

'24' uses plotline for political commentary

What's up with Jack? Previously on "24" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14, V), we discovered that an incompetent president has been snookered by an internal cabal of hardliners bent on planting weapons of mass destruction in a foreign terror base. They want to create a phony pretext for a U.S. invasion and the establishment of military bases that will guarantee the flow of oil for the next generation.



Kevin McDonough

actor's interaction with her passive-aggressive parents adds an emotional depth and complexity often lacking in message dramas. Deborah Gibson hosts "100 Greatest Teen Stars" (9 p.m., VH1, nightly through Thursday), a five-hour countdown of favorites from "Gidget" to "One Tree Hill." I'd like to know how many of these stars were already in their 20s when they started playing teens. Luke Perry would have to host that countdown.

Tonight's other highlights

- Barbershops are popping up all over cable. Hot on the heels of MTV's "The Shop," here comes "Cutting Edge" (7 p.m., Cinemax, TV-MA), a documentary glance at a Harlem hair salon, home to frank discussions. Two hours is too much of "The Bachelor: Paris" (9 p.m., ABC). Horatio's old foe issues new threats on "CSI: Miami" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14, V).

Cult choice

The last day of the 1976 school year is both desultory and eventful for Texas teens in the 1993 ensemble comedy "Dazed and Confused" (8 p.m., AMC).

Series notes

Ted mulls intimacy on "How I Met Your Mother" (8:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) ... Questions of propriety on "All of Us" (8:30 p.m., UPN, TV-PG) ... Alan rocks the cradle on "Two and a Half Men" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, D) ... Behind the wheel lessons on "Las Vegas" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) ... Publicity of the worst kind on "Girlfriends" (9 p.m., UPN, TV-14).

Late night

Harrison Ford and Michael Buble appear on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Terry Bradshaw, Yo-Yo Ma and John Williams on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Travis Barker, Shanna Moakler and James Blunt appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

Singer wants to put movie behind her

Like the critics, Kelly Clarkson was less than thrilled with her 2003 movie musical "From Justin to Kelly," and she wants people to know that she had no choice in the matter.



CLARKSON

"Two words: Contractually obligated!" the first "American Idol" winner told Time magazine for its issue on newsstands today. "I knew when I read the script it was going to be real, real bad, but when I won, I signed that piece of paper, and I could not get out of it," said the 23-year-old singer, whose second album, Breakaway, contains four top 10 hits and earned her two Grammy nominations.

If Clarkson seems charmed lately, she believes it's largely due to her own insistence on independence. "To be totally honest, the problem was I wanted to write a lot of my own songs on Breakaway. Nobody else wanted me to," she told Time. "So there was a big 'ol' fight." Clarkson is to perform Wednesday at the Grammy Awards.

She is nominated for best pop vocal performance and best pop vocal album. Courtney Love told a judge that she has put her drug problems behind her and that she has a new outlook on life.

Love, 41, appeared in court Friday as part of a progress report after violating probation in three criminal cases.



LOVE

Judge Rand Rubin had sentenced Love to 180 days at a drug treatment center, but she was released to an outpatient program in November. Rubin ended the outpatient requirement but ordered Love to return to court May 12. "You're doing really, really well," Rubin said. "We're all pleased with your progress." Love, former leader of the band Hole and the wife of late Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain, admitted in August that she had violated her probation in three cases, including two drug-related charges.

But Love said she has improved over the past several months. "I feel like I'm getting my creativity back ... and that I've put a very gnarly drug problem behind me," Love said in court.

LOS ANGELES

'Las Vegas' star, 'Last Comic' host to wed

Jay Mohr and Nikki Cox are engaged, Cox's publicist has announced. The couple plan to marry next winter, publicist Alisha Mahon said Friday. Cox plays Mary Connell on NBC's "Las Vegas." She and Mohr, host of "Last Comic Standing," met when Mohr guest-starred on the Sin City drama, Mahon said. Mohr, a comedian, has appeared in films including "Jerry Maguire," "Go" and "Suicide Kings." He was a member of NBC's "Saturday Night Live" from 1993-95.

