

From: Reviews and Criticism of Vietnam War Theatrical and Television Dramas  
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### **S3170 SCRUBS [TV SERIES] (USA, 10/2/2001- )**

**Credits:** creator/head writer, Bill Lawrence.

**Cast:** Zach Braff, Sarah Chalke, Donald Faison, Neil Flynn, Ken Jenkins, John C. McGinley, Judy Reyes.

**Summary:** Comedy/drama series that focuses on the lives of the staff of a Sacred Heart, a fictional California teaching hospital. It features fast-paced dialogue, slapstick, and surreal vignettes presented mostly as the daydreams of the central character, Dr. John Michael 'J.D.' Dorian (Zach Braff). The name is a play on surgical scrubs and "scrubs" as slang for the new and inexperienced. Though there are no episodes with Vietnam War related plot elements, one of the leading characters is a Vietnam veteran. Bob Kelso (Ken Jenkins) is the chief of medicine for Sacred Heart Hospital. He is portrayed as a cruel, heartless man who consistently prizes his own well-being over that of the patients in his hospital. However, his callous demeanor hides a deeply hidden, compassionate side. Kelso was born in 1942 in Monroeville, PA, where his family, then named Kelsonovich, settled. His father, also a doctor, endeared himself to his poorer patients by accepting gifts such as food and clothing in lieu of actual payment; he was apparently less generous to his own family, however, having left them on Kelso's own bike (an event to which Kelso attributes his irrational hatred of bikes). Kelso was in the United States Navy SEALs during the Vietnam War. In "His Story IV" and "My Déjà Vu, My Déjà Vu," he reveals that he has a tattoo of the word 'Johnny' on his buttocks ("...he's an old sailor buddy, and if you went through what we did, you'd understand"). In "My best laid plans" (3/1/2005), it is revealed that Kelso has a secret love child, Tring Trong Kelso, by a Vietnamese woman he had an affair with many years ago. Although he considers the boy's existence an embarrassment, he still pays for his college education.

"Bob Kelso" Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\\_Kelso](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Kelso) (viewed 1/23/2009).

"Scrubs (TV series)" Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrubs\\_\(TV\\_series\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrubs_(TV_series)) (viewed 1/23/2009)