

Johnny Depp: A new love, a new baby, a hit movie

DECEMBER 13, 1999

People

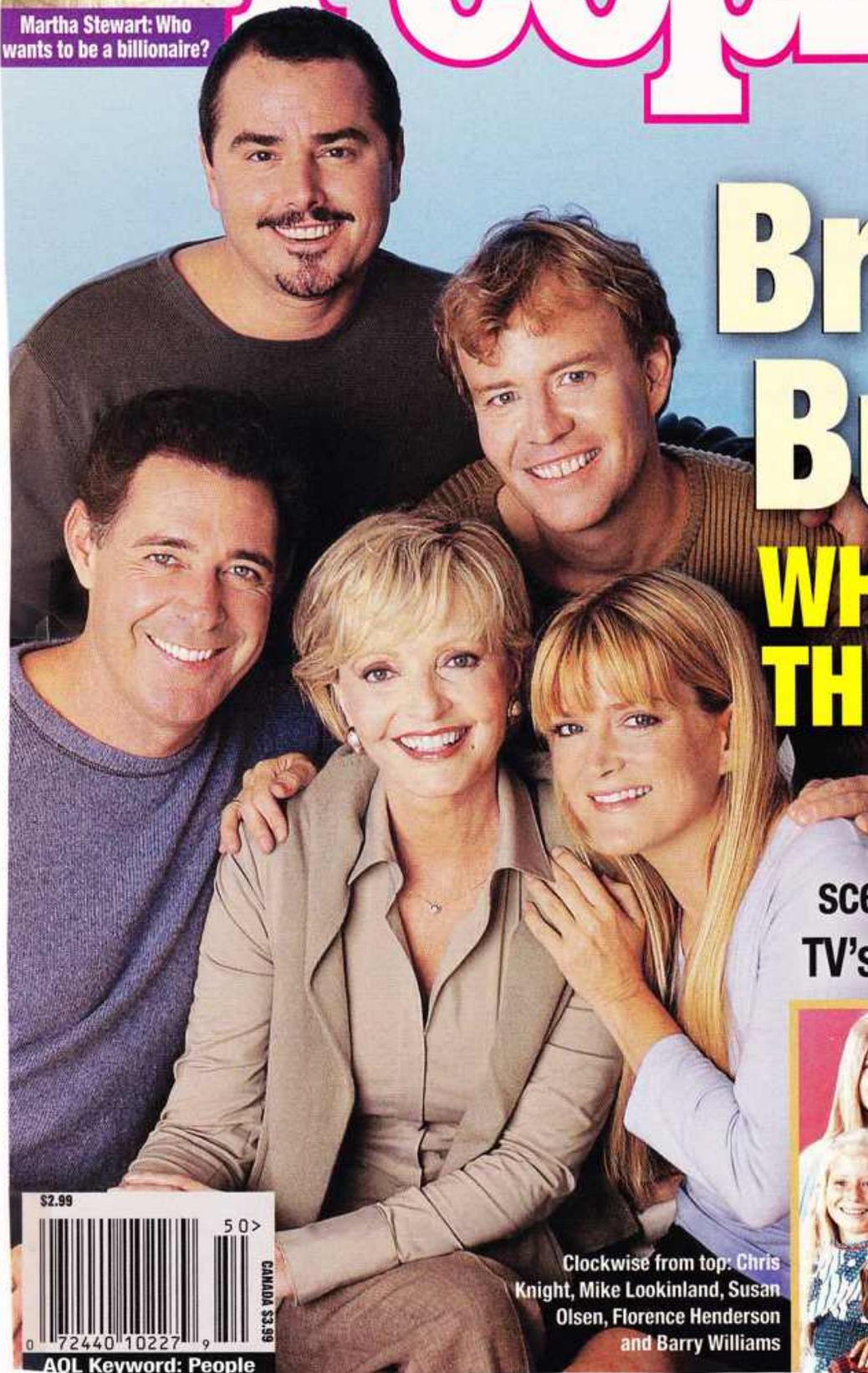
weekly

Martha Stewart: Who wants to be a billionaire?

the Brady Bunch

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

True confessions and behind-the-scenes memories from TV's favorite '70s family



Clockwise from top: Chris Knight, Mike Lookinland, Susan Olsen, Florence Henderson and Barry Williams

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AOL Keyword: People

Cover

the Family Still Matters

Thirty years ago, the Brady Bunch formed TV's favorite family. Since then, they have weathered divorce, alcoholism, and the death of one of their own. With reruns still airing, cast members recall the highs and lows of life as a Brady



NEAL PETERSON COLLECTION

"We all liked each other," says Olsen (bottom center, with, clockwise, McCormick, Williams, Reed, Knight, Henderson, Lookinland and Plumb in '69).

