Vol. 7 No. 18

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE MEDIA

May 5, 1997 \$3.00

Syndication Upfront Breaks

Buyers' concern over high network CPMs spurs early market PAGE 4

OUT-OF-HOME

3M Outdoor Sold for \$1Bil

Buyer Outdoor Systems to control 15-18% of total industry revenue

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MAGAZINES

'Vibe' Eyes 'Spin' Buy

Owners of hip-hop title see good adsales fit in talks.

PAGE 6

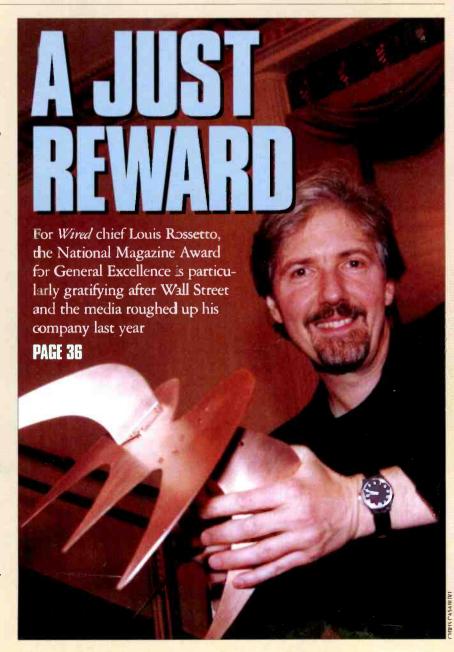
WASHINGTON

FCC: Inertia On Ownership

Case of N.C. radio station owner has languished in D.C.

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MARKET INDI-CATORS

National TV: Tight

Thirc-quarter scatter is moving, but inventory is tight. Prices are at 20 percent CPM increases over last year's upfront. "It's ugly out there," said one buyer.

Net Cable: Moving

Several cable nets expect to move some upfront business with agencies this week, coking to land CPM increases of 7 percent to 9 percent.

Spot TV: Tight

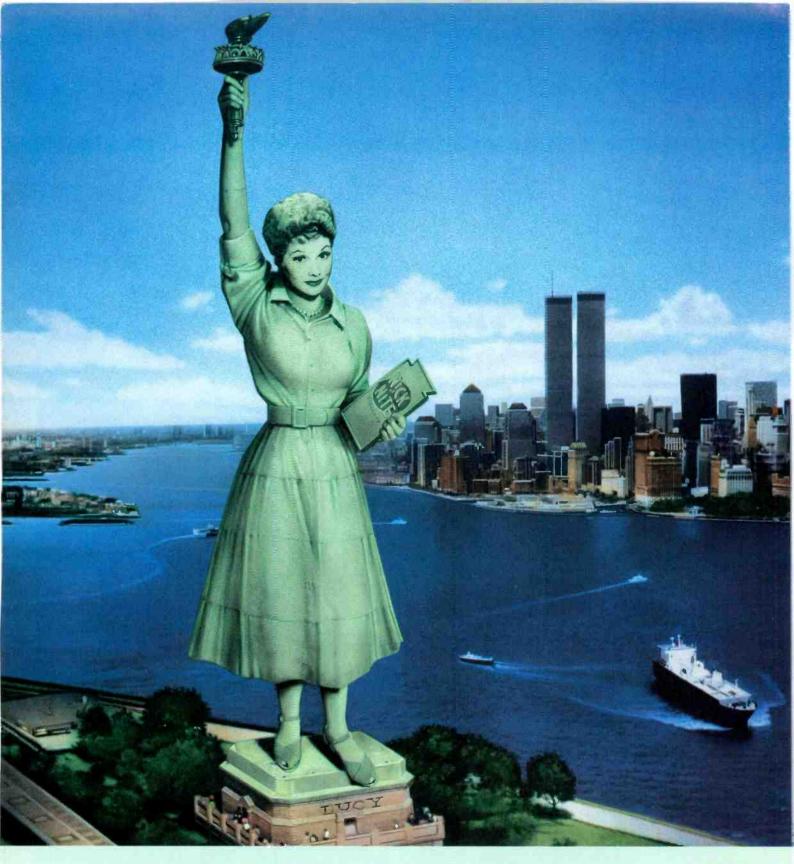
For May, all dayparts are moving well, particularly morning and early fringe, where pereals and package goods categories are reawakening.

Syndication: Moving

Second quarter is all but done. Automotives, fast foods and backage goods are leading the way.

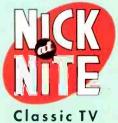
Magazines: Solid

Personal finance and "good life" tiltles are soaring, even as summer kicks in. One publisher said he does not aniticipate a notable downturn in pages throughout the hot months, though he said he still hopes to "slip out a little early on Fridays."



NICK at NITE - A SHINING BEACON OF HOPE TO THE MILLIONS OF WOMEN WHO YEARN FOR CLASSIC TV.

Nick at Nite is the #1 cable network with women 18-49.* Compared to Lifetime, Nick at Nite delivers 38% more women 18-49 from 8:30p-2a.** And what's more, Nick at Nite Overnite (NANO) delivers more women 18-49 than A&E or Family Channel does in prime time!*** Yes, it's monumental, it's Nick at Nite, it's **popular and getting popularer!**



Source: Nielsen, 9/30/96-2/23/97. *M-Su 8:30p-5:30a except NAN M-Fri 8:30p-5:30a/Sa10p-5:30a/Su 9p-5:30a; Life M-F 8:30p-2a/Sa-Su 8:30p-1a; A&E M-Su 8:30p-4a; TDC, TNN M-Su 8:30p-3a. **NAN M-F 8:30p-2a/Sa 10p-2a/Su 9p-2a; Life M-F 8:30p-2a/Sa-Su 8:30p-1a. **NAN M-Su 2a-5:30a; A&E, Family M-Su 8p-11p. Excludes kids and sports programming. NAN excludes paid programming. Subject to qualifications upon request. ©1997 Viacom International. All rights reserved.

AT DEADLINE

'New Woman' Close to Having New Owner

K-III is close to a deal in its efforts to sell *New Woman*, insiders say. A top-level source at the monthly said the sale could be completed in three weeks or less and that editor Betsy Carter will help finalize the deal. There was no word last week on the identity of the likely buyer. Last year, *New Woman*'s ad pages were up 3.4 percent to 1,018; the title's total circulation declined 3.2 percent to 1.2 million. *New Woman* publisher Mary Donahue Quinlan, citing new syndicated research, said the book's total readership has grown by 38 percent since last spring, to 4.4 million.

Commerce Supports 'Safe Harbor'

The Senate Commerce Committee last week voted 19-1 for the controversial "safe harbor" on TV stating that the bill will go to the full Senate unless TV networks and producers change the new TV ratings system to one that is "content-based." The Children's Protection From Violent Programming Act would limit shows with significant violence during the hours that "children are most likely to be watching." The hours have not been defined, but the bill's chief sponsor, Sen. Fritz Hollings (D-S.C.), has said they could be any of the hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Supporters included Commerce Chair John McCain (R-Ariz.), who had opposed the bill in another form last year. He said he supports the new version because the TV industry has made no progress in responding to calls for more-specific content information in the ratings. A representative for the TV industry group that set up the current, age-based ratings said: "We are very disappointed, as we believe that parents are pleased overall with our system." A Commerce Committee aide said: "The ball's in their court now," referring to the TV industry.

Internet Services Settle With FTC America Online, CompuServe and Prodigy last

week settled charges with the Federal Trade Commission that they misrepresented the terms of their "free-trial" offers and made unauthorized withdrawals from their customers' accounts. The settlement established standards of marketing and billing for the Internet-service industry, which the FTC had pushed because of alleged consumer-unfriendly practices by the three leading Internet providers. The FTC held that AOL, CompuServe and Prodigy did not make it clear that consumers who accepted the free-trial offers would be automatically enrolled as paying members and charged monthly unless they canceled at the end of the trial period. While agreeing to comply

with the FTC's request for standards, the companies did not acknowledge any wrongdoing in settling the charges; they maintained that they dealt fairly with their customers.

TCI Restores C-SPAN in Long-Term Deal

Tele-Communications Inc. last week said it signed a 15-year affiliate agreement with nonprofit government affairs channel C-SPAN, a deal that also includes the cable programmer's sister service, C-SPAN 2. TCI currently carries C-SPAN in 97 percent of the 16 million homes it controls and C-SPAN 2 in two-thirds of its homes. TCI promised to carry both channels in 100 percent of its systems within two-and-a-half years. C-SPAN and especially

C-SPAN 2 were dropped or cut back to part time by many TCI systems that were forced to add local broadcast signals under the "must-carry" law. Since 1993, C-SPAN has been dropped or cropped by 67 systems serving 9.1 million viewers. Service was ultimately restored to 3.2 million.

People Moving: Charlayne Hunter-Gault will leave *The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer* at the end of June, PBS announced last week. Hunter-Gault, who has served as a correspondent and substitute anchor on the program since 1978, is moving to South Africa to pursue opportunities there. She may continue to do some reporting for *The NewsHour...* Writer Jesse Kornbluth will join AOL Networks today as its editorial director for channel programming. Kornbluth is known in literary circles as creator/editor of The Book Report, the largest book site on the Web. He will continue in that role as he assumes his new duties at the AOL division.

Vibe's Miller: Poised to take a Spin 6 HOLLYWOOD 20 MAGAZINES 52 IQ NEWS

Inside

Jacor Buys Traffic-Report Cos.

Jacor Communications last week bought Los Angeles-based Airtraffic Communications and San Diego-based Airwatch, companies that provide traffic reports for TV and radio stations in Southern California, for \$18 million. Steve Springer, president of Airtraffic and Airwatch, will continue to run the companies for Covington, Ky.-based Jacor.

Corrections: An item in the Magazines department (*Mediaweek*, April 28) incorrectly noted *Discover*'s ad-revenue total for 1996. The correct total is \$26.3 million. Also, in Real Money in the same issue, the agency attribution for Kellogg's Rice Krispie Treats' new ad campaign should have been Leo Burnett, Chicago. In At Deadline, a headline should have said that the GOP supports an end to newspaper cross-ownership.

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MEDIA WIRE

'Ellen' Episode a Big Ratings Winner, Except in the South

Last Wednesday's "coming out" episode of *Ellen* scored big national ratings for ABC and was strong in most regions except the South, where the one-hour special drew far less viewership than in most of the rest of the country. The episode—in which the lead character, played by Ellen DeGeneres, announced that she is gay—earned a 23.4 rating/35 share in the overnights, according to Nielsen Media Research. Those numbers were far above *Ellen*'s 9.6/16 season-to-date average.

The strongest overnight markets for the episode were Boston (33.9/45), San Francisco (31.6/45) and Seattle (31.4/44). Of the 37 overnight measured markets, Memphis (14.8/22) had the fewest viewers. Other Southern markets, including Charlotte, N.C. (17.9/26); West Palm Beach, Fla. (18.2/26); Miami (18.3/26); and New Orleans (19.6/27) ranked near the bottom.

While Nielsen does not measure TV viewership among gays, the April 30 *Ellen* likely drew a huge gay audience. Dave Mulryan, partner of Mulryan/ Nash Advertising, an agency that helps large companies reach the gay market, estimated "90 percent of all gay people in the country" watched the show. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said that about 11,150 people attended "Come Out With Ellen" viewing parties that the group hosted around the country.

The episode also pulled in strong young adult and female demographics and helped ABC to tie NBC in first place in adults 18-49 (both with 6.5/18) after one week of the May sweeps. *Ellen* earned a 19.3/43 in adults 18-49; a 22.9/48 in women 18-49; and a 24.2/50 in women 18-34. —*Richard Katz*

Dolce of 'Details', 'Sports' Publisher Brown Out at CN

Condé Nast last week made major changes in senior staff at two magazines. Details editor Joe Dolce abruptly resigned after he confirmed what has been industry speculation for months—that his corporate bosses are (continued on page 6)

Syndie Deals Break Early

Fear of high network CPMs triggers market

THE UPFRONT / By Michael Freeman

acing what they anticipate will be the most costly network ad sales season ever, buyers jump-started the syndication upfront last week to hedge their bets with the broadcast nets. Syndicators King World Productions and Paramount were said to have concluded deals with agencies last week. The entire syndication upfront is expected to move this week in a flurry.

Fear is the primary motivator in the early break of syndication business. Buyers are expecting the broadcast nets to seek CPM increases of 10 percent to 15 percent when the network selling season opens at the end of this month. "Everybody I talk to says this is going to be the biggest upfront ever," said one buyer. "So you want to get your syndication dollars down at efficiencies [better than] the networks'."

The pre-network syndication upfront is expected to total a record \$2.2 billion, up about 10 percent from last year. It's not that buyers are feeling more generous. Rather, they are hoping that the dollars they put down early in syndication will send a message to network sales execs looking for those hefty CPM increases.

"When you see money moving early in syndication, it's safe to assume that many of us are looking for a favorable price advantage against the networks," said Steve Grubbs, senior vp of national broadcast buying for BBDO New York.

The Big Four networks, along with the WB and UPN, are expected to take in a record \$6.0-\$6.2 billion in the broadcast upfront, despite the broadcasters' overall ratings decline this season. "The networks are looking for huge increases even though the [ratings] erosion appears to be working against them," said Jon Barovick, vp of ad sales for syndicator Tribune Entertainment. "As rating points erode, it leads the networks to raise their CPMs to stem the losses. Advertisers know they will have to buy even more gross rating points to maintain the same national reach."

The broadcast networks' aggressive early

positioning has opened the door for syndicators to close some major deals, said Rino Scanzoni, executive vp of national broadcast buying for TeleVest. "Syndication has always been much







The fall collection: Advertiser demand is expected to be strong for the new syndicated offerings (from top) *X-Files*, *Frasier* and *Martha Stewart Living*

more fluid [than network], where there is usually this long mating dance," Scanzoni said.

The early syndication upfront is similar to what happened two years ago, when syndie deals went down in April. Buyers said there is considerable interest in several shows set to premiere this fall in daytime, late night and prime. On the hot list of new fall strips are Paramount's off-network repeats of *Frasier*; Eyemark's *Martha Stewart Living* and *Gayle King* talk-show combination; and Buena Vista's *Keenen Ivory Wayans* talk show for late night. Among the new weekly entries, the fastest early sellers are expected to be Twentieth Television's repeats of *The X-Files* and *NYPD Blue*.

Buyers said that first-tier syndie shows should earn 8–9 percent CPM increases. However, distributors said that hot shows such as Columbia TriStar's *Seinfeld* and Warner Bros. *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* will top out in the 10-15 percent range. "If buyers are saying 8 percent, they're spinning," said one syndicator.

Dan Cosgrove, Eyemark Entertainment vp of advertiser sales, predicted that the renewed popularity of "clean" talk shows (such as *Rosie* and Eyemark's upcoming *Martha Stewart*) could push CPMs in daytime up by as much as 15 percent. "The fact is, daytime is fueling the syndication market because there are a lot fewer shows which raise content concerns among advertisers," Cosgrove said.

Buyers will be trying to stay away from syndicated shows with ratings lower than 3, but sellers are attempting to package the A-list product with lesser fare. Buyers said that shows under a 3 ratings will earn minimal pricing increases.

Some cable networks have also been able to take advantage of buyers' trepidation about the broadcast upfront by closing early deals. Buyers are expected to make additional cable deals this week, alongside the syndie business, as a hedge against high broadcast rates. MTV Networks closed a major deal last week, sources said.

Some buyers are projecting that the cable upfront will generate \$2.2–\$2.4 billion in total ad sales, up 10-12 percent over last year. Leo Burnett, TeleVest, J. Walter Thompson, Grey and Chiat Day are ready to move some business; buyers there are looking for CPM increases of 5-7 percent. One sales executive at a midsized cable network said last week that, like the market two years ago, "it's a freight train—only this year, the agencies saw it coming and have planned to put more money into cable."

Cable will not come close to wrapping its business this week. But deals are working for the likes of USA Networks, Discovery Networks, Lifetime and The Family Channel. Even midsized networks including Comedy Central and E! are expected to get into the game this week. —with Michael Bürgi and Richard Katz

A Billion for Billboards

Giant Outdoor Systems gets even bigger with deal for 3M unit

OUT-OF-HOME ADVERTISING / By Claude Brodesser

he country's largest and fastest-growing billboard company, Outdoor Systems, shook the industry again last week with a \$1 billion deal to acquire 3M's National Advertising Co., the U.S.' No. 3 outdoor concern. Phoe-

nix-based Outdoor Systems has been on an acquisition binge; the company's 11 deals in the past 12 months have included a \$710 million purchase of Gannett's outdoor unit and last month's \$170 million buy of Van Wagner Communications.

All of Outdoor Systems' acquisitions in the past year, with one exception (Dallas-based Reynolds Media), have been in markets where the company already operated out-of-home media. "The first thing we always look at is where we operate, where they operate," Wally Kelly, Outdoor Systems senior vp, said of the company's competitors. "[With] 3M, there are a lot of efficiencies."

Some media buyers and analysts believe that the Outdoor–3M merger could lead to higher rates for outdoor advertisers in major markets where the two companies have a substantial presence—including Los Angeles, Chicago,

Detroit, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta and Phoenix. The deal will give Outdoor Systems control of 15 to 18 percent of the out-of-home industry and a major presence in 20 of the top 25 markets. The Justice Department's antitrust unit will review the deal; Outdoor Systems is expected to have to sell off some of its properties.

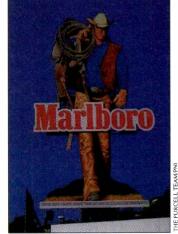
"Price increases are one of the consequences of concentration," said one Wall Street analyst who requested anonymity. "The leverage moves now to the sellers."

The deal comes at a time of rapid consolidation in the out-of-home industry, set in motion in part by the anticipated departure of tobacco advertising. The cigarette industry is mulling a voluntary ban on billboards as part of a farreaching agreement with the federal government. Also contributing to outdoor's uptick is the erosion of TV ratings, which has prompted many advertisers to consider outdoor as an alternative medium.

"I am encouraged by the purchase, because Outdoor is a terrific operator," said Ellis Verdi, president of DiVito Verdi, the outdoor buying firm. But Verdi also added that he is "discouraged... about a lack of competition. We're very sensitive to price increases because we do a lot of buys for retailers." Verdi said that he expects rates to rise for his clients that do business with Outdoor Systems.

Evidence is continuing to mount that tobacco—which accounts for 10 to 12 percent of outdoor advertising—may soon be disappearing

> from billboards. The U.S. Supreme Court last week declined to review a challenge to Baltimore's two-yearold ban on alcohol and tobacco advertising in residential areas. That news was followed by a flurry of new moves to curb tobacco and liquor ads in cities including Detroit, New York, Milwaukee and Philadelphia. "We are prepared to move expeditiously on



Smoke-free push: 3M has already limited its boards' exposure to tobacco ads

this," said Alberta Tinsley Williams, a member of Detroit's city council.

Drew Marcus, an analyst with Alex. Brown & Sons, believes that Outdoor Systems and many other out-of-home companies are well positioned to ride out a pinch on tobacco business. "Consolidation has helped a lot of the [outdoor companies] that [previously] were not able to deliver good regional or national coverage," Marcus said. "Tobacco should be replaced without any pain."

Outdoor Systems' Kelly said that it is an "ironic" but happy coincidence that 3M has refused to take new tobacco ads since last December, a move that has left tobacco at only 3 percent of 3M's outdoor revenue. Outdoor Systems currently takes in about 8 percent of its revenue from tobacco.

Outdoor advertising currently accounts for just 2.2 percent of total ad spending. Because of the industry's recent wave of consolidation, Marcus predicted that outdoor will attract 3 percent of spending within five years. Marcus added that a less-fragmented business will attract spending from new ad categories, which should offset the looming loss of tobacco.

MEDIA WIRE

conducting a search for his replacement. Dolce, considered a hip, downtown—style editor, had been asked by Condé Nast editorial director James Truman, formerly the editor of *Details*, to move the young men's book into the highly competitive work-oriented, service—for—Regular Joes arena.

Persons already contacted as possible successors to Dolce include former *Premiere* editor Chris Connelly; the recently departed editor of *Los Angeles*, Michael Caruso; *New York Times Magazine* editorial director Adam Moss; *Rolling Stone* senior editor Will Dana; *New York* executive editor John Homans; and Adweek Magazines editorin-chief Craig Reiss. Roger Trilling, a producer for MTV, is also said to be a candidate.

Over at Condé Nast Sports For Women, publisher Deanna Brown was replaced last week by Suzanne Grimes, previously publisher of TV Guide. Sports for Women is said to be behind projections on ad sales for its fall launch, which has already been postponed from its originally planned start-up this spring. TV Guide has not named a successor to Grimes. —Jeff Gremillion

Chicago News Anchor Quits Over Springer Commentaries

Carol Marin, a 12-year news anchor at WMAQ-TV in Chicago, resigned from the NBC-owned station last week in protest of a plan to use syndicated talkshow host Jerry Springer as a fill-in commentator beginning this week. Ron Magers, coanchor with Marin on the station's 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newcasts, joined other WMAQ staffers in signing a letter of protest that was sent to NBC president Bob Wright.

Marin said that the plan to use Springer is a "fleeting symptom" of an alleged plan by WMAQ's management to add more tabloid elements to the station's newscasts.

WMAQ's 6 and 10 p.m. newscasts have consistently ranked second in the ratings to ABC-owned WLS in Chicago over the last decade. The plan to add Springer to the newscasts was hatched in March, one month after WMAQ general manager Lyle (continued on page 8)

ASkyB Seeks New Suitor

Amid rancor and resignation, Murdoch to woo possible partners

If Sky's alliance

disintegrates, two big

competitors would

be far ahead.

DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE / By Michael Bürgi

ky, the billion-dollar and heavily touted satellite alliance between News Corp. and EchoStar Communications, is falling. Only two months ago, the much-vaunted deal to create a national direct-to-home satellite service to compete with the cable industry was dubbed Death Star. Now Death Star itself seems to be dead, and there is much work remaining to bring Sky to life.

Sky's troubles boiled over last week on two fronts. Most importantly, News Corp.'s chief

satellite executive, Preston Padden, suddenly resigned. It was Padden who in February shook the cable industry by announcing that his employer, News Corp., and EchoStar were melding to create Sky, pairing EchoStar's existing satellite business with News

Corp.'s ASkyB resources, including satellite slots and up to \$1 billion in cash. Last week's other dropping shoe involved EchoStar, the Denver-based newcomer to the high-power satellite field, which revealed that News Corp. had grave reservations about the joint venture.

Padden was apparently frustrated over the stalled venture, which was set to begin in 1998. Analysts reported that he and EchoStar chairman Charlie Ergen had clashed repeatedly over issues both large and small, from day-to-day control to which access-security device the alliance would use.

If the Sky alliance were to disintegrate, both companies would be left in less-than-ideal positions relative to the rest of the emerging direct broadcast satellite industry. EchoStar would find itself left at the altar by a partner that could have boosted its market position and its bottom line. And News Corp. would return to square one in an attempt to singlehandedly create a satellite operation that would take years to build alone. By then, analysts expect that DirecTV, the market leader with 2.6 million current subscribers, will have pushed even farther

> ahead, and second-place Primestar, with 1.5 million subscribers, will not be far behind.

> Although neither News Corp. nor EchoStar talked openly last week about the rift, Ergen, who remains the project's ceo, and News Corp. chairman Rupert Murdoch

will investigate possible partnerships with both Primestar and DirecTV. However, those companies said there is little chance for any kind of union. "We did discuss the possibility of a business alliance [with Murdoch] before he announced his deal with EchoStar," Bob Marsocci, a DirecTV representative, said last week. "But no serious consideration was given to it."

