


# Mad Men Recap: Wasted Time

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SnoopK8

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Helloooo, Trashies! And welcome to your seventh and final (sad horns) season of *Mad Men*. We left our friends on Thanksgiving of 1968 and change was afoot at SC&P. Don got Rumsen'd after trying to pitch Whore Chocolate to Hershey's. Ted hit it and quit it with Pegs, then fled to California with his family to "start over." Pete also dispatched himself to the left coast after alienating his family and losing his mom in a shady cruise ship accident. Joan got the Avon account, although you wouldn't know it from actually watching the show. Megan quit her soap opera job to become a terrible actress in L.A. instead of a terrible actress in NYC.

So how is everyone faring? Is California the land of sunshine and dreams? Has Don pulled himself together and become a better man? Hahaha.

It's January of 1969. We open with Freddy Rumsen making an intense pitch to Peggy for Accutron watches. Freddy: "The meeting is boring, but you can't be." He invokes Steve McQueen and says YES, the watch IS Swiss and it IS accurate. "Accutron: it's not a timepiece, it's a conversation piece." Wow, Freddy's come a long way from his usual "if you don't buy this you'll end up a dried-up spinster."



**"But I can say, if you don't buy this, you'll never get laid"**

Peggy is impressed. She tells him it's a home run and she's surprised. Freddy says "there's a nice way to say that and the way you just said it." Heh. Peggy assures him it's really good, but suggests they change the tag to "Accutron: it's time for a conversation." Freddy says that line

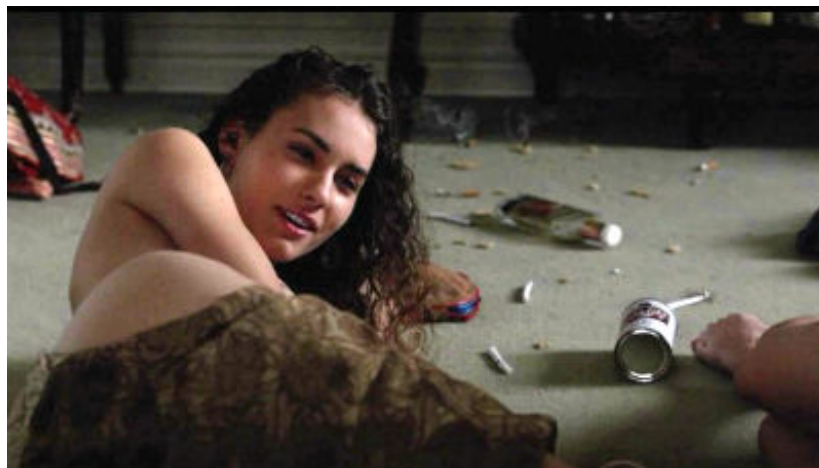
is not as dramatic and it hides the benefit. They are interrupted by Peggy's secretary, Shirley, telling her she has a status meeting to get to. Freddy says he's gonna grab one more cup of coffee before he goes and Peggy chides him for putting the "free" in "freelancer."

A phone rings endlessly at some kind of upscale flop house where a bunch of naked people are passed out. Is Betty recreating St. Marks in Westchester? No, it's ROGER, and he's NAKED and what the holy F???



### **The origins of "Reach out and touch someone"**

He answers the phone and it's Margaret, his bratty daughter. She wants to have brunch with him on Sunday. He offers to bring vodka and make bloody marys, but she wants to meet him in a restaurant. He suggests the Plaza and they agree to meet at 10:30. He hangs up and some naked hippie chick on the floor says "I really feel like we got somewhere last night." Oh my goodness, what the hell, Roger? Just say no.