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK SENNET/
REFLEX NEWS



Bad reviews were "funny," said Davis (as Alice).

ALICE The housekeeper embraces a religious life

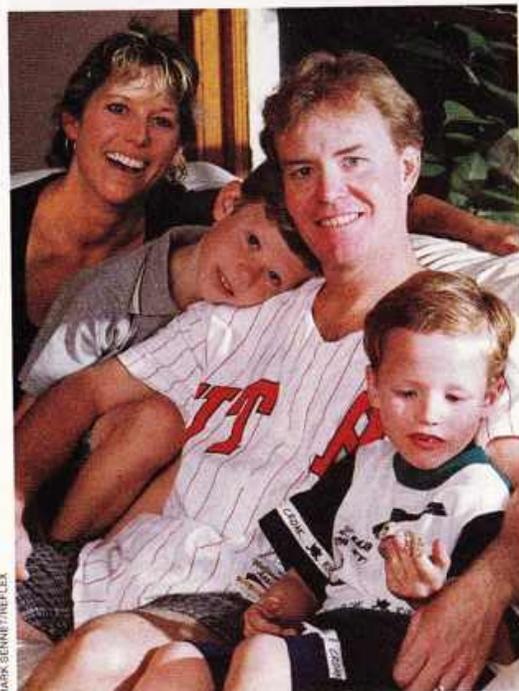
Ann B. Davis, the *Bunch's* wisecracking housekeeper, hasn't been left out of latter-day Bradymania. On a book tour for her *Alice's Brady Bunch Cookbook* in 1994, "everyone was so excited to meet her," recalls publishing executive Bryan Curtis. But Davis, now 73, has always kept her sensible shoes on the ground. The Schenectady, N.Y.-born comedian was a TV and stage veteran when she landed in the Bradys' kitchen, where she sometimes forgot their characters' names. "She'd go, 'Help me!' when she drew

a blank," remembers Florence Henderson. In 1976, the never-wed Davis left Hollywood for a religious group house headed by a former Episcopal bishop of Colorado. She and a handful of fellow parishioners, devoted to prayer, Bible study and charity work, now share a southwestern-style house near San Antonio, Texas. Far from cloistered, she has popped up in *Brady* TV and movie spinoffs. But she recently told E! Entertainment Television that she's through with acting: "I really am very happy and contented with my life."



Davis (in Texas) is "very spiritual and always was," says Florence Henderson.

BOBBY Behind the camera and into family life



"I really had a thing for Peter," admits Lookinland's wife, Kelly (at home with him, Scott, left, and Joey).

Mike Lookinland's sons Scott, 9, and Joey, 6, have just caught a *Brady* TV marathon, and they can't stop giggling. "You're weird because you were on *The Brady Bunch*," Joey teases his dad. Lookinland, 38 and a movie and TV cameraman in Salt Lake City, later concedes that "the show is completely inane in a lot of ways. But it was fun."

Cast as boisterous Bobby at 8, the L.A.-reared Lookinland had only one major complaint: the dark dye applied to his carrot top to make him look like the other Brady boys. "He would sweat and there'd be black stuff running down his face," recalls Susan Olsen. After the series' end, Lookinland entered the University of Utah but dropped out to work as a movie production assistant, then as a cameraman. He recently worked on a film, *Way of the Gun*, starring James Caan. "Life's never been better for me," he says.

Credit his wife of 12 years, Kelly, 37, a script supervisor for *Touched by an Angel*. And a 1997 drunk-driving arrest—after Lookinland totaled his Ford Bronco—that convinced him to get sober. "I was a raving alcoholic for years," he says. "It took almost dying to finally quit."

Today, he still has a fondness for *The Brady Bunch*. "If it vanished," he says, "I know I'd miss it."



Lookinland (as Bobby) says he didn't love acting.

