

Spike's world made solely for bored teens

The desperate attempt to attract young male viewers often makes for gruesome television. "Wild World of Spike" (Midnight, Spike) is no exception. Hosted by martial-arts fighter Kit Cope, skateboarding professional Jason Ellis and comedian Sam Tripoli, "Wild" presents amateur-sports footage from around the world, accompanied by chatter and jokes from the three aforementioned dudes.

The footage offers a peak at bored male behavior at its most inspired. Teens channel their inner Fonzie to ride their bikes up a ramp and into a towering pine tree. We also see odd exhibitionist forms of wrestling at a biker convention, something called competitive "wife carrying" and fire-hose football.

The stunts do a good job of proving that bored guys can make a sport of practically anything, and most of these contests end up with somebody on the ground writhing in pain. Occasionally, the hosts try out the stunts themselves, but these are never as good as the original footage.

The worst aspects of "Wild" consist of the three hosts and their attempts to provide witty commentary. Their patter consists of random whoops and lines that translate roughly as "Let's get drunk" and "I love bosoms." Compared to "Wild World of Spike," the lowliest beer commercial has the inspired genius of a Mozart symphony.

What happens when best-selling dog-book authors join forces? Cesar Millan of "The Dog Whisperer" (8 p.m., National Geographic) visits the family of John Grogan, author of the book "Marley and Me" (William Morrow, 2005).

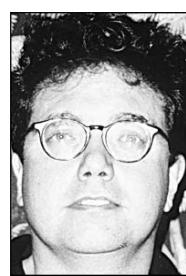
Grogan and his wife have some real problems with their new Labrador, Gracie, whose hunting instincts cause trouble on the Grogans' chicken farm.

Animated versions of celebrities do contrived things only marginally dumber than the real thing on the new series "Starveillance" (10:30 p.m. E!). In other cartoon news, IFC launches a Friday-night block of two dubbed anime features from Japan.

Set in Italy, the 13-part series "Gunslinger Girl" (11 p.m., TV-14, V) follows a group of orphaned children trained by a government agency to become gun-wielding assassins. If you don't find this sick, I don't want to know you.

"Basilisk" (11:30 p.m., IFC) follows a tale of love and war in feudal Japan.

How's this for science fiction? A superhero show canceled quickly by a network that no longer exits finds new life on a thriving cable niche, bringing joy to the folks who nurtured the memory of



Kevin McDonough

the series on Internet chat rooms and other places where lonely fans gather.

Fantasy becomes reality with the return of "Jake 2.0" (8 p.m., Sci Fi), a series that first aired on UPN in 2003. Christopher Gorham stars in the title role as a lowly assistant who becomes a cyber superhero after a lab accident.

It's "The Nutty Professor" meets "The Six Million Dollar Man." I liked this comic-book fantasy series back in the day, but it didn't last long into 2004.

Tonight's other highlights

- A ghost feels penned-in on "Ghost Whisperer" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, V).

- A rare vintage wine may not be what it seems on "Las Vegas" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

- The hunt for a cult leader turns dangerous on "Numb3rs" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

- The son of an infamous cover girl dies after visiting her in the hospital on "Law & Order" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

- Scheduled on "20/20" (10 p.m., ABC): children obsessed with fame; the proliferation of surveillance cameras.

Cult choice

"Rocky" star Sylvester Stallone combined an overdeveloped physique with preposterous conspiracy theories to create "Rambo: First Blood Part II" (8 p.m., AMC).

Series notes

Bob Saget hosts "1 vs. 100" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-G) ... A fractured family dials "Nanny 911" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14, V) ...