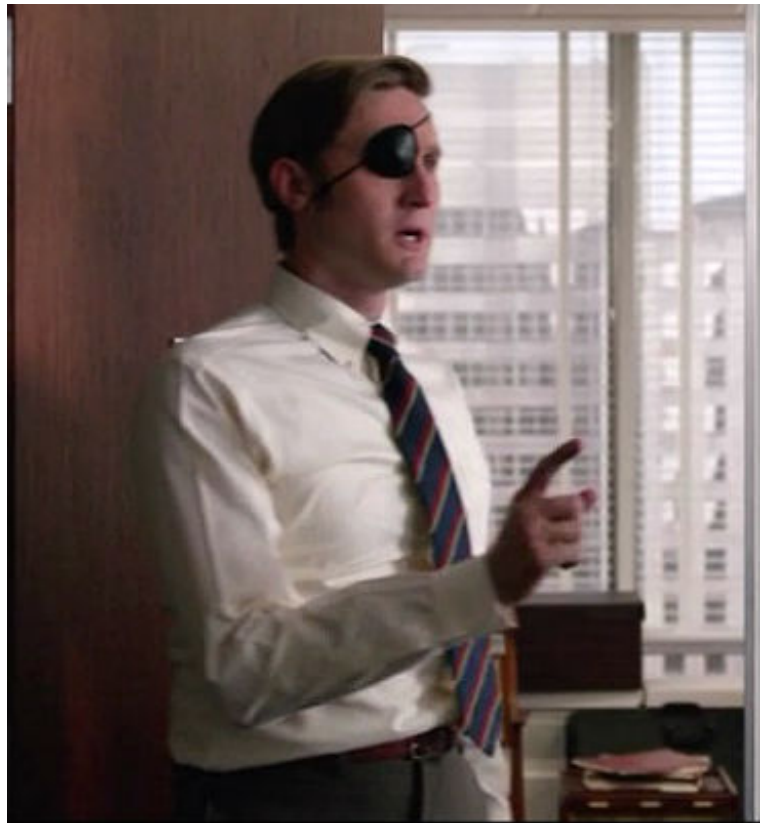
### **Just say no to the underage ho**

Joan approaches an office door, through which we hear lots of yelling. It's Kenny Cosgrove and he is screaming at minions, who scuttle out like cockroaches when he opens the door. Oh, and Ken still has an eye patch. I guess that would make me cranky too.

### **Ken! Cosgrove! Accounts! Fuck off!**

He sends his secretary Clara down to the lobby to get him a buttered roll before complaining to Joan about how overworked he is. He has no time to even take a crap and he needs Joan to meet with the new marketing director at Butler shoes because if he did it, it would be like a demotion. Joan appreciates his confidence in her and agrees to the meeting.

Peggy and the creatives assemble for a status meeting in the office of Don's replacement, Lou Avery. Remember, we met him coming off the elevator with Duck Phillips as Don got the boot. He makes a couple of unfunny uncle-type jokes before getting down to business.



### **Pull my finger then tell me about Chevy**

After some Chevy talk, Peggy says Lou didn't pick an angle for Accutron. Lou says he did and it's "Accutron is accurate," which is pretty lame. Peggy says as much and tries to sell "It's time for a conversation." Lou says she's putting him in the position of saying he doesn't care what she thinks. Oh snap. Lou's kind of a dick. He yells at her for giving him "Accutron is accurate" if she didn't like it in the first place. So that closing shot of Peggy wearing the pants in Don's office last season – kind of jumping the gun a little, no?

Don is shaving in an airport bathroom, as you do. He comes outside where Megan is waiting for him in a mini-skirt and a convertible. Don could not look more like a square. Megan says

Don's flight was late so they have to hurry to dinner. It's a quick dinner, then they will have the whole weekend to themselves.



### **We will have fun together if it kills us**

Back in NYC, Peggy and Stan, et al, prepare for a meeting in the conference room when Ted walks into the office, visiting from L.A. Peggy slams the curtains closed.

Harry Hamlin greets Ted in his office, asking him why he's not "brown." Ted says it's January in L.A. too. He asks his snotty secretary Moira to remember to pick up two dozen bagels before the end of his trip.



Harry Hamlin asks if that means "the Mrs. misses New York" and if Ted is done with his CA adventure. Harry Hamlin wants Ted to come back and hang out with him. Failing that, at least stay an extra day and come to Nixon's inauguration with him. Ted just wants to get some work done.

Don and Megan arrive at a restaurant where a man is on the phone at their table. It's an actual phone, not a smart phone, it being 1969 and all. I'm assuming this is Megan's agent? His name is Alan Silver and he fawns over Don's "matinee idol" looks.





He assures Don he's only spending time with Megan because of "greed" and no other reason. Don's look says, "You couldn't be more of a homo, so it's all good."



### **Do I look concerned, Charles Nelson Reilly?**

Alan says Megan is "something" and she has a callback for *Bracken's World* on NBC! Megan is excited because she thought the guy hated her. Well, he did, but HIS boss loved her. Apparently, she "evokes strong feelings," just like Jessica Paré herself! Good one, Weiner. They decide to celebrate with "French champagne for the French TV star" and they can worry about fixing her teeth later. Ooh, burn. Let me just say here that Don looks more like Megan's dad than her husband.

Joan's sitting at a bar when the 12-year-old Butler marketing guy walks in.



