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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



'One Life to Live' actress Hillary B. Smith embraces a crew member (above) and castmate Eddie Alderson (below) during the final tapings of the soap opera, the last daytime drama based in New York, which is going off the air after 43 years and 11,096 episodes.

Life After 'Life' Is a Mystery

By TRIPP WHETSELL

Last April, veteran daytime actress Ilene Kristen was finishing a yoga class near her Upper West Side apartment when she received a frantic message on her cell phone. It was her agent informing her that "One Life to Live," the ABC soap opera on which she'd portrayed Roxy Balsom since 2001, had just been canceled along with its iconic suds sibling, "All My Children."

"Shock is the only word to describe it," said Ms. Kristen, who has also played minor parts on "Law & Order," "The Sopranos" and on Broadway, and is probably best remembered as the scheming Delia on "Ryan's Hope," the Emmy-nominated soap of the 1970s and '80s. "We'd been hearing rumors about both shows for months, but until I got the call I didn't think it was going to happen. I was dumbfounded."

Seven months later, she still is. So were many of her "One Life to Live" castmates



last Thursday as they gathered to tape the series's final episodes for television, which will be broadcast in January after 11,096 shows and 43 years on the air. Talks are under way to relaunch "One Life to Live" on the Internet through the production company Prospect Park, though similar plans for "All My Children" were recently

scrapped. Its weekday 2 p.m. slot will be filled by "The Revolution," a health and lifestyle program from the producers of "The Biggest Loser."

Outside ABC's West 66th Street studios, fans stood with flowers for the fictional citizens of Llanview. Three floors above, in the life-size doll house that is the "One Life to Live" set, Ms. Kristen, longtime regular Erika Slezak (who has played Vicki Lord since 1971), and onscreen spouses Robert Woods (Bo) and Hillary B. Smith (Nora) struggled to remember their lines and not break down.

"The hardest part is saying goodbye and realizing we may never see each other again," said Mr. Woods, who joined the cast in 1979 and, as Bo, endured the deaths of two wives, a fiancée and a son, was shot, and slept with his father's ex-mistress while time-traveling back to 1968. "We work so closely here and it's like a family. I did a lot of other things over the years, like 'The Waltons' and 'Police Story' Please turn to page A24

Suspect Plotted From Apartment

By PERVAIZ SHALLWANI AND SOPHIA HOLLANDER

Jose Pimentel was known to many as a quiet young man who held the elevator door and helped neighbors carry groceries in his Washington Heights apartment building.

But authorities said Sunday the 27-year-old Dominican Republic native was using his fifth-floor apartment as a factory for making bombs to use in attacks against police patrol

cars, part of the mission in Iraq and /

"It's crazy," said a 24-year-old neighbor from Mr. Pimentel's apartment building. "It's shocking that someone from here would do that." New York City Police charged him with port to

Silicon Alley Gets Geared Up

By LAURA KUSISTO

A Georgia-based software company will move its global headquarters with about 75 jobs to SoHo, the latest sign of the city's success at boosting its technology sector.

Infor, the world's third-largest maker of software for manufacturers with \$2 billion in annual revenues, will relocate its head office to 43,000 square feet at 641 Sixth Ave., a building already populated by a number of smaller technology firms.

The news comes as the city and state governments are getting traction in their efforts to generate more high-skilled technology and help stanch the anticipated loss to the economy of thousands of finance jobs. Large and small companies are being drawn to the city's growing pool of tech-savvy workers.

"In a down year for the economy, the good news for the tech sector keeps on getting better," says Jonathan Bowles, director of the Center for an Urban Future, a think tank that studies economic development. "It's been a real bright spot for New York's economy."

There are 90,723 high-tech jobs in the city, up from about 70,000 in 2005, according to the city's Economic Development

Corp. In 1998, a member of the labor union have created headquarters including Facebook and Google, such as F&W Group and a moving to

But tech jobs are coming from small firms and similar to layoffs here, the rest of the

Infor, which employs 1,000 in 164 countries, is ware for including F&W Boeing. Chief executive view Frid about acc but to cu that tend ence in N

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Most 2-Year Students Quit

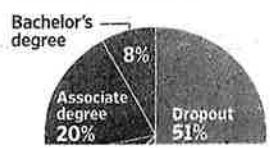
JOSEPH DE AVILA

Most City University of New York community college students drop out before graduating, hampering the system's resources as enrollment soars, according to a report set to be released on Monday.

The study by the Center for Urban Future, a Manhattan think tank, highlights a problem

Incomplete

Status of students six years after enrolling in a CUNY community college in 2004:



how many finish school.

Only 28% get associates or bachelor's degrees within six years, the report found. Nationally, 26% get degrees, a number that has been essentially flat for several years. This statistic helped spark a \$35-million effort by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to boost community college graduation rates.

