner after retiring because Vince guaranteed him lifetime employment and he needed something to do. He didn't do much, but he was an intimidating presence and a guy that was almost universally

loved.

Then it starts to go downhill for a little while.

We got Commissioner Slaughter who might have been more worthless than a jobber in a squash match. Slaughter was pushed around and often beaten up by various people with no one really taking him seriously at all. He was around for the Shawn Michaels DX days and that's about all he did: fight DX, with a win/loss record that would make him jealous of the Brooklyn Brawler. The next authority figure was a little more successful and realistic.

Around this time, Vince McMahon was revealed to be the real life owner of the company in an angle about Jim Ross of all people. Vince began feuding with Austin over what Vince and Austin thought should be the image of the champion and therefore the company, moving into a two year long rivalry that launched the company to undreamed of heights. Along the way, there was still a Commissioner, but it was Shawn Michaels. HBK had the job for about two years and didn't do much. Then we got into the more active ones, such as Foley and Regal.

Also during this time, various McMahons and McMahon spouses (HHH) had and lost power with people stepping down from power and people winning control of the company in matches and all that jazz. This is where you can start seeing the problems that would plague the company and was really hurting WCW at the time (among other things) but we'll get to that in a minute.

After that, the Brand Split happened and each show had an owner (Ric Flair on Raw, Vince on Smackdown) and then a GM. Smackdown started off with a lot of changes at GM, ranging from Stephanie to Paul Heyman to Kurt Angle to Teddy Long to Vickie and now back to Teddy. Raw has been a little more insane. Eric Bischoff held the job for about three and a half

years and since then (December of 2005), there have been 8 GMs.

That brings us to today with HHH as the COO and Johnny Ace as the suit that runs around doing whatever. We'll come back to this at the end.

I promise there's going to be a point to this in the end.

Let's take a look at WCW for an example of what NOT to do. Back in the early days, there wasn't really any boss figure. The matches just kind of happened and someone booked them but it wasn't really thought of. Then WCW came up with the stupidest of all their boss related ideas (up to that point): they had the REAL bosses of the company appear on TV as the bosses. In other words, actual business executives playing business executives. If you think about this, you can instantly see the problem: these guys have no idea how to act in front of a camera. We have no idea who they are and we don't care about them, so why should they be on TV? Because WCW is stupid, that's why.

So after having Nick Bockwinkel for Commissioner for a few years (despite having no connection to WCW after having been in the AWA for years and years and years), we had no boss for awhile until we got to the NWO era, which is where things got smart again. Eric Bischoff, the actual boss, was made into the on-screen boss. For people like him and Vince or in the present HHH, this is smart as they know how to be on TV and act like a TV person. It makes sense and the fans are going to react better. Also it helps knowing they could actually fire someone and aren't just an actor.

Anyway, things go downhill after that as the Commissionership, the CEO spot and President of WCW become more or less titles which could be defended and won or lost in matches. This became a real problem as they would change almost month to month and no one had any idea who was in charge half of the

time. Also at the end of the day, people stopped caring because everyone made matches anyway. Towards the end you had Russo and Bischoff plus others that were in the spots I just mentioned, making something like 3-5 bosses at once. That takes us to TNA, which is easier to talk about as it's been around for less time and has had fewer bosses for the most part.

Before there was just TNA and it's management which like WCW's old days was some unseen force that made things happened. That's perfectly fine. Jim Cornette was made the representative of TNA management in 2006 and held the job on and off for about three years. Jeff Jarrett and Dixie Carter had some authority in there for the most part too, Dixie being on screen rarely.

Now we get to modern TNA, which shows the problem for the most part. At the moment, Hulk Hogan, Eric Bischoff, Karen Angle and the Network are allowed to make matches. That's four total (three for the main roster) matchmakers. Who is in charge more than anyone else? There's really no way to tell and it gets a little complicated. Sting wants to bring back Dixie Carter and there was a Network Representative recently in the form of Foley. In short, it's too much and it gets too complicated quickly.

Ok so now let's summarize this. Authority figures are an important part of wrestling, but they need to be done right. They need to not be actors but rather someone that knows how to work a wrestling crowd. It gets dull when you have a guy that has no idea what to say out there trying to sound important. Also, for the love of sanity, stop talking about behind the scenes stuff and convincing boards of directors to give you power. TNA has been really guilty of this lately. I can't count how often Hogan and Bischoff have been granted power by the Network and we're just told about it. Yes that's realistic, but that's not the point of wrestling. Wrestling is over the top and insane, not based in reality. If you're going

to change power, show it happening.

That brings me back to WCW: there's such a thing as changing too often. Raw did this over the last few years, changing GMs all the time. It gets annoying in a hurry as it makes the power seem weak, as it can be taken away and replaced all the time. You also don't want to have matches all the time to change the authority figures. If you can't keep track of who the boss is, how important can they seem?

Most importantly of all, don't have a ton of people in power. Have preferably one and at most two. WWE is doing things pretty well now with HHH as the boss and Ace as only kind of a boss. People are fighting for HHH's power in the form of the Conspiracy and it makes it look valuable that he wants to defend it. Now I know that kind of goes against what I said about not changing it immediately, which is what I mean as HHH doesn't need to lose the job already.

Authority figures can be important and great additions to the show, but they need to be done right.

Hulk Hogan's Micro Championship Wrestling

This isn't a show I'll be reviewing because it's more like a reality show, but the idea is that Hogan is coming to save a midget wrestling company. It airs Wednesdays on TruTV and has it's debut tonight. I've watched 15 minutes of it and it's one of the funniest, worst written shows I've ever seen. It's firmly in the category of so over the top and so bad that it's great. Check this show out as you'll die laughing if you think about it for about 10 seconds.

Your Favorite Moment In Wrestling

It can be anything from a match to a segment to a line to a sketch. There's no real limit here. Just your favorite moment.

My pick:

Foley wins the WWF Title over Rock. This was an incredibly uplifting moment as Foley, the guy who had worked his entire life to get to this moment FINALLY (see what I did there?) after 12 years of hard work. He paid his dues and worked his way up and was rewarded with the world title of the top company. That's such a cool moment and the line of "Mick Foley has achieved his dream and the dream of everyone else who has been told you can't do it" is the perfect line by Cole. It still makes me smile.

Jeff Hardy Going To Jail

Yes he is. For ten days.

He also gets a hundred thousand dollar fine and 30 months probation. All this after over a year in court.

Thoughts on this?

Favorite Theme Song

Simple question: what is your favorite wrestling theme song? For me it's Real American. The song immediately tells you almost everything you need to know about Hogan. We get the American aspect and that he'll never quit. With today's rock music for almost everyone, it's hard to explain anything about them and it takes a lot away from them.

Your picks?