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MARK BENNETT/INFLEX

PETER Struggling kid finds new focus

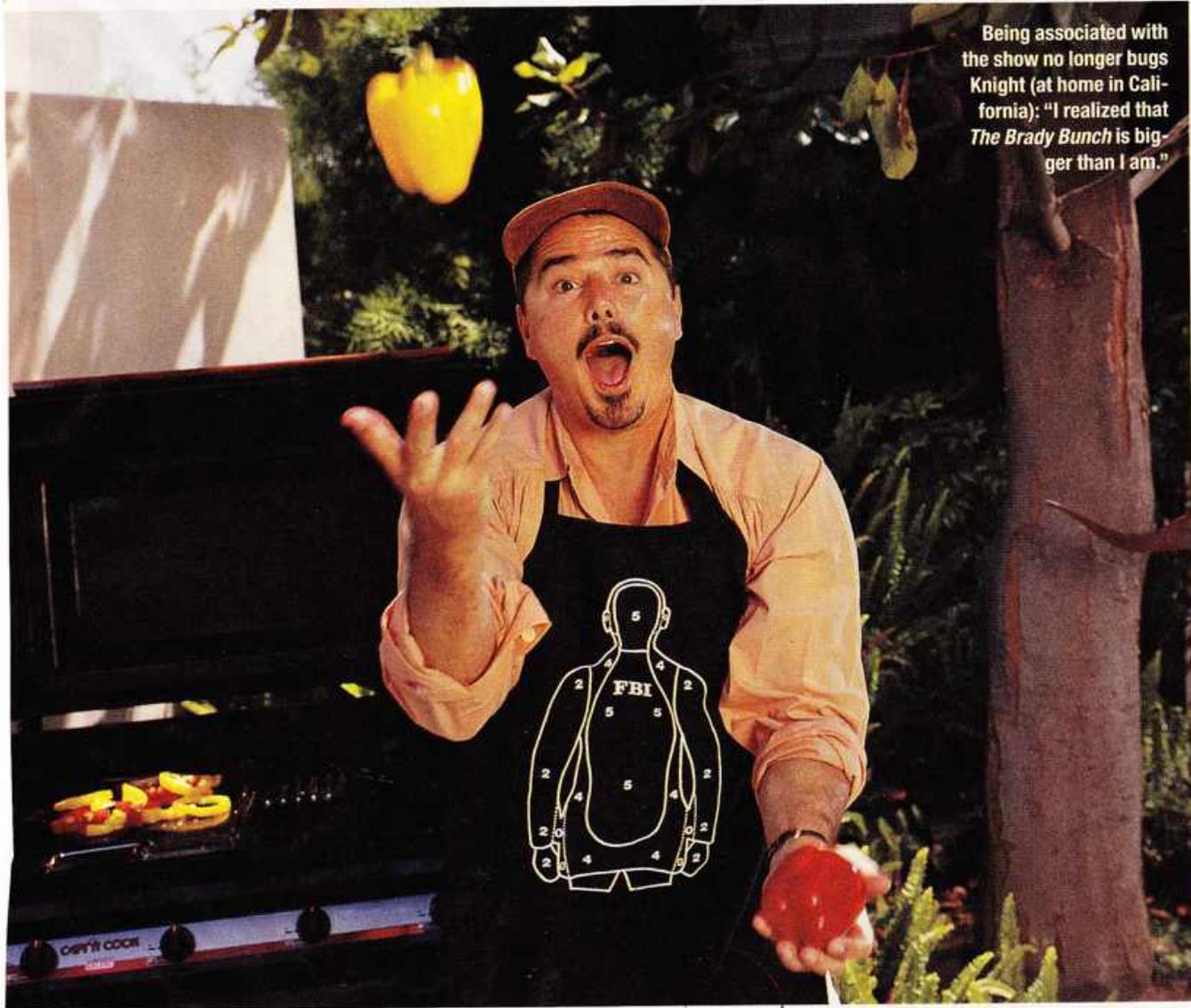
Being a middle child is tough. For Chris Knight, playing one was even tougher—due to his hyperactive tendencies and trouble remembering lines. Now 42, he only recently learned why. “Three years ago I was diagnosed as having lifelong ADD [attention deficit disorder],” says Knight, who co-owns a technology company and lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif., with second wife Toni, 35, a media sales executive. “All of a sudden everything made sense.” Like his painful shyness (“I could barely speak my first year on the show”) and hard-to-contain energy. “When the director would instruct us to be ‘up up up,’ I would be *way* up,” he says. “Not wanting to have other people notice, even though I was in the spotlight, was kind of scary and upsetting.”

By his teens, Knight says, he disliked the “silly” show (his biggest onscreen moment: turning his cracking voice into the main attraction of the Brady Singers). After its finale, the California native ventured on a date with costar Eve Plumb (Jan). “Nothing happened,” he says, laughing. “Eve and I have never talked about it again.” After stints in *Bunch* spinoffs and the soap *Another World*, Knight spent years as “a beach bum,” he says, admitting to having done “a little bit of drugs.” In 1987, he landed his first of several marketing jobs—and last year, the childless Knight (divorced from first wife Julie in 1992) cofounded a computer-devices company. “I’m a whole new person,” he says. “My best years are in front of me.” ●



Knight (as Peter) got cast for his “innocent” looks.

MIAMI PETERS COLLECTION



Being associated with the show no longer bugs Knight (at home in California): “I realized that *The Brady Bunch* is bigger than I am.”

ADAM KNIGHT

Writers: Julie K.L. Dam, Samantha Miller **Reported by:** Ken Baker, Ivory Clinton II, Cathy Free, Anne Lang, Elizabeth Leonard, Cynthia Wang, Ulrica Wihlborg, Paula Yoo

Talk about memorable Brady episodes on **People on AOL** (Keyword: **People**)