MONDAY EVENING

FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Table with columns for time slots (7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and various TV programs like Friends, The Bachelor, CSI, etc.

Table with columns for network and program name, including DISN, ENC, HBO, SHOW, MAX, TMC, and STARZ.

Nurturing 'Scrubs' part of actor's nature CALENDAR

By Terry Morrow, Scripps Howard News Service



Zach Braff stars in NBC's 'Scrubs.'

"Scrubs" star Zach Braff sits uneasily upon the throne. "It was ingrained in me at an early age that success as an actor sometimes has to do with talent, but it really is a huge lottery," he says. "There are plenty of awful actors who have huge careers." Regardless, Braff should have nothing to fret about. His movie career is taking off ("Chicken Little," in which he voiced the title character, has earned \$133 million at the box office to date). More films are in the offing. In his personal life, he speaks glowingly of his relationship with actress Mandy Moore, his significant other of several months. (Now the two will be working together: Moore begins a two-episode stint on "Scrubs" beginning 9 p.m. Tuesday)

Yet here he is, in a hotel bar in Pasadena, Calif., making small talk with some up-and-coming NBC talent. Beside him is Bill Lawrence, the creator of "Scrubs," which launched his fifth season. "It's been a crazy five years. When I started 'Scrubs,' I was a waiter ... and the success of the show has allowed me to branch out to other areas like movies and try different things," he says. Making sure "Scrubs" is nurtured and protected is important for Braff. The show is what propelled him from unknown to an actor of some clout.

He's protective of it even in its fifth season, a time when most shows are on solid footing. Comparison between the evolution of Braff and J.D., the insecure physician he plays on "Scrubs," is not lost on Lawrence. "Zach is the best guy to have no

schedule and got a midseason berth. NBC is currently airing two episodes, back-to-back, each week.

Some say it's a sign the network wants to burn off the remaining episodes and cancel the series, which garnered an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Comedy, and Braff earned a Best Actor in a Comedy nod. Though Braff and Lawrence may have seen their network treatment as a brush off previously, they say they don't now. With 100 episodes under its belt, past "Scrubs" episodes will begin airing on Comedy Central in the fall. He and Lawrence are confident that "Scrubs" will be back for a sixth season, but they anticipate it will be the show's swan song. "I am humbled in the sense that I know all this could all go away," says Braff, who was one of four children born to a middle-class in New Jersey. "I want to appreciate it while it is here."

Lawrence says "Scrubs," though labeled as an ensemble series, would not be the same without Braff. What does he think the ending will be like? "Zach walks out of the scene, and Ashley Olson walks in," says Lawrence laughing, "and then you hear the narration (from her head): 'This is my first day as a doctor.'"

Today Meetings: Greenwood Rotary Club, noon; Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria, Main Street and Interstate 65, Greenwood; Overeaters Anonymous, 5:45 p.m.; Greenwood United Methodist Church, 5:25 N. Madison Ave. Information: 889-0272; Johnson County Shrine Club, 6 p.m.; Legacy Cancer Support Group, 7 p.m.; Franklin Memorial Christian Church, 1720 N. Graham Road; Divorce and grief support groups, 7 p.m.; Greenwood Christian Church, 2045 Averitt Road. Child care provided. Al-Anon, 8 p.m.; Community Hospital South, first-floor conference room. Tara Group, 8 p.m.; Ann's Restaurant, 77 W. Monroe St., Franklin. Tuesday Meetings: Professional Referral Exchange of Indy South, 7 a.m.; German-American Club, 8602 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Franklin Business Networking Group, 7 a.m.; Starlet Realty, 62 W. Jefferson St., Franklin. Information: 201-427-8208; Franklin Rotary Club, noon, Franklin College Napolitan Student Center; Greenwood Kiwanis Club, 6 p.m.; Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria, Main Street and Interstate 65, Greenwood; Trafalgar Weight Watchers, 6:30 to 7 p.m.; Trafalgar Christian Church (next to elementary school). Information: 878-5161

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