

## LET'S TALK

## FAMILY FARE

## 'Wheel of Fortune' host Pat Sajak knows his p's and q's

By Taylor Michaels

**Q:** I am quite a television fan and always watch Wheel of Fortune. Am I wrong, or aren't the vowels used in our language a, e, i, o and u? Listen to Pat Sajak when the contestant has used a, e, i, o. He says, "That's all the vowels. Now you have to solve the puzzle or spin." Isn't he forgetting something?

—Not Illiterate, Creston, Iowa

**A:** No, he's not forgetting anything. As you know, when a contestant guesses a vowel in the puzzle, he can either keep guessing vowels, he can spin or he can try to solve the puzzle. When all the vowels in the puzzle are used, there are no other choices except to spin the wheel or solve the puzzle. For example, if the puzzle were "Taylor Michaels," and the contestant guessed a, e, i and o, he would either have to spin or guess because the letter u is not in the puzzle. Hope this helps.

**Q:** I am a big fan of Gone With the Wind, both the movie and the book. I heard there would be a made-for-television movie based on the sequel. Could you please tell me when it will air and who the stars will be? —Bonnie Wimmer, Lake City, Minn.

**A:** The follow-up novel, Scarlett, recently hit bookstore shelves, but the movie based on the sequel may be a while coming. There are rumors that Jane Seymour is the front-runner for the part of Scarlett, but who knows what Hollywood has in mind?

**Q:** I am a huge fan of Cheers and particularly enjoy Bebe Neuwirth. I would appreciate it if you supplied me with an address so I could write the cast. —Julie Weigold, Farmington Hills, Mich.

**A:** You can write the cast c/o Paramount Television, 5535 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., 90038.

**Q:** I am in sixth grade. I like to watch old television shows, pick an actor or actress from these shows and look up as much as I can about them. I was wondering why Dick York played Darrin one day and Dick Sargent played him the next day? —Samantha Montgomery, Otis, N.M.

**A:** I assume you're talking about Bewitched. Dick York originated the role, playing it until a drug-related illness forced his retirement in 1969. Dick Sargent replaced him. Because Bewitched is syndicated, stations can



Pat Sajak

air any episode they wish at any time. In other words, you may not be seeing the episodes in the order in which they were made.

**Q:** I'm writing concerning the line "I'll cut your heart out and eat it." This was just another version of Shakespeare's, "O God, that I were a man! I would eat his heart out in the marketplace." I'm a 15-year-old girl and I know that, and as far as I know, it hasn't hurt me in any way. It sounds like TV Listener wants to put Shakespeare out of business. —Laughing in Idaho.

**A:** My Shakespeare expert tells me this line is from The Merchant of Venice. I'm not answering any more letters about this. I think Laughing in Idaho has said it all.

**Q:** My husband has always been a fan of Audie Murphy. Could you tell me if any of his movies are available on video? If so, where could I send for them? —B.P., Cass City, Minn.

**A:** The movies available on video are Arizona Riders, Red Badge of Courage, To Hell and Back and The Unforgiven. There is also a Ford Startime drama called The Man available on video. Check with your local video store to see if they can special order the tapes, or call the Video Library of Philadelphia at (800) 669-7157. They specialize in mail-order renting, but they can also special order a movie if you want to buy it.

Send your questions about the world of entertainment to Let's Talk, Features Dept., P.O. Box 961009, Fort Worth, Texas 76161-1009. Because of the volume of mail, only questions of general interest can be answered.

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## 'Tiny Toons' airs script by teen trio

By Chris Carpenter

With what has to be the most dramatically conceived cartoon in history, Warner Bros. has managed to create a half-hour of publicity thinly disguised as a Tiny Toons episode.

In "Buster and Babs Go Hawaiian," the pint-sized spinoffs of favorite Looney Tunes characters follow a scenario penned by a trio of eighth-graders from Waynesboro, Va. Advance publicity indicates the handwritten script "miraculously" made its way into the hands of Toons executive producer Steven Spielberg, who decided to buy it. While it must be immensely pleasing to the girls from Virginia, the fruit of their efforts lacks the luster that usually rubs off on Spielberg productions.

The girls and the famous producer appear as caricatures in the cartoon, and the banter they exchange with Buster and Babs Bunny is designed to let viewers in on the story behind the story. However, these scenes were written after the girls' visit with Spielberg, and the result is an in-joke with no punch line. It would be a stretch, at best, to expect someone watching the show without a press kit to grasp the only real story here: the incredible luck of three young girls.

As one might expect, the animation is terrific, but the story, while pretty good for three eighth-grade girls, says more for having faith in the postal service than it does for big-budget cartoons.

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Wednesday on PBS, Woodie Flowers examines the Pacific yew tree in Scientific American Frontiers.