Jim Gray, Primestar president, also expressed doubt about News Corp. eventually coming on board. "It's very late," said Gray. "If you're still putting your architecture together now, you're behind in the game."

'Vibe' in Hunt for 'Spin' Buy

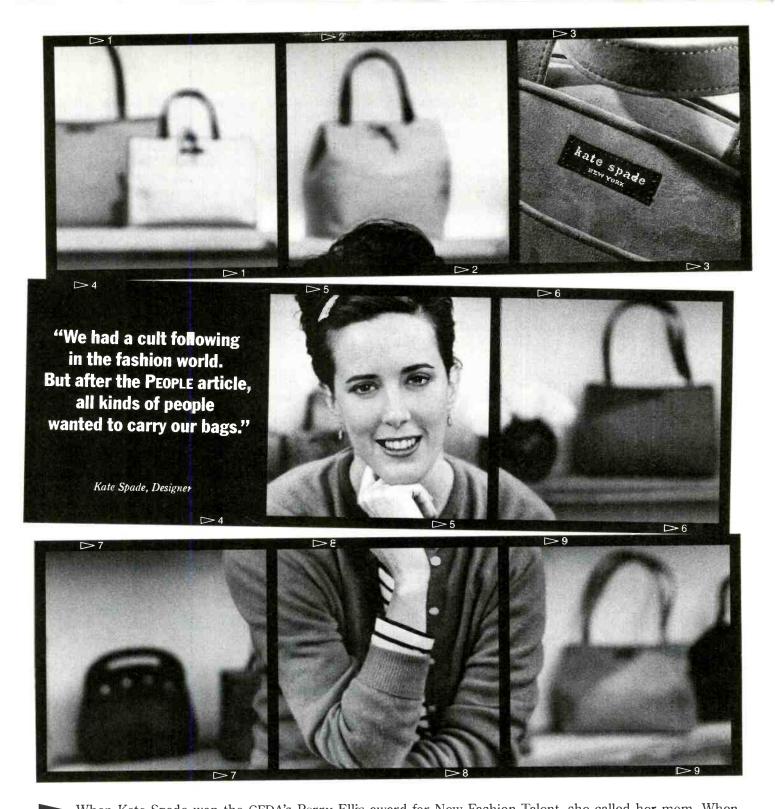
Strong synergies seen in combined advertising sales of two titles

MAGAZINES / By Jeff Gremillion

ob Guccione Jr. appears to be close to selling *Spin* to the owners of *Vibe*. The *Spin* editor/publisher is considering selling the alternative-music magazine he launched 12 years ago to Robert Miller and his partners, who include *Vibe* founder Quincy Jones. "[Guccione] has scheduled a meeting with Bob Miller next week," a *Spin* representative said last Friday. "He takes [Miller's] interest very seriously."

Neither Guccione nor Miller could be reached. *Vibe* publisher John Rollins had no comment. Miller is a partner in Vibe Ventures, which bought *Vibe* from Time Inc. last year. *Spin* is owned by Camouflage Associates.

"That would be a very strong combination," said analyst Martin S. Walker of the possible sale. "That would be a good buy for *Vibe*." *Spin*'s circulation is 500,000; the title took in \$27.7 million in ad revenue last year. No details were disclosed regarding the asking price.



When Kate Spade won the CFDA's Perry Ellis award for New Fashion Talent, she called her mom. When PEOPLE ran an article about Kate reinventing the handbag, buyers from America's most celebrated stores called her. "The article had a huge impact," Kate said. "We're a young company and it made us credible all over America. Everyone loves to see how fashion looks in real life, and no one does that better than PEOPLE." To see what impact PEOPLE can have on your advertising, call our stylish Publisher, Nora McAniff at 212-522-2028.

MEDIA WIRE

Banks hired Joel Cheatwood as the station's news director. Cheatwood gained a national profile for creating fast-paced newscasts for Sunbeam Corp.'s WSVN in Miami and WHDH in Boston.

Springer, whose talk show is syndicated by Universal, is scheduled to do commentaries for WMAQ during the May sweeps.

WMAQ's Banks and Cheatwood could not be reached for comment. John Rohrbeck, president of the NBC Television Stations group, said that Banks' association with Springer (whose talk show is produced at WMAQ's studios) led to the arrangement for the commentaries. In expressing his support of WMAQ's management and of Springer, Rohrbeck added: "If [Springer's] commentaries are as well thought out or insightful as we think they will be, the viewers will ultimately judge if he is providing a public service. This is not a long-term deal, and if it doesn't work, we'll move on." -Michael Freeman

Belo Appoints New Top Managers in Broadcast Unit

A.H. Belo Corp. last week made several changes in the top management of its broadcast division. Glenn C. Wright was named senior vp for the group, reporting to president Ward Huey. Wright previously was vp and general manager of KIRO-TV in Seattle.

R. Paul Fry was named to the new position of vp, cable and program development. Fry had been Belo's controller and worked on the company's recent acquisition of the Providence Journal Co. Succeeding Fry as controller is J. William Mosley, previously controller at KIRO. Also, Ilene L. Engle has been named director of news for the Belo TV group.

Belo also said that Dennis Williamson is moving from KGW in Portland, Ore., to run the company's new Seattle station, KING, as vp and general manager. Williamson succeeds Anthony Twibell, who is retiring. Also stepping down is John Llewellyn, vp and gm at WCNC in Charlotte, N.C. Belo is expected to name successors to Llewellyn in Charlotte and Williamson in Portland this week. —Claude Brodesser

The combined circulation of *Vibe* and *Spin* would be just under 1 million, and the potential for group advertising sales at the enhanced Vibe Ventures could be enormous. Both books target readers in their late 20s, Walker noted. *Vibe* leans black and female, while *Spin* skews white and male. "There would be a ton of synergism," said Walker. "There's not much overlap in readership; they have relatively unduplicated audiences."

Editorially, the books have a great deal in common. Besides their four-letter titles, both magazines are printed in the same oversized format and, in neo-Rolling Stone style, include journalism about the darker side of the cultures they cover. A recent issue of Spin

included a piece on Oklahoma City bombing defendant Timothy McVeigh. And hip-hop and urban music book *Vibe* has run cover stories about the recent murders of rappers Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G. Both books also owe a burst of new ad revenue from clothiers to beefed-up fashion coverage.

Spin staffers are proceeding "with the understanding that [Vibe buying Spin] is not an impossibility," said an insider in Guccione's shop. The source added that staffers are taking "solace" in Miller's takeover track record. Miller kept the Vibe staff intact when he joined with Quincy Jones in buying the title from Time. Miller oversaw the monthly when he was a Time Inc. executive.

Going for Seventh Heaven

Dream of a new network inspires Paxson's \$150M bid for WBIS+

TV STATIONS / By Claude Brodesser

all Street appears uncertain about whether Lowell "Bud" Paxson is on schedule to launch a seventh television network or is behind the eight ball. "I don't know why they're

[Paxson Communications] doing it," said Dennis McAlpine, managing director at Josephthal, Lyon & Ross, referring to Paxson's \$150

million bid last week to buy New York's WBIS+ to serve as his network flagship. "It cost too much the first time it got sold."

Added analyst John Reidy of Smith Barney: "It seems unlikely that if [Paxson] is trying to build a network that he'd sell stations to pay for the purchase of WBIS+ in New York. More likely, he'd sell off his radio properties."

But there will be no sale of any of his 40 radio

stations to buy WBIS+ from ITT Corp. and Dow Jones, Paxson insisted during an interview last Friday. "I have a line of credit in the company that I have not used, "Paxson said. The proposed WBIS+ purchase "will be subordinated bank debt," he said.

Despite Wall Street's reservations, Paxson clearly is on a roll in fulfilling his self-imposed four-month deadline to launch a new network. His clock began ticking in March, immediate-

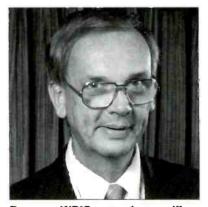
ly after a favorable U.S. Supreme Court ruling that cable operators must carry all broadcast stations in their respective service areas. The ruling guaranteed that Paxson's 49 stations, which feature infomercial and religious programming, would continue. Paxson's yet-to-be-christened network "won't be like a traditional network," he said.

Paxson's zealous timetable has him acquir-

ing stations in quick succession. Also last week, he made a \$35 million deal to buy Pittsburgh's WPCB, a religious station that will give him access to the country's 17th-largest market (see page 9). As for when the WBIS+ deal will be consummated, Paxson said he expects closure "in 10 days," with the network deal coming to fruition "in around 90 days."

Reportedly both News Corp. and Paxson

were initially involved in the WBIS+ purchase negotiations, but News Corp. bailed out when its executives failed to convince chairman Rupert Murdoch of the station's profit potential, sources said. ITT, for its part, would not comment on the bidding process for WBIS+; a spokesman said that discussions are continuing "with several interested parties." A Dow Jones spokesman declined to comment on Paxson's bid.



Paxson: WBIS+ purchase will be subordinated bank debt.

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PCTV: 'Must See' for Geeks TV STATIONS

Computer makers bet on data delivered along with the TV signal

NEW TECHNOLOGY / By Michael Freeman

emember Videotex, the pseudointeractive technology of the early '80s-with names such as Viewtron, Gateway and Qube—that was going to revolutionize the way Americans read, watched TV and shopped? It's back, in an advanced form. Only now, consumers are more accustomed to obtaining information over computers and at least some of them are familiar with interactive media.

A number of companies are seeking to rush the marriage of the computer and the TV set with personal-computer cards that decode and store information about TV programs and advertiser services, as well as other data, that is transmitted over the vertical blanking interval contained in every TV signal. The VBI is a

black bar that carries data to synchronize network and local broadcast feeds as well as providing a vast array of over-the-air data. Of the 21 lines of the VBI, up to 10 are needed for local broadcast transmissions. Another eight to 10 lines are leased out to credit card verification companies, remote beeper companies, closed-captioning services (line 21) and the emerging broadcast TV-to-PC services.

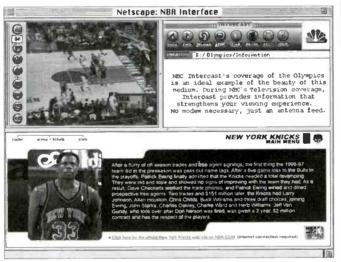
Computer industry giants Intel Corp. and Microsoft Corp. are either making inroads on the delivery of analog signals

and drawing up more forward-thinking strategies on the eventual transition broadcasters will be making to digital TV services over the next nine years. There also are a number of small, recent startup companies that are carving out pieces of the broadcast PC pie, with various types of text-driven data, graphics and video service being transmitted along the VBI portion of the analog signal.

Within the past year, Intel Corp. has been the most successful in utilizing its leverage in the hardware market to introduce its Intercast service, a combination of Internet-like Web data and analog broadcast signals. Intercast has a significant head start in signing such national networks as NBC, CNN, ESPN, WGBH and MTV Networks as content providers. Intel has not, for the most part, sought the participation of local broadcasters.

John Kirby, Intel's product manager for Intercast, estimates that there are only about 100,000 personal computers that have been manufactured or upgraded to receive the Intercast service. Computer makers such as Gateway, Ouantex and AST have already signed with Intel to install "Intercast-ready" hardware.

While numerous computer industry watchers have praised Intel for its delivery of a content-rich, Web browser-like environment, several noted that Intercast has been hobbled by its data rate of 9600 baud, one-third of the speed of the typical telephone modem. The



Screen play: NBC has used Intel's Intercast to offer extra Web content to viewers of NBA games on PCs.

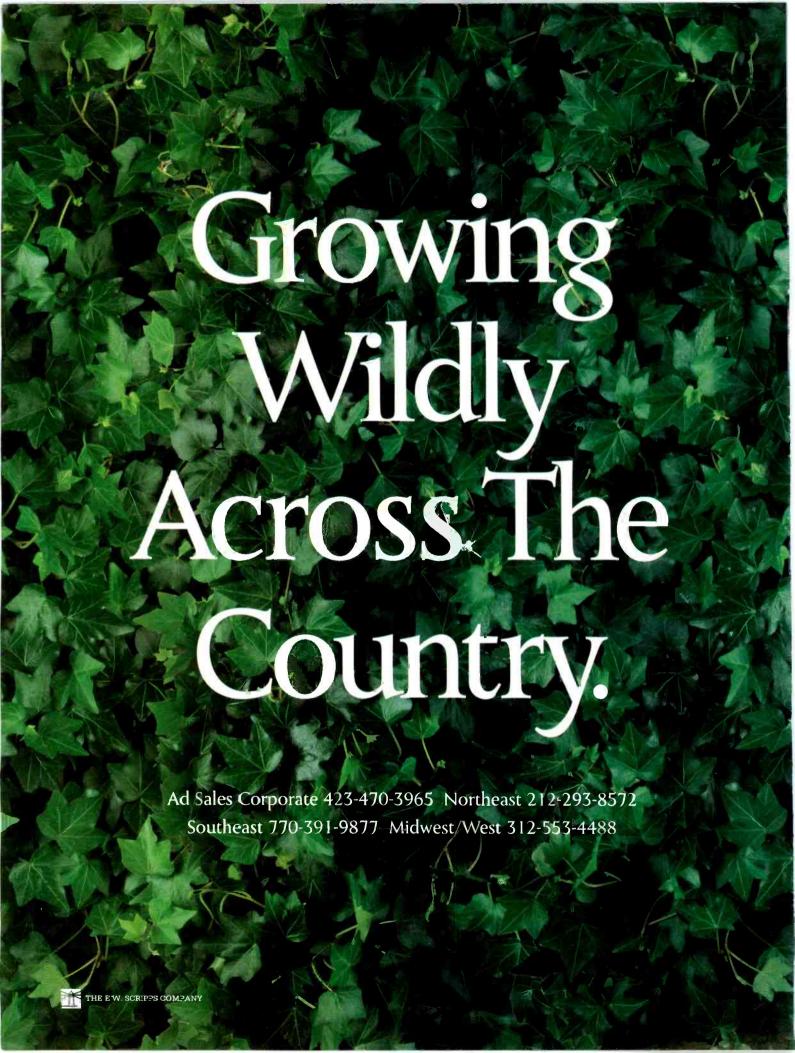
inherent advantage of using the TV stations' vertical blanking interval is the ability to deliver data at rates ranging from 550 kilobits to 2.3 megabits per second (Mbps).

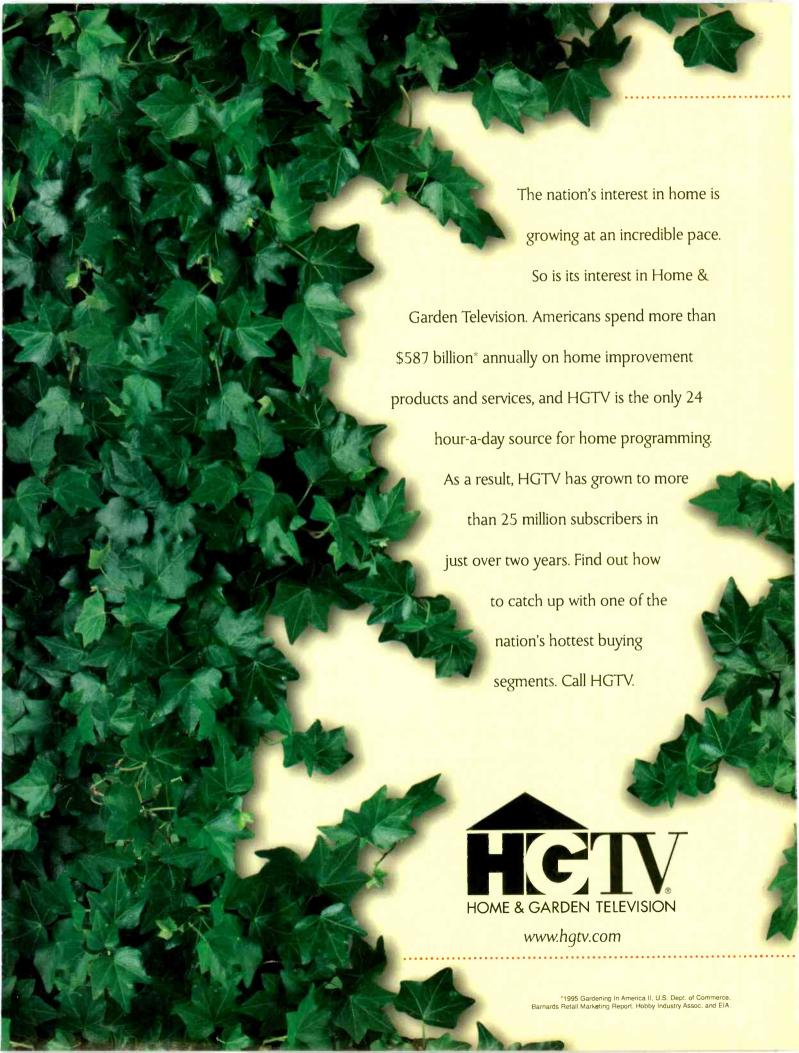
WGBH in Boston is currently delivering its locally produced PBS educational series, Nova, on Intercast three times a week via the station's over-the-air VBI signal to PC users in New England and southern Canada. Annie Valva, WGBH director of technology, notes that Intercast uses only one line of the station's VBI and that the 9600-baud rate typically means that the data portion of the Nova feed has to be cached three or four times within its hour-long airing.

"We are happy with Intercast's contentbased features, but there do appear to be some

Paxson Communications last week struck a three-way deal to enter the Pittsburgh market. The West Palm Beach, Fla.-based station group, which airs primarily infomercials and religious programming, purchased Pittsburgh's WPCB-TV (channel. 40) last week from Wall, Pa.-based Cornerstone TeleVision. Cornerstone, a twostation group of religious stations, sold its flagship WPCB for \$35 million. Cornerstone also made a deal with WOED Television, a Pittsburgh-based public television station group that owns both of the market's PBS affiliates, WOED (channel 13) and WQEX-TV (16). WPCB will swap signals with WQEX; Paxson will take over WPCB's old station using WQEX's old signal. Cornerstone will split the \$35 million payment it is getting from Paxson with WQED. Group owner Lowell "Bud" Paxson has met with top TV and movie studio executives in an effort to use his 49-station group as a distribution network for programming. Paxson also has hired WQED to produce four to five hours per week of children's and public affairs programming. Stamford, Conn.-based Richard Foreman was the media brokerage that handled both deals.

Las Vegas had the largest revenue growth of all local television markets last year, according to a report issued last week by the Chantilly, Va.-based Broadcast Industry Analysts group. From 1995 to 1996, most of the revenue growth occurred in Sun Belt cities, which mirrors the nation's population growth. Las Vegas (DMA No. 64) placed first with a 24.6 percent revenue gain; Raleigh-Durham, N.C. (No. 29), was second, with an 18.4 percent increase; Cincinnati (30) was third with a 13.4 percent boost; Charlotte, N.C. (28), and Birmingham, Ala. (51), tied for fourth, each with a 13.2 percent increase. Baton Rouge, La. (98), was up 12.4 percent in revenue, clinching the No. 6 spot. Knoxville, Tenn. (60), was in seventh place, with an 11.8 percent gain. Rounding out the top 10 were Kansas City (32), at 11.7; Atlanta (10), at 11.6; and West Palm Beach, Fla. (44), also at 11.6 percent. -Claude Brodesser





CABLE TV

Rainbow Programming Holdings said last week that it will fold its NewSport service on July 9 and use the sports news channel's resources to aid Rainbow's American Sports Classics channel, scheduled to launch on that date. Rainbow is controlled by cable operator Cablevision Systems Corp. Rainbow counts 10 million NewSport subscribers, many of whom receive the channel on a part-time basis. The programmer is expected to try to convert these subscribers over to ASC. However, cable operators generally resist such switchouts. Also, operators have responded favorably to Classics Sports Network, which beat ASC to market by two years. Separately, Cablevision has responded to a complaint filed with the FCC in March by the owners of Classic Sports. In the response, Cablevision listed several reasons for not offering Classic Sports as a basic service to more than 161,000 homes (Cablevision has a total of 2.8 million homes; in some systems, it is offering Classic as a tiered service). Cablevision cited "legitimate business reasons, such as CSN's decision to distribute its service in the New York area on WBIS; high rates for a poorly executed classic sports service that is essentially limited to non-exclusive replays of old games; channel capacity restrictions and delays in system rebuilds; and onerous penetration requirements to qualify for lower rates."

Tele-Communications Inc. last week released preliminary financial results for the first quarter that showed revenue up 17 percent to \$1.56 billion. TCI said that its cash flow was up 41 percent to \$701 million over the same period. But not all the news was good. TCI suffered a considerable drain of premium subscribers. losing more than 1 million, or 5 percent of its pay subs, in the first quarter. TCI also lost 83,000 basic subscribers but said it made up for that loss with system acquisitions. The sub declines were attributed to recent rate increases, although the company noted that the price increases positively affected revenue and cash-flow growth. TCI also said last week that most of its rollout of digital service will be completed by Christmas. -Michael Bürgi

bandwidth limitations," Valva says. "The problem is that Intel is working within the constraints of the current broadcast spectrum. They have been very responsive, and I think they are really focusing on faster data rates with the rollout of digital television."

Microsoft is sitting on the launch of its own broadcast PC services due to the ongoing development of a replacement operating system for Windows 95 as well as plans for the construction of dedicated digital transmission services via direct broadcast satellite and local TV stations. George Moore, a product unit manager for Microsoft, says that the "Broadcasting for Windows" architecture will be ready when the operating system is released, sometime in early 1998.

Moore says that the Microsoft model for broadcast PC services will work on multiple platforms, including DBS, broadcast analog and digital TV services. Once digital services

can be exploited, Moore estimates, local and national terrestrial broadcasters will deliver 19.3 megabits per second of data in digital transmissions, and terrestrial satellite services will deliver 30 Mbps of data (or 320 gigabytes of data per day) from a single digital transponder.

Moore says that Microsoft will look to DBS to provide a national footprint for delivery of network-oriented programming as part of a joint venture it struck about a

year ago with Hughes Corp.'s DirecTV service to develop the satellite transmission of digital services.

Currently, smaller high-tech companies such as Spot Magic Inc. and En Technology Corp. are developing broadcast PC services utilizing the analog spectrum and promising a faster data rate as well as broader use of the VBI. Both companies have worked a deal with Cox Broadcasting—owned Fox affiliate KTVU in San Francisco for an initial test run of the service to begin this summer.

Spot Magic, a San Francisco-based startup software company, will be providing KTVU with authoring software to embed data on the VBI along with a PC broadcast of the station's popular weekly tourism series, *Our Town*. Spot Magic's chairman, John Armstrong, said plans are to beta test the system on enabled PCs placed with roughly a dozen major ad agencies based in San Francisco.

En Technology, a Milford, N.H.-based company that manufactures VBI receivers, TV modems and data-encoding equipment, is pro-

viding its Cybercast Data Broadcast System to deliver much larger fields of data at a rate of 2.3 megabits per second for the KTVU test, according to Matt Cookson, En's managing director.

"Intercast's data delivery is based on the NABTS standard [North American Basic Teletext Specification], but our format [Cybercast] is a proprietary format that utilizes more of the vertical blanking interval and broadcast spectrum," says Cookson. "Rather than just using one to three lines of the VBI, we're able to send very large fields of data bursts where we can replace one to 262 [vertical lines] of the current NTSC analog signal without degrading the video portion of the feed."

