

FAMILY FARE

LET'S TALK

Nickelodeon offers fun for all ages

By Sherry Jones

If your kids are anything like mine, they're always looking for diversion on television. For varied, interesting programs that are also educational, there's Nickelodeon, the only cable network designed specifically for kids. During the day NICK offers a wide variety of children's programming, and after dark NICK at Nite is packed with black-and-white reruns.

Starting in early morning, NICK has designed its programming with younger children in mind. A daily one-hour series called *Eureeka's Castle* uses zany puppets to explore problems pre-schoolers face. Subjects ranging from competition and sharing to being afraid are just a few of the topics this program addresses.

If you're looking for a program that speaks warmly and directly to children, *Fred Penner's Place* may be just the ticket. Penner takes kids to a secret hideaway they can call their own, where he shares songs, stories and poems guaranteed to spark the imagination.

Lasso in comedy and adventure for teenagers by introducing them to a cast of wisecracking teens who work at a real dude ranch during summer vacation in *Hey, Dude!* Each day's episode is filled with Western adventure and a little bit of just plain growing up. *Hey, Dude!* also brings new challenges by taking them out of the living room and back to nature.

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Mariel Hemingway stars in the offbeat Western trilogy, *Into the Badlands*, Wednesday on USA.

College drop-out Bakula has made leap to fame

By Taylor Michaels

Q: Could you please give me some information about Scott Bakula and an address? I haven't been able to find anything. —Jill Church, Sugar Grove, N.C.

A: Bakula grew up in St. Louis and went to the University of Kansas, but dropped out to pursue an acting career. In 1976 he headed for New York and landed three roles in off-Broadway shows. He picked up a Tony award for his role in the musical *Romance/Romance*. In 1986 he and his wife, Krista, moved to Hollywood, where he established himself as a television leading man. He made his movie debut, as Kirstie Alley's husband, in *Sibling Rivalry*. He does his own stunts, singing and even plays his own instruments when the scripts of *Quantum Leap* call for it. In 1990, he received an Emmy nomination as Outstanding Leading Actor in a Dramatic Series but lost to Peter Falk. He and his wife have two children, Cody and Chelsea. Write to him c/o Universal Television, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, Calif., 91608.

Q: Whatever happened to Elizabeth Scott, a beautiful, talented actress during the '40s and '50s? —Sue Marchessault, Prescott, Ariz.

A: In 1955 Scott sued *Confidential* over the magazine's allegations concerning her sexual preferences, and then in 1957, she made her last screen appearance in the film *Loving You*. She made a sort of comeback in the 1972 British film *Pulp* but has been seldom heard from since.

Q: Could you tell me about Matt Houston's secretary/girlfriend? She also starred as Princess Ardala in the *Buck Rogers* series. —L. Porter, Holbrook, Neb.

A: The actress' name is Pamela Hensley. She was born on October 3, 1950, in Los Angeles. From 1975 to 1976, she portrayed Janet Blake in *Marcus Welby, M.D.* In 1977 she was in *Kingston: Confidential* as Beth Kelly, an assistant to an investigative reporter who often worked undercover to unearth stories. Then, in 1979-80, she was on *Buck Rogers* in the 25th Century. After that she was in *240-Robert*, an adventure/rescue



Whimsical Scott Bakula

show. Finally, she appeared in *Matt Houston* as C.J. Parsons, the Harvard-educated lawyer.

Q: I've acted out a small part in a movie called *Jokers Wild*, and I'm still waiting to see myself in the movies. They told me the movie was coming out soon, but that was ten months ago. Can you give me any information on it? —Tom Giarratta, Garfield, N.J.

A: I can't find it anywhere. I checked our movie books and a video store, with no luck. If you want, write back and tell me the name of the company producing it or some of the actors appearing in it. Sometimes it takes up to a year before the movie actually is released, or the film could have been renamed. Sorry I couldn't help.

Q: Where was Rob Lowe born and how old is he? When is his birthday? What movies has he been in? —Sara Moulton, Paso Robles, Calif.

A: Rob Lowe was born on March 17, 1964, in Charlottesville, Va. He has been in *St. Elmo's Fire*, *Bad Influence*, *Square Dance*, *Class*, *Oxford Blues*, *...About Last Night*, *The Outsiders*, *Hotel New Hampshire*, *Youngblood* and *Masquerade*. He was engaged to Melissa Gilbert, but they broke up and she married actor Bo Brinkman. In 1989 Lowe was embroiled in a scandal involving a sex-related amateur videotape in which he appeared. He has just announced his engagement to Cheryl Berkoff.

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

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