

## 'Wings' is high flying for Crystal Bernard

### Comedy moves to Thursday hot spot

By Amy Schmidt

Upon arriving in Los Angeles, Hollywood hopeful Crystal Bernard, then 17 years old, decided she had better make some contacts. "Actually, I picked up the phone and the first person I called was the president of NBC. He didn't call me back," says Bernard laughing.

Don't feel sorry for Bernard, though. The svelte blonde is the hot star of NBC's comedy *Wings*. Bernard plays Helen, Chappel, the formerly fat waitress who works behind Nantucket airport's lunch counter. Co-starring with Bernard are Timothy Daly of *Diner* fame and Steven Weber of *In the Line of Duty*. A *Cop for the Killing*. The two play at-odds brothers who run a fledgling commuter airline service on the Massachusetts island.

*Wings*, which had been airing Fridays nights, will now move to powerhouse Thursday, deposing detour *Grand*. It should see good ratings in its 9:30 P.M. time slot, sandwiched between *The Cosby Show* and *J. A. Law*. NBC has cleverly been promoting *Wings* with short commercial clips of the show's stars gliding about seductively in a spool of Calvin Klein's *Obsession* ads.

Also this season, the now pretty Helen will begin dating both brothers. "It's such a blast doing scenes with Tim (Daly)," confessed Bernard. "There's something about him. Have you ever seen him do screen kisses?" she asked earnestly. "Tim's fantastic. He's just like one of those passionate — not yucky, but passionate — kissers."

And don't believe for a second good-looking Bernard has ever been heavy like her character was. In fact, her second Hollywood phone call was to the Nina Blanchard modeling agency. Rejected for being too short, Bernard talked Blanchard into signing her anyway. The next day she went to a commercial audition and got the job. The day after finishing the commercial, Garry Marshall cast her in a guest-starring role on *Happy Days* and in the film *Young Doctors in Love*. Bernard's been working ever since, and prior to *Wings* she did a five-year stint on the syndicated series *It's a Living*.



Timothy Daly plays Joe, the more organized but meticulous-to-a-fault Hackett brother.

"Fortunately I was either lucky enough or stupid enough to get work immediately. It wasn't until later I found out that only 1 percent of all

actors and actresses work — 1 percent!" exclaimed Bernard. "And then I got scared!"

In what little spare time she has, Bernard says she likes to write and record music and go to the movies. "I love to go to the movies on Saturday afternoons, and then go and eat ribs — BBQ ribs," said the bubbly Houston native.

Dear to Bernard's heart is her family. "Title this article, 'Hello to Angelique.' She's my little sister," said Bernard. "She's making straight A's at Baylor University. I'm so proud of her!"

When speaking of her father, an evangelical Southern Baptist minister, the actress beams. "He's someone to emulate. I look at my dad as probably one of the most successful people I know. It has nothing to do with money or fame. In this business where we strive to make more money and get a car phone — I strive for that too, unfortunately. But in my heart of hearts, I know the most successful, the greatest thing that you can be is a man like my father who's given his life to service."

Alas, the gorgeous gal from *Wings* may sound angelic, but really, she's purely down-to-earth.



Heather Locklear, Alan Ruck, Jerry Lovine and Hallie Todd (from left) play four young and talented people who are *Going Places* on ABC. The comedy airs Fridays.