However, other computer industry executives contend that if more than 10 of the available 21 lines of the VBI are utilized to send data, it will inevitably lead to increased data "snow" and degrade the video portion of TV

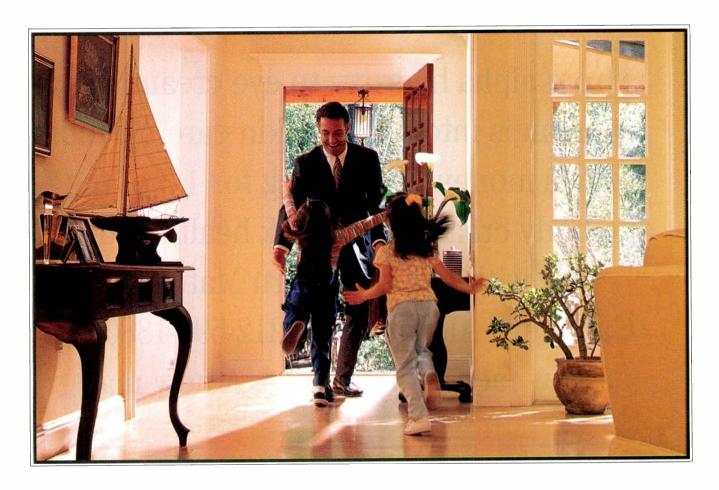


Come ski with me: On Intercast's demo site, Olympian Sven Thorsen promotes lessons at a resort in Utah.

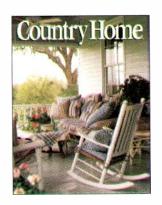
broadcasts. One such executive is John Abel, named last year as president and ceo of Datacast, a competing broadcast PC service founded and financed by major station-group owners Chris-Craft/United Television, LIN Television Corp., Granite Broadcasting and Schurz Communications. The Datacast system has been tested on Chris-Craft/United's WWOR in New York and Granite's KNTV in San Jose, Calif., and the tests confirmed the that signal degradation does result from the use of too many of the VBI's scan lines.

"On the whole, the video portion of the feed is really poor when you look at Intercast," says Abel. "What broadcasters see in the future of broadcast PC services is the incredible promise of delivering data much faster and cost-effectively over the VBI. What it all comes down to is that the computer is a lean-forward medium, where PC users are looking for more content at a faster rate. Then there is the lean-back medium, where a large number of TV viewers still long for the passive viewing experience of traditional television."

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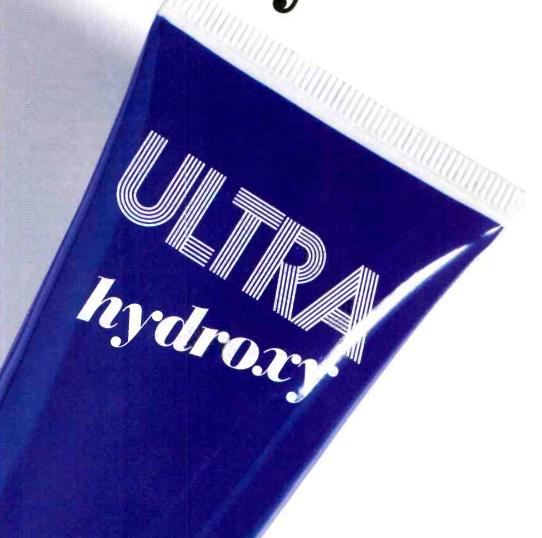
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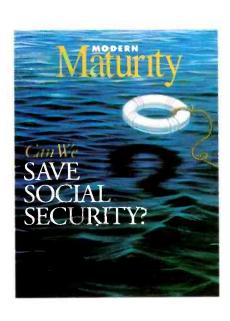
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PAGE 16 May 5, 1997 MEDIAWEEK

NETWORK TV

Monday on Fox is in for a big makeover this summer. Last week, the upstart network rolled out several new shows, specials, movies and other programming for its summer schedule, which kicks off on May 25. Roar, an action-adventure series created by Shaun Cassidy (executive producer of the American Gothic series and star of The Hardy Boys Mysteries) and Ron Koslow (Beauty and the Beast), will cap Monday evening in the 9-10 p.m. slot beginning July 14. The Ruby Wax Show, a half-hour comedy hosted by a Chicago-born comedienne who has a hit talk show in Britain, will air at 8:30 p.m. And to give Mondays a lead-in push, Fox will edit its Saturday late-night show Mad TV for half-hour reruns at 8 p.m. On Sundays, Fox will try out James Brolin as host of Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction? for the 7-8 p.m. slot beginning May 25. Fox's Tuesday-night movies this summer will include such original fare as Alien Nation: The Udara Legacy, L.A. Johns and Bad Girls.

In what NBC is billing as the first combined prime-time network and Internet event, the season finale of NBC's Profiler will appear simultaneously on television screens and computer screens. In the May 10 episode (airing 9-11 p.m. ET), the series' elusive serial killer, Jack, will build and launch his own macabre Web site with an actual URL that can be accessed by viewers. In the story line, the Web site cannot be traced, but it will be left operational as the series credits roll, The "Jack" Web site will be unfurled during the last half hour of the season finale as TV viewers simultaneously see the page on their TV screens. Designed by the NBC Digital Productions team, the site, http://www.jackoftrades.com, will remain active for the summer.

Peter Lund, CBS Television and Cable Group ceo and president, was elected to parent company Westinghouse Electric Corp.'s board of directors last week. Westinghouse chairman Michael Jordan made the announcement at Westinghouse's annual meeting, held in Minneapolis. —Michael Freeman and Richard Katz

NBC, Affils Flail to No Avail

Station groups seek to remain 'primary outlets' for net product

"This is delicate, so

iust can't afford to

talk," said one exec.

delicate that affiliates

TV STATIONS / By Claude Brodesser and Richard Katz

he simmering dispute between NBC and its affiliates continues to stew. An April 28 meeting between NBC brass and 10 heads of affiliate station groups was supposed to resolve an imbroglio between the front-running network and its affiliates, who believe they are suffering while NBC's own new businesses—the cable channels CNBC and MSNBC—prof-

it. Affiliate station execs at the meeting openly characterized the sit-down as "positive." Privately, however, several said they fear that as the television landscape changes, NBC will turn them into stepchildren while making cable, satellite, the Internet and pay-per-view services their "primary outlets."

"The asset value of TV stations is tied to the network affiliation," said one station executive who attended the meeting, requesting anonymity. "If, all of a sudden, cable becomes the primary outlet, we get very concerned. Some of the steps taken by the network have led to distrust." For example, the executive complained, when NBC formed MSNBC with Microsoft, the network announced that the affiliates

would contribute to the new venture. "We've helped build the value of NBC's brand and we should be part of its future," said the executive, adding that an "equity stake or share of profits" in pay-per-view might be one option.

NBC executives, for their part, refused to comment on the meeting. Instead, the network issued a three-line statement: "The affiliate meeting...was an internal business discussion

to address a broad range of topics. It is one of many productive meetings held throughout the course of the year and will not be discussed publicly."

"This is delicate, so delicate that affiliates just can't afford to talk," said another exec familiar with the meet-

ings. "If affiliates don't cooperate with the network's request that negotiations be kept out of the press, they'll lose their chance to resolve this." NBC will hold its annual affiliates meeting May 18–21 in Phoenix.

Groups at last week's meeting included Gannett, LIN Television, Jefferson-Pilot, Cosmos Broadcasting, Kelly Broadcasting, Chronicle Broadcasting, A.H. Belo, Post-Newsweek Stations and Pulitzer Broadcasting.

Given a Sporting Chance

New Tartikoff sitcom gains steam; is cleared in 140 markets

SYNDICATION / By Michael Freeman

amed comedy troupe Second City, former NBC and Paramount chairman Brandon Tartikoff and independent distributor Litton Syndications are mining newfound weekend latenight time-slot vacancies to bring a new sitcom, *The Sports Bar*, to life this fall.

David Morgan, president of Litton Syndications, said that *Sports Bar* has gained additional sales steam in recent weeks due to uncertainty in the syndication market over Buena Vista Television's plans for its John Salley fall talk-show project. In addition, time periods have opened up following the recent cancellations of two action-adventure hours—*Baywatch Nights* (distributed by All American) and *The Cape* (MTM), both of which will be

giving up second-run slots in late fringe.

"Almost everyone at the TV stations we've dealt with immediately associates Second City with being this great farm system for some of the best comedians in the country," Morgan said. "What we're looking to do is get some of the greats like Dan Akroyd, Rick Moranis, Mike Meyers, Jim Belushi, Betty Thomas and Bill Murray to do guest shots on the show."

Since late March, Morgan said, the half-hour sitcom has racked up station clearances in 140 markets representing 81 percent U.S. broadcast coverage. *The Sports Bar*'s client roster includes four NBC owned-and-operated stations—WNBC in New York, WMAQ in Chicago, WRC in Washington, D.C., and WTMJ in Miami.

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OPINION

By James J. Popham, vp/general counsel, Ass'n. of Local TV Stations

Free Retransmission for All

LTV favors maintenance of a compulsory license mechanism for simultaneous secondary transmissions of the signals of broadcast television stations by multichannel video providers. Under the compulsory license regime urged by ALTV, a multichannel video provider could retransmit

the signals of local television stations in their home markets gratis, provided the multichannel video provider retransmitted all television stations in the market to all subscribers in the market. The local market area of a local television station should conform to the area in which the station may elect to be carried as a mustcarry signal under the FCC's rules, regulations and authorizations. To avoid needless inconsistencies, any multichannel video provider which retransmitted a complement of broadcast signals which, if carried by a cable system serving the same subscriber, complied with the cable television must-carry rules, would be presumed to be carrying all local television stations. The compulsory license also would apply to retransmission of a limited number of distant signals.

The basic premise of ALTV's approach is the distinction between a multichannel video provider which functions as a nondiscriminatory conduit for the signals of local television stations and a multichannel video provider which selects and exploits only certain stations in assembling its array of services. The former, unlike the latter, is not disrupting the existing marketplace. ALTV also has premised its position on the valid public interest in maintaining the availability of a limited number of distant signals. While distant signals have become considerably less significant in terms of generating demand for multichannel video services, the public has come to rely on the availability of a few superstations and other "distant" stations from proximate markets.

The compulsory license should not extend to secondary transmission of any program which would infringe on the exclusive exhibition rights of a local television station with respect to either its network or non-network programming. Similarly, any

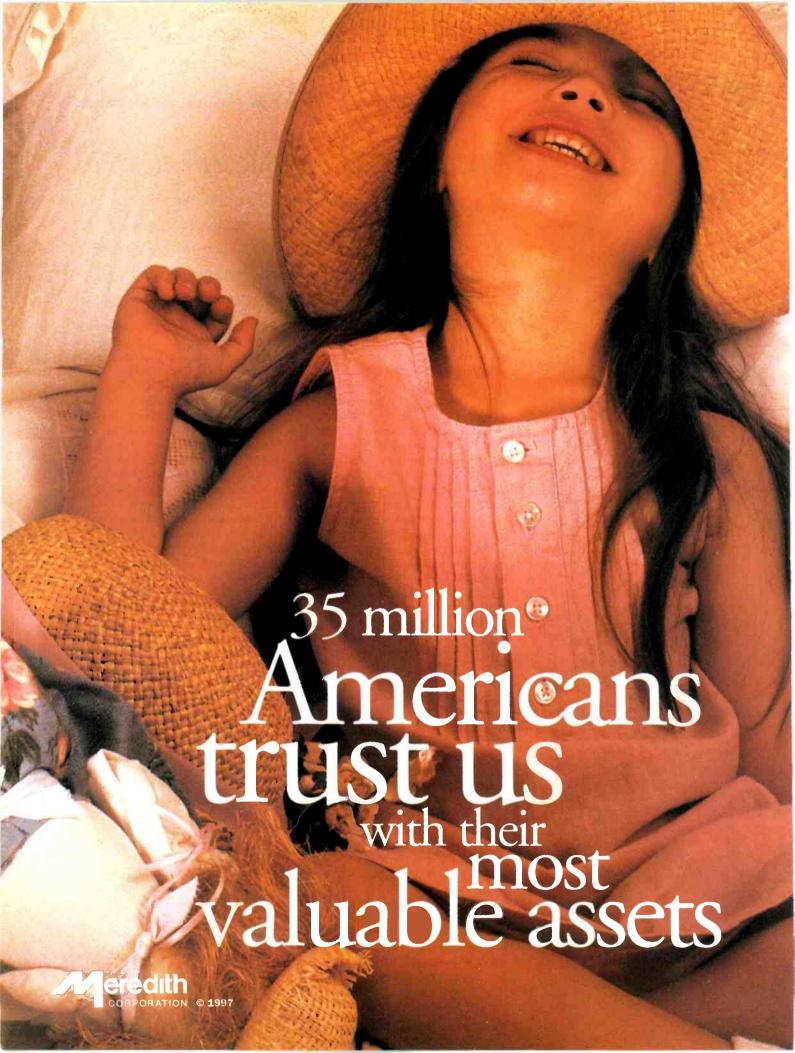
secondary transmission of a program which would not be permitted by the applicable rules and regulations of the FCC regarding network or syndicated program exclusivity or sports blackouts should fall outside the scope of the compulsory license. Furthermore, the compulsory license should not apply to secondary transmission of a distant network affiliated station in any area already served by an affiliate of the same network. The current prohibitions on program alteration and commercial substitution also should be maintained.

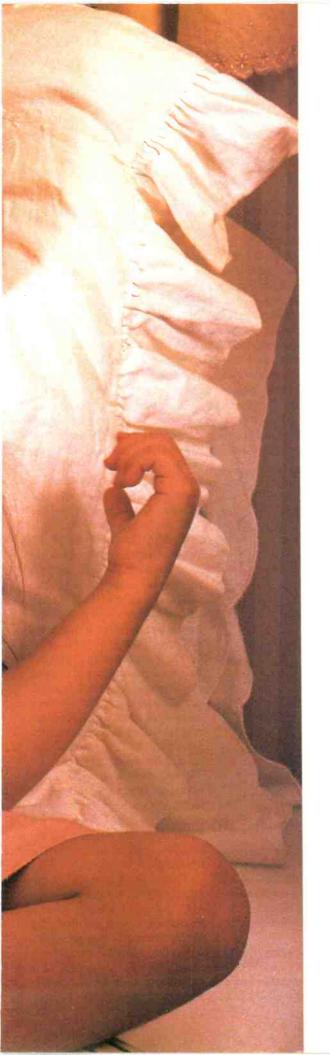
Lastly, fees for secondary transmissions of distant stations should be uniform for all multichannel video providers, regardless of distribution medium. No fee should be charged for local signals. A step-up in fees should be maintained for distant signals in excess of those permitted under the FCC's former distant signal limitations.

ALTV submits that the compulsory license remains a proper mechanism for enabling multichannel video providers to retransmit the signals of local television stations. Generally speaking, the cable compulsory license, now embodied in section 111 of the Copyright Act and complemented by FCC rules and regulations governing broadcast signal carriage by cable television systems, should serve as the model for extension of a compulsory license to other multichannel video providers.

The above was excerpted from the testimony of Mr. Popham before the Library of Congress Copyright Office on April 28, 1997. ALT, based in Washington, D.C., represents TV stations that are not affiliated with the ABC, CBS and NBC TV networks.

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HOLLYWOOD

Betsy Sharkey

ABC's New Dimension

A sweeps campaign
ties the network's
identity to its
hit shows and
special 3-D Week



The May sweeps are always brutal, and the competition between the networks is the stiffest of the year. A strong showing in May helps set the stage for the new season in the fall. It helps push ad revenue over the long summer

stretch until the November ratings book is in. It puts affiliates in a good mood.

A bad May is every network executive's worst nightmare. For the top brass at ABC, the first few days of the sweeps were scary ones, as the network's first two major programming events—*The Shining* and *U2: A Year in Pop*—struggled.

Despite rave reviews and major promotions, the sixhour adaptation of Stephen King's *The Shining*, earned The Shining]," said one veteran media buyer, "but let's face it, May is about three things: numbers, numbers, numbers,"

The U2 performance on Saturday, April 26, turned out to be anything but a Saturday-night special, with the network's numbers sliding to a 2.4 rating/5 share. That was a particularly painful hit since the network's theme for May, "ABC is POP," was designed to tie U2's new album, Pop, and the band's nationwide tour and just-launched video, with the network. Though the U2 show didn't do well, ABC remains convinced that the band is a great associate: It is selling out its tour and getting great reviews, and the network believes that some of that will rub off through the month-long "Pop" connection.

This week, however, represents a more critical test for ABC as nine of the network's shows, essentially its strongest comedies, all go 3-D. It is on the backs of these

shows—especially those in their first or second season, such as The *Drew Carey Show*, *Spin City* and *Sabrina*, *The Teenage Witch* that ABC will build its future.

One of the architects of this future—and therefore one of the ABC executives on the hot seat this month—is executive vp Alan Cohen. Cohen left NBC's marketing powerhouse a little more than a year ago to develop an integrated marketing strategy for ABC.

The question facing Cohen and the team that would come together over this past year, including another NBC veteran, Jim Vescera, senior vp of advertising and promotion, is can they, in concert with the programming arm, help ABC become "must see," too?

"We know this will be an extremely competitive sweeps for us," said Cohen on the eve of its official start date. "Hopefully the on-air promotion will keep the circulation flowing throughout the month."

Change in the network-perception game does not come quickly. ABC got off to a rough start in May: Results from the first four days of sweeps (the sweeps official-

ly kicked off April 24) has the network in fourth place in both homes and adults 18-49. NBC is leading, CBS is second in homes and third among adults 18-49, while Fox is third in homes and No. 2 in adults 18-49. Early-



Drew Carey and Kathy Kinney of *The Drew Carey Show*: Adding mass to the 3-D lineup

only a 12.5 rating and a 19 share its first night and a 12.1 rating/20 share on Monday, enough to put ABC in

the top spot for the night. For the Shining finale, ABC faced NBC's Thursday-night gridlock for the Shining finale.

"The critics' reviews might help soften the blow [on

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HOLLYWOOD

sweeps numbers aside, there are encouraging signs at ABC. A year ago, if television viewers had been asked which network they tuned in to watch the longtime hit show, *Home Improvement*, or *Roseanne*, or *Ellen*, not many would have been able to answer "ABC," at least not instinctively.

Though ABC was consistently winning four nights each week among those advertiser-coveted viewers aged

"A lot of people know 3-D is coming in May. For better or worse,

ABC and NBC end up cross-promoting each other."—Alan Cohen

18–49, most simply didn't link specific shows with the network, even the hits that drove its prime-time schedule. The network itself had virtually no identity. Certainly everyone was familiar with ABC, but when probed for a list of adjectives that described the network, most of the viewers who were surveyed drew a blank.

But today, there are probably only a handful of prime-time watchers who don't associate ABC with *Ellen*, whose character made history last Wednesday when she became the first openly gay prime-time lead. The April 25 edition of 20/20 that featured Diane

Sabrina, The Teenage Witch's Melissa Joan Hart: Cat-ching on

Sawyer's interview with the sitcom's star,

Ellen Degeneres, talking about her own her sexual orientation and agonizing decision to "come out," like the character she portrays, earned a 27 share and won the time period.

The network's tracking studies also indicate that viewers now connect the dots between ABC and Home

Improvement, Drew Carey, NYPD Blue, Spin City, Sabrina, The Teenage Witch, Roseanne and others.

"We're 40 percent higher than last May in terms of awareness," said Cohen.

ABC's 3-D week kicks off Tuesday with *Home Improvement*, where tools will fly towards the head of anyone who picked up their glasses at Wendy's, and *Spin City*, with star Michael J. Fox seeing double. On

Wednesday, the third dimension hits Coach, Drew Carey and Ellen. It closes out on Friday night with Family Matters, Step by Step, Sabrina and a special edition of America's Funniest Home Videos, which will include a 3-D Full House reunion built around Bob Saget, the America's Funniest's host who

came to prominence in that sitcom.

It is no small irony that NBC has its own 3-D special in the works, a multidimensional episode of its hit, 3rd Rock From the Sun, which comes at the end of the month with 3rd Rock's season finale.

"It's unusual that two networks would choose to do this at the same time," said Cohen. "I think both networks discovered this when we started talking to vendors." As for the viewers, he says, "A lot of people know that 3-D is coming [in May]. For better or worse, [ABC and NBC] end up cross-promoting each other."

As important as May is, ultimately for Cohen it's about next season. The fall will bring the first prime-time season put together by new ABC Entertainment chief Jamie Tarses, who has a long history with Cohen from their years together at NBC. The canvas, to an extent, will be theirs for the painting in the colors they choose.

Only last month, Cohen hired a new advertising agency, TBWA Chiat/Day, to work alongside ABC's in-house marketing team. Chiat/Day, which created the Energizer Bunny and the quirky Nissan ads, will help shape a clearer identity for ABC. There is help on the way, too, from ABC's parent, the Walt Disney Company.

"At the time I arrived, so did the Disney company, and it's been exhilarating," said Cohen. "There are so many opportunities to explore in other divisions. We'll have a trailer for *Drew Carey* running on the *Ransom* video, there's signage for 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea [which begins airing on May 11] at all the Disney theme parks. Every day we're working with them."

Cohen and his team know that it all begins with the viewers. The marketing division spends

a lot of time talking to viewers, trying to understand them. At the end of the day, Cohen has to get more of the 100 million viewers out there turning to ABC.

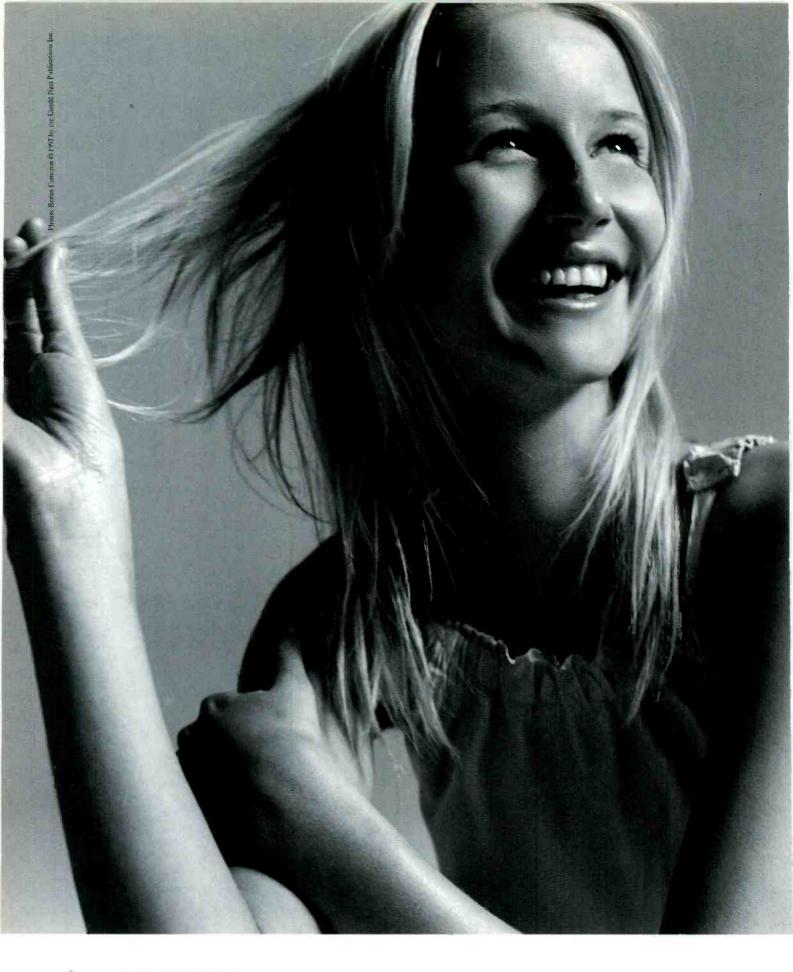
"In the fall, you'll see the next level, a repositioning that will give us the identity we've been searching for," said Cohen. "We're not satisfied yet."

