

Thursday, June 20, 1991

## His answer: 'Knowledge is power'

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San Marcos Courier staff

The answer: He is a two-time Emmy Award winner and has been nominated twice for an Oscar for America's most popular television game show, "Jeopardy."

The question: Who is Alex Trebek?

As host of "Jeopardy," Trebek finds himself learning about new subjects everyday, but admits, he is not as smart as he appears.

"It's the question I'm asked most when I travel," Trebek said in an interview with the San Marcos Courier.

Off television, Trebek maintains a lifestyle as fast-paced as his game show, volunteering time and raising money for underprivileged children and education.

Last Saturday, Trebek was the keynote speaker at the BECA Foundation's seventh annual awards dinner. The event at the Rancho Bernardo Inn honored student scholarship recipients, graduates, donors, volunteers and directors.

"Showbiz personalities are asked to lend support for a number of events," Trebek said. "I think its a privilege for us because are more fortunate than others and can afford to held."

Trebek, and his wife, Jean, attended the event at the request of Edward and Mary Currivan, BECA Friends, and Jean Trebek's grandparents. At the dinner, Trebek spoke about the importance of having an education.

"Knowledge is power, and it worries me that the Hispanic community is not able to finish their education," Trebek said. "It also concerns me that education is so

## • Trebek speaks out

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tied into finances."

"Some cannot afford a good quality education...it's a vicious circle. If it weren't for BECA, the circle could not be broken."

The BECA Foundation, a non-profit organization based in San Marcos, provides scholarships and other support to ensure that Hispanics in our area have access to college.

Convinced that good role models are important for today's children, Trebek, father to newly born son, Matthew, said children are getting mixed messages.

"Role models are leaders in the business world with an education, or a hard-working father providing for his family...not those of us on television and in sports," Trebek said.

In addition to supporting BECA, Trebek also volunteers his time with World Vision, the

National Literacy Board and the USO. As a show of support for BECA, Trebek donated a large gift of money, given to him and Jean, on their wedding day.

"Don't mess up tomorrow, get an education today," Trebek said.

Beca recently was recently awarded an \$480,000 grant by the James Irvine Foundation. The grant is a one-time award to assist in a collaboration effort between Beca, Palomar College, California State University, San Marcos and the County Office of Education for a project entitled the Future Teacher Corps.

