

ABC doesn't know meaning of 'miracle'

The new series "Miracle Workers" (10 p.m., ABC) enters the "Extreme Makeover" sweepstakes, with plenty of stories to tug the heart-strings with the use of cutting-edge medical procedures.

Tonight's drama involves Todd, 34, a nice-guy father of three who has been blind since childhood because of an allergic reaction to penicillin.

Vanessa, a formerly active 47-year-old woman, has been confined to a wheelchair by a degenerative bone-and-joint disease.

"Miracle Workers" presents extensive interviews with Todd and Vanessa, as well as their family and friends, and then sets about explaining the extensive medical procedures that could change their lives for the better.

While it's hard to quibble with such feel-good fare, it's odd that a show dedicated to promulgating the latest and greatest in medicine should use the word "miracle" in its title.

Why confuse medicine with generic spirituality?

When a shaman shakes a stick and makes a blind man see, that's a "miracle."

An extensive series of cornea transplants and stem-cell insertions falls into the realm of something called science. There's a difference.

Jesse James restores a 1969 motorcycle to its former glory in the two-hour special "History of the Chopper" (8 p.m., Discovery).

As if Jack didn't have enough problems, Audrey helps him reconnect with his daughter, Kim (Elisha Cuthbert). Audrey's dad (William Devane) re-enters the picture, too, on a two-hour helping of "24" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14, V).

And what about those Logans? In the space of half a day, the president has tried to have the first lady committed and then signed off on her murder at the hands of terrorists.

What a guy! Did last week's Caine Mutiny at CTU foreshadow other acts of civil disobedience? When is Jack's former love interest going to show up again?

And what about her surly teenage son? Is Tony Almeida still in recovery? Can Jack go a whole day without killing or torturing someone close to Audrey? Will Chloe ever recognize the desperate love in Edgar's eyes? With all of this stuff percolating, who needs nerve gas to keep the clock ticking?

Tonight's other highlights

A Wiccan high priestess takes a hausfrau's apron strings for a test drive on "Wife Swap" (8 p.m., ABC).



Kevin McDonough

Lasers and 3-D technology take the latest measure of a burial ground associated with the pharaoh Ramses on "Tomb Builders: Secrets of the Valley of the Kings" (9 p.m., Science).

"The Apprentice" (9 p.m., NBC) offers a number of plugs for a text-messaging service.

Back to school on "Supernanny" (9 p.m., ABC).

Natalie's past looms large on "CSI: Miami" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14, V).

Bridget bonds with an author beyond the grave on "Medium" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

Cult choice

Meredith Baxter, Woosie Kurtz and Clare Carey star in the 1995 potboiler "Betrayed: A Story of Three Women" (8 p.m., Lifetime Movie Network).

Series notes

Convalescing cons on "The King of Queens" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, L) ... Howie Mandel hosts "Deal or No Deal" (8 p.m., NBC) ... Star struck on "One on One" (8 p.m., UPN, TV-PG, L) ... Baby news on "7th Heaven" (8 p.m., WB, TV-G) ... Victoria mulls a move on "How I Met Your Mother" (8:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) ... Backsliding on "All of Us" (8:30 p.m., UPN, TV-PG).

Alan keeps his lady under wraps on "Two and a Half Men" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, D) ... A slip on the way down the aisle on "Girlfriends" (9 p.m., UPN, TV-14) ... Grieving and bonding on "Related" (9 p.m., WB, TV-PG, D, L) ... A birthday surprise on "Courting Alex" (9:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, D) ... Dee-viction on "Half & Half" (9:30 p.m., UPN, TV-PG).

Late night Emma Thompson, Frank Caliendo and Beth Orton are on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Matthew McConaughey, Ebert and Roeper, and Train on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Zoey Deschanel and Panic! At the Disco 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

Former child actor tries to find place in Hollywood

Macaulay Culkin wonders where he fits into Hollywood these days.

"I don't know what people want from me," the grown-up child star of the "Home Alone" movies told Time magazine.

"I'm the most out-of-work actor I know," said Culkin, who has a semiautobiographical, stream-of-consciousness novel, "Junior," due out this month.

He said he had considered a career in sports management, instead of acting. Time reported in its edition hitting newsstands today.

"Acting found me. I thought maybe I should try to find it again. We'll see," he told Time.

Culkin, 25, said he has talked

by phone once with his friend Michael Jackson while the singer left the United States and described Jackson as doing OK.

Even after 10 seasons, 'South Park' still offends

"South Park" has gotten grosser over the years, but its creators are getting away with it.

Hardly anyone raised an eyebrow five years ago when the animated show depicted the Islamic Prophet Muhammad, co-creator Trey Parker told Time magazine in an interview along with co-creator Matt Stone, 34.

"We created a brand for ourselves, so that now people can't get mad at what we do, because then they're just making fun of themselves," said Parker, 36, as the show heads into its 10th season.

