

December 9-December 15

## FAMILY FARE

### Cartoon hero Tintin a little wooden

By Chris Carpenter

Faster than a speeding Fiat, more powerful than a dark ale, able to leap the Eiffel Tower in a single bound, it's Tintin.

If it just doesn't sound right when Superman's name is left out, relax. Tintin, the imported cartoon boy from Europe, will likely never come close to supplanting the Man of Steel, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles or Wyle E. Coyote, for that matter, in America's animated hero lineup.

HBO has brought the animated hour series *The Adventures of Tintin* to the States from Europe, where the daring lad has, for 60 years, been to pop culture what Michael Jordan is to basketball. Tintin is the creation of Georges Remi, who is known worldwide by the French pronunciation of his initials in reverse, or Herge.

Tintin's appeal lies in the same qualities we find admirable in our human heroes: honesty, perseverance,

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kindness and compassion. Well and good, but, unfortunately, rather lame as far as adventure cartoons go on your average Saturday morning these days.

Tintin is not at all unpleasant to watch, and the animation (especially the use of light, shadow and sound to enhance "mystery") is fine. However, the plots were created decades ago to appeal to a European following, and as tough as it is to admit, most kids may barely be amused.

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## STAR NOTES

### Theiss' dreamy life has had its nightmares

By Suzanne Gill

You probably haven't heard much from Brooke Theiss lately. The bubbly blonde who co-starred on *Just the Ten of Us* and was turned into a cockroach by Freddy Krueger in *Nightmare on Elm Street IV* played Margaret Whitton's daughter this fall on the short-lived ABC series *Good & Evil*.

The role called for Theiss to be mute (her character had stopped talking two

Page 35

years earlier) throughout the first five episodes. Then, the series itself was silenced due to poor ratings, before Theiss had a chance to utter a word.

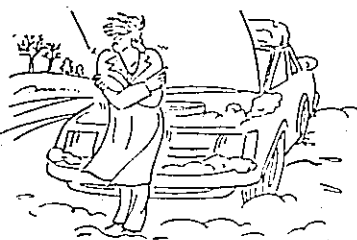
Despite a golden-girl image, life hasn't been picture-perfect for the 22-year-old Los Angeles native, and the experience on *Good & Evil* was a typically bumpy one. Theiss started acting in commercials 10 years ago. By the time she was a freshman at New York University, she was the spokesperson for Hasbro's Maxie fashion doll and was on her way to that steady job in *Just the Ten of Us*.

It's just the kind of life that readers of *16*, *Seventeen* and *Teen* magazines — where Theiss has frequently appeared — dream about. What her young fans may not know is that Theiss has battled dyslexia since childhood and relies on a strong religious faith in times of disappointment. With the cancellation of *Good & Evil*, she's back to the audition process again, no doubt with a cheerful attitude.

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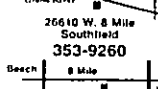
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