

LIFE AND ART

COLUMN

Saturday cartoons regress



By Frank Plemons
■ The University Daily
Texas Tech U.

While clicking across Saturday morning TV programming recently, I discovered the entertainment quality of Saturday morning cartoons has regressed during the last 10 to 15 years. If I were a kid, I'd certainly prefer the adventures of "The Superfriends" to those of "The Smurfs." The polymorphic powers of the Wonder Twins always gave me the excitement I wanted to see.

Plus, Saturday morning cartoons lack the creativity of the good ol' days. The current "Alf" cartoon is taken from the prime-time series, and the cartoon "Beetlejuice" was built on the hype of the movie of the same name, as was the "Real' Ghostbusters."

Those copied cartoons are no match for such greats as "George of the Jungle (Watch out for that tree!)," "Josie and the Pussycats," "Scooby-Doo" and the greatest superhero cartoon of all time, "Mighty Heroes." Although there probably were fewer than 10 episodes of "Mighty Heroes," with the likes of Tornado-Man, Diaper-Man and Cuckoo-Man, the entertainment value was unbeatable.

Saturday's non-animated shows are not much better than the cartoons. "Pee Wee's Play House" cannot compare to "Land of the Lost," "Sigmund and the Sea Monster" and "Dr. Shrinker."

Weekday afternoon cartoons are just as bad. What adventure cartoon would you rather watch: "G.I. Joe" with such moronic characters as wrestler/anti-terrorist command Sgt. Slaughter or demon on wheels "Speed Racer" with the ne'er-do-well team of Sprite and Chim'chim? Has there ever been a cartoon hero like the "mysterious" Racer X, the older brother and guardian of the unknowing Speed?

It's easier to get caught up in the memories of the cartoons of yesteryear than to accept the new ones. So I opted for re-runs of wildlife programs instead of the depressingly unentertaining cartoons.

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'The Deadbeat Club'

The B-52's prove why they're not deadbeats.

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Class act

A U. of Georgia instructor makes learning rock history a rockin' good time.

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A different beat

Ballroom dance makes a comeback on campuses nationwide.

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BOOK REVIEW

Chuggin' away

"The Complete Book of Beer Drinking Games" showcases student favorites.

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Playboy visits spark controversy

By Marc Weiszer

■ The Diamondback
U. of Maryland

U. of Maryland student Kathie Slack was curious about posing for Playboy magazine, but she never wanted to do it nude.

"If I can wear clothes, I'll do it," she said. "I'm not going to do anything drastic. I'm not posing nude."

The senior English major was one of the many students from the Atlantic Coast Conference who interviewed during the fall for Playboy's ACC pictorial scheduled to be released in April.

The interviews sparked protests and petitions at most of the schools where Playboy photographers interviewed. Students and administrators were primarily concerned with the use of their university's name in the pictorial, but others protested the exploitation and degradation of women that they feel Playboy promotes.

"Playboy makes enormous profits selling these images of women," said Minnie Pratt, a U. of Maryland women's studies lecturer. "Playboy only perpetuates the idea that women can be bought and used as sex objects."

For the last 14 years, Playboy has featured college women from Division I con-

ferences to coincide with football season. The magazine also scheduled college pictorials to coincide with basketball season. Last fall, Playboy featured students from the Southeastern Conference, where similar protests accompanied Playboy's visits.

But the protests didn't deter ACC or SEC women from interviewing. Nor did it discourage Playboy Photographer David Chan, who is used to the controversy that accompanies his campus visits. "There is nothing new about protests," he said. "A student has a right to be upset about certain things — this minority has a right to say what they want, just as Playboy has the right to come to the campus. It's great — it just shows freedom of expression."

Students who were interested in posing for the pictorial first interviewed with Chan and posed fully clothed for Polaroid snapshots. Chan then invited only a select few students back for extended photo sessions. "We want the typical coed, the girl next door," Chan said. "The women shouldn't feel that they have to be able to compare to a centerfold. If they're a little bit heavy, we can work with it."

"I know I'm the luckiest guy in the world, being able to photograph the most beautiful women in the world," he said.

During the extended photo sessions, the women could pose nude, semi-nude or fully clothed. Students receive \$500 for appearing nude, \$250 for appearing semi-nude and \$100 for appearing clothed.

A Wake Forest U. student who posed fully clothed said the Playboy staff put her under no pressure to pose nude or in erotic positions. "The people at Playboy weren't the people everyone made them out to be. They leave it entirely up to you."

After completing sessions at all the ACC schools, Chan chooses about four women from each school to be in the pictorial.

Campus women's rights activists feel Playboy's presence on campuses hurts their movement. Melea Lemon Bryan, a member of North Carolina State U.'s Women's Resource Coalition, said "We are trying to promote a better atmosphere for women on campus — treating us as sex objects will destroy everything we have done to increase our status as serious students."

Shawn Lees, *The Diamondback*, U. of Maryland; Andrew Liepins, *Jeanie Taft, Technician*, North Carolina State U.; and Ryan McQueeney, *Jennie Vaughn, Old Gold and Black*, Wake Forest U.; contributed to this story.



ANTONIO HANSEN, THE DAILY O'COLLEGIAN, OKLAHOMA STATE U.

'Just get up and go' is the slogan of many students who road trip.

On the road again

By Juleigh Sewell

■ The Auburn Plainsman
Auburn U.

Several good friends, a car with a full tank of gas, a road map, some good tapes and an adventurous spirit — these are the basic ingredients which, when combined correctly, yield the solution to the ho-hum weekend.

On a slow weekend, Auburn U. students invariably ask themselves and

their friends, "What can we do this weekend?" A road trip is one answer that is popular on many college campuses.

"It allows you to get away from everyday life. It lets you take advantage of being young," said Brooks Wooten, a senior political science major.

Last year before fall term started, Wooten and his roommates, Scott Turnquist and Tripp Haston, a senior pre-law student, took a weekend road

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Dorm residents listen to 'hot' bedtime stories

By Gina Kinslow

■ College Heights Herald
Western Kentucky U.

Tammy Thompson crawled beneath the covers of her bed while she waited for someone to come to her room, tuck her in and read her a bedtime story.

No, Tammy isn't a 4-year-old waiting for her father. The Western Kentucky U. sophomore is actually waiting for freshman Greg Schmidt.

Schmidt was one of 11 Western Kentucky U. dorm residents who brought cookies, milk and bedtime stories to about 25 residents of a female residence hall.

The women could choose a "cold" or "hot" bedtime story. Greg Vincent, a resident assistant who co-organized the event, said all the "hot" stories came from "quality magazines," such as *Penthouse* or *Penthouse Forum*. Tina Howlett, also a resident assistant who planned the event, said none of the women picked "cold" stories.

Thompson said she liked her story. "It was kind of perverted, but it was cute," she said.

All the women in Thompson's room said they wouldn't mind tucking the men in, although the risks for freshman Brookie Spear might outweigh the benefits. "I'd probably die of embarrassment from reading the story," Spear said.