

## FAMILY FARE

### New children's fare due on Fox in fall

By Chris Carpenter

Upping the ante from 10 1/2 weekly hours of programming to 19, the Fox Children's Network tips its hand early and gambles on the drawing power of five new shows set to premiere in the fall '92 season.

Three of the new additions are programs developed specifically for Fox on Saturday mornings: *Eek the Cat*, *Dog City* and an animated *Super Dave*. Based on the network's advance publicity, we'll call *Eek* a Garfield without an attitude and cross our fingers in hopes that the late Jim Henson's original idea for *Dog City*, a blend of animation, Muppetry and live action, doesn't wind up in the pound. Fox is betting *Super Dave* can be as funny on an animation cel as he can in the flesh, and they'll have him factor Bob Einstein on hand to introduce and conclude the show, just in case.

Most intriguing among Fox's prospects are the shows of potential interest

to comic-book fiends. The *X-Men*, long a staple of Marvel Comics' universe, spring to animated life with the collaboration of creator Stan Lee and sci-fi genius James Cameron (*Aliens*, *The Terminator*). Archvillians meet their match when *Batman: The Animated Series* adds a scowl to the cowl afternoons on Fox. The network claims the series will have "a look never before seen in television animation." Holy hype, Batman! — *TV Guide Staff*

## STAR NOTES

### Crowell makes music his way

By Steven Alan McGaw

"My dad was a better singer than I am. I believe," says Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Rodney Crowell. "I got my voice from my mother."

The Houston native has found plenty of success in his own right, earning accolades from *Cashbox* magazine, the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music. He also holds the record for the number of singles (five) from one album (*Diamonds and Dirt*) to top the country

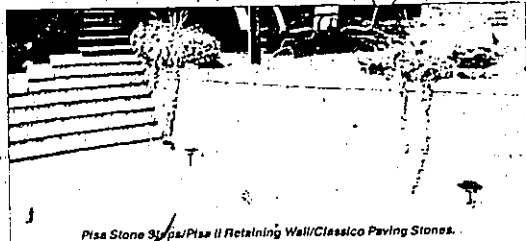
charts of *Billboard* magazine.

For Crowell, however, success lies not in awards but the work itself. In preparation for his next album (due this spring), Crowell took time off the road. "I've tried hard to do things in a new way for me," he says, "and not just cover old ground." This meant a rigorous challenge of his writing skills, and an often-spontaneous process in the studio, spurred by the presence of new studio players and guest artists like Linda Ronstadt and Steve Winwood. "I have to believe what I'm singing," he says.

Crowell is also excited about his special, *Rodney Crowell: A Late Night in Nashville*, debuting Wednesday, March 4, on TNN. The concert was a benefit for The Nashville Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, for which the singer has been a spokesman for over two years. Crowell says everyone involved enjoyed the show's relaxed atmosphere. "It was a great time,"



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