

for kids." Note: You'll find little or no flatulence on *Dexter's Laboratory*...with the exception of an episode entitled, aptly enough, "Critical Gas." Somewhere, Ren and Stimpy are smiling.

VOMIT AND INTESTINAL WIND MAY amuse a 6-year-old, but for real belly laughs, Lazzo and his team trekked deep into the Hanna-Barbera cosmos to unearth *Space Ghost*, whose oft-invisible interstellar hero is also TV's first animated talk-show host. *Space Ghost*, Lazzo explains, was just obscure enough to qualify for spoof duty: "If we'd come into it saying we wanted to turn Scooby-Doo into a talk-show host, we might have [been] met with some resistance."

The gamble paid off: *Space Ghost Coast to Coast* premiered in 1994 and demonstrated what could be done with a hero past his prime. The show has spawned several spin-offs, including



Johnny Bravo strikes a pose and strikes out in the cafeteria

*The Brak Show Starring Brak*, whose eponymous emcee is an erstwhile *Space Ghost* nemesis-turned-brain-damaged raconteur. (See sidebar on page 28.) And this, we're told, will pale in comparison with next year's

*Leave It to Brak*, a "sitcom" featuring a next-door neighbor played by anime hero Gundam Warrior. Other forays into postmodern pastiche have paid off just as handsomely. Last year's *The Scooby-Doo Project* (a 24-hour mara-