A CUNY spokesman said in a

NEED TO KNOW

50° TODAY'S HIGH

Weather
Real Feel: 9 a.m. 42°, 5 p.m. 45°
Record low: 16° in 1879
Sunrise/Sunset: 6:50 a.m./4:34 p.m.

Cooler, a shower

Tuesday's High: 52°

Catch This

by de Avila for The Wall Street Journal

Inside

Urban
Ralph gets so paintin

The C
Jones |

City Loses the 'Life' of Daytime Drama

Continued from page A19

and movies of the week, but this show was the job that gave me recognition."

For many of the cast members, the show's consistency through the decades has allowed for precisely the sort of security and comfort that their murdering, comatose, back-stabbing, amnesiac, time-travelling characters always found so elusive.

"It provided me weekends and time with my children, and that you don't get in the theater," said Ms. Smith, whose character survived a brain tumor, a stroke, blindness, and a kidnapping, only to have her house burned down by a racist stalker. "It provided an opportunity for a normal life."

The final TV tapings of "One Life to Live," along with the recent departures of "All My Children," "As the World Turns" and "Guiding Light," have marked not just the death-knell of four shows whose genre has been on the decline for more than a decade, but something more significant for New York.

As the last remaining daytime drama based in the city, "One Life to Live" also represents the foreseeable end of New York's once-thriving soap-opera business. A cottage industry since the 1950s, in its heyday it produced more than half the daytime dramas on the air, where full-time contract players could fetch upward of \$200,000 a year and struggling actors, writers

and musicians could earn enough to avoid waiting tables.

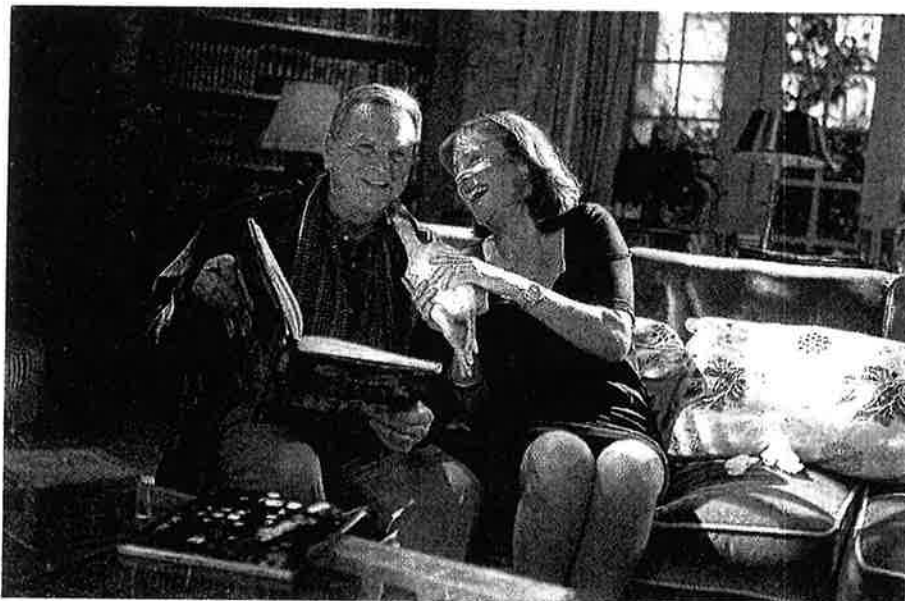
Besides helping to launch the careers of Laurence Fishburne, Tommy Lee Jones, Ryan Phillippe, Hayden Panettiere, Phylicia Rashad and others, "One Life to Live" also offered steady employment for thousands of technical staffers through the decades. But the format has been all but devoured in recent years by the expanded cable universe and the advent of reality television, where the plot lines are only slightly less believable.

"There were so many different factors," Ms. Smith said. "There was the advent of cable. There was also that primetime started imitating daytime and being very successful at it. For

