

People

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POP QUIZ

with Rob Lowe

The West Wing's Rob Lowe, 38, turned his attention from politics to medicine recently, taping a video for patients and their families explaining the rigors of chemotherapy. (A biotech firm will distribute the tape free through the Web site www.bymyside.com.) His costar is his father, attorney Chuck Lowe, 62, a cancer survivor. The younger Lowe spoke with Scoop about the experience and life in TV's *White House*.

What inspired this project?

My great-grandmother had breast cancer, my grandmother had breast cancer, and my father, I'm happy to say, is a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma survivor.

Does it make you think of your own mortality?

Definitely.

What do you and your



"My dad is a very strong-minded guy," says Lowe (with his father, Chuck, in March). "He's a fighter, not a quitter."

father discuss on the video?
His experience and how important it is for families to take an active role in treatment.

How's his health?

He's great. He had two bouts with cancer, and

he's been cancer-free for about seven years, so he's a success story. God bless his heart, he looks like a male model.

But back then...?

It was an unbelievably stressful time. Nobody

should ever have to see their parents scared.

You two are close.

He's my best friend.

That relationship seems to carry over to your sons Matthew, 8, and John Owen, 6. Do they visit you on the set?

They love to be in the White House.

How about the real White House?

We visited during the last months of the Clinton Administration.

Were the kids impressed?

No. They liked the squirrels on the lawn better. One of my great memories is standing in the Oval Office, introducing Matthew to the President, and him going, "Dad, Dad, squirrels!"

One last West Wing question: Has Martin Sheen ever shown signs of being a closet Republican?

Are you kidding me?

He's more likely to be a closet Martian.