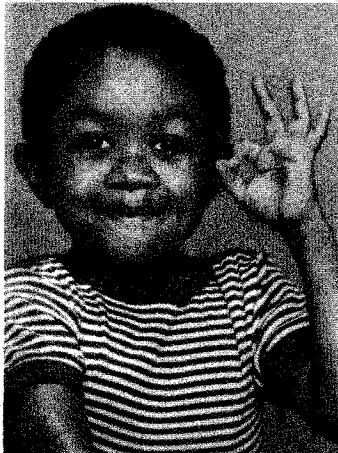


# Wacky TV Fanatics Rate New Fall Shows

The new fall lineup of TV shows is boring... predictable... a rehash of old plots and faces — and that's just the way a zany organization of TV addicts like it.

"Most of the new shows are incredibly predictable — and that's their beauty," declared Bob Armstrong, who is founder of the Couch Potatoes, who watch TV at least eight



## THUMBS DOWN:

"Webster" suffers from terminal cuteness.



eye-burning hours each day.

Since the Couch Potatoes and their wacky world of marathon TV viewing were featured in The ENQUIRER last December, the California-based organization has swelled to 5,000 members and published The Official Couch Potato Handbook.

Now, for the first time ever — exclusive for ENQUIRER readers — Bob Armstrong and fellow Couch Potato founders Jack Mingo and Patty Graves have agreed to review some of the new shows and award them "thumbs up" or "thumbs down."

**MANIMAL** — "A knockout fantasy TV show with breathtakingly real special effects. We loved the camera work. Thumbs up."

**LOTTERY!** — "A recycled and updated version of 'The Millionaire,' which was one of the Couch Potatoes' all-time favorite shows. People



**BORING AND PREDICTABLE** — that's how these Couch Potatoes feel about most of the new TV shows.

enjoy joining in the fantasy of coming into big bucks. Thumbs up."

**AfterMASH** — "'M\*A\*S\*H' was so amazingly popular that this series would have to be downright awful not to be a hit. It's not awful, just nowhere near as gripping or well-written as its parent show. Thumbs up."

**SCARECROW AND MRS. KING** — "Kate Jackson is great playing the housewife who teams up with a secret agent on the show. This unique combination of international intrigue and suburban life is a clever twist of



## THUMBS UP:

an old format. Thumbs up."

**HOTEL** — "How could this one possibly miss? It's 'Love Boat' in dry dock. Thumbs up."

**WE GOT IT MADE** — "This mindless farce about two young male executives and their live-in maid requires absolutely no brain effort to watch, so it should be a big hit. Thumbs up."

**WHIZ KIDS** — "An updated version of 'The Hardy Boys' that doesn't make it. This series about a bunch of precocious kids and their computer named 'RALF' seems aimed for 10-year-olds. Thumbs down."

**WEBSTER** — "This tale of a wisecracking, know-it-all black kid adopted by a white

"Scarecrow and Mrs. King" is a clever twist of an old format.

star Brian Keith can't save this dull crimefighter show. Thumbs down."

**TRAUMA CENTER** — "Another routine medical drama. The only thing that could save this show would be Lou Ferrigno reverting to his old role as 'The Incredible Hulk' — right in the operating theater. Thumbs down."

**MR. SMITH** — "A show more suited for Saturday morning than prime time. Adults will either be insulted or threatened by the

