

His own arrogance trumps The Donald

Fresh from the Olympics, NBC presents a restructured Monday schedule, with "The Apprentice" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-PG) leading up to "Medium" (10 p.m., TV-14).



Kevin McDonough

"Las Vegas" moves to Friday nights. "Surface" may never live up to its name again.

The network did a fine job of using the Olympics to promote the change. The best ad had Donald Trump waking up bewildered "Medium" star Patricia Arquette to announce his move to Mondays.

It was a funny juxtaposition of two TV images, one sensitive, sleepy, female and seemingly unconcerned, the other loud, male, manic, self-promotional and absurd. Trump appeared to be having fun with his image.

But that was before last week's public squabble with failed fellow "Apprentice" host Martha Stewart. Trump's remarks were graceless and shrill. It was no way to treat a lady.

And it was a blunt reminder of the thuggish character the media liked to lampoon back in the 1980s.

Trump seems to have forgotten that "The Apprentice" offered him a chance to reinvent his brand and present himself as a wise, avuncular boss endowed with experience and common sense.

Trump's behavior went a long way toward tarnishing his star. This season's "Apprentice" will feature one player who is already a millionaire and a storeroom of product placements from major corporations. Whoopee! Let's root for rich people and shopping malls!

The "cute Beatle" sings some old songs and some new songs but avoids the silly love songs on "Great Performances: Paul McCartney: Chaos and Creation at Abbey Road" (10 p.m., WFYI).

McCartney performs in front of a small audience at the legendary recording studio and uses some seriously old school technology, including the kind of four-track recorder used to produce "Sgt. Peppers" to demonstrate some audio tricks.

Tonight's other highlights: "Wheel of Fortune" (7 p.m., WTHR) offers a week of soap-star players. Tonight: Kristoff St. John, Kamar de los Reyes and Lorenzo Lamas. "Night one of the finale of "Skating with Celebrities" (8 p.m., Fox). "A videotape reveals Barney's hidden, sensitive past on "How I Met Your Mother" (8:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG).

The president reacts to the

first lady's bold gesture on "24" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14,V). "American Experience" (9 p.m., WFYI, WTU) recalls the hijacking of three jetliners on Sept. 6, 1970, by a radical Palestinian group. The hijackings were America's introduction to international terrorism.

A molester's murder on "CSI: Miami" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14,V). Allison feels drawn to an accused teen killer on "Medium" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

Cult choice

Bank robbers (Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton) team up with a desperate housewife (Cate Blanchett) in the 2001 comedy "Bandits" (8 p.m., Comedy Central), directed by Barry Levinson.

Series notes

Arthur lets the bedbugs bite on "The King of Queens" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, L) ... A princess and a huntress change locales and families on "Wife Swap" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-14) ... Brandy ("Moesha") guest stars on "One on One" (8 p.m., UPN, TV-PG, L).

Mia puts her foot down on "Two and a Half Men" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, D) ... Joan seems different on "Girlfriends" (9 p.m., UPN, TV-14) ... Pre-delivery complications on "Related" (9 p.m., WB, TV-PG, D, L).

A rare impetuous act on "Courtney" (9:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, D) ... Reality bites on "Half & Half" (9:30 p.m., UPN, TV-PG).

Late night

Bruce Willis and the Strokes appear on "Late Show with David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Colin Powell and Roseanne Cash on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Kelly Ripa and Tracy Morgan appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC).

Jim Carrey and Isaac Hayes chat on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" (12:35 a.m., NBC) ... Craig Ferguson hosts Roseanne and Eric Haney on "The Late, Late Show" (12:37 a.m., CBS).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 27, 2006

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

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

Actor, president hoping to save India from AIDS

Richard Gere fears that Asia will be lost if the AIDS epidemic hits India hard.



GERE

The actor and activist is traveling to the sub-continent this week along with President Bush. Gere may not agree with Bush on everything, but he certainly can praise him for bringing attention to AIDS in India, the actor said on ABC News' "This Week" on Sunday.

"The president of the United States coming there in a world where he's seemingly obsessed with terrorism, clearly obsessed with it, and talking about HIV/AIDS in the same breath, in the same paragraph, is extremely important," Gere said.

"India is a country that I care about deeply. We're talking about a population in India that is close to a billion people. If this crisis hits them to the degree it's expected to, we've lost Asia."

Bush has said he hopes to address the AIDS crisis with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

NEW YORK

Producer: Mobster show nearing its end on TV

"The Sopranos" will definitely be taken out next year, the show's creator said, though he can't say it won't hit the big screen at some point.

"It may be that in two or three or four years I could be sitting around and get an idea for a really great 'Sopranos' movie," David Chase told The New York Times in a joint interview with James Gandolfini, star of the HBO series. "I don't think that will happen. But if one morning somebody woke up and said this would make a really good, concise, contained 'Sopranos' story, I wouldn't rule that out."

Chase, also the series' executive producer, and Gandolfini reflected on the show and the trajectory of its central character, mobster Tony Soprano, in an article appearing in Sunday's editions.

Gandolfini's character never crossed the line into killing family members, except to spare a cousin a worse death by enemies. "I think there's a place Tony knows that if he goes to, he's not coming back, and that's the place," Gandolfini said.

The newest 12-episode season will begin March 12. The Emmy-winning show, which began airing in 1999, is to wrap up with eight episodes starting next January.

By LYNN ELBER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

The promise of an easy million bucks, a stage crowded with sexy models and the smoothly calibrated charm of host Howie Mandel made "Deal or No Deal" an unexpected hit in television's December dead zone.

Now the NBC game show, returning at 8 tonight for five consecutive nights, is getting the chance to prove it's the real deal and can compete in the thick of the TV season.

Based on a series that debuted in Holland in 2002 and became an international hit, "Deal or No Deal" is about luck and playing the odds.

Contestants are faced with 26 briefcases held by 26 models, each case with a hidden value ranging from a penny to the top prize that will escalate by week's end to \$3 million.

As the game progresses and cases are eliminated, a contestant weighs the chance of snaring a big prize against lesser but still tempting offers made by the show's "bank," represented by an anonymous, silhouetted figure.

The toughest part, Mandel said, is "to not scream, 'You idiot, please take the money and



AP PHOTO

Howie Mandel talks with a contestant on "Deal or No Deal," NBC's hit contest show. Models behind the host hold briefcases containing hidden dollar amounts.

go home now.' When I see a person make the wrong decision, it really depresses me."

The concept is simple but executed to within an inch of its life. The models are identically dressed and carefully posed.

The set is bright and shiny, like a bucketful of silver dollars; the atmosphere charged with money lust.

When "Deal or No Deal" aired the week of Dec. 19, it nabbed five of the top 20 spots in the Nielsen

ratings and drew an audience that reached as high as 14.1 million.

That's not "American Idol" territory (which closes in on 30 million viewers), but NBC will take it.

The trick is to avoid what happened to the most recent hit prime-time game show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," which died from massive overexposure.

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AMC GreenWood Park 14 advertisement listing movie times and prices for various titles like DOOGAL, DATE MOVIE, etc.

ShowPlace 16 advertisement for Matinee Movie Magic for Moms and Dads, listing movies like DOOGAL, MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION, etc.

Reuse-A-Shoe advertisement promoting shoe donation and recycling services, including contact info for Johnson Co. Solid Waste District.

Canary Creek Cinemas S advertisement listing showtimes for Monday through Thursday, including movies like DOOGAL, NANNY MCPHEE, etc.