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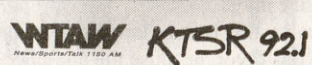
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COMICS

THE BATTALION

Friday, February

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Nickelodeon plans series with Hispanics

NEW YORK (AP) — Striking a blow for diversity, the kids' cable network Nickelodeon has plans for three new series with Hispanic leads.

The new shows are "a rounding out of our efforts to reflect the world of kids," said Cyma Zarghami, Nickelodeon's executive vice president.

Among eight new series for the 2000-2001 season, Nick will launch "Taina," a multigenerational series about a 14-year-old Hispanic girl in New York City and another live-action show, "The Brothers Garcia," which revolves around a Mexican-American family in San Antonio. Told from the perspective of the youngest of four siblings, "Garcia" is described as an Hispanic "Wonder Years."

An interactive animated series, "Dora the Explorer," will feature a 7-year-old Hispanic girl who lives inside a computer. In every episode, young viewers will be invited to participate in an adventure.

Although no premiere dates were announced Wednesday, the new series are expected to roll out between this summer and early next year.

Other new shows include:

- "Noah Knows Best," a live-action comedy about New Yorker Noah Beznick and his sister Megan that focuses on sibling rivalry.

- "Invader Zim," a cartoon series about an alien who spies on Earth by masquerading as a kid and attending elementary school.

- "As Told By Ginger," about a sixth-grade girl caught with one foot in dorkiness and the other in the world of blooming popularity. It's from Klasky-Csupo, creators of the network's popular "Rugrats," "The Wild Thornberrys" and "Rocket Power."

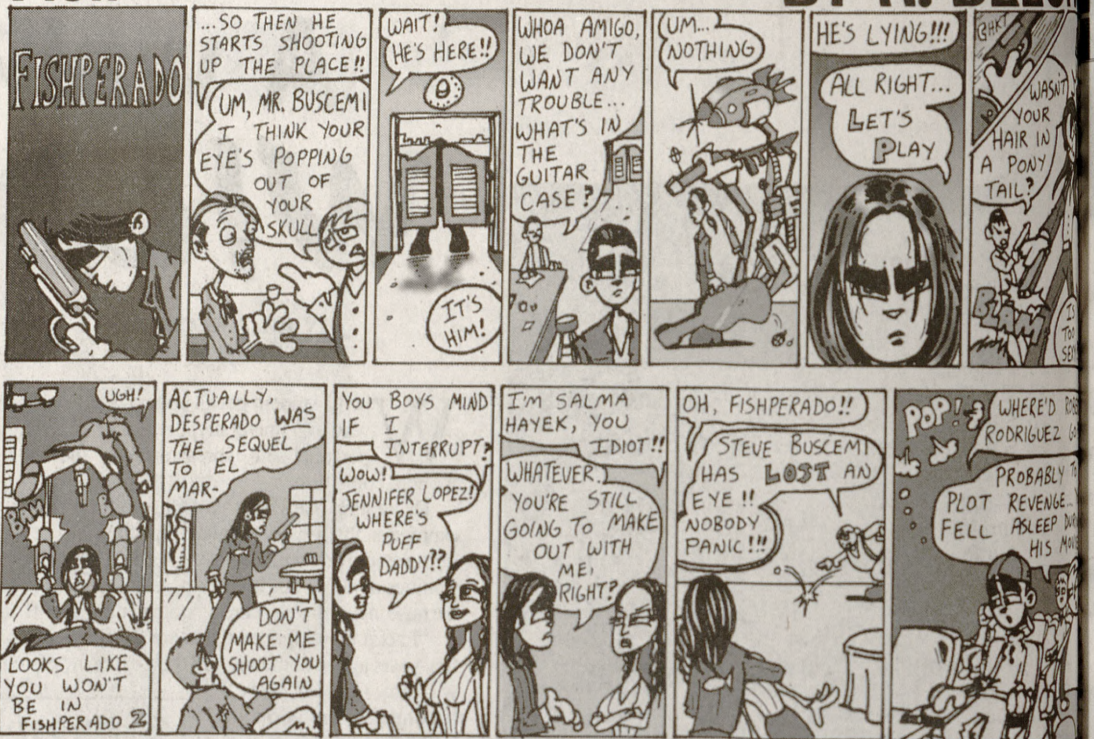
- "Chalk Zone," which follows the adventures of a boy who discovers a magic piece of chalk that allows him to enter a world beyond the chalkboard.

- "The Fairly Oddparents," which bestows upon 10-year-old Timmy two magical helpers: bumbling godparents.

Nickelodeon is the top-rated basic cable channel in households and among children.

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