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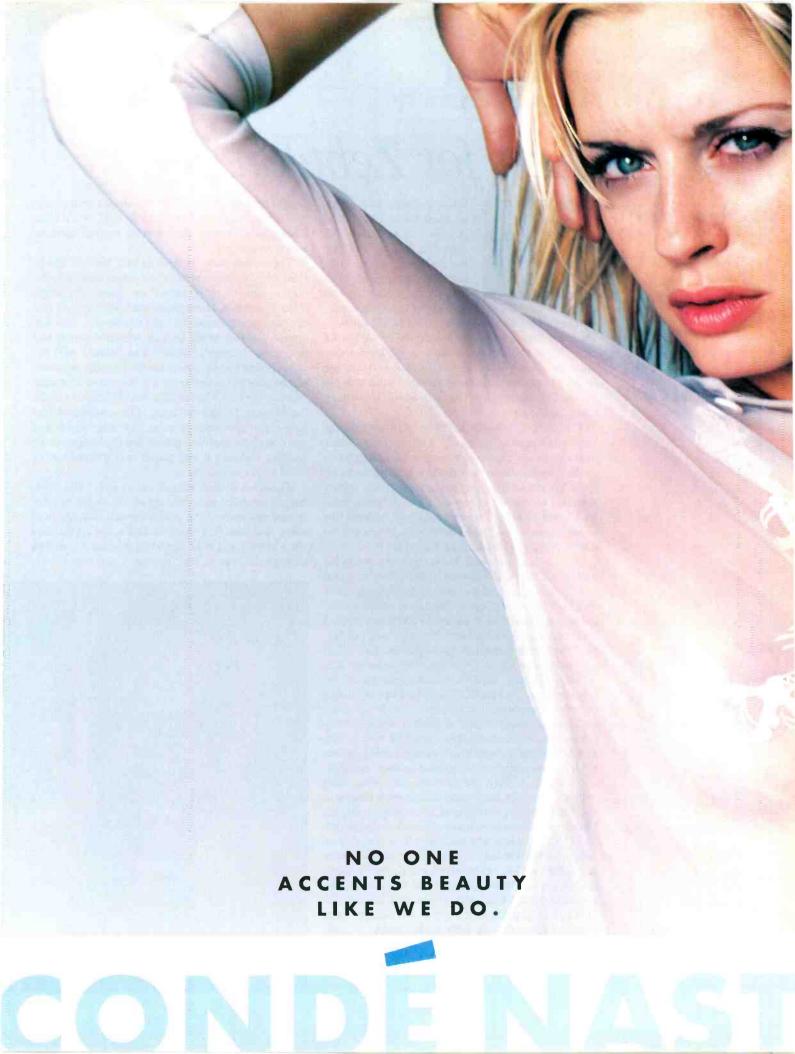


*Nielsen H.H. Ratings February 1996 vs February 1997.

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WASHINGTON

Alicia Mundy

Blues for Zebulon Lee

Why won't the FCC
let a broadcaster in
Asheville, N.C., for
nearly 60 years
keep his station?



When Zebulon Lee began his quest for an FM station in his home town of Asheville, N.C., in 1987, he had no idea he was embarking on a pilgrimage about as long as the Crusades, and with about the same result.

He's lost his fortune, his house and his family business. The Lees, broadcasters for 60 years in the Asheville area, where Thomas Wolfe wrote *Look Homeward*, *Angel*, are about to have their station shut down and are clinging to the hope that petitions they filed with the Federal Communications Commission will allow them to stay on the air.

But the Lees' request has been lying dormant for almost four years at the agency. And now, in a further twist in the case, their station has just been snapped up by the Capstar empire, leaving Lee to wonder why he spent 10 years filling out application forms asking about his willingness to provide a local voice on radio for his community. "I never would have believed this would happen to me," says Lee, now 86. "I've spent the last 58 ½ years in broadcasting. I don't get it."

Zeb Lee's case is small. But it represents a very big problem at the FCC—an embarrassing lack of action on radio-ownership cases and a lack of standards by which to resolve those cases. The Lee situation is a veritable petri dish of FCC issues. In addition to stalled decisions, stagnation and inconsistent, if not incoherent, ownership standards, Lee's dispute has raised uncomfortable issues about diversity in ownership, minority "fronts," the FCC's commitment to "local programming," and the FCC's apparent lack of interest in limiting heavy market concentration. It also illustrates the problems inherent in the FCC decision-making process, where thoroughly researched staff recommendations can be overturned overnight, and promises made to owner/applicants suddenly become "no longer operational." Finally, the Lee case exemplifies what happens to an old, local radio station when new owners, embracing the warm, fuzzy, local program dogma, flip their station over to national radio conglomerates.

In 1938, Zeb Lee, a broadcaster who'd worked from coast to coast, settled in Asheville, which his mother had called one big, beautiful garden. Known to bandleaders such as Duke Ellington and Kay Kaiser, Lee eventually bought an AM station that became the area's most popular in the 1950s. He brought Elvis Presley to Asheville in 1956—"He charged us \$300 then," says Lee. And his station received numerous public service awards. By 1990, it had broadcast 5,000 local high school and college football and baseball games. But AM radio was sliding downhill, and, Lee

says, "I really wanted an FM station—it's better quality." He applied for an FM permit in 1987. So did eight other groups, the strongest of which was the Biltmore Forest consortium.

There were court battles and FCC actions. But in 1990, an FCC administrative law judge ruled for Lee's family, now formally known as Orion. The judge minced no words. Having examined every group's credentials, he dismissed the eight challengers, who had argued that they would be local minority owners and managers. Minority "shams" and "fronts," said the judge, noting that in some cases the minority members had no power or authority, or had not invested, or were "passive" owners who let white lawyer/investors make the decisions. He said that many of these applicants had no serious experience in radio. The judge also found that one of the applicant groups had filed a false certification, claiming it had access to a transmitter, or could build one quickly.

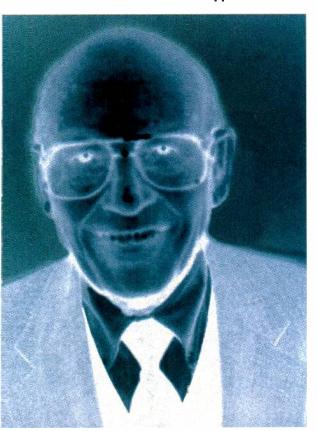
Though Lee had won, it wasn't over. The challengers appealed to federal court, and in the interim several members of the groups merged their applications. Still, the FCC staff backed Lee's application twice in 1991 and 1992. But while the case meandered through the system, the Supreme Court ruled in an



unrelated, but relevant case, called Bechtel. Gene Bechtel had been trying to get a radio station. Instead of jumping through the various hoops held up by the FCC regarding percentage of minority and local ownership, he fought the standards themselves. In March 1993, the court agreed, sending many outstanding ownership disputes back to the FCC. One of those remanded to the agency by the Federal Appeals Court was Biltmore Forest/Orion.

Lee and his lawyers didn't expect what happened next. "We had already won on grounds that he was experienced and had the capability of putting up the transmitter and was part of the community," says attorney Steve Leckar. Meanwhile, the FCC advised Lee that in order to get the FM license, he would have to divest himself of his AM station, and he did that in early 1994. The Mass Media Bureau at the FCC also apparently informed him that he could begin to build his transmitter and then broadcast on a "conditional" basis, pending the final ownership decision at the FCC. The transmitter was nearly complete in June 1994, when the FCC posted a public notice regarding

Zeb Lee, 86, lost his house and family money. "I never believed this would happen to me."



the station. Lee's WZLS went on the air in early July. After that, the Biltmore Forest consortium appealed twice to the FCC to shut down WZLS, and twice the appeal was denied. The Mass Media Bureau ruled that Lee could broadcast provisionally and try out his programs.

But in November of 1995, the full FCC suddenly ruled that WZLS could not broadcast. Instead, at the suggestion of the General Counsel, they urged Biltmore and Orion to get together and run the station jointly, until the FCC could decide who should run and own it.

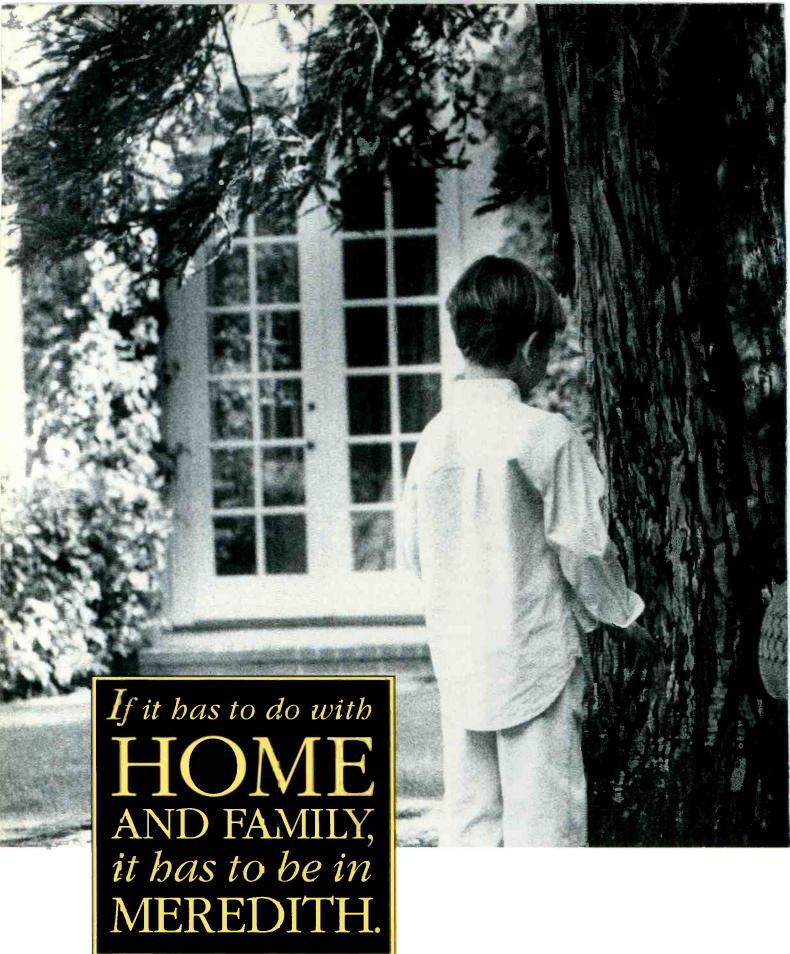
Lee's case raises issues about diversity in ownership, minority "fronts," and the FCC's commitment to local programming.

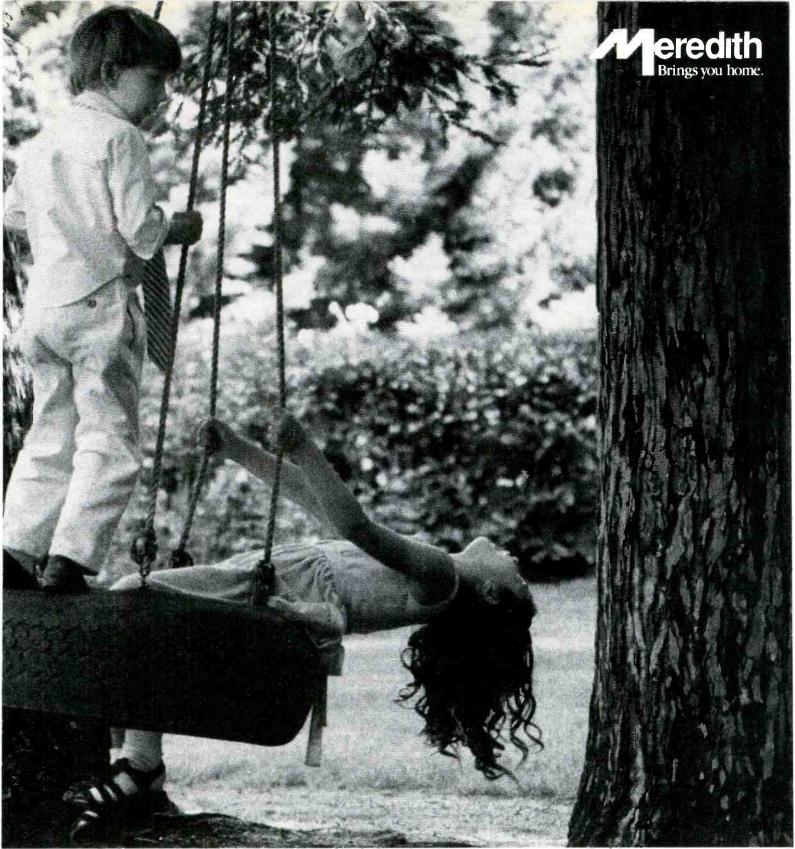
"We were stunned," says Leckar. "We won all these rulings at the FCC, and then this."

Lee says he didn't want to be part of a consortium. WZLS had become quite popular and had national ads as well as a base of local advertisers. Lee's offering was "adult" rock and roll, and unlike about 80 percent of America's radio stations, his music was chosen and mixed in-house by his son Brian, a well-known music programmer. Besides, he notes, why join a consortium whose members had been ruled by the ALJ to be "basically unqualified"? By this point, he had taken six years to secure a license and had sold his family's AM outlet in order to be allowed to get the FM one. "There were almost 5,000 letters from Asheville residents sent to the FCC or Congress, saying they liked our programming and liked us," says Lee.

WZLS stayed on the air, meanwhile, as the Biltmore Forest Consortium was still not in a position to begin broadcasting. But in October 1996, the FCC notified WZLS that as soon as Biltmore Forest (BFRI) was ready, Zeb Lee was out. Of course, this didn't mean that the FCC had made a final determination on who should run the station. That matter was still sitting in limbo, waiting for the FCC to come up with new ownership standards in light of the Bechtel court decision. Lee appealed the 1996 order to federal court, where that part of his case languishes.

But recently the situation has heated up. In March, BFRI asked the FCC for permission to modify its construction permit and increase the power level to a Class C3 facility. What BFRI apparently didn't mention was that it was about to sign a Time Brokerage Agreement with Capstar Broadcasting Partners. Capstar had just purchased the two preeminent stations in the Asheville market. With the addition of BFRI, Capstar will have





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WASHINGTON

more than 85 percent of the local radio ad revenue and more than 47 percent of the audience.

Ironically, BFRI's Washington attorneys stated in a 1996 letter to the FCC that played up the consortium's "diversity": "The community will benefit significantly from a breath of fresh air into the Asheville market." But the Capstar TBA agreement would substitute Capstar's programming 6½ days a week. In that same letter, BFRI's lawyers said that the woman who would alternate the role of consortium president, Betty Gilman, was "a minority." But in the 1990 ruling

"We do have to make a public-interest determination now, but

they—Congress—won't tell us how to do it."—an FCC analyst

by the ALJ, the judge dismissed Gilman's claim to be a registered member of the Eastern band of the Cherokee Indian tribe. "The record contains no documentary evidence of such tribal affiliation, and no evidence about Mrs. Gilman's relationship with that tribe or their activities."

Lee and Orion have asked the FCC to expedite a review of this case, especially in light of the new issue of market concentration. And they have asked the Justice Department to review the matter as well.

What transpired that caused the FCC to reverse its own Mass Media Bureau in 1995 and turn out Zeb Lee? There are many curious issues in play, and which one affected them is uncertain.

"The FCC doesn't usually overrule its staff, but it happens," says one former commissioner. "The problem is that the commissioners and their aides are given a precis of the case and only one version of the story from the General Counsel. We don't get "on the one hand, on the other," but I think we should have. So you don't know how much the FCC knew about the AJL's ruling, or what they were told."

No one from the General Counsel's office returned my phone calls.

What role did politics have? In 1992, one of the investors in Biltmore, Melvin Watt, was elected to the U.S. Congress. Did his stature have any impact on the 1995 decision? Watt's press secretary said, "I doubt it." Members of Watt's former law firm in North Carolina, who are active investors and financial guides in Biltmore, did not return calls.

Now Senators Jesse Helms and Lauch Faircloth, both Republicans from North Carolina, have weighed in for Lee, asking the FCC to stay its decision to revoke WZLS' license. In an October 1996 letter, the senators called the FCC's action "outrageous and callous." Rep. Charles Taylor, a North Carolina Democrat, wrote Attorney General Janet Reno just last week, asking her to look at the "monopolistic situation" in the Asheville market. He called the FCC's handling

of the WZLS case "startling" and castigated the agency for replacing WZLS with "an untested operation." As for the Capstar intervention, a spokesman for Rep. Taylor says, "What has happened to the FCC's talk about "the public interest" and local programming?

Well, what happened most recently was the Telecom Act of 1996. As an FCC analyst who follows radio disputes sighed, "We do have to make a public interest determination now, but they—Congress—won't tell us how to do it.

"With a situation such as Capstar or other buyouts, you're asking the right question, but it's the one question I really, absolutely cannot answer. You want to know what the standards are? We don't know. For instance, since Telecom, we're not supposed to consider market concentration when we evalu-

ate a license application. Congress took out the audience share factor, but what it put in its place, we weren't told.

"So, you're asking, what are we supposed to look at, and if so, what bothers us? We don't know."

Another veteran FCC staffer acknowledged that there is a huge backlog of radio ownership cases at the FCC because the agency hasn't come up with comparative standards since the Bechtel decision threw everything into a spin. "It's been unconscionably long trying to develop new standards," he said. When asked why, or who, is holding it up, he replied, apologetically, "I don't know."

An aide to one of the commissioners finally said, "This case is very significant. It's got part of a lot of issues that are keeping us all here at night. And the Capstar entry now, that's just one more major complication."

Meanwhile, the Justice Department antitrust division is going to review the case, according to Lee's lawyers. And Sen. Conrad Burns, chairman of the Telecom Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee, wants the FCC to answer some of Zeb Lee's questions soon. Burns, an old radio man himself, says, through a spokesman, "This has taken way too long, and there's no good reason for it." Burns has complained recently that too many radio deals and mergers are being held up, and he sees the FCC, not the Justice Department, as the culprit.

But in the Biltmore/Orion case, pinning blame is certainly easier than finding answers. And if no one really knows what standards for ownership are, or should be, and whether local programming really matters anymore, then who's to blame if decisions seem odd or unfair? Meanwhile, the FCC will probably have an answer of sorts for Zebulon Lee on his expedited review request of Capstar and Biltmore in the next two weeks.

But after 10 years, says Lee, what's another fortnight?

for girls who dare to be real



A fresh new magazine for teens from Weider Publications

The Ellies: Who Says They Don't Count?

of Magazine Editors' National Magazine Awards honored a striking array of titles and topics last Wednesday, at a luncheon ceremony held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. Winners ranged from a *Smithsonian* series on insects, which won for Special Interest, to *Scientific American*'s absorbing Single Topic issue on cancer; from big books like *Sports Illustrated*, the honoree in Feature

Toasting, boasting, hosting:
(clockwise, from top left) Graydon
Carter is in bubbly spirits after Vanity
Fair's win in the General Excellence
category; The New Yorker's Tina
Brown, double winner for Fiction and
Essays & Criticism, accepts her Ellie;
and Outside's Mark Bryant,
also a General Excellence winner,
looking like he's about to
take off with his Ellie

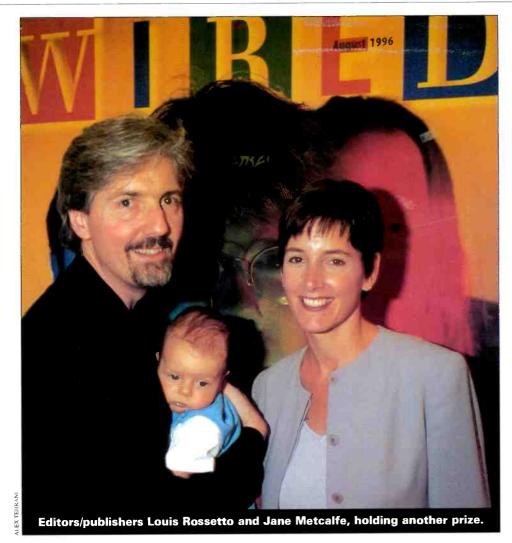
Writing, to small, indie titles such as I.D. magazine, which won for both Design and General Excellence (under 100,000 circulation). Outside, the independently published, Santa Fe, N.M.based monthly, took home its second consecutive prize for General Excellence (400,000 to 1 million circulation). The sporty nature book also won for Reporting, for Jon Krakauer's muchdiscussed piece on last summer's Mt. Everest climbing tragedy. The New Yorker, a perennial darling of the NMAs, took home Fiction and Essays & Criticism Ellies—the nickname of the elephant-shaped trophies that each winner receives. And Vanity Fair's Graydon Carter, named Editor of the Year just two months ago by Adweek Magazines, took the podium to accept the award for General Excellence (over 1 million circ).

The ceremony was also notable for titles that did not win. Frequent past winner GQ, nominated six times in five categories this year, was shut out. Martha Stewart Living and Saveur—both multiple winners in past years—were also passed over in several categories.

Other 1997 winners included Fortune, which won in the Public Interest category for Richard Behar's series on organized crime—Fortune's first Ellie since new managing editor John Huey came on board in February '95. And Money Online won a special award for excellence in new media.

If last Wednesday's affair had a theme, it was a unified rebuke of an April 28 New York Times piece which suggested that the NMAs are commercially useless. Several winners made note of the article. Glamour editor Ruth Whitney, the Personal Service honoree, cleverly fashioned of it an ad sales pitch: "This is your chance to make the Times look foolish," she said, "by beefing up your schedule in Glamour."—Jeff Gremillion

PAGE 37



Wired for Excellence

Recognition by NMA is welcome tonic for publisher after Wall Street's rejection of company's IPO

by Matthew Flamm

espite some rough handling in the press last year, *Wired* editor and publisher Louis Rossetto says that he's not bitter. Likewise, the white Adidas sneakers he wore to the podium with his black suit (sans tie) were not intended as a form of sartorial nose-thumbing. But as he accepted his second National Magazine Award in four years for General Excellence in the 100,000 to 400,000 circulation category, the 47-year-old entrepreneur couldn't resist the wry comment: "It's nice to be recognized for the stuff that we print," he told the crowd at the Waldorf-Astoria, "rather than what's printed *about* us."

Yes, it was a difficult year in some ways for the people at *Wired*, starting with Wall Street's vote of no-confidence in their effort to take the company public, followed by what Rossetto describes as a piling-on in the media. But for the publisher and his wife and partner, Jane Metcalfe, who launched the cyber-bible four years ago, the stumble over their IPO was "part of our growing up, part of our becoming not just a magazine, but a media company," he says. And if Rossetto still seems edgy, that probably has to do with the position the San Francisco-based magazine has staked out for itself, both in the subjects it covers and the way it covers them.

"The new culture is coming out of the Bay Area and Silicon Valley, and it's great to be connected to that," Rossetto says. "The two poles of the media are L.A. and New York, and what they've done is create a media culture on the East Coast that is knee-jerk cynical, just reflexively negative, and that in Cali-

fornia is celebrity-driven, airhead nothingness. In the Bay Area, where a lot of companies have created their own futures, there's another sensibility, what we call 'critical optimism.' It's about recognizing that there are problems in the world and there are no easy solutions, but there *are* solutions."

This year's award is especially gratifying, Rossetto says, because the award judges recognized the book's growth. "The magazine has transcended being a sort of harbinger or a prophet to become a real authority," he says, citing the judges' description of *Wired* as "the most authoritative publication" in its field. "We won [the award] four years ago probably for being a radically different voice on the media scene, and now we've won it for being the touchstone of the new reality."