Failures join forces on "The Knights of Prosperity" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) ... Contrived accidents spark a high school reunion on "In Case of Emergency" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

Late night

Jay Leno hosts Terry Bradshaw and Marjorie Johnson on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Lauren Conrad and Eddie Pepitone appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

FRIDAY EVENING

JANUARY 5, 2007

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WTTV	Friends (CC)	Every-Raymond	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) (CC)				Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Sex and the City	Will & Grace
WRTV	The Insider (N)	Extra (N) (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Knights-Prosop	In Case-Emer	20/20 (CC)		News (CC)	Nightline (11:35)
WISH	Inside Edition	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer	"Dead to Rights"	Close to Home	"Road Rage" (N)	NUMB3RS	"Nine Wives" (N) (CC)	News (CC)	Late Show
WTHR	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	1 vs. 100 (N) (CC)		Las Vegas (N) (CC)		Law & Order (N) (CC)		News (CC)	Tonight Show
WFYI	Business Rpt.	Religion-Ethics	Indiana Week	McLaughlin	Wash. Week	NOW (N) (CC)	Inside Indiana Business		WealthTrack	Time Goes By
WNDY	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Wicked Wicked Games (N) (CC)		Watch Over Me	"Petals" (N) (CC)	News	Access H'wood	Bernie Mac	South Park
WTIU	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Wash. Week	NOW (N) (CC)	Philosophy-Gde	Foreign Exchng	Hudson River	Natural Heroes	Tavis Smiley	BBC World
WHMB	The 700 Club (CC)		Harvest (CC)		Lester Sumrall	Paid Program	Life Today (CC)	High School Basketball	West Lafayette	at Tipton.
WCLJ	Secrets-Bible	Primary Focus	Behind Scenes	Jordan Rubin	Joel Osteen	Frederick Price	Praise the Lord (CC)			
WXIN	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	Nanny 911	"McCafferty Family"	Trading Spouses: Meet-Mommy		News (CC)		Seinfeld (CC)	Scrubs (CC)
WIPIX	Growing Pains	Growing Pains	Mama's Family	Mama's Family	Diagnosis Murder (CC)		Charlie's Angels		Time Life Music	Paid Program
WDTI	Bill Purvis	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Celebration		Van Impe Pres	Balanced Living	This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice
A&E	CSI: Miami "Free Fall" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Dead Air" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Invasion" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Identity" (CC)		CSI: Miami "From the Grave"	
AMC	Conan the Barbarian (5:30) (82) **		Rambo: First Blood Part II (R) (85) **	Sylvester Stallone. Action.			Commando (R) (85) **	Arnold Schwarzenegger.	Carrie (11:45) (76)	
AP	The Crocodile Hunter (CC)		Meerkat Manor	Meerkat Manor	The Planet's Funniest Animals		Animal Precinct "Right on Time"		The Crocodile Hunter (CC)	
BET	106 & Park	Hotwired (CC)	Prison Song (R) (01) **	Q-Tip, Fat Joe, Mary J. Blige. Drama. (CC)			Cornicview (CC)		Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx
BRAVO	Inside the Actors Studio (CC)		The Princess Bride (PG) (87) ***	Cary Elwes. Adventure. (CC)			The Princess Bride (PG) (87) ***	Cary Elwes. Adventure. (CC)		
CNBC	On the Money		CNBC Prime "Best of '06" (N)	Mad Money			The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch		CNBC Prime "Best of '06"	
CMT	The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search		The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search		The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search		The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search		The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search	
CNN	The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now (CC)		Larry King Live (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)			
COM	Scrubs (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Mind of Mencia	South Park	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Live at Gotham (CC)	
DISC	Dirty Jobs Shrimp season. (CC)		Man vs. Wild Rain forest.		Man vs. Wild "Moab Desert"		Man vs. Wild Surviving in the Alps.		Stunt Junkies	Stunt Junkies
E!	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	Girl Next Door	High 90210	Dr. 90210 Penile Implant.		The Soup (N)	Starveillance (N)	E! News	The Daily 10
ESPN	SportsCenter (6) NBA		NBA Basketball	Dallas Mavericks at San Antonio Spurs. (CC)			NBA Basketball		Miami Heat at Phoenix Suns. (CC)	
ESPN2	Billiards: Challenge		Boxing: 2001 Augustus vs. Ward		Boxing Friday Night Fights. (CC)				Quite Frankly With Smith	
FAM	Smallville "Thirst" (CC)		Home Alone (PG) (90) ***	Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern. Comedy. (CC)			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		\$40-a-Day	Tasty Travels	Paula's Party		Good Eats	\$40-a-Day
FOXMOV	Hot Shots! (6) (91)	Film School	Young Frankenstein (PG) (74) ***	Gene Wilder. Comedy.			Young Frankenstein (PG) (74) ***	Gene Wilder. Comedy.		
FOXSM	Totally Football	FSN Live	Mizzou Basket.	Totally Football	FSN Pro Football Preview		Best Damn Soundbites		FSN Live	Final Score
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	That '70s Show	That '70s Show
HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		McBride: The Chameleon Murder	(05) John Larroquette. Mystery. (CC)			Perry Mason Returns (85) ** (CC)	
HGTV	If Walls Could	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Buy Me	24 Hour Design	Save My Bath	House Hunters	House Hunters	Parents House	FreeStyle
HIST	Modern Marvels "The Autobahn"		The Lost Evidence (N) (CC)		Shootout! The 1st Infantry Division.		Dogfights "Guadalcanal" (CC)		Modern Marvels (CC)	
LIFE	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Trophy Wife (NR) (06) Brooke Burns. Suspense. (CC)				Will & Grace	Will & Grace
MSNBC	Hillball (CC)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Death in the Hollywood Hills		Lockup: Inside Alaska		Crime & Punishment (CC)	
MTV	Boiling Points	Boiling Points	Freedom Wrtr	True Life "I'm On Vacation"	Real World-Rd	Real World-Rd	The Real World		The Real World	Next
NICK	OddParents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Nicktoons TV	Nicktoons TV	Full House (CC)	Full House (CC)	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
OXY	She's Having a Baby (PG-13) (88) **	Kevin Bacon. Comedy-Drama.	She's Having a Baby (PG-13) (88) **	Kevin Bacon. Comedy-Drama.					Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club
SCIFI	Heroes "Six Months Ago" (CC)		Jake 2.0 "The Tech" (CC)		Jake 2.0 "Training Day" (CC)		Jake 2.0 "Cater Waiter" (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Redemption"	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		World's Most Amazing Videos		Disorderly Conduct: Video	
TBS	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	King of Queens	King of Queens	Rush Hour 2 (PG-13) (01) **	Jackie Chan, John Lone. Action. (CC)			National Security (11:00) (03) **	
TCM	Harry in Your Pocket (6) (73) **		The Great Train Robbery (PG) (79) ***	Sean Connery. (CC)			Crossplot (PG-13) (69) **	Roger Moore, Claudie Lange. Suspense.		
TLC	Home Chef	Home Chef	20 Ways To ... Weight. (N)		What Not to Wear "Nancy G."		What Not to Wear "Jennifer N."		20 Ways To ... Weight.	
TNT	Without a Trace "Trip Box" (CC)		Gone in Sixty Seconds (PG-13) (00) *	Nicolas Cage, Giovanni Ribisi. Action. (CC)			Gone in Sixty Seconds (PG-13) (00) *	Nicolas Cage.		
TOON	Foster's Home	Gym Partner	Class of 3000	Codename: Kid	Squirrel Boy	Camp Lazlo	Codename: Kid	Gym Partner	Class of 3000	Foster's Home
TVL	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)
USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Monk (CC)			Psych (CC)		House "Sally" (CC)	
VH1	America's Next Top Model (CC)		America's Next Top Model (CC)		America's Next Top Model (CC)		America's Next Top Model (CC)		America's Next Top Model (CC)	
WE	Dharma & Greg	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	JonBenet: Pageant Queen		Who Killed Diana? (N) (CC)		John Edward Cross Country	
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos		In the Line of Duty: Mob Justice (NR) (91) Tony Danza. Docudrama.		WGN News at Nine (CC)				Sex and the City	Scrubs (CC)
DISN	Hannah Montana (CC)	That's So Raven (CC)	Hannah Montana (CC)	The Suite Life of Zack & Cody	The Parent Trap (PG) (98) ***	Lindsay Lohan, Dennis Quaid, Natasha Richardson. Comedy. Reunited twin girls try to get their parents back together. (CC)			That's So Raven (CC)	
ENC	Weekend at Bernie's (6:15) (PG-13) (89) **	Andrew McCarthy. (CC)	Are We There Yet? (PG) (05) **	Ice Cube. A divorcee's two children torment a man on a road trip. (CC)	Stealth (9:45) (PG-13) (05) **	Josh Lucas, Jessica Biel, Jamie Foxx. Action. Three pilots combat artificial intelligence. (CC)				
HBO	Inside the NFL (CC)		Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith (PG-13) (05) ***	Ewan McGregor. Science Fiction. Anakin Skywalker joins the dark side and becomes Darth Vader. (CC)	Two for the Money (R) (05) **	Al Pacino. Two men handicap football games for high-rolling gamblers.				
SHOW	The Client (5:45) (PG-13) (94) ***	Susan Sarandon. Suspense. (CC)	Screen 2 (R) (97) ***	David Arquette, Courteney Cox. Horror. A psychotic slasher rampages through an Ohio college town. (CC)	Masters of Horror A coma patient's spirit attacks others. (N)		Boxing Anthony Hanshaw vs. Jean Paul Mendy.			
MAX	A Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child (R)	Dream Child (R)	Date Movie (PG-13) (06) *	Alyson Hannigan. A hopeless romantic faces many obstacles in her courtship.	The Last Boy Scout (R) (91) ***	Bruce Willis. Private eye and ex-quarterback team up on dirty case.	Sex Games	Cancun (11:45)		
TMC	Mean Creek (6:30) (R) (04) ***	Rory Culkin. Drama. (CC)	Suspect Zero (R) (04) **	Aaron Eckhart. FBI agents search for a murderer of serial killers. (CC)	Tamara (9:45) (R) (05) Jenna Dewan, Matthew Marsden, Chad Faust. Horror. A high-school girl returns from the grave to exact revenge. (CC)		Payback (R) (99) **	Mel Gibson.		
STARZ	A Lot Like Love (7:10) (PG-13) (05) **	Ashton Kutcher. Romance-Comedy. Casual friends deepen their bond over seven years. (CC)	An Unfinished Life (PG-13) (05) **	Robert Redford, Jennifer Lopez. Drama. A Wyoming rancher shelters his abused daughter-in-law. (CC)	Hostage (10:50) (R) (05) **	Bruce Willis, Ben Foster. Action. (CC)				