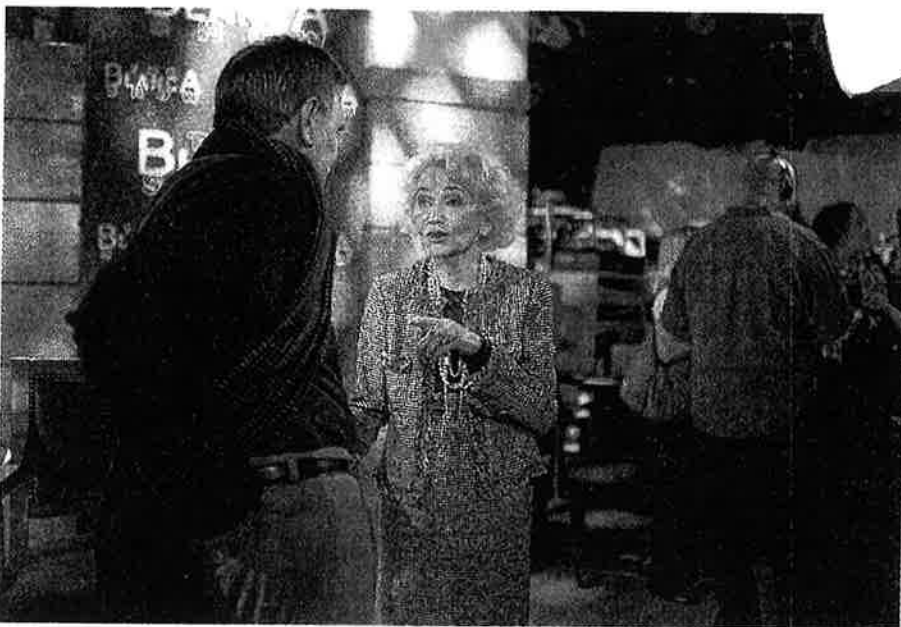
some reason, daytime thought they needed to imitate primetime and we became a poor imitation of ourselves, a watered-down imitation of what we were."

Frank Valentini, the show's executive producer, said measures had been taken to reduce overhead in recent years—including voluntary pay cuts for several principal cast members—but acknowledged it may have come too late as ratings plummeted and production costs soared up to \$300,000 per episode.

"I think our leaving definitely shallows out every facet of the entertainment business in New York because we keep so many people working at any given



Above, Robert S. Woods and Hillary B. Smith, who have played married couple Bo and Nora Buchanan on 'One Life to Live' for nearly two decades, at one of the final tapings. Below, the show's creator, Agnes Nixon, with Mr. Woods. 'One Life to Live,' the last remaining daytime drama based in the city, is going off the air.



Rob Brennet for The Wall Street Journal (2)

For Ms. Smith, whose character endured a brain tumor, a coma and a kidnapping, the show provided a chance 'for a normal life.'

time," said Mr. Valentini, who's been with "One Life to Live" for 26 years. "That includes not just our primary cast, but also people who come on in short-term roles. Because we generate so many episodes, we make a lot of money for the city, so this affects everyone, including the local vendors where we buy our props and costumes."

Agnes Nixon, who created both "One Life to Live" and "All My Children" and was on-set for the final taping, agreed. "There was nothing wrong with the story lines or the cast," she said. "It was the cost and nobody could change that. But it's been 42 wonderful years, and how many people have that? I can't complain too much."

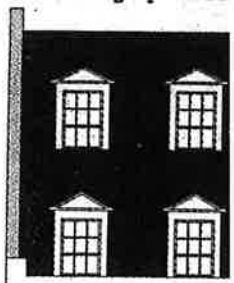
As Thursday's shoot wound down, Ms. Kristen and her castmates paused to reflect on the accomplishments of "One Life to Live" and plot their next moves, even as the online reincarnation lingered on the horizon. On the rehearsal hall bulletin board hung an invitation to the following night's wrap party at Capitale and a memo reminding everyone to clear out their dressing rooms by Dec. 9.

"Of course I'm sad, but I'm not a depressive person and as an actor you're always back to square one," Ms. Kristen said, choking back tears. "The one thing I know is that people stop ironing when they see me, and they don't run to the refrigerator or put me on fast forward. That I know. I could die as Roxy, and I hope we have the chance to continue it. I didn't think we'd have to say goodbye so quickly."

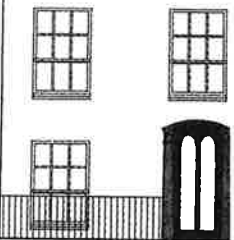
Cultur

Reveling in

'Grisaille,' the exhibit t Luxembourg & Dayan, 77th Street townhouse which are gray. Here a



10.5 FEET Width of Luxembourg & Dayan's townhouse



\$8 MILLION Most expensive wo

84 Oldest livin artist in the exhibition (Alex Katz)

Graphic by Alberto Cervantes/The Wall Street

The term "Grisaille" refers to a monochromatic technique historically employed by master artists and artisans. But until Jan 14, it's also the title and launching pad of Luxembourg & Dayan's exhibit of 39 works exploring the color gray.

Curated by Alison Gingeras, the eclectic works employ a "purposeful promiscuity" and include Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Gerhard Richter, Richard Prince and Jeff Koons. One not-to-be-missed gem, according to gallery co-owner Amalia Dayan, is the 1968 Jasper Johns "Screen Piece #5," on loan from the artist himself, and never before seen. "We wanted something fresh, and it was a great surprise when he said yes," she said. "It's completely fresh to the market and fresh to the eye."

She's also proud to be featuring the work of relatively unknown artists like Jeni Spota and Ryan Sullivan. "What is