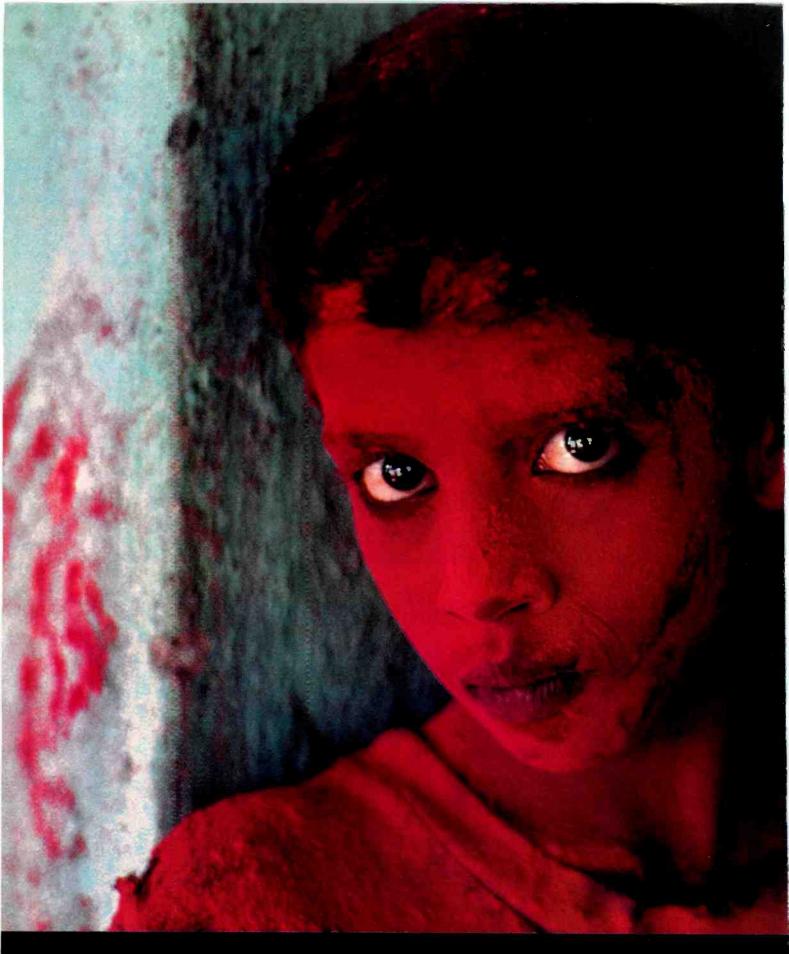
Rossetto attributes his magazine's success to its continued evolution. "Today, the world we were describing has become everybody's beat," says Rossetto, "so the magazine has had to become not simply the first word but also the last word about what's going on."

To that end, the editors have commissioned stories like Neal Stevenson's 40,000-word report in last December's issue (one of those cited by the awards' screening committee) on the construction of the longest fiber cable in the world, from the United Kingdom to Malaysia. "Neal went along with the crews that were laying the cable," Rossetto says, "and also built a context for understanding how our new world relates to the old world—relating it to the construction of the original trans-Atlantic cable. It's that kind of story that only we can do."

As the magazine continues to evolve, so does the company: Wired now has a 100-person staff, the publisher notes, and Wired Digital, the interactive, on-line venture, has 160 employees. Last fall, Wired also launched a book division, which has just published its secand list of titles. It was to finance these added ventures that Wired decided to undertake an IPO (the magazine itself, as of the current quarter, is turning a profit—one year ahead of schedule). And it was only because of last year's "Internet bubble" in the stock market, says Rossetto, that the company tried to go public. "We raised private money after we withdrew our IPO-in total we raised \$35 million, so we didn't do too badly."

Clearly, the memory of the offering still smarts. And even though *Wired* has won two NMAs (out of four nominations) in four years, Rossetto only really loses his defensive edge when he talks about the atmosphere at *Wired*.

"We have a collegial environment," he says, with no one person dictating orders. "It's more like a baseball game, rather than a football game where there's a quarterback running the team. The team is in the field, and they're all working to win the game."



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The DIARY of a PLANET

The Ellies

Glamour's Serious Side

A two-part series on managed care for women wins in Personal Service category

by Jeff Gremillion

n winning the National Magazine Award for Personal Service for a pair of serious stories on managed health care, Glamour and its editor of 30 years, Ruth Whitney, have managed to set themselves apart from the growing, rapidly evolving throng of magazines targeted to young women.

As stylish *Marie Claire*'s stock rises, the new *Cosmopolitan* catches on and Fairchild's sassy *Jane* beckons, *Glamour*, said to be the most profitable book in the Condé Nast stable, is as strong as ever. The title's 2.1 million circulation is steady, its ad-page figures are sharply on the rise (24.8 percent for the first quarter, according to PIB), and it continues to garner the industry's highest accolades for its hard-hitting journalism.

"One of the other times we've won was for a series on abortion," says Whitney, emphasizing her magazine's long-standing commitment to serious reportage. "What cuts us apart from...the others is exactly the stuff we win for. Can you imagine [the managed care articles] in *Marie Claire* or *Cosmo*? Much less a series on abortion? This is *our* beat.

"Glamour changes all the time," continues Whitney. "We're forever dumping columns, adding new columns, changing this, changing that. But the core is: We take this woman [the Glamour reader] seriously. We take her whole life seriously. Even when we do a stretch-mark study, it's a serious stretch-mark study, done with experts. And when we do something on managed care, it is with the strongest writer we can find, giving her all the time she needs."

The first of the winning articles, the



August 1996 piece "Is Managed Care Good for Women's Health?" by Leslie Laurence, ran 5,000 words. It carefully combined six months of research and more than 100 interviews. The follow-up September article—"Making Managed Care Work for You," by Tessa DeCarlo—was a bit shorter and only slightly less involved.

"My piece uncovered how managed care affects women differently from men," says Laurence. "We pointed out how it's hurting women [as so many procedures and types of

care aren't covered]. In some cases, it really seems like clearcut bias and sexism. It is such a complicated, confusing subject that it took that much work just to sort things out."

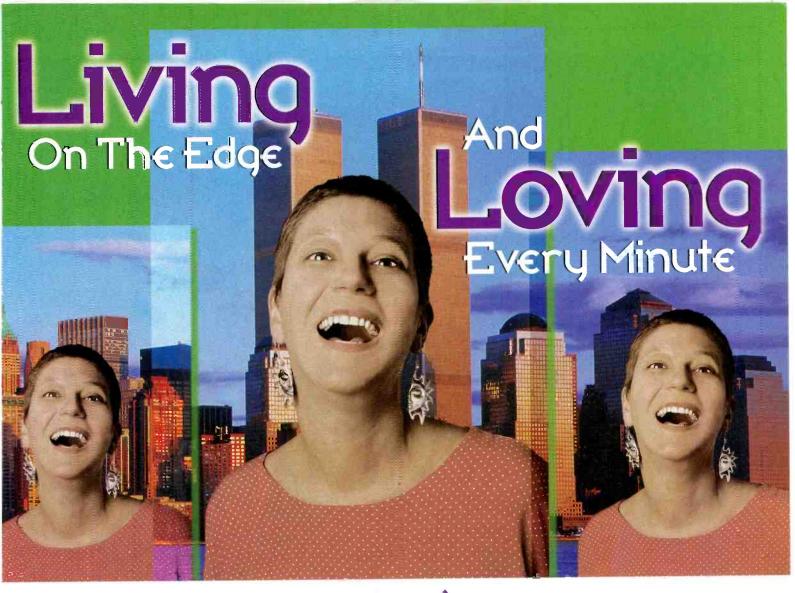
DeCarlo had a similar ordeal with her piece. "I was really surprised at how hard it was to get a lot of key information," DeCarlo says. "It was like you were researching some obscure point that only a few specialists cared about."

"In the first piece, we assembled overwhelming evidence that managed care affected women more often and in more ways than men," says Peggy Northrop, the Glamour senior editor who worked directly with the writers. "We also had to do the second part of the story. We sent [DeCarlo] out to look at not just how lawyers are suing managed-care providers to get women the care that they need but also how women were going to their employers to get their health plans to change to cover reproductive serviceshow women were going to the press in some cases.

"Ruth's question for every story is, 'What's in it for the reader?'" Northrop adds. "You

can describe a problem, but if you don't give readers any way to use their clout to fix that problem in their own life, you're not really doing the whole story the *Glamour* way."

Whitney and Northrop have set their editorial engine full-speed-ahead, on health matters and "policy" issues that affect women. "Glamour really is a news magazine for women," says Northrup. "Glamour takes a political stance in the world. It's unabashedly feminist. It is a very satisfying place to do serious work."



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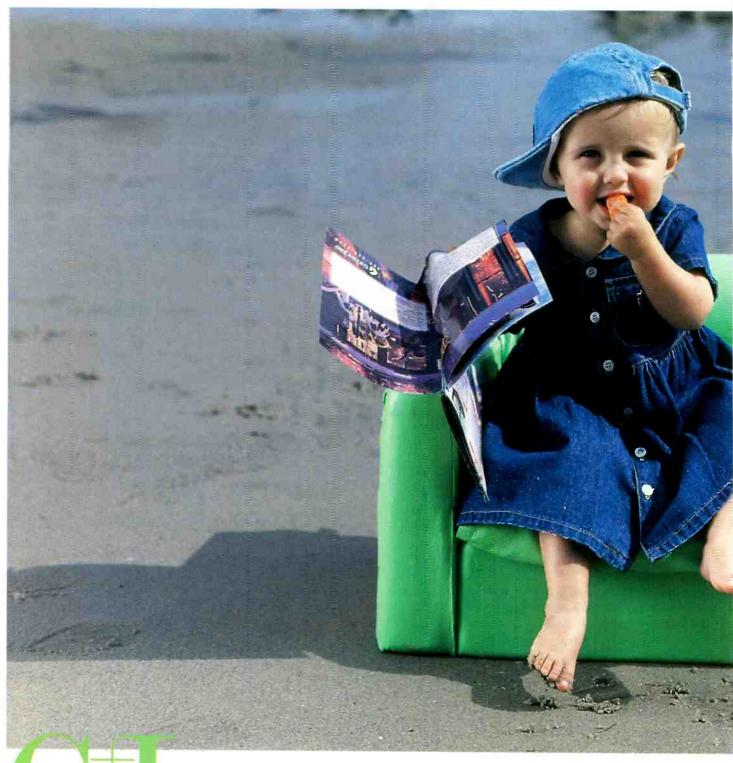
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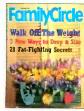














stage of a woman's life.

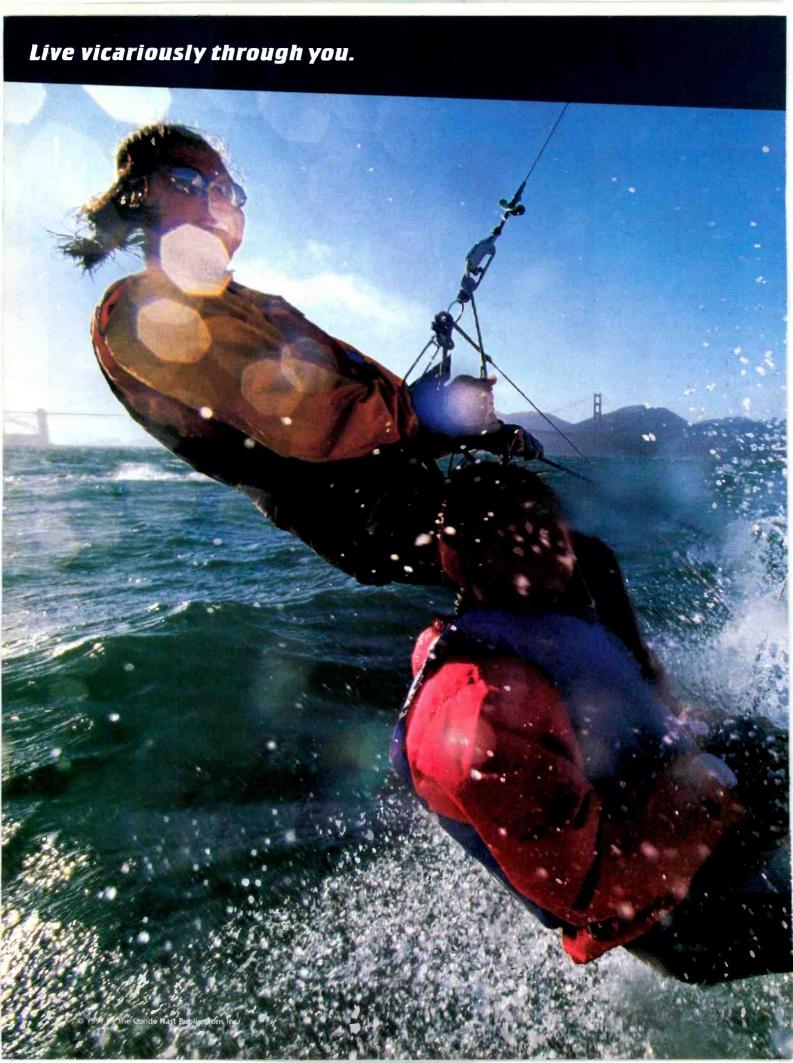
Mom says, "You can never start too early." So I've been reading, and I look forward to being an excellent student, developing my athletic prowess, and ultimately becoming a caring mother, a whiz in the kitchen, as well as a decorator who has a "knack."

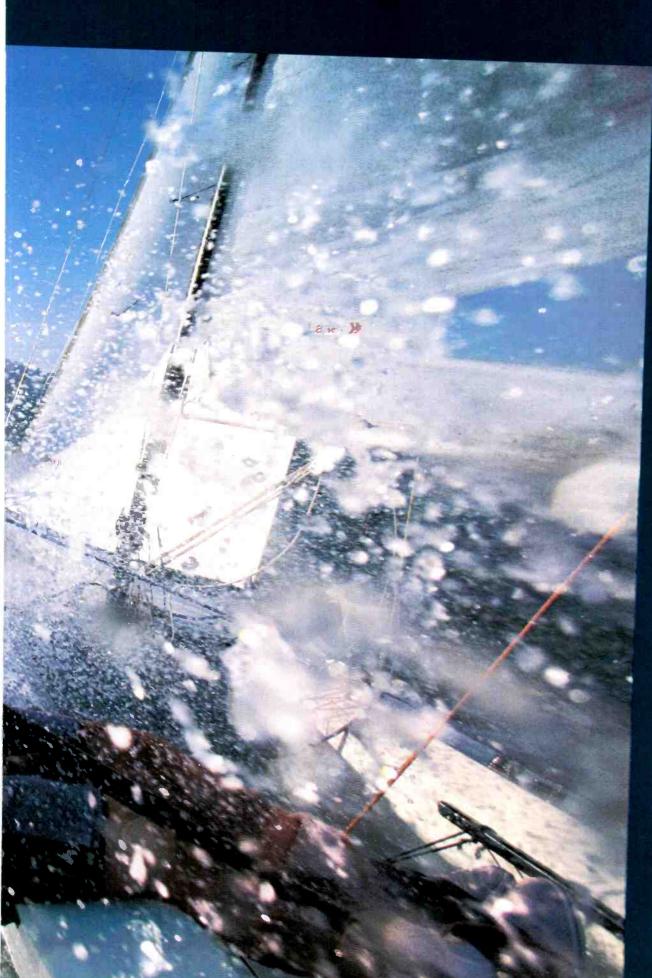
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The Ellies

National Geographic Still Gets the Picture

Title's new direction in photography is recognized by NMA

by Matthew Flamm

staple of doctors' offices, publicschool libraries and coffee tables, .National Geographic ranks among the world's most familiar magazines. And that is part of the problem, says its director of photography, Thomas Kennedy, with getting people to appreciate the quality of the magazine's pictures and the ways they have changed. "There's a certain mission that goes with our magazine that dictates the broad framework of what we're going to be about," says Kennedy, who was pleased to take home a National Magazine Award for photography after what he calls the "drought" of the last five years. "But within that framework, we're always trying to do new things and be as contemporary as we possibly can. If you really look at the imagery today, there's a radical difference from what there was 10 years ago."

That difference comes down to more complexity in the aesthetic construction of the photos, as well as pictures that are nuanced and ambiguous rather than straightforward and literal. A good example, says Kennedy, would be the cover image on the August 1996 National Geographic, a singletopic issue devoted to Mexico that was cited by the awards' screening committee. The photograph, by Tomasz Tomaszewski, shows a family walking to church at daybreak, with their own shadows on a wall overwhelmed by the shadow of a crucifix. "It's a metaphorical photograph, showing the role religion has played in Mexican life, as well as a literal photograph of people walking to church," explains Kennedy, who has run the magazine's photography department since 1987. "It shows a very specific moment in time, but it also raises larger truths. Our best photographs do both at the same time."

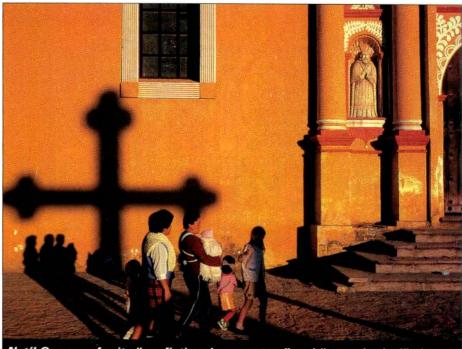
Though he believes there has been material as strong or stronger in other years, Kennedy credits William Allen, editor of the magazine since 1995, with encouraging *Geographic*'s new direction in photography. "I should say that he tolerates a blend of the literal and the enigmatic with a little more comfort than his predecessor, so maybe that's what's showing up now," Kennedy says.

Kennedy takes particular pride in noting that the issues cited by the judges—July, August and December—included photo essays on global forces and problems that he regards as the real meat of the magazine. In a story on the national park system in South Africa, for instance, staff photographer Chris Johns took "dramatic pictures of some of the wildlife in the parks, while also showing the issues involved in trying to maintain a balance between preservation and the pressures to develop the economy in other ways," Kennedy says.

Moreover, it's not easy taking pictures for *National Geographic*. Though the magazine wants its photographers to be "truthful to their experience" while engaging in what Kennedy calls "nonfiction documentary" photography, it also demands that they stay within the confines of a fairly severe aesthetic. "It's an interesting paradox," he says. "On one hand, we ask them to summon up all of their creative powers to express in both aesthetic and journalistic terms as forcefully as

possible what they're witnessing and experiencing. But at the same time, we're asking them not to impose their own artistic ambitions in such an overweening way that it gets in the way of the subject matter." Kennedy acknowledges that this is not how most photographers work nowadays.

But it's a style with a long history, going back to the days of Kurt Wentzel and Louis Marden, who pioneered the 35mm color photograph at Geographic back in the 1940s. And the restrained approach continues to serve the magazine's mission. "Our hope is to put readers in touch with experiences that are beyond the boundaries of their own immediate life, and arm them with facts and impressions, the raw material, to cope with life," Kennedy says. "So if you have a trend in world trade, we want to be able to express that clearly through our photography and writing-to show that these are the forces that are reshaping the globe, and to give you a comprehensive, close-up view that you can't get anywhere else."



Nat'l Geo won for its "nonfiction documentary" and "metaphorical" photos.

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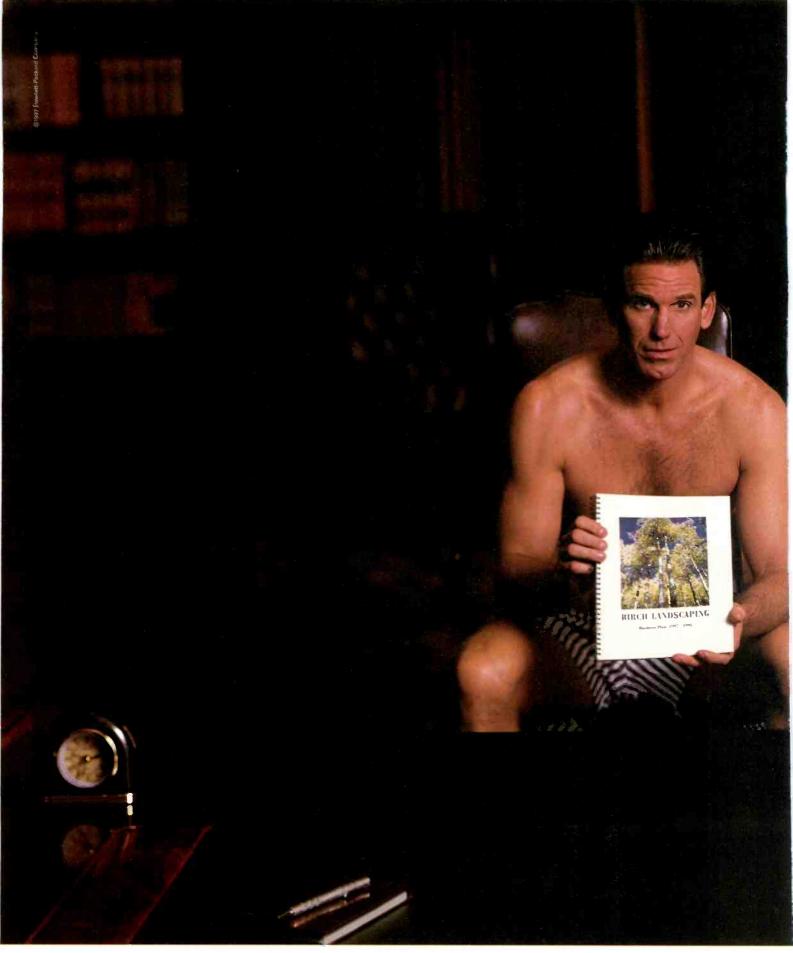
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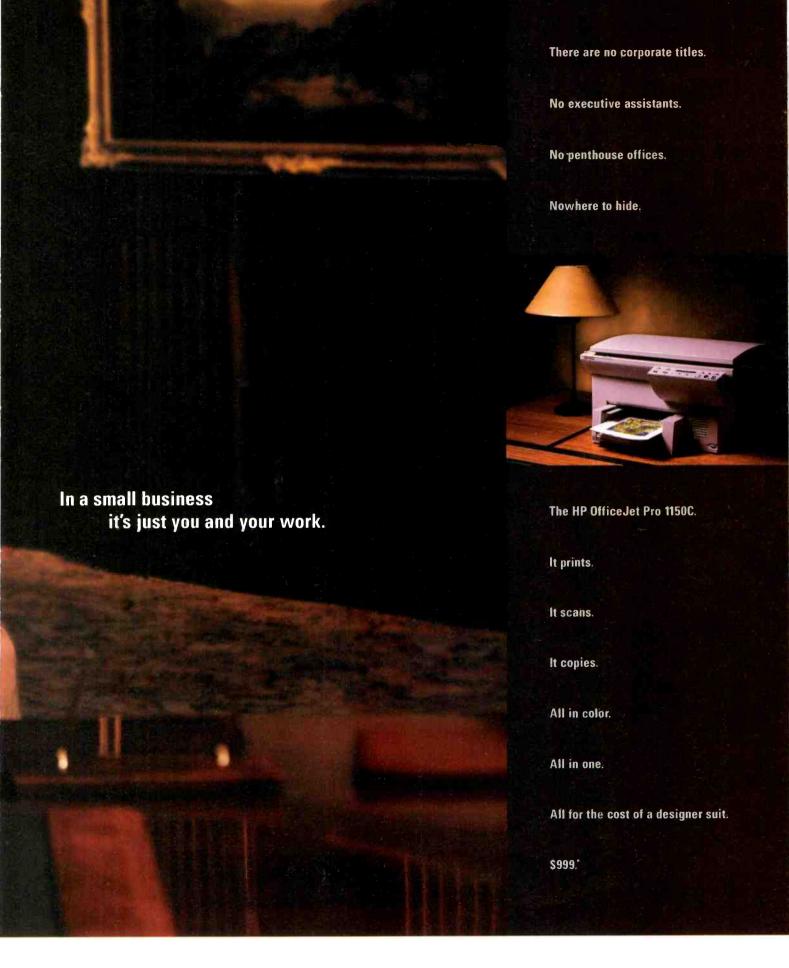
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Magazines

By Jeff Gremillion

'Utne Reader' turns
down its hippie
volume, seeking a
broader readership
with pieces on more
mainstream subjects

Leaning Less Left

the Reader, the Minneapolis-based digest of the country's alternative press, is trying to shed its counterculture image in an effort to reverse a severe circulation decline. Utne's average paid circulation fell by almost 18 percent from the first half of 1995 to the second half of '96; the title finished last year with an average circ of 258,000. Just two years ago, the title had its highest circulation ever at 314, 586, according to ABC. Utne editor Hugh Delehanty, the former People senior editor who took over the bimonthy last year, is leading the recovery effort. "I was brought on

board to revitalize the book," Delehanty says.