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK TV correspondent gets engaged during holiday

Lisa Ling, National Geographic Channel correspondent and former co-host of "The View," got engaged to Paul Song, a Chicago-based doctor, over the holidays.

Ling and Song plan to marry later this year in Los Angeles, Chris Albert, a representative for the National Geographic Channel, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The 41-year-old Song, an oncologist, popped the question to Ling, 33, alongside their families at a Chicago restaurant, Albert said.

Ling, who is also a correspondent for Oprah Winfrey's talk show, ended her engagement to entrepreneur Philip Levine in October 2005.

She left ABC's "The View" in 2002 after three years, and went on to host National Geographic's "Ultimate Explorer."

NEW YORK Opera soprano sues hotel chain over bedbugs

An opera singer has sued the Hilton Hotels Corp. for \$6 million, complaining she suffered 150 bites from bedbugs on her arms, chest, neck and face when she stayed in one of its hotels in Arizona.

Soprano Alison Trainer claimed she was bitten at Phoenix's Hilton Suites between Nov. 20 and Nov. 26 and said the bites were a horrific experience that left her afraid to sleep in a bed, caused her to lose weight and made her uncomfortable

about her physical appearance. "She looks like a piece of wood that has been attacked by termites," said Trainer's attorney, Kenneth J. Glassman.

