

Shelley Long Plans Her Return to TV

GOSSIP

Liz Smith

Shelley Long left TV's "Cheers" several seasons back to pursue a big-screen career. She didn't quite catch it. Now she's heading back to the medium that brought her fame. Next month, Long begins taping a pilot for CBS titled "Good Advice."

In it, Long plays a marriage counselor with an unfaithful husband.

Among the other characters in this sit-com-to-be are a divorce lawyer and a chiropractor. Yes, yes, I know, but it doesn't sound any worse — or any better — than most of what's on TV, and Long is very funny. We'll see.



Shelley Long will star in the new CBS sit-com 'Good Advice'

Insiders at the FBI haven't been too terribly upset about Oliver Stone's "JFK," even though it doesn't make them look very good. It's *only* a movie, after all. But nerves are rather frayed over a coming book about the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is titled "The Insider — The FBI's Undercover 'Wiseguy' Goes Public" by Donald Goddard (Pocket Books).

This work concerns the exploits of Billy Breen, an ex-cop and ex-con who has, for the past 30 years, worked as a free-lance operative, gathering evidence against some of the nation's most elusive and dangerous criminals — murderers, drug dealers, arms smugglers.

Reportedly Breen and author Goddard shred the FBI's holier-than-thou, truth-justice-and-the-American-way image, exposing previously unpublicized faults, weaknesses and tactics.

Nick Pileggi, author of "Wiseguy," has written an intro to "The Insider," stating that the book is "required reading" for anybody concerned with crime and the FBI's ability to cope with it. (So, that means all of us, right?)

This expose will be on bookshelves by the end of the week — just look for the line of guys at book-

stores in trench coats, dark glasses and beads of sweat.

My first call yesterday was from Tri-Star's Dennis Higgins, letting us know that while the studio appreciates my concern over "Bugsy's" box office, my concern is premature and unwarranted.

"We had an excellent weekend with 'Bugsy' — it's performing very well," said Higgins.

Well, naturally. Who has ever known Warren Beatty to have performance problems?

On the eve of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, a Russian publisher acquired the rights to — of all things — Christopher Andersen's "Madonna Unauthorized."

Coincidence? I think not!

Ellen Levine, Andersen's agent, struck a deal with Khudozhestvennaya Literatura to unleash 200,000 copies of the Life and Times of Herself on the unsuspecting inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Andersen told jaded Westerners more than we ever needed to know about Madonna — just imagine the effect of her adventures over there!