The first step has been making the 13-year-old *Utne* less dependent on the alternative press—the loosely defined hodgepodge of left-leaning free weekly papers and small magazines whose roots run to the politically charged 1960s and early '70s. As much as 70 percent of the title's content had been reprinted articles from the alternative press; now such reprints account for less than half. Original articles and book excerpts are filling the gap. "To a lot of people, 'alternative' means hippie and granola," Delehanty says.

"Too much of the alternative press is locked in a bipolar, left-vs.-right mentality. And it isn't as lively as it...was when Reagan was in power and you knew who the enemy was."

Delehanty, who says "breaking down is old, and attitude journalism is old," has settled on values, ethics and spirituality as the central themes of the new *Reader*. First-person articles with what Delehanty calls "a well-rounded sense of story," on subjects such as "finding your natural rhythm in a speed-crazed world," now fill the book.

Utne's ad pages are not tracked by

PIB, but Delehanty says business has been steady. The title's primary advertisers are book publishers, record labels and spiritually oriented selfhelp materials.

Delehanty says that *Utne*'s circulation indicators are looking up. Newsstand sales were up 50 percent for the first two issues this year, and insertcard subscriptions were up 40 percent in the first quarter. Total circ was up to about 270,000. "There's a new world view shaping," says Delehanty, "and we're on the leading edge of it."

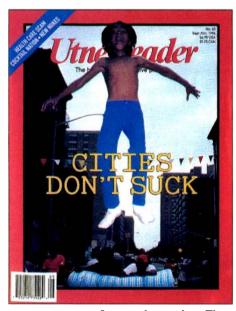
The Name Game 'P.O.V.' and 'Poz' Pose a Puzzle

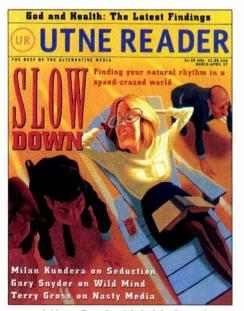
Last week this space recounted the misadventures of two magazines and a comic book that all are called *Icon*. The *Icon*s can take heart: Mistaken identity is not limited to books with the same name. A *Washington Times* writer earlier this year confused *P.O.V.*, the young men's lifestyle mag, with the living-with-HIV title, *Poz*.

"RO.V. started out as a magazine designed as a support to HIV sufferers, but with this issue...it seems to be going mainstream," the *Times* reporter noted. The confused writer, Cynthia Grenier, went on to describe the mag's cover, which featured a nude supermodel, and tried to make sense of *P.O.V.*'s apparent editorial aboutface. "Maybe editors are just struggling to overcome the February blahs as best they can," Grenier wrote. As in the *Icon* imbroglio, the logos of *P.O.V.* and *Poz* rather favor each other.

'RS' Raids L.A. Music Mag Editors Play Out Their 'Option'

Wenner Media's Rolling Stone has been keeping tabs on some talented up-and-comers around Los Angeles. No, it's not a hot new rock group. It's the young editors of Option, a small alternative-music mag based in Santa Monica. A year ago, RS hired Option





A new alternative: The revamped *Utne Reader* (right) is focusing more on lifestyle issues and less on strident "attitude journalism."

editor Mark Kemp as a senior editor. Last month, the leading rock-culture book snatched up Kemp's successor, Jason Fine, as an associate editor.

"I hire them where I find them," says RS managing editor Sid Holt, downplaying Option's allure.

"I guess it's a compliment," Scott Becker, founding editor of the 27,000-circulation *Option*, says about *RS*' attention. "I have very high standards [for editors]. We have an environment where they can spread their wings. We scoop up all the music that doesn't get covered elsewhere. It's not driven by advertising concerns or by which artists are selling the best. It's a place to do good journalism. That's what *RS* is buying."

Becker launched the national bimonthly 12 years ago, as fringe sounds such as house music and techno were coming to life. "There were grungy little fanzines and there were big books like RS, and nothing in between," says Becker. "We wanted to have a fanzine mentality and take it a little more professional."

Option has, by choice, stayed small and upheld its mission. "It would be a very different kind of business if our circulation grew to hundreds of thousands," Becker says. "By being small, we're really able to stick to our core values. And by maintaining small circulation, our ads are affordable to small record companies," which account for most of the book's ad pages.

Becker says he tried to spin a new fashion magazine off *Option* a few years ago and failed miserably. He says his readers are true-blue alternative-music nuts, with little tolerance for the fashion and pop-culture accourtements of other music books.

That's Entertainment

New Directions For 'Us' and 'EW'

Two top entertainment books are making some news. Wenner Media's *Us* is upgrading its binding and paper, and Time Inc.'s *Entertainment Weekly* is planning to launch a quar-

THE BIG PICTURE

Black: Going Beyond Basic



Hearst Magazines president Cathie Black recently described part of her mission since taking the company's reins 16 months ago: "Hearst has always had a very good reputation, but probably a little stodgy," she said. "I think I've helped to dispel that myth." Black added that she is determined to "put a dynamic face" on the company. The president's new official portrait is a not-so-subtle move in that direction.

In the new photo, snapped by popular Danish fashion photographer Anders Overgaard, Black sports a sleek Ralph Lauren pantsuit and high heels and slinks over the arms of a designer chair. It's a unique photo for a corporate magazine executive (it's hard to imagine Time Inc. chief Don Logan in a similar pose). "Cathy chose this shot," says Hearst spokesman Paul Luthringer, "because it portrays her style—confident, relaxed, real."

Does the picture accurately reflect a softening culture at Hearst? "Absolutely," says Roberta Garfinkle, McCann-Erickson's mag expert. "Has Hearst changed in a million ways? No. But it's changed in little ways. It's not so much of a good ol' boys club. You don't hear, "We can't do it that way because we've always done it this way."

terly spinoff for college students.

Us is kissing its staples goodbye. Henceforth, the monthly will be perfect-bound and printed on heavier 40-lb. coated stock; the cover stock will be 70-lb. and coated. The book's weightier feel debuts next week with the June issue, Us' summer-movie preview edition.

"It gives the magazine more heft," says editor Barbara O'Dair. Over the past two years, O'Dair has shifted the book's focus, employing "class A" photographers and going after bigger celebrities. She has also added regular fashion coverage to the mix. "It not only looks better, it feels better," O'Dair says. "The new format reflects our mission and content. I just wish we would have done it a year and a half ago."

Later this spring, EW will launch a quarterly, digest-size publication called *The Ticket*, to be distributed to college kids as an insert in 100 campus newspapers across the country. The magazine's mission is "to cover showbiz from an offbeat, edgy perspective," says editor Doug Brod. The premiere issue includes pieces on the cast of MTV's *Road Rules*

and on the 25th anniversary rerelease of John Waters' *Pink Flamingos*. There's a multimedia department and one called "Books + Zines + Comix." Gap is heavily represented as a multipage advertiser; *EW*'s own merchandising unit, "Studio Store," also has a page.

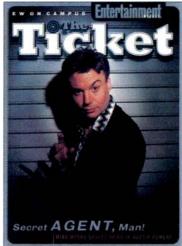
"The Ticket provides us with a terrific opportunity to reach enthusiastic readers," says James W. Seymore Jr., Entertainment Weekly managing editor. "Many of the newest trends in entertainment begin on college campuses, so this is a natural place for us to be."

Writers' Block

A sample of great writing from a recent issue:

"The applicants included corporate lawyers, a 'really, really financially secure' Park Avenue doctor, Wall Street brokers and assorted executives-classic examples of high-powered men desperate for a respite from bossing others around, anxious to atone for their sins in accumulating wealth and power, Clearly, New York was the ideal place for our business. It offered the world's most motivated and politically correct slaves. What union organizer could object to the exploitation of Manhattan's ruling class?"

—**John Tierney** on his efforts to start a business called Slaves 'R' Us, in his "The Big City" column, The New York Times Magazine, April 27



Freshman on campus: *EW* plays a new quarterly *Ticket*.



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CALL FOR ENTRIES

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- 6 Best Use of Local Television
- 7 Best Use of Magazines
- 8 Best Use of Radio
- 9 Best Use of Newspapers
- 10 Best Use of Out-of-Home
- 11 Best Use of New Media

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any US advertising agency media department, media buying service or in-house advertising agency or media department may enter. All plans under execution between May 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997 are eligible.

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Please follow the format below:

PARTICIPANTS

Please list all individuals involved in this project from all areas of the department.

BACKGROUND

Discuss any background information/situation analysis relevant to set the stage for the program description. This could include a marketing problem, business opportunity, competitive situation, etc.

PROJECT/PLAN DESCRIPTION

Please identify specific project plans with a concise description of their nature and execution.



What results or client objectives did this program deliver?

Are there any tangible results from this project? You may include client feedback, sales results, and other research studies.

Please explain why you believe this entry to be a winner.

DOCUMENTATION

Include documentation such as a copy of the media plan, examples of the execution, etc. and any testimonials demonstrating the successful results for the client. In order to properly categorize your entry, be sure to indicate category number based on spending on your entry and type of media used.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Innovative nature of the concept, tactical approach, creative use of media, effectiveness relative to the objective.

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MEDIA DISH SPECIAL

Golf for a Good Cause

As the rain gave way to a cloudy but dry afternoon April 28, a flood of 200 media people cascaded onto the golf course at the Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J., for the 24th Annual MS Spring Golf Classic. Co-chaired by Mike Lotito of Ammirati Puris Lintas and Paul Zuckerman of Paul Zuckerman Enterprises, the event raised more than \$180,000 to fight multiple sclerosis. Event sponsors included Aetna, CBS, Entertainment Weekly, Inc. magazine, Newsweek, Prevention, Sara Lee Corp., The Sporting News and UPS along with Ammirati Puris Lintas and Prestige Motors.

Photos by Lisa Bentivegna



(Above, I. to r.): the 'Prevention' foursome: Harold Walters, guest; Frank Hone, 'Prevention'; Denise Favorule, 'Prevention'; and Steve Gianetti, 'Prevention'

(Below, I. to r.): Matt Turck, 'Time'; Peter Krieger, 'The New Yorker'; Tom Kealy, 'Time'; and Marty Kellaher, 'The New Yorker'







(Above, I. to r.): Steve Howe, 'The Wall Street Journal'; Ed Gorman, DDB Needham; Bernïe Flanagan, 'WSJ'; and John Sedlak, 'WSJ'

(Below, I. to r.): Rick Beispel, Buzz Keenan, Dennis Phillips and Steve Koddenberg, all of 'Tennis' magazine







tbove, f. to r.): John Lefferts, The ledia Edge; John Carter, CNBC; ad Eric Verch, CNBC

(Below): Tourney coordinator Mike Lotite (I.), Ammirati Puris Lintas; and Lou Mohe, 'Business Week'





(Left, I. to r.): Mike Swanson, guest; Lou Tosto, 'Smart Money'; Bob Fritze, 'SmartMoney'; and Gene Huber, Grace & Rothchild

(Below): Gary Mirkin (I.) and Riley McDonough, both of 'Inc.' magazine



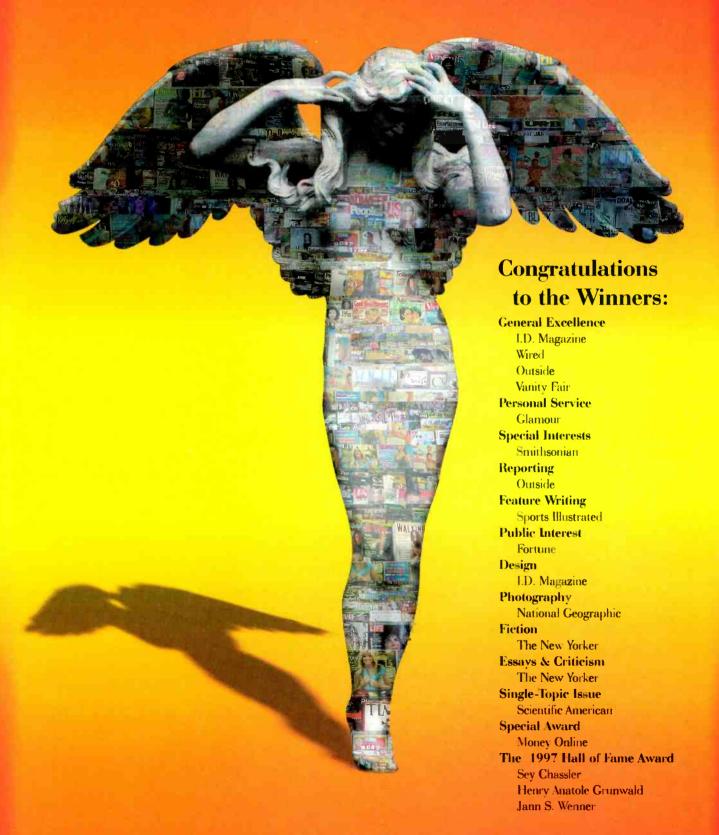


(Left, I. to r.): Craig Atkinson, George Rippey, Bob Bruder and Chris Collins, all of Bloomberg L.P.

(Below): John Fales (I.) and Tom Bair, both of 'Men's Health'



1997 NATIONAL MAGAZINE AWARDS



ation by Lou

ADWEEK - BRANDWEEK - MEDIAWEEK



Here's another tech company to worry about (or ally with) as it expands further across the digital media landscape. Hewlett-Packard's acquisition of VeriFone, which handles most of the credit-card authorization for merchants, means the PC and printer giant will now be moving bits of e-commerce around as deftly as data and graphic bits. Assuming HP will embed the VeriFone "swipe" into all of its products. Web publishers should be getting another option for on-line customer charge accounts. But at what price? —Eric Garland

will no longer be a part of the HotWired family, a Silicon Alley source said. Richard Pine, Dr. Weil's agent, said the medical and health advice site will remain a part of Hot-Wired for now, but would not comment on its future.

IPG New Media Deal

Interpublic Group of Cos. last week acquired a "significant minority interest" in new media shop Nicholson NY, New York, which had revenues of about \$5 million last year. The deal is IPG's first new media investment since it took a major stake in CKS Group, Cupertino, Calif., two years ago. Nicholson clients include IBM, Sony, Reader's Digest and Harper Collins.

Execs to PowerAgent

PowerAgent, Menlo Park, Calif., has named George Garrick, former president and chief executive of IRI, executive vice president, sponsor services, and Val Landy, a former International Data Group executive, as executive vice president, client services.

Delta Reroutes Site

Delta Air Lines introduced a redesigned Web site last week that includes a SkyLinks Online feature for booking reservations. Modem Media, Westport, Conn., created the site, as well as Delta's initial Web launch in 1995.

© deadline VF's New Web Design Signals Or. Weil Checking Out Ask Dr. Weil, one of HotWired's most popular sites, VF's New Web Design Signals Shift in On-line Brand Strategy

By Bernhard Warner

F Corp., purveyor of such well-known apparel names as Lee, Wrangler and Jantzen, has pulled the plug on Threads, its

on-line soap opera, in favor of a new Web gateway that stars its own labels.

Acknowledging that on-line serials are too expensive to produce and better left to entertainment studios

than brand marketers. VF shut down Threads in early April, said Jim Corbett, VF Corp.'s manager of alternative media marketing. The new site, by Think New Ideas Inc., New York, will feature a variety of entertainment channels, games

and possibly chat, with the purpose of building a community of VF apparel enthusiasts.

The jeans and clothing giant will boost its Web budget by 50% this year to develop and promote the new site. Spending will exceed \$1 million and could top \$3 million as each of VF's six main brand divisions earmarks a portion of its media to an on-line presence. (VF spent about \$71 million on traditional media in 1996.) A Web ad banner campaign will coincide with the late July launch of the site.

The former site generated adequate traffic, but it drew fans to the serial drama for the

wrong reason. "People were e-mailing us asking us how they could date the characters," Corbett noted, likening the project to ineffec-

> tive product placement. In Threads, VF brands sponsored plot modules that revolved around five fictitious characters living in

> > New York. On the new site, VF brands will get more exposure as channel sponsors with links to their own sites.

At the time of Threads' debut last April, the site was considered a bold new approach to brand marketing on the Web.

The soap opera concept, via Avalanche Systems, generated traffic but had no measurable effect on sales or branding efforts, said Corbett. "It got us noticed early, but it also told us we couldn't compete" with the rise of on-line serial dramas, he said, which "are too expensive to maintain and have a limited shelf life."

The new site will include marketing messages and promotional fare to cull demographic information from visitors. It will be watched closely by Web analysts who have criticized the construction of elaborate destination sites for youth-oriented or impulse brands.



Fashion forward? VF has axed "Threads" for a brand approach.

News People Features Reviews Search MICROSOFT SEEKS SHOP FOR EXPLORER 4.0 EVENT p. 60 | ORGANIC TO NEW YORK p. 60 | STARWAVE'S NAUGHTON p. 62 | ZIP2 LOCAL p. 62 | WHO CONTROLS WEB AD BUYS? p. 63 |



Prorbes will launch daily business news service Forbes Digital Tool on May 12 as a feature on its main Web site (www.forbes.com). The site will target business users through original articles, database tools and data charts. Information on new technology, personal finance, media, international and entertainment will be highlighted.

MediaCircus, the new media production shop owned by TV production studio IllusionFusion, has relaunched as an "interactive advertising and marketing communications company" and named Michael Boh executive vp, chief operating officer. Boh was previously director of interactive advertising and media planning at Siegel & Gale.

Design River Interactive, Avon, Colo., saw its first-quarter 1997 revenue skyrocket 101 percent. Revenues were \$15.7 million versus \$7.8 million in 1996's first quarter.

PAmerica Online, Dulles, Va., last week named Katz Millennium Marketing, New York, its sales rep firm for Web-based properties such as AOL.com and AOL NetFind.

DExcite last week said that AOL Greenhouse Networks, Tribune Media Services, CNET and Match.com will provide content for its new channel format. New advertisers on the relaunched site include Charles Schwab, Microsoft and others.

An Internet timeline developed by research firm FIND/SVP predicts that by 1999, browser wars will become a "nonissue as access devices proliferate further" and that "media stops hyping total Web user estimates."

Sun Microsystems will produce the American Pavilion Web site at the Cannes Film Festival (www.ampav.com) during the week of Cannes.

PRodale Press and Women's Wire are expected to launch Prevention magazine's Web site, called Healthy Ideas, today at www.healthyideas.com.

Microsoft Seeking On-line Event Ideas for Explorer

BY LAURA RICH — Gearing up for one of its biggest promotions since the \$100 million-plus campaign behind Windows 95, Microsoft is meeting with agencies to plan a momentous launch of its Web browser, Internet Explorer 4.0, in the fall.

Several new media shops received requests to create what one executive at a contacted new media shop called an "on-line phenomenon" as part of an effort to edge out main rival Netscape Navigator in the browser wars.

"The launch of IE 3.0 was too much of a comparison to Netscape," said the executive. "It made [Explorer] look like No. 2." Shops were given a strict mandate to strike any mention of the No. 1 browser from any prospective campaign.

According to a January market study by Redwood City, Calif.-based Zona Research, Netscape boasts 70 percent of browser users, while Microsoft's Explorer has most of the rest of the market.

The proposal for the nearly \$1 million project was wide open for suggestions, but centered on an Internet-based event to take place in the real world, according to another new media executive. (The fanfare for Windows 95 included a massive launch

party in Central Park.) The proposal asked shops to come up with event ideas and explain how they would present it on-line. Microsoft will retain other firms to carry it out off-line.

The assignment also requires tying in



New browser will get huge on-line promotion.

media partners, such as Time Warner, ESPN, NBC, *The Wall Street Journal*, Disney and PointCast, which will have channels on IE 4.0.

The review, headed by Chris Lye, product manager for Internet Explorer on-line marketing, includes Blue Marble, New York, and Digital Evolution, Los Angeles. A decision is expected from Microsoft this week.

Microsoft's on-line agency of record, Anderson & Lembke, San Francisco, has already begun promotion of IE 4.0 in its beta phase. Sources said Microsoft agency Wieden & Kennedy, Portland, Ore., is preparing storyboards for a TV campaign to launch in the fall. ■

Organic Online Opens New York Office, Taps Bates Exec

BY LAURA RICH — Silicon Valley will finally meet Madison Avenue, now that Organic Online, one of the West Coast's most prominent new media shops, has decided to open a New York office. Organic, partially owned by Omnicom Group's Communicade unit, has already begun work on existing client Colgate out of New York and is close to signing four more clients.

"San Francisco has Silicon Valley, but the entertainment and business communities are in New York," said Jonathan Nelson, Organic's chief executive, of the move east. "This is a logical step for us."

The New York office, which will start up with seven staffers, will be headed by Mike Golden. He joins Organic as a vice president from Bates Interactive, where he was vice president and director of interactive programming. "We wanted to take things to another level," said Golden of his Bates Interactive work. "You can't do that within [an agency] structure."

Nelson said Organic's New York outpost will be a "full-service, standalone office, but it will share resources like

research" with the San Francisco base. The office will offer technology capabilities for clients as well as account and creative teams. Sources said additional clients may include some from the Bates Interactive roster.

Organic's move follows expansions by new media shops Digital Evolution, Los Angeles, and Studio Archetype, San Francisco, which opened satellite offices in New York earlier this year, as well as branches established by most Web publishers, such as Yahoo! and CNET.

"The tide is coming in," said Chan Suh, president of Agency.com, a sister Communicade shop, which opened a London office to service British Airways in the fall. "It's good for Silicon Valley to realize there's business on the East Coast."

Organic Online was founded in 1993 by Nelson, who also launched and spun off directory site BigBook and measurement software company Accrue. Organic clients have included Nike, Levi's, Lucasfilm (for which it produced the official *Star Wars* site), Harley-Davidson and Kinko's.



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Zip2 To Offer Local Guides

Zip2, the Palo Alto, Calif., technology firm that works with newspapers on online development, is about to announce a new product called Arts & Entertainment. The on-line cultural guide, to focus on movies, restaurants and music, will be a direct competitor for local ad dollars with CitySearch, Microsoft's Sidewalk and America Online's Digital City.

The local advertising market is a key battleground between Web and newspaper publishers. Local ad revenues in 1996 totaled about \$60 billion, according to Forrester Research. By the year 2000, about \$1.5 billion is expected to gravitate to on-line sites. Knight-Ridder's San Jose Mercury News and Contra Costa Newspapers will be the first papers to sign on with Zip2 for a Bay Area on-line guide. Other major metro markets for Knight-Ridder, including Miami and Philadelphia, are expected to launch Arts & Entertainment guides soon, with publishers in other cities expected to follow.

