

BITS AND PIECES

FAMILY FAIRE

The Three Stooges: a primer in violent art

Don't try this at home. He doesn't hit you over the head with it, but magician Penn — of Penn & Teller — has strong feelings about the television he viewed as a child.

"The Three Stooges taught me the most important lesson a kid could learn, which is the difference between fantasy and reality. They taught about a kind of friendship that lived outside of society.

"And they also taught me by the age of 3 or 6 that you could do wonderful violence in art, and it didn't have to spill into life at all — which has been an important crusade of ours. I've never hit anyone in my life, nor has Teller, and yet we do violent art."



Penn & Teller

It's not just the birds and the bees anymore. Sex education is more complicated than it used to be. Today, parents have to make sure their children understand the threat of AIDS, along with the other consequences of sexual behavior.

An upcoming special for parents and teens alike is *Understanding HIV: Does Teen America Know the Facts?* Airing on or after Sept. 3 in many parts of the country, the one-hour syndicated program will feature the stars of several popular prime-time series, as well as teens who have tested positive for HIV.

The "King of All Media" is how controversial talk-show host Howard Stern describes himself. After earning a string of citations from the FCC for violation of decency standards on his radio and TV shows, Stern is now set to make his mark in motion pictures. Hitching a ride on Stern's ego trip is Michael De Luca of New Line Cinema, which is developing a comedy feature starring Stern. De Luca claims, "We predict that this film will be the most original, the most outrageous and the most talked about comedy motion-picture event of the '90s."

Disney recruits voice artists for 'Goof Troop'

By Suzanne Gill

"If you scream right, you can do it all day long," says April Winchell.

Like tennis elbow and varicose veins, screaming can be an occupational hazard — and not just for harried mothers. Winchell, a versatile voice-over artist, sometimes screams for a living. Though she has performed in comedy clubs and at the Grand Ole Opry, Winchell does most of her work in a recording studio, bringing to life animated characters, including her most famous: Roger Rabbit's difficult co-star Baby Herman.

Winchell's current assignment is the part of Peg, the volatile next-door neighbor of Disney dufus Goofy, in the upcoming animated series *Goof Troop*. Set in cartoon suburbia, the show follows the adventures of single dad Goofy and his 11-year-old son, Max, Max's best pal, P.J., and P.J.'s family: father Pete, mother Peg and baby sister Pistol.

Affable Bill Farmer is the voice of Goofy, a role he has played since 1987 in the short films *Mickey's Christmas Carol* and *The Prince and the Pauper*. Playing son Max is Dana Hill, a former child actress whose credits include *Shoot the Moon* and *Cross Creek*. Jim Cummings, the voice of Winnie the Pooh, plays Goofy's neighbor Pete.

Goof Troop joins the syndicated Disney Afternoon lineup on Monday, Sept. 7, and runs concurrently in the ABC Saturday-morning cartoon block beginning Sept. 12.



Friday on PBS, superstar Elton John spends some time ... *Talking with David Frost*.



Tom Hanks is the host of this week's edition of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, featuring Bruce Springsteen.



Wednesdays on Fox, Courtney Thorne-Smith plays Allison Parker on *Melrose Place*.