

'Conviction' leaves viewers unconvinced

They're young and good-looking. They sleep around. They make mistakes. They're district attorneys.

Did I mention they're young and good-looking?

They're the characters on "Conviction" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14), the latest in a series of "Law & Order" spin-offs produced by Dick Wolf.

Nick Potter (Jordan Bridges) has it made. He's an overpaid lawyer for a posh law firm.

But he jettisons the easy lucre for a stint with the New York district attorney's office, a place where the doughnuts come laced with passive-aggressive frosting. His new boss is so busy and dismissive that young Nick can hardly tell he's been hired.

"Conviction" follows the normal "Law & Order" structure. We follow a case from its murky beginnings to its compromise-laden conclusion. And "Conviction" borrows Alexandra Cabot (Stephanie March), the ludicrously beautiful prosecutor from "Law & Order: SVU."

But along the way we get to watch young 20-somethings jump in and out of bed with both significant others and insignificant one-night stands.

All of this extracurricular activity takes its toll as Nick and a young colleague, Sara Finn (Julianne Nicholson), make gargantuan mistakes in the show's first episode.

Nicholson may be a familiar face to some. She was on "Ally McBeal" for a season and has appeared on "ER." She was also a psychic teenager on the short-lived but compelling Saturday-night ghost-story series "The Others." "Conviction" also features Eric Balfour, the actor who made such an indelible impression on "Six Feet Under."

You may remember him as Claire's boyfriend, the one who got the amputated foot put in his locker. He's since appeared on "NYPD Blue," "The O.C.," "24" and "Sex, Love & Secrets." But it's hard to forget that foot.

In "Conviction" Balfour is once again typecast as the impossibly sexy guy whose appeal all but eclipses his personality and professional life. That approach is expected from a show like "Sex, Love & Secrets," a doomed soap that set a new ratings low for the soon-to-depart UPN.

"Law & Order," on the other hand, is a serious franchise for serious viewers. The young-lustful theme condenses to its characters and is just too dumb for most "Law & Order" viewers to endure.

I've got a conviction this series won't last.

Cuba Gooding Jr. hosts the "37th NAACP Image Awards" (8 p.m., Fox). Guitarist Carlos Santana will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.



Kevin McDonough

Claudia Black returns as con artist Vala on the cliffhanger season finale of "Stargate SG-1" (8 p.m., Sci Fi). Black will join the regular cast of "SG-1" when it enters its next season, its 10th.

And on the season-ending episode of "Stargate Atlantis" (9 p.m., Sci Fi) the Wraith make a peace offer that seems hard to believe.

Conan O'Brien and Amy Poehler ("Saturday Night Live") add their voices to the season premiere of "O'Grady" (9:30 p.m., The N).

Tonight's other highlights

A workaholic is haunted by the ghost of the child she ignored on "Ghost Whisperer" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG).

The quest to clear an accused man puts a victim on the spot on "In Justice" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

A blast from the past on "Numb3rs" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

Scheduled on "20/20" (10 p.m., ABC): people who keep secrets for years and even decades, and how they come to reveal them, willingly or under duress.

Cult choice

A happily engaged couple (Jay Mohr and Julianne Nicholson, "Conviction") agree to one last fling before their wedding in the 2004 comedy "Seeing Other People" (9 p.m., Oxygen).

Series notes

Tom Bergeron hosts "America's Funniest Home Videos" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) ... Wrestling on "WWE SmackDown" (8 p.m., UPN) ... A legal limbo on "What I Like About You" (10:30 p.m., WB, TV-PG, D) ... Happy Fran-iversary on "Living with Fran" (11 p.m., WB, TV-PG, D, L).

Nursing Brock gets old on "Reba" (11:30 p.m., WB, TV-PG) ... Mitchee's big move on the season finale of "Twins" (midnight, WB, TV-14, D).

Late night

Ricky Gervais and the Subways appear on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Vin Diesel and Jamie Cullum on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

