

LET'S TALK

FAMILY FARE

Jaleel White an entrepreneur outside 'Family Matters' set

By Polly Vonetes

Q: Can you tell me about Jaleel White? I would also like to know where I can write to him. I love to watch him on Family Matters. —*Evelyn Henricks, Chanute, Kan.*

A: America's favorite nerd, Jaleel White, was born on Nov. 27, 1977 in Los Angeles. He began his acting career at the age of 3, after a pre-school teacher persuaded his mother to enter him in the business. His first commercial was for Goodyear Tires, and he has since starred in more than 30 national commercials for such well-known clients as Kellogg's, Toys-R-Us, Atari, McDonald's, Pepsi, Nabisco and a particularly memorable spot for Jello Pudding Pops with Bill Cosby. White's television series career began with a guest role on *The Jeffersons*. He went on to star in such made-for-television movies as *Silence of the Heart*, *Lovers* and *Kids Don't Tell*. He earned a series regular role on the comedy series *Charlie & Company*. However, don't be fooled by his nerdy ways on *Family Matters*. None of these square traits carry over into his "real" life. He is an amateur cartoonist and author, a basketball fanatic and an ice cream entrepreneur, having invented flavors for his own homemade ice cream, which he hopes eventually to market. His long-range plans include attending the film school at USC. Write to: Jaleel White, c/o Lorimar, 10202 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232.

Q: I am an avid Equalizer fan. I couldn't help but notice that in every show Edward Woodward wore "something" in his lapel. I never figured out exactly what he wore, so I am hoping that you could find out for me. I thought it may be the microphone or a tie tac. —*Sherry Lewis, Gulf Breeze, Fla.*

A: A few years back when the show was in production I had a similar question asked and had the opportunity to ask Mr. Woodward to explain the pin. His response was that it had no particular significance. It happened to be on the jacket he was wearing one day and it just caught on, "a bit of mystery, you know."

Q: I am writing in the concern of the soap opera Generations. I would like to know why it was canceled. And I also want to know, do they plan to bring it back? Also, what can I do to have the show return? —*Renee Hardy, Austin, Texas*



Jaleel White

A: Television lives and dies by numbers. If your favorite program isn't high on the Nielsen ratings, you can expect it will be canceled. Sometimes, as in the case with *Generations*, a public outcry may see it picked up by another network or channel. The Black Entertainment Television channel (BET) has bought all 470 episodes of the series. It plans to air the show daily, beginning this fall. There are no plans to produce new episodes.

Q: My question is Gregg Rainwater of The Young Riders the son of Marvin Rainwater? Where can I write to him? —*Glen Rainwater, Pryor, Okla.*

A: Gregg Rainwater, of Cherokee and Osage descent, was born in Flint, Mich., where he turned to acting while in grammar school. His American Indian heritage comes in handy playing Buck Cross, the part-Indian Pony Express rider on *The Young Riders*. He feels his role holds a special significance as it gives him an opportunity to investigate his personal American Indian heritage. For more information on his personal life, write him c/o *The Young Riders*, MGM/UA, 10000 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232.

Q: Please tell me who sang the song "Rawhide" for the TV series by the same name. —*Marion Woods, Vale, N.D.*

A: The theme "Rawhide" was written by Ned Washington and Dimitri Tiomkin. It was sung by Frankie Laine.

Send your questions about the world of entertainment to: Polly Vonetes, Let's Talk, P.O. Box 961009, Fort Worth, Texas 76161-1009.

'Peanuts' special recalls Snoopy's puppyhood

By Anne Wheeler

Fans of Charles Schultz's popular beagle Snoopy can take a look back at the canine's puppy days on a new "Peanuts" special set to air Wednesday, May 1, on CBS.

The special explores for the first time ever Snoopy's birth and his developmental years with his brother Spike and the rest of the family. It also tells how he came to be Charlie Brown's loyal friend.

This is the 26th year "Peanuts" specials have been airing on CBS. In that time, more than 30 have been presented.

The new animated special is also part of CBS' "Toon Night" programming block, which features America's favorite animated characters. So far Bugs Bunny and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles have made appearances in the Wednesday night slot.

Bugs Bunny will return next week, May 8, for a special Mother's Day show. In that show, Bugs and his Warner Bros. cohorts have a run-in with an incompetent stork. The stork, Bugs' adversary, brags about his contributions to Mother's Day, but Bugs points out some of the bird's birthday blunders.

Two other animated specials will be presented as part of "Toon Night." On May 15, CBS presents *Garfield Gets a Life*, an original adventure of the fat cat, and on May 22, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles return for a second show in the series.



Sports Illustrated model Carol Alt stars in *Vendetta*, a syndicated miniseries airing in May.