Richard Sorkin, president and ceo of Zip2, said the company will receive an annual license fee from newspapers "between seven and eight figures," depending on the size of the city. Zip2 also will share in ad revenue generated by the papers. Sorkin projected the cost to launch a Zip2 Arts & Entertainment guide at only 5-10 percent of the cost to start an on-line guide from scratch.

"These other companies are playing catch-up with the newspapers," said Randy Bennett, vice president of new media for the Newspaper Association of America. "They're moving into markets the newspapers own and are trying to steal revenue newspapers already have."—AS

IQ movers

Harry Motro to Infoseek as president, under chief executive Robin Johnson. Motro was senior vp at CNN Interactive. . . . At Silver Creek Digital Media, Salt Lake City, Jeffrey Anderson named vp, sales and marketing, from MRI Interactive. . . . Scott Stone, former program director, IBM's global government industry unit, to senior vp, marketing and business development at Internet Tradeline Inc. . . . At America Online's Digital City, two new general managers: Brad Davis in Washington, D.C., and Tommy McGloin in Los Angeles. Davis was promoted from ad sales manager, McGloin from director of business development.... Sally Parker, from new media director, Fattal & Collins, Marina Del Rev, Calif., to director, business development, at W3 Design.





INSIDER

STAR POWER

By Anya Sacharow

Patrick Naughton, the 32-year-old president of Starwave,

did not invent Java. But he takes responsibility for its

initiation and development. "The project existed because I

was making it happen," Naughton says. He can be granted a little arrogance, because Java is no small thing. The software language built by a handful of Sun employees now aspires to be the lingua franca of the Web.

Naughton was speaking in code from the age of 16, when he bought an Atari 400 for \$388 with dishwashing money. As a computer prodigy in Rochester, N.Y., he wrote learned to write software from books. While in college at Clarkson, he devised clones of Macintosh user interfaces for the PC, for which Zenith paid him \$30,000. Back then he didn't go to Microsoft.

"That was my biggest mistake ever, because I guess if I did, I'd be one of these guys living on the lakefront," he says. "But I didn't think they were that great." He later sent a resume to Microsoft, only to get a form-letter rejection. "Java could have happened at

Microsoft had that letter gotten to the right person," he quips. The day after graduation, he went to work for Sun.

Developing the first version of Java consumed him from 1991 to 1993. During that time Naughton changed from "a stay-up-all-night, drink-a-lot-of-Pepsi programmer into trying to talk to people and explain the technology," he recalls. In the fall of 1994, after turning down a top technology job at Viacom,

Naughton went to Starwave. At the time, Paul Allen's multimedia publishing house was producing CD-ROMs and talking to America Online, Interchange and the Microsoft Network. "Their online efforts were ambitious yet misguided," Naughton says. So he brought them Java, his own team of engineers and plenty of ideas for the Web.

As president of Starwave, Naughton has to oversee relationships among Allen, new investor Disney Co. and its properties like ESPN and ABC, which will launch ABCnews.com in the next few weeks. Naughton denies the Web rumors that described him as



The Starwave lineup: Naughton expects it to be one-stop surfing.

unhappy underneath the bigger corporate umbrella. He has a four-year contract with Starwave, and he expects the backing of Disney to lead to nothing less than Web domination.

"We have the capability to create the destination which contains everything someone could want," he says. "A visit to the Internet could be just Starwave sites. It's the brand power that we have."



Follow the Money

In Web sales, real buying power remains elusive. By Laura Rich

It's a confusing time for sellers of that new commodity, Web media space. Armed with banners and pixel inventory galore, they knock on the doors of ad agencies' dedicated new media units—only to be redirected to TV or print buyers who control most of the placement of media dollars for clients. In the Web medium's early days, many of its buyers are more consultants than cash machines, studying the Web but not actually spending on it. Until clients set aside significant budgets for the Web, interactive publishers must turn to other buyers for dollars.

"As a seller, I have no idea who to go to anymore," cries Susan Berkowitz, advertising director at New York-based The Globe, a college-oriented chat site. According to several estimates, Web ad

done on a barter or add-on basis. So finding the few interactive buyers who control actual dollars is the current needle in the Web haystack.

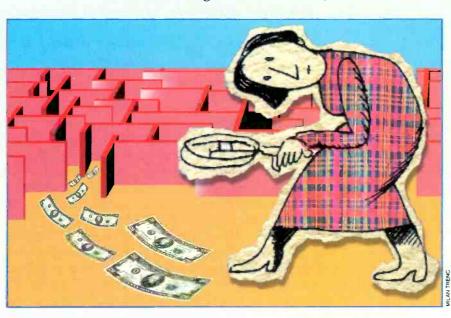
Adding further to the confusion, some big advertisers who have begun spending on the Web prefer to bypass their agencies' new media units in favor of their established media shops, which can leverage one medium's budget in return for Web space. "I'd find out secondhand that our cable people would be spending our budget," recalls Peter Maluso, media director at i-traffic, of his days as a new media buyer at DeWitt Media. Although he repped Web clients such as The Discovery Channel and BMW, Maluso was often frustrated when media companies would extract dollars for a Web program out of other,

non-interactive buyers. Says Maluso, "it makes you wonder if clients are aware their deals are cut by experts in other areas."

For now, clients are dictating how the budding medium will be handled within an agency. Some prefer their agencies make Web buys tied to spending through a traditional media schedule. On the creative and production side, most clients want to coordinate the look and feel of their image across all media and to post their Web site address on non-interactive media campaigns.

That crossover motive, while understandable, sets in motion the conflict over who controls the new media buy. "Clients don't see it as added-value, but when you spend

large dollars on a [television] network, you expect at least consideration on the Web," observes Sean Finnegan, interactive media supervisor at Zenith Media, which boasts clients such as Bell Atlantic



spending totaled anywhere from \$267 million to \$300 million or more in 1996. Yet even those smallish figures overstate the real dollars allocated to Web buys, since many interactive campaigns are



or new media

buys, "you

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and General Mills. That directive can leave Finnegan without much authority over new media spending on some accounts. "I have many clients with interactive-only budgets," he insists. When the buy does come in through another department, Finnegan is called in to "do an evaluation as to whether [the proposal] is fitting."

This isn't always the case. In one program with Columbia Pictures, USA Networks negotiated an extensive package that included an on-air schedule, a location-based promotion and behind-the-scenes programming support. The deal also had a Web component, on USA's Dominion site. Ellen Kaye, vice president of USA Networks

Enterprises, says the network worked with the studio and McCann-Erickson, Columbia's agency of record, on the deal; McCann Interactive was never involved.

Turner Broadcasting Sales executives would call this type of media bundling a sign of the times. "Turner has a long history of successfully selling ancillary products," says Richy Glassberg, general manager of Turner Interactive Marketing and Sales, which oversees ad sales for CNN Interactive. Glassberg cites the Airport Channel and

other Turner products as the proper approach to non-traditional media sales: arm sellers with an array of media opportunities and hit buyers and clients on all fronts.

The goal is "one-stop shopping," Glassberg explains. "We really show the lead sales person how it's to their advantage" to pitch new media, notes Glassberg. "Our regular lead person can't spend time with [a new media buyer], so my group will call on [that buyer]." That tactic means a new media rep often will supply a lead account executive with collateral and explain the medium to buyers, but not necessarily negotiate with them.

Sellers can also come up against internal turf battles at agencies, such as a colossal one between True North and Modem Media staffers, mainly in the New York office. Joe Schreiber, project manager at TN Technologies, Modem's new parent,

has been assigned the task of molding the recently merged companies into an independent unit, responsible for its own client relationships. He's meeting much resistance, according to new media sources. "Clients are still controlled by the TN side," says one media seller. "Schreiber can't even get into meetings with the traditional people." So sellers don't expect the New York office of TN Technologies to offer budgets for TN clients such as Nabisco, and most of Modem's once robust staff has departed for other new media opportunities.

In addition to power struggles, agency new media units are also up against potential revenue shortfalls. When buyers are excluded from cer-

tain deals, they can lose out on commissions earned for placement. Dave Dowling, media director at media.com, the online buying and planning unit spun off from Grey Interactive, says that buyers at MediaCom, Grey Advertising's international buying unit, typically enlist the support of media.com whenever the Web is involved. If they aren't contacted, however, the group doesn't get compensated.

"The key people [at Media-Com] have an understanding of what we're all about," Dowling says. But he concedes that those

actually doing the negotiating are often busy with day-to-day responsibilities to their main medium. At media.com and other agency new media units, interactive buyers keep the same long hours familiar to the media buying industry, only they spend more time on research and planning for clients than on actual deals and contracts.

Corey Friedman, vice president of advertising at Hearst HomeArts, contends the relatively few ad dollars at stake in new media is forcing the current overlap with traditional media sales. "HomeArts has its own sales staff, but we do collaborate" with other Hearst sales teams, he notes. He echoes Zenith's Finnegan: "If you're going out and selling pages for thousands and thousands of dollars, and [advertisers] are begging for it for free, we can put together a package. All we want to do is see this [medium] grow."

CULTURE TRENDS

Billboard's Top 15 Singles

Compiled from a national sample of retail, store and rack sales reports, for the week ending May 3rd provided by $Sound\ Scan$.

| This Week | Last Week | Peak Pos. | Wks on Chart | Title | Artist |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Hypnotize | The Notorious B.I.G. |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 15 | Can't Nobody Hold Me Down | Puff Daddy featuring Mase |
| 3 | 3 | 2 | 23 | You Were Meant for Me | Jewel |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | For You I Will | Monica |
| 5 | 6 | 5 | 10 | I Want You | Savage Garden |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | 15 | Wannabe | Spice Girls |
| 7 | 8 | 7 | 10 | Return Of The Mack | Mark Morrison |
| 8 | 9 | 8 | 11 | Hard To Say I'm Sorry | Az Yet featuring Peter Cetera |
| 9 | 10 | 9 | 4 | Where Have All the Cowboys Gone | Paula Cole |
| 10 | 15 | 10 | 3 | My Baby Daddy | B-Rock & The Buzz |
| 11 | 7 | 4 | 6 | All By Myself | Celine Dion |
| 12 | 11 | 7 | 12 | l'II Be | Foxy Brown featuring Jay Z |
| 13 | 13 | 6 | 14 | Every Time I Close My Eyes | Babyface |
| 14 | 12 | 1 | 28 | Un-break My Heart | Toni Braxton |
| 15 | 18 | 15 | 8 | I Belong To You | Rome |

Billboard's Heatseekers Albums

Best selling titles for the week ending May 3rd by new artists who have not appeared on the top of Billboard's album charts.

| This Week | Last Week | Wks. on Chart | Artist | Title |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 3 | 8 | Tonic | Lemon Parade |
| 2 | 4 | 15 | Matchbox 20 | Yourself Or Someone Like You |
| 3 | | 1 | Artifacts | That's Them |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | Third Eye Blind | Third Eye Blind |
| 5 | 2 | 2 | Tracey Lee | Many Facez |
| 6 | 40 | 33 | Amanda Marshall | Amanda Marshall |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 3X Krazy | Stackin Chips |
| 8 | 7 | 7 | Ronan Hardiman | Lord of the Dance |
| 9 | 10 | 25 | David Kersh | Goodnight Sweetheart |
| 10 | 13 | 10 | Freak Nasty | Controversee |
| 11 | 9 | 15 | Eric Benet | True To Myself |
| 12 | 8 | 4 | Wild Orchid | Wild Orchid |
| 13 | 11 | 23 | No Mercy | No Mercy |
| 14 | 18 | 8 | Sneaker Pimps | Becoming X |
| 15 | 12 | 4 | Caedmon's Call | Caedmon's Call |

the World Week of 4/30/97

MTV Around

| MTV Europe | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Artist | Title |
| 1. Spice Girls | Who Do You Think |
| | You Are |
| 2. White Town | Your Woman |
| 3. Depeche Mode | It's No Good |
| 4. Apollo 440 | Ain't Talkin 'Bout |
| | Dub |
| 5. R. Kelly | I Believe I Can Fly |
| | |
| MTV Latino | |
| Artist | Title |
| 1. INXS | Elegantly Wasted |

| 1. | INXS | Elegantly Wasted |
|----|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2. | Control Machete | Comprendes |
| | | Mendes? |
| 3. | U2 | Staring At The St |

4. Collective Soul Precious Declaration

5. Aerosmith Falling In Love

Artist Title 1. Madonna Don't Cry For Me Argentina 2. No Doubt Don't Speak

3. Barao Vermelho Amor Meu Grande Amor

4. Spice Girls Say You'll Be There5. Metallica Mama Said

MTV Japan

MTV Brasil

Artist Title

1. Spice Girls Sav

Spice Girls Say You'll Be There
 U2 Discotheque
 Aerosmith Falling In Love
 Swing Out Sister Somewhere In the

Somewhere In the World

The New Pollution

5. Beck

Artist Title

1. The Notorious Hypnotize
B.I.G.

2. Monica For You I Will

3. Blackstreet Don't Leave Me
4. The Verve Pipe The Freshman

5. U2 Staring At the Sun

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You should have 5-7 years experience in multi-unit retail marketing, client or agency-side, managing strategic brand direction, research and promotional planning. Strong communication, analytical and computer skills required.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

You need 1-3 years experience in multi-unit retail marketing and will be responsible for executing all elements of the marketing plan. Excellent opportunity for the right person with the drive to grow. Strong computer and multiple project management skills required.

MEDIA MANAGER

Media whiz with 5-7 years experience in multi-unit retail media, client or agencyside, to manage ad agency with \$10+ Million media budget. Experience with broadcast and print required along with strong computer, analytical and management skills. In-house media department experience a plus.

MEDIA ASSISTANT

You need 1-3 years media experience, especially newspaper & direct mail. Strong computer and multiple project management skills required. You'll be a key player in establishing an in-house print department and executing media plans.

Fax cover letter with salary range requirements and resume to: VP MARKETING FAX (609) 486-9615 or send to the address below. No phone calls, please!

Attn: VP Marketing America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses 7255 Crescent Boulevard Pennsauken, NJ 08110 An Equal Opportunity Employer

CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.

If you get a thrill from learning new things and solving tough problems, this marketing communications agency wants to hear from you. Our business-to-business client list gets longer every day, because we're thinkers. All 15 of us. And we're looking for some more:

Art Director for creative solutions to the toughest marketing problems - technical products and sophisticated audiences. Everything from trade ads and direct mail to web sites.

Designer with an inquiring mind. You want to understand what makes the client tick, what makes the product work. Then you want others to see it clearly, too. Sales literature. Annual reports and corporate identity

Copywriter who's not afraid of complex subjects and long copy. Learn new businesses and technologies. Then explain them in ads, direct mail, brochures, and publicity materials. Must have concept and visualization skills



Rector Communications, Inc. 2300 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19103 Attention: Curious People

Make us curious about you. Send letter, resume showing at least five years of business-to-business experience, and samples as appropriate. Please, no phone calls

BATES USA - ACCOUNT SUPERVISOR

Major world-wide ad agency located in NYC seeks Account Supervisor responsible for integrated marketing on dynamic technical account. Candidates must have 1-3 years experience as an Acct. Supervisor, heavy Business-to-Business experience, and experience on technical accounts.

Seasoned account person with high energy level, team member work ethic and ability to take initiative will excel!

Please fax resume and salary requirements to:

Dept. 212, (212) 297-7761 EOE m/f/d/v

DIRECT RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES

Jump-Start your career at one of the hottest direct marketing agencies in the country.

Grey Direct continues to expand. We are looking for experienced direct response professionals to add to our account service team. Our clients are category leaders in banking, high-tech, telecommunications, financial services, automotive and pharmaceuticals.

ACCOUNT SUPERVISORS

Do you have the desire and experience to run a business? Candidates must have at least 6 years direct agency experience and demonstrated leadership abilities. You must be a strategic thinker with superior communication and presentation skills. Experience in financial services a plus. Knowledge of database marketing applications highly desirable. POSITION CODE: HGAS

SR. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Are you an energetic self-starter who's looking for the next level of challenge and opportunity? We are seeking candidates with a strong desire to develop professionally. Must be highly organized with excellent written and oral communication skills, solid day-to-day client management experience and at least 4 years experience in a direct agency. POSITION CODE: HGAE1

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Looking for a place to prove yourself and grow in the direct response business? We'd like to meet you if you think you can handle a multifaceted position that demands heavy day-to-day client contact, program development and budget management. Ideally 2+ years direct agency experience, strong high-tech skills and above average verbal and written communication skills. POSITION CODE:

GREY DIRECT offers profit sharing, a full range of benefits, a competitive salary and--if you have what it takes--tremendous opportunity for growth and advance-

Please call, or send resume and cover letter (indicate position code) along with salary requirements to:

Daniel Robbins

GREY DIRECT

875 Third Ave, 5th Flr New York, NY 10022 212 303-2308

EOE M/F

Visit our WEBSITE at greydirect.com

DIRECTOR OF MEDIA SERVICES

If You Understand That Media Is Part of the Creative Process We Understand You!

A youthful but established agency needs one more spoke to complete our creative wheel. Must have agency experience in developing sophisticated & creative media plans. Computer literate, strong on detail & great organizational skills. Send resume to:

> **ADWEEK Classified, Box 3976** 1515 Broadway, 12th fl. New York, NY 10036

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Small, distinctive Agency (blue-chip tech, publishing and Internet accounts) seeks freelance Art Director and Copywriter. Both positions require 5+ years experience, a killer print book and an aversion to lame, soul-numbing creative. Please send cover letter, resume and selected samples to:

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If you happen to be one with 4-8 years agency exp., strong conceptual skills and can produce fresh, compelling layouts for our roster of blue-chip accounts, we'd like to talk to you. Please submit your resume and 3-4 samples to:

The Lunar Group, Inc. Attn: Creative Director 9 Whippany Rd., Whippany, NJ 07927

Fax: (201) 887-3722

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Are you reody to step up to big league sales in promotion services? If you have 2-5 years of consumer packaged goods experience, ore creotive, bright, and determined to be successful, we wont to tolk to you. We are o notional company based in the midwest. We currently have an opening in our White Plains, NY office.

GET BUSY.

Send your resume to:



10561 BARKLEY OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212 OR FAX TO 913/381-3536

ACCOUNT PLANNER

Mid-Atlantic agency is looking for "the best old-business tool ever invented." An experienced account planner who is a strong proactive team player with analytical and intuitive skills, marketing and consumer research experience. You will become actively involved with the creative process by using consumers as a sounding board for ideas. Your opinion is valued by creatives, account people and clients. Presentation skills a must! If you have a minimum of 2 years experience, send your resume to:

ADWEEK Classified, Box 3977 1515 Broadway, 12th fl., New York, NY 10036

FINANCE/OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

For high-profile Fashion PR/Special Events Agency. Must have experience in financial planning and management; development of control systems; performing cost and revenue analyses; supervision of accounting manager. Also oversee agency operations, such as personnel, insurance, computer network, policies, etc. Reports directly to partners. Must be pro-active, energetic, visionary and suited for a fast-paced hands on agency environment with 22 employees.

Fax resume with salary requirements to: (212) 246-4098

PRINT RESEARCHER

3-5 years experience at a newspaper, or newspaper planning at advertising agency. Familiarity with Simmons, Scarborough, CMR, and on-line systems preferred. Compensation commensurate with experience. Write or fax:

Researcher c/o B. Goldstein Sawyer-Ferguson-Walker 90 Park Avenue New York, NY 10016-1301 FAX: 212-687-3736 An equal opportunity employer.

EDITORIAL

Ground floor opportunity at up-and-coming trade newspaper covering adv/mktg industry. Gain valuable experience as you are immersed in all aspects of the reporting, writing, and editing process. Interest in mktg a +, knowledge of PC's helpful. This is an excellent entry level opportunity for anyone looking to break into editorial work.

FAX res to (212) 688-7631.

ART DIRECTOR

Thriving Long Island agency needs a talented individual to lead a junior design and production team. Position requires exceptional creative talent, 5-7 years as an AD, solid experience in ad, brochure, packaging and POP design and production, desktop design proficiency (Quark, Illustrator and Phatoshop), good sketching and illustration skills and a strong knowledge af print production. Prior experience or a strong desire to learn interactive, CD-ROM and web design will help. Competitive compensation and casual but professional working environment. Full medical and dental. Send resume and copy of best somple. No colls please.

Sonipie: No Communications, 2 Ooklawn Ave. Glen Head, NY 11545. Fax: (516) 674-8256 E-mail: ejbrennan@erinedwards.com

TRAFFIC MANAGER

Traffic Manager wanted by agency. Experience with print media a must. Knowledge of broadcast and out-of-home helpful. Candidate must have excellent communication and organizational skills. WordPerfect and Lotus a plus. Salary commensurate with experience. Opportunity for advancement and benefits. Fax resume to:

212-681-9895 Att: Tricia

MANAGER-AD SALES RESEARCH

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc is seeking an experienced Manager-Ad Sales Research. Based in New York, this position will be responsible for positioning programming for ad sales and writing creative sales presentations for ad sales. Qualified candidates must possess thorough knowledge of Nielsen ratings and be able to track programming performance to produce estimates for rate cards and deficiency analyses. Proficiency with relevant Nielsen, Simmons, and CMR software is a must

Please send resume indicating salary history to:



Attn: Human Resources 2500 Broadway Street Santa Monica, CA 90404 FAX: 310-449-3028 (No phone calls, please) Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer M/F/V/H

Metro Logo in Pouch

PLANNER/BUYER

Expanding Top-10, Baltimore-based international agency seeks Media Buyer/Planner, min. 2 yrs. exp., direct response, local/nat'l broadcast and print. No fax. No calls. Mail resume w/letter including salary expectations to:

Dir. Media Services TRA 111 Market PLace, #610 Baltimore, MD 21202

GENERAL MANAGER

Medium sized, international software development company is seeking a General Manager to lead operations, software development and technical support at our New York office. Position includes direct responsibility for strategic plan implementation, technological achievements and industry advances while maintaining expense, revenue and capital commitments. Candidates must have successfully demonstrated leadership and client satisfaction through producing stable robust products, superior customer service and excellent staffing. Advanced degree(s), media experience, and previous profit and loss experience beneficial. Mail resume with salary history to:

> BSA Confidential Reply Service Attn: HR-GM54 225 N Michigan Ave Chicago, IL 60601

WUNDERMAN CATO JOHNSON ACTION MARKETING

Wunderman Cato Johnson, the premier direct marketing agency worldwide, seeks professionals to fill a Media Planning Supervisor position in its San Francisco office and a Media Planning Supervisor or Director position in its Miami office. Both positions are created by several new business wins and agency growth. Direct marketing experience a must. Please FAX resumes to:

Attn: HR, 212-598-5450

JUNIOR AE

Small creative shop with premium clients needs strategic, organized self-starter.

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Downtown NYC. Fax resume to 366-0468.

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Heard the latest? Dictaphone, a leading provider of integrated voice technology solutions and services, has an exciting career opening in its marketing communications and creative services department.

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The candidate should exhibit strong creative and communications skills as well as possess the ability to work on multiple projects under tight deadlines. The position requires all the skills necessary for the creation of graphic design solutions from concept to the production of final materials. Specifically, this candidate must possess extensive experience in the development of creative marketing collateral including corporate identity, print advertising, signage, posters, direct mail, and packaging. Proficiency in traditionally generated graphics as well as extensive computer experience on the Mac in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand and Quark is a must.

A Bachelor's degree in graphic design with 5 or more years of experience in the design field is required. An in-depth knowledge of Macintosh as a design and production tool is essential. Expertise with developmental and presentation software tools and cross platform literacy is a plus.

For immediate consideration, send or fax your resume to:

Dictaphone Corporation Dept. 5SW 3191 Broadbridge Avenue Stratford, CT 06497 Fax: (203) 386-8566

email: hr@dictaphone.com

For more information regarding Dictaphone, please see our homepage at: http://www.dictaphone.com.