SHOWPLACE 16 Movies with Magic 1-800-FANDANGO 1598# 465 at US HWY 31 South - INDIANAPOLIS

Matinee Movie Magic for Moms (and Dads) SEE MOVIES IN A BABY-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT *TUESDAYS-1ST MATINEE OF EACH FEATURE

AMC Experienced the Difference. Greenwood Park 14 Madison Ave and Fry Road

MONDAY EVENING MARCH 6, 2006. Table listing TV programs and times across various channels (WTTV, WRV, WISH, WTHR, WFYI, WNDY, WTIU, WHMB, WCLJ, WXIN, WIPX, WTBW, A&E, AMC, AP, BET, BRAVO, CNBC, CMT, CNN, COM, DISC, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FNC, FOOD, FOXMV, FOXSM, FX, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MSNBC, MTV, NICK, OXY, SCIFI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TVL, USA, VH1, WE, WGN, DISN, ENC, HBO, SHOW, MAX, TMC, STARZ).

Carol Burnett plays it cool on 'Housewives'

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Carol Burnett, paying a visit to "Desperate Housewives" as stepmother to Bree Van De Kamp, won't be dispelling any wicked stepmom myths.

"Just make her a little bitchier," Burnett said she advised series creator Marc Cherry after reading a description of her icy, distant character.

"It will be fun. I just think it's so campy," Burnett said. She's scheduled to film her appearance as Eleanor Mason next week, with the episode tentatively set to air April 9.

Burnett is a fan of ABC's hit suburban satire — she calls a scene in which Eva Longoria's character famously did yard



Carol Burnett, pictured in December on "Larry King Live," has a role on "Desperate Housewives."

work in formal wear an inspired bit of comedy — and Cherry in turn is an admirer of the legendary actress-comedian.

Cherry had first let Burnett know he wanted her on the show when they met at an event about a year ago, then repeated his

intention recently while talking to a TV entertainment news magazine.

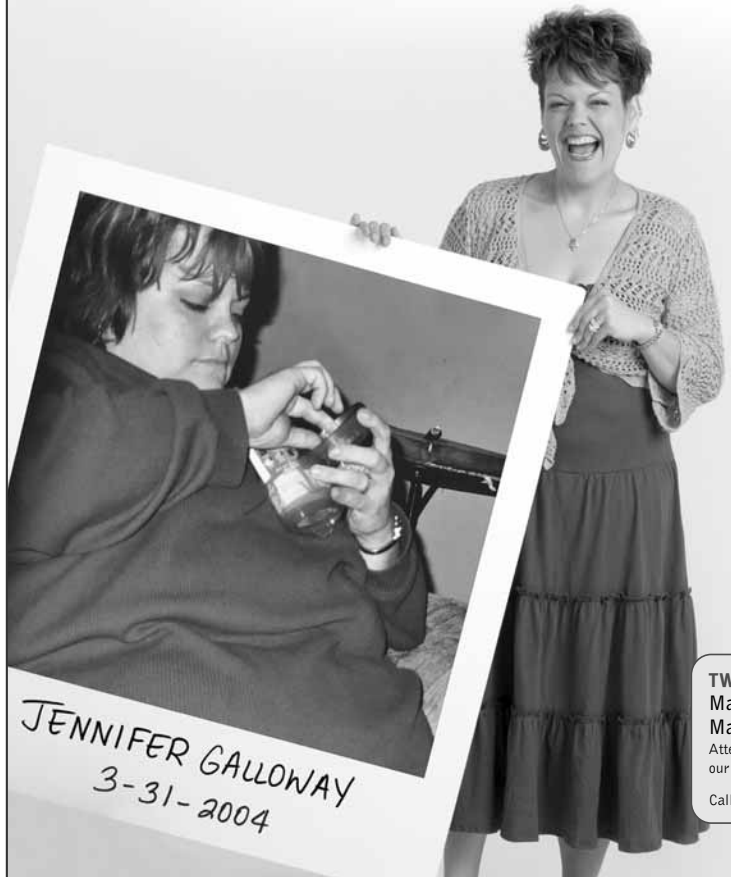
"The interviewer asked who he would like to be a guest and he said my name, which was very sweet," Burnett said.

Viewers will learn that Eleanor became part of Bree's (Marcia Cross) life after her mother was killed.

Burnett's character arrives on Wisteria Lane when Bree's son creates a risk that family secrets will be exposed.

Whether her character will return is up in the air, Burnett said.

She's the second well-known actress to appear recently as a difficult mom on "Desperate Housewives": Maria Conchita Alonso upset Longoria's Gabrielle last month.



"I was scared I wouldn't live to see my kids grow up."

JENNIFER GALLOWAY, Elizabethtown

Jennifer had always been an optimistic person. But her lifelong battle with weight had created more health problems than she could ignore.

"Food had always been my best friend," she says, "and my best friend was killing me." Bariatric surgery at Johnson Memorial was a life-saving intervention for Jennifer.

They said I'd have to change my lifestyle. But they treated me like a human being. They really took care of me, body and soul."

Read Jennifer's story at www.johnsonmemorial.org/jennifer. Or call our Bariatric Surgery Coordinator, Eileen Williams, toll-free at 866-837-0531 to register for one of our free seminars.

A bariatric success story herself, Eileen will give you a first-hand account of what you can expect from our program.

TWO SPECIAL SEMINARS March 7 from 6pm-8pm and March 23 from 10am-noon Attend a seminar led by Eileen and featuring our own Bariatric Specialist, Dr. Dana Lindsay. Call 866-837-0531 to register.

The Bariatric Care Center Johnson Memorial Hospital 1125 West Jefferson St. | Franklin, Indiana 46131