

LET'S TALK

Was there romance among the 'Brady Bunch'?

By Taylor Michaels

Q: When I was growing up, my brother and I used to rush home from school to watch *The Brady Bunch*. I recently heard that Florence Henderson, who played Carol Brady, and Barry Williams, who played stepson Greg Brady, were romantically involved either during the series or after it was canceled. Could you clear this up?

—Don Walker, Menominee, Mich.

A: Barry Williams' agent, Artists Group, Ltd., said they have "no knowledge of anything like that," but confirmed that Williams' tell-all book, *Growing Up Brady*, will be out in May. Perhaps it will reveal a bunch of Brady sour grapes.

Q: I'm a big fan of Alan Autry. I watch *In the Heat of the Night* every week. I think he makes the show worth watching. I would very much like to write him. Can you give me his address?

—Kelly Humphrey, Chanute, Kan.

A: You can write the former Green Bay Packers quarterback in care of the show, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10112.

Q: I'm a great fan of Judith Light. My family and I watch *Who's the Boss?* every week. Where can we write her?

—Ann Pellegrini, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

A: You can write her in care of the show, Capitol Cities/ABC, 77 West 66th Street, New York, N.Y., 10023. *Who's the Boss?* airs its final episode this Saturday, April 25, but Light has a six-episode contract for a new CBS comedy.

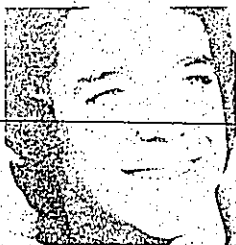
Q: My 7-year-old daughter is infatuated with the character Doogie Howser. Could you please send me an address where she can write to Neil Patrick Harris, who plays Doogie? She is inspired by him and wants to be a doctor when she grows up.

—Connie and Allison Fellows, St. Cloud, Minn.

A: Write Neil Patrick Harris in care of *Doogie Howser, M.D.*, Capitol Cities/ABC, 77 West 66th Street, New York, N.Y., 10023.

Q: I know the show is off the air, but could you tell me who thought up all the tricks MacGyver used to get out of sticky situations? —Laurie Johnson, Prescott, Ariz.

A: Paramount sources say the resourceful inventions of MacGyver,



Barry Williams as Greg Brady

which airs its last first-run episode on Saturday, April 25, were usually created by the show's writers and occasionally by the producer, Star Richard Dean Anderson contributed ideas as well.

Q: I really love the show *Designing Women*, but I can't stand Julia Duffy. Actually I hate her. She has ruined every show she's been on. Will they ever take her off the show? I hope so.

—A Reader, Knoxville, Tenn.

A: Many viewers are unhappy with the recent casting changes on *Designing Women*. The controversial exit of Delta Burke was not forgotten with the entrance of Duffy as Allison Sugarbaker. Duffy hailed out of ABC's *Baby Talk* following bad reviews, but that series suffered from a lame premise and poor writing. In all fairness, Duffy was generally enjoyed in her role on *Newhart*.

It has been reported that when CBS and Columbia Pictures Television, which produces *Women*, made the deal for next fall, one proviso imposed by the network was that Duffy does not return to the series. A possible overhaul of the series could include guest appearances by Jean Smart (Charlene), who had left the show to spend more time with her family, and the addition of Jackee as a regular (she will be introduced as Anthony's fiancée in this season's finale). This would mean a back-up job for the actress if *The Royal Family* ends its run.

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

FAMILY FAIR

'Bedtime Stories' nothing to snooze at

By Chris Carpenter

Shelley Duvall, who's been producing original cable programming for the little person in these many years, is at it again. In a childlike voice that fluctuates between solemn whispers and squeaky exuberance, she introduces Shelley Duvall's *Bedtime Stories*, spotlighting a popular children's book per episode. The series premieres on Showtime Tuesday, April 19.

Duvall's previous success with *Faerie Tale Theatre* and *Tall Tales and Legends* paved the way for this series, which she also produces. But other than the brief observations she delivers from the midst of a pop-up book setting at the beginning and conclusion of the tales, Duvall's presence is secondary.

Primary consideration is wisely given to the delightful animation and narration, both of which brim with professionalism. From Jean Stapleton's New York dialect to Dudley Moore's unmistakably regal English, the voice-over cast Duvall assembles spins the animated tales as entertainingly as any of the actors picked to perform in her previous live-action series.

Duvall's stories are hand-picked from among the most cleverly written children's books available. At the end of the shows, she encourages kids to use their imaginations to draw pictures for stories of their own. In fact, the only thing this show may fail to do is put kids to sleep.



Michael Ontkean plays a cop who learns an unhappy truth in *Legacy of Lies*, Wednesday on USA.