Court papers say Trainer noticed the bugs on Nov. 26 and reported brutally conclusive proof of the infestation to hotel officials.

"She noticed the itching and the blood on the sheets right away, but she didn't know that this was being caused by bedbugs," Glassman said, explaining why Trainer stayed in the hotel for six nights.

A spokeswoman for the Hilton Hotels Corp. did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

NEW YORK Walters stands by 'View' moderator O'Donnell

Barbara Walters is back from vacation, and she's standing by Rosie O'Donnell in her bitter battle of words with Donald Trump.

Walters, creator of ABC's "The View," said Wednesday on the daytime chat show that she never told Trump she didn't want O'Donnell on the show, as he has claimed.

"She has brought a new vitality to this show and the ratings prove it," Walters said of O'Donnell, who is on vacation this week.

Walters also took a moment to try to smooth things over with The Donald, who got all riled up when O'Donnell said on "The View" that he had been "bankrupt so many times."

"ABC has asked me to say this just to clarify things, and I will quote: 'Donald Trump has never filed for personal bankruptcy. Several of his casino companies have filed for business bankruptcy. They are out of bankruptcy now,'" Walters said.



WALTERS

'Betty' star says she's cut from same cloth as character

By TERRY MORROW
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Like her character in "Ugly Betty," America Ferrara is working her imperfections.

"The easiest way for me to come to terms with who I am is to broadcast all my flaws," says the 22-year-old actress, whose film credits include "Real Women Have Curves."

"Some of them I can change. Some of them I can't."

To look at her, it's hard to believe Ferrara and her TV alter-ego, Betty Suarez, are the same person. Ferrara is well spoken, slender and confident. Betty, on the other hand, is dumpy and clumsy, if well meaning.

But Ferrara says she and Betty are cut from the same cloth.

"Approaching the role from a very personal way is the only way to do it. To relive those moments that are very embarrassing and very isolating and very cold are, in a big way, heartbreaking," she says. ("Ugly Betty" airs 8 p.m. Thursdays on ABC.)

"To make those moments real for myself, of course, I have to draw from my life."

Growing up in the San Fernando Valley, Ferrara says her family's income was meager but her childhood was nonetheless amazing. She is the youngest of six children, raised by a single mother.

"There was so much love and so much attention placed on what we did have," she says. "By no means did we have it easy."

Her mother worked as an executive at a hotel. Ferrara was a self-proclaimed ham who loved to entertain family and friends. By the age of 7, Ferrara knew she wanted to be an actress.

"I always grabbed the video camera or a tape recorder and sat with my friends for hours, making up radio shows," she says.

Her first major role was a Disney Channel movie called "Gotta Kick It Up," a cheerleading dance movie.

Hollywood, with its typecasting



AP PHOTO

America Ferrara stars in ABC's "Ugly Betty," which airs at 8 p.m. Thursdays.

ways, isn't always forgiving for women who aren't the idea of perfection. Ferrara, though, wanted to break out of that before it cursed her career.

At 17, she decided more opportunities would come through independent films. "Real Women Have Curves," a coming-of-age comedy, set the tone for her career so far.

When actress Salma Hayek was developing "Ugly Betty" for American audiences, she was familiar with Ferrara and sought her out.

Ferrara says the universality of "Ugly Betty" is why audiences have taken to it so.

"If you ask anyone if they have

ever felt ugly and they say they haven't, they are lying," she says. "One of the things our show addresses is the ridiculous standards the entertainment industry has."

The same media that Ferrara condemns for its unrealistic standards of beauty also attacked the show early on. The title "Ugly Betty" was considered sexist by many of its critics.

"The title 'Ugly Betty' is really ironic," she says. "It's not about how she perceives herself or even how the audience is supposed to

perceive her. It's about the irony." The beauty of the story is in Betty's determination.