FRIDAY EVENING

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WTTV	Friends (CC)	NBA Basketball	Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics. From TD Banknorth Garden in Boston.				Pacers	What I Like	Living With Fran	Reba (CC)
WRTV	The Insider (N)	Be a Millionaire	America's Funniest Home Videos	In Justice "Victims" (N) (CC)			20/20 (CC)		News (CC)	Nightline (11:35)
WISH	Inside Edition	Ent. Tonight	Ghost Whisperer "Demon Child"	Close to Home (N) (CC)			NUMB3RS "Protest" (N) (CC)		News (CC)	Late Show
WTHR	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Deal or No Deal (N) (CC)	Las Vegas "Coyote Ugly" (N)			Conviction "Pilot" (N) (CC)		Operation Bball	Tonight Show
WFYI	Business Rpt.	Religion-Ethics	Indiana Week	McLaughlin	Wash. Week	NOW (N) (CC)	Inside Indiana Business		Lawmakers	Corrs-Geneva
WNDY	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	WWE Friday Night SmackDown!	(N) (CC)			News	Access H'wood	South Park	South Park
WTIU	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Wash. Week	NOW (N) (CC)	Sci. Frontiers	Foreign Exchng	Weekly Special	Cutters of Stone	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
WHMB	The 700 Club (CC)		Harvest		High School Basketball Teams TBA.			High School Basketball Teams TBA.		
WCLJ	ACLJ	Primary Focus	Behind Scenes	Great Souls	Joel Osteen	Frederick Price	Praise the Lord (CC)			
WXIN	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	37th NAACP Image Awards (N) (CC)				News (CC)	Geraldo Large	Seinfeld (11:05)	Drew Carey
WIPX	Balderdash	Family Feud	Mermaids (PG-13) (90) *** Cher, Bob Hoskins. Comedy-Drama.				Project Runway	It's a Miracle	Time Life	Paid Program
WTBU	Bill Purvis	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Bethany World Prayer Center			Van Impe Pres	Balanced Living	This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice
A&E	American Justice		Biography "Tom Hanks" (CC)	Biography "Johnny Depp" (CC)			Biography "Will Smith" (CC)		American Justice	
AMC	An American Werewolf in London		Carrie (R) (76) *** Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie, William Katt. Horror.				Bride of Frankenstein (NR) (35) *** Boris Karloff. Invisibile Man			
AP	Horse Power: Road to the MacLay		The Planet's Funniest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos (CC)			Animal Precinct "Helping Hands"		The Planet's Funniest Animals	
BET	106 & Park	Beef (R) (03) **	Documentary. Feuds between hip-hop artists lead to more record sales.				Beyond Beef	College Hill	In Living Color	In Living Color
BRAVO	Inside the Actors Studio (CC)		U-571 (PG-13) (00) ** Matthew McConaughey, Bill Paxton, Harvey Keitel. Action. (CC)				U-571 (PG-13) (00) ** Matthew McConaughey. (CC)			
CNBC	On the Money		Heads-Up Poker Champ.	Mad Money			The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch		Heads-Up Poker Champ.	
CMT	Dukes of Hazzard		Trick My Truck	Smokey and the Bandit (PG) (77) *** Burt Reynolds. Comedy.			CMT Music		Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck
CNN	The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now (CC)		Larry King Live (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)			
COM	Com.-Presents Reno 911! (CC)		Daily Show	Colbert Report	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	South Park	Drawn Together
DISC	The FBI Files "A Hunter's Game"		The FBI Files (N) (CC)		The FBI Files: Boy is abducted.		A Haunting Haunted townhouse.		The FBI Files "A Hunter's Game"	
EI	EI News (N)	Paris & Nicole	Number 1 Single/Number 1 Single	Angeline Jolie: True Story			The Soup (N)	10 Ways (N)	Saturday Night Live (CC)	
ESPN	NBA	NBA Basketball	Washington Wizards at Philadelphia 76ers. (CC)				NBA Basketball	Los Angeles Clippers at Utah Jazz. (CC)		
ESPN2	College Basketball CIIA Tournament Semifinal -- Teams TBA. (CC)				Boxing Friday Night Fights. (CC)				Quite Frankly With Smith	
FAM	Smallville "Spell" (CC)		Two Can Play That Game (R) (01) * Vivica A. Fox. Comedy. (CC)				Whose Line? Whose Line?		The 700 Club (CC)	
FNC	Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Hannity & Colmes (CC)		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
FOOD	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Emeril Live Soup recipes.	\$40-a-Day	Tasty Travels		Roker on Road	Foodnation	Iron Chef "Battle Bonito"	
FOXMV	Fantastic Voyage (6) (66) ***		Madonna: Innocence Lost (94) ** Terumi Matthews. Biography.				Bad Girls (R) (94) ** Madeleine Stowe, Andie MacDowell. Western.			
FOXSM	College Basketball: MVC Quarterfinal -- Evansville or Illinois State vs. Southern Illinois				College Basketball: MVC Quarterfinal				Sports Report	
FX	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	The Shield "Kavanaugh" (CC)	
HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger: One Riot.		One Ranger (NR) (93) (CC)		M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)