### **Mrs. Robinson?**

She suggests getting a table, but he wants to wait for Ken. She explains that Ken was called away so he reluctantly orders a coke. Seriously, he might actually be 12. He doesn't want to deal with Joan, but she asks about his new job and he explains about the four Ps of marketing: price, product, place and promotion. The reason for the meeting is that Butler wants to move all its advertising in-house, which is not good news for SC&P. Joan says Butler is an important client and they are being short-sighted. Unfortunately, she doesn't know what else to say and he gets up to leave. Joan asks him to hold off on making a recommendation until he can "have the dinner he thought he was having." He agrees and leaves. Joan orders a splash of whiskey for her coke.

Don and Megan drunkenly arrive at Megan's excessively wood-paneled house in the Hollywood hills. Megan tells Don to turn off the lights to appreciate the view, which he does. And it's an amazing view, but there are coyotes howling and Susan Atkins is probably hiding in the bushes.



Megan says “my next house will have a pool” before catching herself to say “OUR next house.” Oops. Megan is way too drunk to have sex so Don puts her to bed. She tells him not to flick any cigarettes off the balcony because “they” can always tell where the fire started. Don stays up and watches TV.

Next day, Don wakes up on the couch. Megan comes out in the scarf he gave her. She has to get to class, but can she drop him at the office?



**It's not FARRRRRR**

Nope, he'll take a cab. Hmm. It's almost like he doesn't have a job and doesn't want her to know it.

It's Saturday in NYC, so naturally Peggy is at work. She yells to see if Stan wants coffee before running into Ted in the kitchen. She yells for Stan again, this time more urgently. Ted says don't worry, she doesn't have to make Ted any coffee. They chat awkwardly about work.



## **Remember that time I said I'd leave my wife for you, then changed my mind? Good times!**

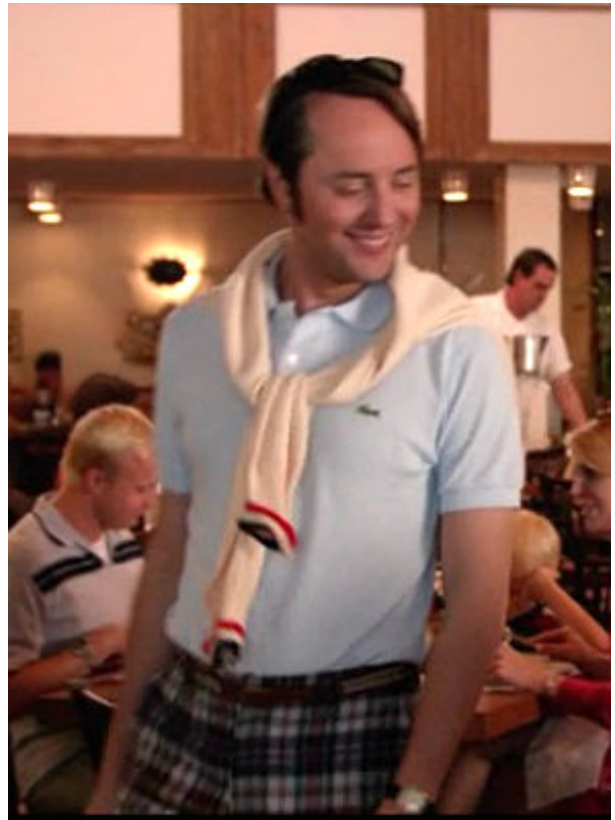
Stan comes in and Ted takes his toast and leaves with a "good to see you, Stan." After he goes, Stan says, "None of this seems related to coffee." Heh. He adds to Peggy, "Buck up, chief." Awww, Stan. Love him. Hate his beard.

Don and Pete meet at a diner. Pete is resplendent in plaid pants and has a sweater tied around his neck, 80s-movie-villain style. He's also super tan. Looks like CA agrees with him. He's got a place near the tar pits and even though L.A. is "flat and ugly and the air is brown," he likes the vibe. Don says not only does he look like a hippie, he also talks like one. Uh, Don, have you ever even *seen* a hippie? They don't dress like Kennedy cousins.

### **Occupy Hyannis Port**

They talk shop and it turns out Don is still on "leave" with no end in sight. If it were up to Pete, Don would have already been hired back. Don asks about Ted and he can hardly say his name without choking. Pete calls Ted "sour" and says maybe he doesn't like the sun. Pete notes that Don timed his trip to avoid Ted, but Don says he just came to visit his wife. Pete says oh yeah, he keeps meaning to look Megan up. Haha, a Pete-Megan dinner would be hilariously awkward.

