



BUBBLES
Coloring Society

"Look, I gave the sun a smiley face!"



BLOSSOM
Goody Two-Shoes Club

"Cheaters never prosper."



BUTTERCUP
Golden Gloves: Kindergarten Division

"I'm a bad mamma-jamma!"



JOHNNY BRAVO
French Club, Weight Lifting

"I thought French Club meant something else."



SPACE GHOST
JV Badminton

"I'm allowed to go off campus for lunch."



DEXTER
Science Club, Math Club, Chess Club,
Debate Team, National Honor Society

"Accent? I have no accent."

an irony-laced superheroine comedy in which he'd had enormous confidence. "[The kids] said, 'They look weird. We don't like the way they look. We think this is stupid, but not the *good* stupid.'"

At this point, a less courageous development team might have ordered McCracken, 29, to make his characters less stylized (the kindergartners don't even have *hands*, for cryin' out loud), in a crazed search for the elusive "good

stupid." Instead, they went back to the storyboard, not the drawing board. The test audiences "pointed out it was working on one level, which was irony," says Lazzo. "But it wasn't working on the level that all entertainment should work on: characterization."

So McCracken differentiated his generic kick-ass lasses into three distinct do-gooders: draconian Buttercup, practical Blossom, and deceptively

sweet Bubbles. Add a toned-down title (changing *Whoopass* to *Powerpuff* was McCracken's one concession to corporate conservatism), a retro-rave soundtrack, some wink-wink gags (were those *condoms* the girls slipped into the pocket of creator/father figure Professor Utonium before sending him out on a date?), and a dash of Chemical X, and you've got one of Cartoon Network's highest-rated shows.