

Entertainment Outlook



ASK DICK KLEINER

Are Bob and Frank real pals?

By Dick Kleiner

Q. I thought years ago that Bob Hope and Frank Sinatra were great friends. Am I wrong, or what happened to that relationship? — M.S., York, Pa.

A. Hope and Sinatra were never close friends. Their life styles were dissimilar. Their interests have varied. And their personalities are totally different. It was Bing Crosby who was Bob Hope's good friend, not Sinatra.

Q. When "Matlock" first came on the air, a lovely young girl played his daughter. Why did she leave the show? She was a living doll, so cute and dainty. Is she doing anything else now? — P. T., Corpus Christi, Texas.

A. Linda Purl is the living doll in question. She left because she felt the part was not as exciting and challenging as she would have liked. So she is doing other things. For example, she just finished shooting a TV movie for CBS, with Harry Anderson and Ed Begley Jr. The working title is "Spies, Lies and Naked Thighs." It will be shown next season.

Q. Can you tell me how to get a pair of fangs like they use in vampire movies? — D.D., Morgantown, W.Va.



Bob Hope



Linda Purl

A. Remind me to stay away from Morgantown when the moon is full. Anyhow, try a joke shop or a costume shop.

Q. A friend and I have had a disagreement over who played Buckwheat on "The Little Rascals." He bet me a Coke that it was Eddie Murphy. I said it couldn't be him, because those are very old. — L.H., Marshall, Ariz.

A. You are right about Eddie Murphy. He was born in 1961. The "Our Gang" comedies, which were released on TV as "Little Rascals," were made in the 1930s and '40s. Buckwheat was played by a little boy who used the name Buckwheat Thomas.

Q. The actor who played Gary Cooper's opponent in the famous street gun duel in "High Noon" was unnamed during the credits. He was my company commander during World War II, but I have forgotten his name. Can you help? — B.J.G., Bristol, Tenn.

A. Ian MacDonald was the actor who played Frank Miller in that memorable film.

Q. Can you tell me if the man who plays Paul Drake Jr. on "Perry Mason" is Della Street's son? What is his name? — Unsigned, Houston.

A. We have a dinner at Tony's riding on this answer. Are Willie on "Family" and Paul Drake Jr. on the new "Perry Mason" shows one and the same? — SUE V., Spring, Texas.

A. William Katt plays Paul Drake Jr. on the "Perry Mason" dramas. He is the son of Barbara Hale, who played Della Street. He is not the same person as Gary Frank, the actor who played Willie on "Family."

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Music seminar hails founder

By Ethlie Ann Vare

This year's New Music Seminar — the ninth annual such gathering of movers and shakers on the cutting edge of the music industry — drew 7,042 delegates to New York City from 36 countries.

But there was one man notably missing: seminar co-founder Joel Webber, who died in April of congenital heart disease at the age of 33.

To honor Webber's memory and contributions to his industry, the NMS has created the Joel Webber Fund of the New Music Foundation and has so far raised about \$10,000 from T-shirts, tapes, etc., sold at the conference. The money goes to selected New York inner-city schools, establishing classes in music technology and computer/music interfacing.

"Music programs in schools are totally antiquated," says seminar co-director Tom Silverman. "We hope that this program may offer kids who might otherwise be on the unemployment lines a chance at a career in the music industry. New music is adding to the economy of New York City and the U.S. in general."

Eventually, NMS hopes to attract corporate sponsors and big name artists to the educational program. "And," prophesies Silverman, "Joel's name will live on."

• A tip of the the hat to comeback rock star Gregg Allman, currently on tour behind his second hot solo album, for putting his convictions into practice. Clean and sober after a long battle with drugs and alcohol, Allman insists that the VIP hospitality rooms at his shows serve only nonalcoholic beverages at the bar. He may not change the world, but he's keeping at least few hundred people from drinking and driving after he performs.

• David Bowie is said to be co-producing and starring in a new movie out of Australia, called "The Delinquents." It's the tale of Aussie youth culture in the 1950s. Maybe he'll have more success this time than he did with his examination of British youth culture in the 1960s, the under-appreciated "Absolute Beginners."

• A concert movie of U2's last tour will be out in movie theaters around November. Called "Rattle and Hum," it was directed by young hotshot Phil Joanou. A new U2 album should be hitting the stores simultaneously.

• Cyndi Lauper has two new projects to promote — the album "Kindred Spirit" and the movie "Vibes."