Pete shows Don SC&P's Beverly Hills office, where, as Pete says, "you can walk to lunch, although I don't." Does that mean he likes to drive now? A hot blonde shows up. She is Bonnie, Pete's realtor and has some listings that she shows Don in case he decides to become uniconastal. She appears to be flirting with Don, but Pete says she "turns it on for everyone." Pete for once doesn't seem like he's competing with Don and also, he seems pretty familiar with the bonny Bonnie, so maybe they are boning? Good for you, Pete.







**See Don, in CA I can get a hot blonde who looks vaguely like your ex-wife**

Back on the east coast, Joan meets with a business school professor. She needs advice about Butler.



The professor says he's happy to help her out, if she has anything to trade. Joan's all, "Listen, dude, I already fucked my way into a partnership, I don't need this shiz."

Calm down, Joanie. He just wants to know about commissions versus fees for an advertising research study he's doing. Oh. Joanie says OF COURSE she knows all about that and suggests he get a second notepad. Yeah, Joan, kick some ass. And you might want to leave out the part about Lane hanging himself.

Don arrives at Megan's where she is making *coq au vin* (because she's French, don'tcha know). Don asks if all the wine is in the chicken and she says she got him a bottle (like that will be enough). The doorbell rings. She answers and it's deliverymen with a giant TV for her. She's

mad because she's supposed to be a starving artist and everyone will talk.



### **#SpoiledRichActressProblems**

Don says she's going to be on TV, she should be able to watch herself in living color. Megan is going to be a fly girl? Zou Bisou Bisou, motherfucker. She says don't jinx her. He doesn't understand why an expensive gift would make her mad and she says he's not there long enough to have a fight. Yay, fun times in the Draper marriage.

Peggy answers a knock on her apartment door and it's Manny from *Modern Family* her tenant Julio from upstairs. The toilet is clogged and his mom sent him down to yell at Peggy. Peggy tells him to tell his mom not to flush "things" in the toilet and his mom will know what she means. Julio says his mom threatened to throw "things" out the window because that's obviously the only other option. They argue until Peggy gives him the plunger and tells him not to bother her because she just got home from work.



### **I'll deal with you later down by the schoolyard**

Don and Megan are falling asleep on the couch and they get up to go to bed. Don wants to have sex, but Meg isn't really into it. She ultimately agrees and says she's just really nervous about everything. Foreshadowing? (I feel obligated to add fuel to the "Megan is going to die a violent, horrible death" conspiracy theory fire.)

Roger finally shows up late to meet Margaret at the Plaza. She says it's good to see him. The waiter brings them bloodys and Roger toasts to "the fear of an ambush."



### **I'm perfectly fine with a marauding band of hippie squatters, but my daughter terrifies me**

Clearly, he thinks Margaret is going to ask for money or just be her usual twatty self. But no, she is here to forgive him for all "transgressions," she doesn't care that he smells like incense NOR does she have any thoughts about his "quote – current state of affairs." She wants Roger

to know she's learned that "anger can be vanquished by love." Roger asks if she's going to church and she says not in a way that he would understand. Okay, so she's into est or a cult or something. (What is est? I have no idea.) Anyway, Roger forgives her too and they agree to bury the hatchet with eggs benedict.

Later, Roger comes home drunk and the hippie chick in his bed asks where he's been. He yells at her for being all domestic and establishment. He just wants her to move over so he can sleep. Also, the guy in the bed next to her needs to move over too. Ugh, I need a shower just thinking about this situation.



**Bed bugs are bad, but you NEVER get rid of hippies**

Don is on the red eye back to NYC next to Neve Campbell.



**[Party of Five joke]**

She offers him a sleeping pill. He declines, but he's Don, so flirting ensues. Turns out, Neve's husband died a year ago and she flew out to scatter his ashes at Pebble Beach. Didn't work



out and she had to do it at Disneyland instead. Of course Don never met a death story he didn't like so he asks more questions. Neve's husband died of "thirst" so I'm assuming he was also an alchy. She falls asleep on Don's shoulder.

In the morning, as they circle over NYC, she apologizes for falling asleep on him. She knows his wife wouldn't like it. Don says his wife already knows he's a terrible husband. She may not know everything he does, but she knows some things. He says he thought he "could do it this time," meaning, I guess, not be an asshole husband. I don't know why he would think that, but ok, Don, if you say so. Don wonders if he's "broken the vessel" and Neve says if he did, what can he do about it, it's done. She is even more fatalistic and cynical than he is. She offers to give "give him a lift" and "make him feel better," but he has to get "back to work."