HGTV	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Get Color (N)	Design Remix	Double Take (N)	FreeStyle (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Debbie Travis' Facelift	
HIST	Modern Marvels "Gangster Guns"		Rome: Engineering an Empire The rise and the fall. (CC)				Roman Vice Roman funeral practices. (CC)			
LIFE	Bad Seed (R) (00) * Luke Wilson, Dennis Farina. Suspense. (CC)		Fatal Lessons: The Good Teacher (NR) (04) Erika Eleniak. Drama. (CC)				Will & Grace		Will & Grace	
MSNBC	Hardball (CC)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		MSNBC Investigates Iowa prison.		MSNBC Investigates		Headliners & Legends	
MTV	The Real World	There & Back	There & Back	Wild & Out	Wild & Out	Wild & Out	Wild & Out	Wild & Out	MTV's The Shop	MTV's The Shop
NICK	SpongeBob	Catscratch (N)	Avatar-Last Air	The X's (N)	Danny Phantom	Danny Phantom	Full House (CC)	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Cosby Show
OXY	Oprah After	Oprah After	Living Single	Living Single	Seeing Other People (R) (04) ** Jay Mohr. Romance-Comedy.				The Ellen DeGeneres Show (CC)	
SCIFI	John Doe "Mind Games" (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Crusade" (N)		Stargate Atlantis "Inferno" (N)		Battlestar Galactica (N) (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Crusade" (CC)	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	
TBS	Every-Raymond/Every-Raymond		Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Scary Movie 3 (PG-13) (03) ** Anna Faris. Comedy.		Little Nicky (10:45) (PG-13) (00) ** Adam Sandler.			
TCM	Bells Are Ringing (5:45) (60) ***		In Harm's Way (NR) (65) *** John Wayne. A Navy officer is assigned to retake Japanese-held islands.				The Alamo (NR) (60) ***			
TLC	Wild Weddings		What Not to Wear "Leona" (CC)		What Not to Wear "Lynn" (N)		Log in for Love (N)		What Not to Wear "Leona" (CC)	
TNT	Law & Order "Damaged Goods"		Gone in Sixty Seconds (PG-13) (00) * Nicolas Cage, Giovanni Ribisi. Action. (CC)				Underworld (R) (03) ** Kate Beckinsale. Horror. (CC)			
TOON	Foster's Home	Grim Advent.	Camp Lazlo (N)	Ben 10	Gym Partner	Puffy AmiYumi	Foster's Home	Camp Lazlo	Grim Advent.	Ed, Edd n Eddy
TVL	Good Times	Good Times	Little House on the Prairie (CC)		Andy Griffith	Sanford & Son	Good Times	Good Times	Happening!	Cheers (CC)
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Monk (N) (CC)		House "DNR" (CC)	
VH1	Top 20 Countdown (6) (N)		The Blues Brothers (R) (80) *** John Belushi. Two musicians reassemble their band for a fund-raiser.						Best Week Ever	Best Web Junk
WE	Dharma & Greg	Dharma & Greg	Say Anything... (PG-13) (89) *** John Cusack. Comedy-Drama.				Style-Hunter	Style-Hunter	Say Anything... (PG-13) (89) ***	
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos		Cop Land (R) (97) *** Sylvester Stallone. Crime Drama. (CC)				WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)
DISN	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven (N)	The Even Stevens Movie (03) ** Shia LaBeouf, Tom Virtue. Comedy. The Stevens family's free vacation turns into a nightmare. (CC)				Phil of the Future	Sister, Sister "We Are Family"	The Suite Life of Zack & Cody	That's So Raven
ENC	Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (6:15) (PG) (95) ** Adventure. (CC)		Annie Hall (PG) (77) **** Woody Allen. A New York comic struggles with an on-and-off romance.				The Bourne Supremacy (9:35) (PG-13) (04) *** Matt Damon. Suspense. Jason Bourne fights back when the CIA tries to kill him. (CC)		American Werewolf-Paris	
HBO	Vanishing Point (6:15) (NR) (97) ** Viggo Mortensen. Drama.		Alien vs. Predator (PG-13) (04) ** Sanaa Lathan. Antarctic explorers encounter deadly extraterrestrials.			16 Blocks: HBO First Look (9:45)	Deadwood Cochran delivers a dire prognosis. (CC)		Real Time Magazine editor Graydon Carter. (CC)	
SHOW	Godsend (5:45) Sleepover (PG) (04) ** Alex Vega. Comedy. Four teens find adventure on a scavenger hunt.		Sleeper Cell "Intramural" The cell buys explosives. (CC)				Masters of Horror "Fair Haired Child" (CC)		Boxing Shobox: The New Generation.	
MAX	Flight of the Phoenix (6) (PG-13) (04) ** Dennis Quaid. (CC)		Harlem Nights (R) (89) ** Eddie Murphy, Redd Foxx. Comedy-Drama. Two 1930s nightclub owners turn the tables on a crime boss. (CC)				Spider-Man 2 (PG-13) (04) *** Tobey Maguire, James Franco. Action. Peter Parker fights a man who has mechanical tentacles. (CC)			
TMC	Girl (6:20) (R) (98) ** Dominique Swain. Drama. (CC)		Paycheck (PG-13) (03) ** Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman. Science Fiction. A technical wizard learns his memory has been erased. (CC)				Sniper (R) (93) ** Tom Berenger. Drama. Two Army assassins take on a mission in Panama. (CC)		Bad Influence (11:45) (90) ***	
STARZ	Raise Your Voice (5:40) (04)		Boogeyman (PG-13) (05) ** Barry Watson. A man confronts terrifying visions in his childhood home.				The Aviator (PG-13) (04) *** Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale. Biography. Howard Hughes produces movies and flies airplanes. (CC)			

