

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Candidate won't meet his Waterloo

Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton will host tonight's broadcast of *Saturday Night Live*, but viewers in Iowa won't see it. All four NBC affiliates in the Hawkeye State announced they wouldn't carry the show because Sharpton is one



DANA EDELSON | NBC

Al Sharpton, left, and comic Jimmy Fallon joke during rehearsals for *Saturday Night Live*.

of nine candidates seeking the Democratic nomination. The selection process will begin with the Iowa caucuses Jan. 19. Tim Gardner, director of creative services at WHO-TV in Des Moines, said station lawyers decided that airing the 90-minute show would trigger federal "equal-time" provisions — meaning the stations would have to offer an equal amount of airtime to each of the other presidential candidates. WHO and two other stations instead will air a previous SNL episode.

Sharpton campaign manager Charles Halloran was puzzled by the decision. "Their lawyers must not have finished law school, because NBC went through all sorts of research to make sure that it was appropriate," Halloran said.

'Queer Eye' factor hits malls

A new survey of shoppers suggests that the Fab Five are affecting men's spending habits. The survey of more than 2,600 shoppers at malls in seven major cities found that men were five times more likely than women to go shopping on Wednesdays after a new episode of the Bravo cable series *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, which is shown on Tuesday nights. Almost half of the men surveyed said they shop with another guy on post-*Queer Eye* Wednesdays, as opposed to just 12 percent who do so on other days. Shoppers also said *Queer Eye* fashion maven Carson Kressley was more likely than any other celebrity endorser to have a positive influence on their shopping decisions. Jericho Communications, a New York public-relations company, conducted the survey of 2,654 shoppers at malls in Boston, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington and Philadelphia. Shoppers were asked which products of 32 celebrity endorsers they would be most and least likely to buy. Write-ins were allowed. Kressley led the most-likelies with 15 percent of the votes in that category; Trista Rehn of *The Bachelorette* led the least-likelies with 13 percent of those votes.



Carson Kressley influences shopping habits.

By the way



Mary Tyler Moore has quit a Neil Simon show.

• Stung by harsh criticism from playwright **Neil Simon**, **Mary Tyler Moore** has withdrawn from his latest comedy, *Rose's Dilemma*, which was to open Dec. 18 at the Manhattan Theater Club in New York. Moore was seen storming out the backstage door minutes before the 2 p.m. curtain at a Wednesday preview. Several sources close to the production told *The New York Times* she had just received a brusque letter written by Simon and delivered by his wife, actress **Elaine Joyce**, reproaching her for not knowing her lines. Moore had received prompting through a microphone in her ear, the sources said. Moore, who played the title role of

a novelist, was replaced by her understudy, **Patricia Hodges**. "Mary was devastated and completely debilitated personally and professionally" and felt "pushed out" of the production, said her publicist, **Mara Buxbaum**. Simon declined to comment. Pairing Broadway's favorite comic playwright with America's TV sweetheart had seemed like a perfect match. But there were reports of jokes falling flat and tensions rising. "Neil gets nervous when he doesn't get laughs in a show," a source told the *Times*. "Inevitably, the actors get blamed."

• An Indianapolis man convicted of providing illegal cable-TV hookups will become an infomercial spokesman for the cable company from which he stole. His name: **Dennis Cheatem**. Cheatem, 47, has agreed with Bright House Products to warn viewers about the consequences of stealing cable, for which he also will pay a \$5,000 to \$10,000 fine.

Compiled by **Dave Poole**
dpoole@dispatch.com

Today's birthdays

- Dave Brubeck**, jazz pianist-bandleader (*Take Five*)83
- Helen Cornelius**, country singer (*I Don't Want To Have To Marry You*)62
- JoBeth Williams**, actress (Adam Walsh's mom in *Adam*)55
- Tom Hulce**, actor (pledge Pinto in *Animal House*)50
- Kin Shriner**, actor (Scotty Baldwin on *General Hospital* and *Port Charles*)50
- Steven Wright**, comedian.....4
- Tish Hinojosa**, singer-songwriter.....4
- Peter Buck**, R.E.M. guitarist.....4
- Janine Turner**, actress (pilot Maggie O'Connell on *Northern Exposure*)41
- Ulf "Buddha" Ekberg**, Ace of Base keyboardist1
- Lindsay Price**, actress (Janet on *Beverly Hills, 90210*)1