At SC&P, Peggy's secretary says her tenant called again and the toilet is still clogged. Peggy tells Shirley to call her sister Anita and get her brother-in-law Gerry and his plumber friend to go up there. Shirley offers to call Gerry direct, but Peggy says only Anita is allowed to ask him. Heh.

Lou comes in. Peggy apologizes for suggesting the crappy watch idea last week. Lou says he hadn't given it a second thought. Peggy tells him she thinks Freddy's original idea was the best ("It's not a time piece, it's a conversation piece.") Lou's like, dude, I already picked an idea, go away. Peggy says it's a big idea! And she just wants to give Lou her best. Lou: "I guess I'm just immune to your charms."



**Do I even look like Duck Phillips?**

Ugh, what a jerk. But also, let it go, Pegs. You're embarrassing yourself.

Joan is looking for Ken, but Clara says he's on a plane somewhere. Clara congratulates Joan because the guy from Butler is coming in this week. Unfortunately, this is not good news. Apparently Barnes the Butler guy made his recommendation without talking to Ken as

promised. Joan makes Clara get him on the phone and goes into Ken's office to take the call.

Barnes says he knows Joan's fighting for her job and tells her not to get emotional. Joan's like, listen ass, I'm fighting for YOUR job. If Butler takes its advertising in-house, they'll be competing for network ad space with SC&P, not with other shoe companies. If he makes a move now, it will be his responsibility and they can only fire SC&P once.



**Listen, Bucko. I didn't sleep my way to a partnership to be patronized by a 12-year-old marketing weasel**

Barnes is cowed and asks what he should do, since he already set the meeting. Joan says to tell Butler that SC&P canceled it because they want to present a revised media strategy. Barnes still expects to meet with Ken and Joan says she'll follow up on that immediately.

Stan and another art guy come in to yell at Peggy for asking for more Accutron story boards. Stan tells her to let it go, they already picked "Accutron is accurate." Peggy says Lou isn't giving it proper thought and Stan says she's pretty much telling her boss that she thinks he's stupid. Peggy's pissed and calls them all a bunch of "hacks" whose work is shit and says no one cares but her. Oh Pegs. Totally understand your frustration, but you can't tell your boss what to do. He's not in love with you like Ted or infatuated with your work like Don.

Don is home watching Tricky Dick's inauguration while shining his shoes. Freddy Rumsen arrives with lunch. He says Peggy went "bananas" for the Accutron idea. And he went by J. Walter Thompson – he thought there was a problem with 7Up, but instead they are looking for help on Oscar Meyer. He says Don is making quite a name for him. Ha! It was Barzini Don all along! Freddy tells him he should stop with the Cyrano bit, but Don says he has a job.



### **I have a job drinking morosely alone in the dark every night**

Freddy points out that no one from SC&P is calling him and they did Christmas and the Super Bowl without him. Pretty soon it will be Easter. Don says he's still getting paid. But Freddy says he's been there and Don doesn't want to be damaged goods. Thanks for the pep talk, Freddy.

Ken comes to thank Joan for solving the Butler problem. Joan isn't convinced it helped, but Ken says every account man who's been in his office says that. HOWEVER, those account men don't leave earrings on his desk, like Joan did. He tells her to stay out of his office. He throws her the earring but misses completely because of the eye patch. LOLLOL. Poor Kenny.

Peggy comes home to find her brother-in-law Gerry asleep on the couch. She offers to let him stay overnight rather than go all the way back to Brooklyn and come back in the morning, but he doesn't want to leave Anita at home alone. He leaves and Peggy breaks down sobbing on the floor. Oh Pegs. More importantly, WHERE IS PEGGY'S CAT???



**Feline sad**

Don is sitting alone in the dark contemplating opening another bottle of whiskey. He decides against it, opting instead to go sit on the freezing balcony in his jammies. And we are out.



**Was the slapping hooker unavailable? Or is this what passes for progress in Draperland?**

So what did you guys think? Is this the beginning of the end for Don, or is it the beginning a new beginning? How long to do you think Peggy will put up with her hacky boss? Isn't it nice to see Pete semi-happy for once? Does Burt Cooper know what's going on with Roger? What the hell IS going on with Roger? Hit me up in the comments!

I'm so happy to be back with y'all and please preemptively forgive me for all the Squeaky Fromme jokes I will probably make in the next six weeks. As always, thanks for reading and have a great day

xoxo,  
SnoopK8

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