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ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

'Alias' star returns from maternity leave

ABC's spy drama, "Alias," starring Jennifer Garner as Sydney Bristow, will return April 19.



GARNER

The two-hour episode will feature the birth of Sydney's baby and the reappearance of love interest/fellow spy Michael Vaughn, played by Michael Vartan.

Garner, 33, gave birth to a daughter, Violet, on Dec. 1. The baby is the first child for Garner and her husband, Ben Affleck.

"Alias" is ending its five-year run this spring.

Other familiar faces who will crop up in Sydney's life during the show's final episodes include best friend Will Tippin (Bradley Cooper), mother Irina Derevko (Lena Olin) and nemesis Julian Sark (David Anders).

LOS ANGELES

'One Tree Hill' star wants to annul marriage

Sophia Bush is seeking to annul her brief marriage to her "One

Tree Hill" co-star Chad Michael Murray, citing fraud.

According to papers filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Bush married Murray on April 16 and the pair separated five months later.

The 23-year-old actress also requested that the court terminate its ability to award spousal support to Murray, 24.

Calls to Bush's attorney, Fern Wender, on Wednesday were not immediately returned, and Murray's publicist, Megan Moss, declined to comment.

Bush and Murray met while filming the WB network's "One Tree Hill," in which Bush is sassy cheerleader Brooke Davis and Murray is brooding basketball player Lucas Scott.

Bush also has appeared in the films "Supercross" and "Learning Curves."

Murray has had recurring roles in "Dawson's Creek" and "Gilmore Girls" and starred opposite Hilary Duff in "A Cinderella Story."



BUSH



MURRAY

By LYNN ELBER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Tyra Banks really throws herself into her job as a talk-show host, often in ways only a recently retired supermodel can.

On Wednesday's show, for instance, Banks will be shown going "undercover" as a stripper at a topless club, although the former Victoria's Secret model stops short of complete disclosure. In the past, she's posed as a Las Vegas showgirl and used her face as a canvas for makeup lessons.

The stripper segment, she said, was the result of hearing friends and viewers express frustration about the men in their lives spending time and money in strip clubs.

"When I found out the majority of business is from males from married homes, I wanted to go inside the minds of the men who frequent these clubs. I wanted to see and hear why they went. And the only way to do that was to go undercover and see for myself," Banks said.

Having Banks strut her stuff incognito as a dancer can only be a ratings plus for the syndicated "The Tyra Banks Show" (WXIN, 10 a.m., 1 p.m.) exactly the point in a sweeps month used to set local TV ad rates.

But Banks, 32, said she considers her program, which typically draws a heavily young and female audience, a vehicle to educate as well as entertain.

For one segment, she donned an elaborate disguise that turned her



AP PHOTO

Talk-show host Tyra Banks went undercover as a dancer to learn why married men frequent strip clubs.

into a 350-pound woman and then ventured into stores and on dates to test people's reactions to obesity.

"I feel like it's the last form of discrimination that's openly acceptable. I wanted to experience that firsthand to share that with my audience," Banks said. She also did a show in which people confronted their phobias (for her, it's dolphins and birds).

There are further issues she wants to explore, she said, both through her show and the Tyra Banks Foundation, which sponsors an annual summer camp pro-

gram intended to help boost self-esteem in girls.

She started modeling at age 15 and ended up smashing boundaries: She was the first black model on the covers of Sports Illustrated's swimsuit edition, GQ and the fabled Victoria's Secret catalogue.

Before she jumped into the talk show arena as host and producer, she successfully launched "America's Next Top Model," the UPN reality series which may end up with even more clout when the network merges with WB to form the new CW network.

Did she imagine her career would extend beyond modeling?

"Yes," she said, laughing.

"When I was 18 years old I was doing an interview for Italian television and I told them I was going to have my own talk show. I try to teach my girls on 'Top Model' that modeling is temporary and you have to find what your true passion is.

"And I found out this is mine," Banks said of her daytime show.

She took her last runway stroll for the Victoria's Secret show last December, finally deciding to shut the lingerie drawer on modeling. Does she regret the decision at all?

"Oh, gosh, no. I have no second thoughts. My mom told me to always leave at the top, and that's what I did."

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