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an ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE to work out of our New York Office.

Here's what you'll do: you'll be the main contact with our suppliers; you'll build relationships with all our vendors; you'll place all greater New York Metropolitan area business that comes into our office and you'll work with our internal staff coordinating the stuff that has to be done.

Here's what we want: someone who's bright, energetic, has spent 3 to 5 years with an agency or outdoor company doing buying, selling or planning, and has all the right skills.

Here's what you'll get: a chance to work with the best, a competitive salary, benefits and a chance to grow.

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Box 00498, Adweek Magazine 5055 Wilshire Blvd, 7th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90036

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The selected candidate will manage the sales process for high potential revenue accounts through the sale of postal products and services. Through a combination of education, training, and experience, applicants must meet the following requirements:

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- Ability to sell using a comprehensive end-to-end process that includes researching customer needs, developing and presenting a sales proposal, and closing the sale
- Ability to research and analyze competitive marketplace conditions and industry trends that may impact potential U.S. Postal Service revenue account opportunities
- Ability to develop and maintain

effective work relationships with other postal employees, contract employees, and external customers • Ability to lead an account team including planning, organizing, and coordinating the activities of operations, customer relations, and technical support staff • Ability to manage the work of sales employees including planning, organizing, and assigning projects, monitoring and evaluating performance, and providing technical guidance • Ability to evaluate account revenue opportunities and develop forecast projections

Ability to develop and maintain an operating budget

Qualified applicants must successfully pass a pre-employment drug screening to meet the U.S. Postal Service's requirement to be drug-free and be a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident alien status.

We offer an excellent salary and benefits including health and life insurance, retirement plan, savings/ investment plan with employer contributions, flexible spending account, as well as annual and sick leave.

If your qualifications match or exceed our requirements, please send your resume with salary history to: U.S. Postal Service, Corporate Personnel Operations, Attn: Team C - VA #97-21AW, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Room 1813, Washington, DC 20260-4261.



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As the leading marketing communications management consultancy to major advertisers worldwide, Morgan Anderson seeks a talented individual to join our agency review practice team in New York. You should have 6 to 10 years in agency account management and/or new business; impeccable credentials and wish to succeed; compelling interest in agency review and assessment; ability to interface with senior client management. Stimulating environment in Chelsea; highly creative problem-solving; one-of-a-kind intellectual challenges; work independently and as team player.

Letter, resume, salary needs in confidence to 136 West 24th Street, NYC 10011.

ACCOUNT SUPERVISORS

MARC ADVERTISING

MARC Advertising has an opportunity for two Account Supervisors to be responsible for a wide range of activities relating to the overall management of accounts. One position is located in Pittsburgh, and the other position is located in Indianapolis. Both positions require heavy client contact and will be responsible for creating and developing client strategies.

Primary responsibilities include developing and writing campaign strategies and client presentations; managing financial budgets for various accounts; project management and staff development. This position is also responsible for assessing clients' needs and for integrating appropriate marketing and communication strategies.

The successful candidate must have strategic planning experience, understanding of the clients' businesses, have strong problem solving skills and be a creative thinker. Must also have strong organization, management and excellent communication (written and verbal) skills with brand, retail and healthcare experience desired.

To be successful, this person must be able to manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment with limited supervision and be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Position requirements include a BA or BS in Marketing, Advertising or related field; 3-5 years' retail and consumer brand experience in an agency is preferred.

MARC Advertising offers competitive salaries and an excellent benefits package. Qualified candidates should send a resume and cover letter indicating salary expectations and location preference to:



Professional Employment - AS-B MARC Advertising Four Station Square, Suite 500 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1119

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE/ PLANNER

SMALL AGENCY, BIG OPPORTUNITY

If you're an organized, strategic thinker who appreciates great creative, our AAAA's agency wants you now. Handling Fortune 500 business-to-business accounts from our Florida (Tampa Bay) office will require at least 3-5 years experience. Please send resume, sample of your marketing writing and salary requirements.

AMLH 500 N. Westshore Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609 Fax 813.286.7581 E-mail gretchen@amlh.com

Advertising Coordinator

Sought by Award-Winning Nat'l Trade Magazine in the D.C Metro area. Perfect opportunity to really get your feet wet in advertising/publishing. B/A in Advertising or related field, WordPerfect and Lotus proficiency, and some sales and/or agency experience required. Send resume and salary req. to: Ad Manager, 433 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301 or e-mail: adman@formmag.com

READY TO LEAP? FROM ASSISTANT MEDIA PLANNER

Small NYC agency needs planner with experience in broadcast and print, computer and analytical skills.

Please fax resume and salary requirements to (212) 686-0517.

For Classified Advertising Rates

Call M. Morris at 212-536-6493 or 1-800-7-ADWEEK

Marketing Manager-Customer Loyalty

Implement and manage marketing programs to increase customer retention and maximize customer loyalty. Create and administer "appreciation" and make it right" programs. Adapt on-going marketing programs to customer loyalty market objectives. Coordinate with direct marketing to develop mailings to increase customer loyalty. Coordinate with creative department to increase interactive dialog with customer base. 3-5 years experience in customer loyalty programs. Advertising agency manangement experience desired. Strong analytical skills. Detail oriented to analyze retention statistics. Excellent verbal and written communication skills, high degree of computer literacy (MS Word and Excel). BS with emphasis in marketing required. MBA preferred.

Marketing Manager-Sales/Distribution

Implement and manage marketing programs to incrase distributor purchases. Implement marketing programs to increase the number of distributors. Create and administer co-op programs. Increase prominence of Microflex in distributor communications and sales efforts to end users. Adapt on-going marketing programs to distributor sales/marketing objectives with collective goal of attracting new customers. Analyze the distributors' end user sales trends and markets. Coordinate new product introduction campaigns to distributor 5-7 years proven success and demonstrable track record of maximizing distributor sales programs, creating distributor purchase marketing programs and managing multiple projects. Strong creative and analytical skills. Detail oriented to forecast distributor sales. Excellent verbal and written communication skills. High degree of computer literacy (MS Word and Excel). BS with emphasis in marketing required. MBA preferred.

Send resume and salary history/requirements to:

Microflex Medical Corporation PO Box 32000 Reno, NV 89533-2000 FAX (702) 746-6553 Emall: Debbie@microflex.com

MANAGER AD SALES RESEARCH

A&E Television Networks has a unique opportunity for an experienced media research professional to support our ad sales effort. The individual will be responsible for assisting in the development of strategies, sales presentations and pertinent data in positioning The History Channel in the marketplace, as well as providing secondary support for A&E.

The qualified candidate must possess a college degree and a minimum of 5 yrs. experience in a media research or national agency/media company. Familiarity with Nielsen data systems (PNF) and secondary research sources (MRI or SMRB) is required. Strong written, presentation, and interpersonal skills are essential.

For immediate consideration, please forward your resume with salary requirements to:

A & E Television Networks

Attn: Human Resources/Dept. MASR 235 East 45th Street New York, NY 10017 or Fax to: (212) 907-9402 NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. EOE.



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In this position, you will play a strong role in overseeing creative briefs with the ad agency, assist in the development of local ads, maintain media and creative files, as well as some clerical duties. A Bachelor's degree desired. Computer literacy including, Windows, Excel and Powerpoint is essential.

We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefit package including a year-end bonus. Take the next step to excellence by sending your resume, including salary history and requirements in confidence to: Corporate Staffing Dept NR, SMITH BARNEY. 388 Greenwich Street, 7th Floor

New York, New York 10013 Fax: (212) 816-2119

e-mail:HR Staffing@smb.com www.SMITHBARNEY.com

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Small creative shop offers unlimited earning potential & great work environment to DM pro who can jump-start new division. Bring some business, the energy to build & a sense of humor. Fax or reply in confidence to 203-899-7579.

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212-557-3341

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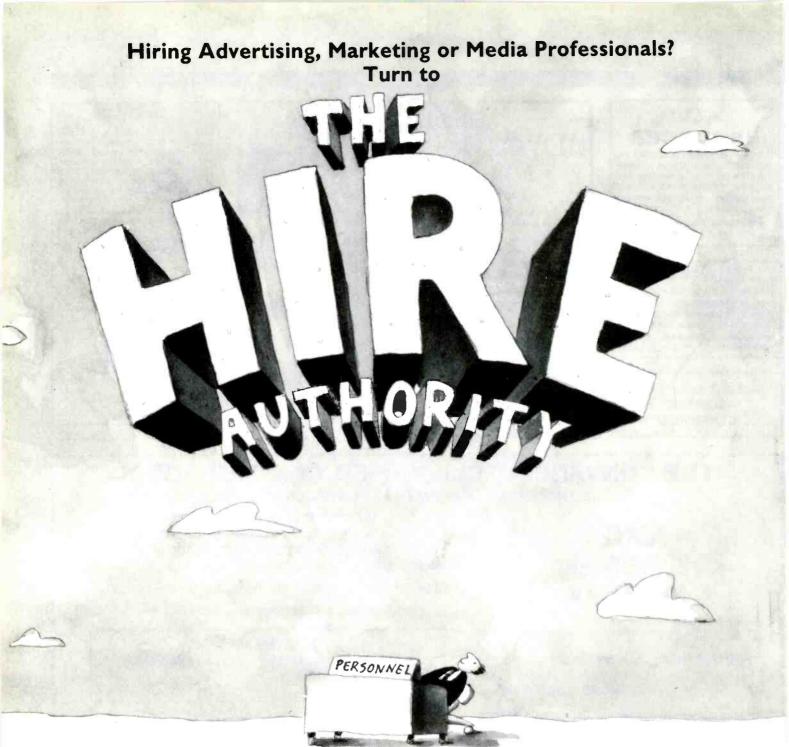
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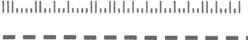
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CALENDAR

The International Newspaper Marketing Association Annual Conference is being held through May 7 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, Contact: 214-991-5900.

Suburban Newspapers of America will hold its Circulation Managers' Roundtable May 8-10 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Chicago. Contact: 312-644-6610.

The Southern California Chapter of American Women in Radio & Television presents the 42nd Annual Genii Awards May 9 at Merv Griffin's Beverly Hilton Hotel. Contact: 213-964-2740.

The Association of National Advertisers will present a seminar on creative advertising in Pasadena, Calif., May 12-13. Contact: 212-697-5950.

The International Radio & Television Society presents the Foundation Awards Luncheon May 20 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. Recipients include Dick Clark; Mel Karmazin, ceo, CBS Radio; Dan Rather; and FCC commissioner James Quello. Contact: 212-867-6650.

Women in Cable & Telecommunications will hold its national management conference June 9-12 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. Sessions cover leadership, industry and management issues. Contact: 312-634-2330.

The 1997 Electronic Entertainment Expo, focusing on interactive entertainment and content, will be held June 19-21 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. Contact: 800-315-1133.

Media Notes

NEWS OF THE MARKET

Edited by Anne Torpey-Kemph

Capstar to Buy Gulfstar

Capstar Broadcasting last week agreed to acquire a sister radiostation company, Gulfstar Communications. Both companies are based in Austin, Texas. Details were not disclosed, but analysts estimated that it is worth about \$200 million. Capstar said that it will buy Gulfstar with stock after it completes its initial public offering. The acquisition of Gulfstar's 57 stations will give Capstar a total of 229 stations. Capstar is controlled by Dallas investment firm Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst and by Steven Hicks, Capstar ceo. Gulfstar is controlled by Hicks and his brother, Thomas, ceo of Hicks, Muse.

Radio Roars in March

March was an excellent month for radio ad sales. According to a report by the New York-based Radio Advertising Bureau, combined national and local ad revenue jumped 13 percent in March compared to the 1996 month. Local ad revenue was up 10 percent over last year, while national spot soared 21 percent. The largest gain for local ads came from the Southwest, while national spot experienced its greatest growth in the East.

Newhouse Takes AP Chair

Donald E. Newhouse was elected chairman of the Associated Press last week. Newhouse is president of Advance Publications and has served on the Associated Press board since 1988. Newhouse replaces Frank A. Daniels Jr., who retired earlier this year after five years as chairman. Advance publishes the Newark Star Ledger, The Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Times-Picayune of New Orleans, among other papers. William R. Burleigh,

president and ceo of Scripps Howard, was elected vice chairman of the board of the AP. Louis D. Boccardi was re-elected president and ceo.

A Year of 'Sunday's for Fox

Fox Broadcasting this past Sunday celebrated the one-year anniversary its first network news show, Fox News Sunday.

The show airs Sunday mornings from 9-10 a.m., hosted by syndicated columnist Tony Snow, with panelists including Fox News Channel's Brit Hume and The Washington Post's Juan Williams. Fox News Sunday, which has reached a 96 percent national clearance, has landed interviews

with the imprisoned Whitewater cohort Susan McDougal; the first interviews last year with national party chairmen Roy Romer and Jim Nicholson; judge Robert Bork; and rapper Chuck D on the censorship of "gangsta" rap. Fox News Sunday averaged a 1.1 rating in March, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Odyssey Adds Chi. Stations

Odyssey Communications, the New York-based group radio owner, has acquired two Chicago-area radio stations (WVVX-FM in Highland Park, Ill., and WJDK in Davis, Ill.) from Douglas Broadcasting for \$10.6 million in cash. With the purchase



Side-stepper: Radio's Babe moves laterally, to ABC.

Sports Babe on the Go

The Fabulous Sports Babe, the nationally syndicated radio personality whose self-titled talk show has been airing on ESPN Radio Networks out of the sports network's Bristol, Conn., studios, will move to New York and broadcast out of ABC Radio Networks' studios, effective May 12. From a corporate perspective, it's an inside move, as both radio networks are owned by ABC parent Walt Disney Co. The Babe, whose real name is Nanci Donnellan, will reach the same radio affiliates—180 in all, including the latest addition, XTRA in L.A. Her show is heard from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. weekdays.

Media Notes

CONTINUED

of the two Chicago stations, Odyssey, whose holdings include three New York stations and four Los Angeles stations, will now be in position to tap into an estimated \$1.3 billion in ad revenue from the top three markets, according to Odyssey officials. Odyssey is co-owned by Stuart Sabotnick, a general partner in Metromedia Corp., and Mike Kakoyiannis, a former broadcasting executive.

'Rolling Stone' Runs Contest

Wenner Media's *Rolling Stone* is sponsoring a contest in connection with its long May 15 feature, "The Rolling Stone 200," the magazine's picks for the best albums ever made. To enter, readers mail an entry form from the issue to a *Rolling Stone* business address in Ohio. The prize: all 200 choice albums.

Kanney Joins 'Family Money'

Alyson Kanney has been named publisher at *Better Homes and Gardens Family Money* magazine, a Meredith Corp. title. She takes over from Jerry Kaplan, who continues as vp for magazine group sales. Kanney had been publisher of *Northwest Airlines World Traveler*, also a Meredith title.

Discovery, BBC Channel Energy

Discovery Communications and the BBC last week announced part of their long-delayed and far-reaching agreement to jointly launch worldwide programming services and produce programming. The two companies have agreed in principle to launch Animal Planet in the U.K. and Northern Europe on July 1 and to launch Animal Planet and a second nonfiction entertainment channel focusing on cultural and historical documentaries in Latin America on Oct. 6. Still to be

hammered out between Discovery and the BBC are the joint production ventures and the launch of channels in the U.S. The entire deal is expected to be completed by July 1.

'Bee' Has New Sunday Buzz

The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee has switched Sunday magazines. The 300,000–circulation daily newspaper (350,000 on Sunday) has dropped Parade and picked up Gannett's USA Weekend. The Bee said that it had sought to carry both publications—one on Friday, the other Sunday—but Parade refused.

TPEG Acquiring Grosso

The Producers Entertainment Group, a Beverly Hills, Calif .based production company, has signed a letter of intent to acquire Grosso-Jacobson Entertainment. Under terms of the deal, TPEG will take ownership of Grosso-Jacobson's current series production, development projects, 600 hours of television library programming, and a 49 percent stake in a G-J production office in Toronto, TPEG will exchange stock valued at \$8 million to complete the deal. Los Angeles-based Grosso-Jacobson is best known as the current series producer of The Big Easy for USA Network; the company is also a long-form telefilm producer for the cable and broadcast networks.TPEG is best known as the coproducer (with CBS Entertainment Productions) of the CBS sitcom Dave's World.

NetStar Open for Talk Radio

Veteran radio station and programming execs Alan Fuller and Steve Youlios have formed a new Los Angeles-based talkradio syndication company, Net-Star Entertainment Group. Net-



Rather will pen a weekly syndicated news column.

Rather Inks Print Deal

CBS Evening News anchor Dan Rather is adding print journalism to his list of credits, with a deal to write a weekly column to be syndicated nationally by Hearst Corp.'s King Features division. Rather's column, which will be released for Sunday press runs starting June 2, will

deal with issues and topics that are often left out of daily coverage in the newspapers and television, according to Lawrence T. Olsen, president of King Features. "This column will be in the spirit of those written by the legendary Jim Bishop and Bob Considine," Olsen said. "Rather's columns will cover both domestic and international news and will often draw on his storytelling abilities."

Star will develop and produce new talk programming for domestic and international syndication as well as operate a separate national advertising sales arm. Fuller, who is chairman and ceo of NetStar, is a 20-year veteran radio producer who created and executive produced the nationally syndicated Dr. Laura Schlessinger Show. Youlios, who will serve as NetStar's president and general manager, most recently worked as general sales manager of Jacor Communications' WGST-AM/FM combo in Atlanta and Georgia News Network. Prior to that, he was with CBS Radio Network.

Evergreen Gets New Loan

Radio station group owner Evergreen Media Corp. has secured a new eight-year, \$1.75 billion senior banking facility from Toronto Dominion Bank. In addition to Toronto Dominion, the "managing agent tier" of partnering lenders includes The Bank of New York, Banker's Trust Company, NationsBank and Union Bank of California. The new \$1.75 billion note

replaces a prior \$625 million facility. Evergreen plans to use the new lending funds to finance its most recent acquisitions of the Viacom and Gannett station groups. With Evergreen awaiting final approval to merge with Chancellor Media Corp., the combined group will be the nation's largest radio-only owner at 99 radio stations in 21 of the 40 largest markets.

VW Golf Swings Into 'Ellen"

The controversial "coming out" episode of ABC's Ellen last week was the venue for the debut of an ad featuring two men driving in a Volkswagen Golf GL. The ad, which a Volkswagen official said was not developed with the episode in mind, is also scheduled to appear on episodes of Beverly Hills, 90210, Friends and Seinfeld. Volkswagen has been a national advertiser on Ellen for two years. Chrysler, General Motors and Ford pulled their ads from last week's Ellen episode after learning of its controversial nature. A Volkswagen spokesman said that the two men in the ad are not intended to be thought of as gay.



FOR A YEAR, YOU'VE READ WHAT THE CRITICS HAVE SAID.

NOW, SEE THE FILM.



Surely, the editors of Adweek magazine have to be some of the most critical critics of advertising. And now you can follow all the plot twists, rug pulls and comedy routines these highly selective critics selected as the best. For after a whole year of reading about great TV spots, we think it's high time you finally watched them. That's why our editors spent hundreds of hours reviewing and selecting commercials to put together this reel of the best U.S. spots of the year for you. So why not order yours now? And you can watch the commercials that won critical acclaim on the same medium the critics did.



| ☐ Send me Best Spots of 1996 for☐ Send me Best Spots of 1996 and | | | FORMAT |
|---|--------|----------------|--------|
| NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| COMPANY: | | | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: | |
| PHONE: | FAX: | | |
| CHECK ENCLOSED FOR TOTAL \$ | | BILL ME, P.O # | |
| ☐ CHARGE MY AMEX/VISA/MC ACCT# | | EXP | |
| SIGNATURE: | | | |

BIG DEAL

SPRINT CONSUMER SERVICES

Advertiser: Sprint

Agency: J. Walter Thompson, San

Francisco Begins: Now

Budget: \$25-30 million

Media: TV

Sprint today launches a new execution of ads for its consumer long distance plan, a \$25-30 million Sprint Sense campaign that introduces a national paging promotion and reemphasizes its extended calling hours for the lucrative California market.

The Kansas City, Mo.-based telco continues to lump consumer services other than long distance into its Sprint Sense campaign with a \$10 flat-fee offer for a numeric pager. The previous campaign, which made its debut in January, introduced Sprint's Internet service offering, Sprint Passport, and its flat-rate pricing platform.

"Our goal is to continue to show consumers that Sprint not only offers simple, easy-to-understand long distance rates but also a myriad of other products," said Scott Ragan, senior marketing manager for Sprint's consumer services group. Ragan added that Sprint intends to continue its recent strategy of weaving its price-and-simplicity message into grassroots promotions and public relations efforts.

As in the previous slate of Sprint Sense ads, spokesperson Candice Bergen has a brief role in the plot line. Ragan insisted Bergen's diminished role doesn't signal her end with the brand. "In the future, you'll see Candice very involved in our advertising," he added.

The campaign includes three 30-second spots, two of which tout Sprint Sense and the "dime zone," a new designation for the discounted calling period of nights and weekends; the third introduces the Sprint Paging offer. Ads will run on network TV through the end of the summer with a 60-second spot breaking next week for cable.

For the past year, Sprint has offered Sprint Sense California, an extended long distance calling plan. California is the first state where Sprint has chosen to enter the local telephone market as a reseller. —Bernhard Warner

Real Money

ADVERTISING ACTIVITY IN THE MEDIA MARKETPLACE

LAND ROVER

Advertiser: Land Rover Agency: Grace & Rothchild Begins: Print, this week; TV, tba

Budget: \$15 million Media: Print, TV

Land Rover, which has for the past decade positioned itself as the only upscale sport utility worthy of an African safari, is now repositioning to be "the source" of information on buying a sport utility vehicle.

Starting with a \$15 million print campaign this week, and a TV campaign later, Land

Rover is making available through dealerships a 120page buying guide, "The Authoritative Guide to Compact Sport Utility Vehicles."

Bob Lierle, general manager of marketing at Land Rover North America, calls the campaign an "affirmation" of what

Land Rover has always tried to be. The traditional jungle and desert ads will be seen primarily this year in niche magazines and TV shows. Land Rover is putting additional money behind the new program, though, and its ad budget is expected to top \$40 million, compared with \$33 million last year.

The campaign focuses on the Land Rover Discovery but also includes the Range Rover and Defender in the mix.

Lierle says that the new effort is meant to appeal especially to women, who typically seek out a great deal of information before buying a new vehicle. —David Kiley

SWEET ESCAPES

Advertiser: Hershey
Agency: DDB Needham

Begins: July Budget: \$12 million Media: TV, print

Hershey will ship two new flavors of its Sweet Escapes low-fat chocolate line next month and kick off an estimated \$12 million advertising campaign that introduces the concept of a "Chocolate Zone."

The new flavors, Crunchy Peanut Butter Bars and Crispy Caramel Fudge Bars, ship to retail in mid-June, with ads breaking in July and running through year-end. Hershey will utilize the tagline, "Indulge Your Chocolate Zone" as it seeks to give Sweet Escapes a more pleasurable edge.

Hershey will target women via daytime, syndicated and cable television, as well as full-page magazine ads in *Fitness*, *McCall's*

and Shape. Fifty million coupons will go out, with a Sept. 7 FSI drop planned. DDB Needham, N.Y., has the account.

Hershey will also use its Disney license to place 4 million 35-cent coupons in Aladdin's Lunch Box Kits, a move perhaps designed to con-

vince moms to think of Sweet Escapes as a healthy snack.

Finally, the chocolate giant is tying in with Weight Watchers International to distribute 600,000 free samples of Sweet Escapes in diet centers across the country. Also, more than 500,000 coupons will go out in the Weight Watchers newsletter.

The Weight Watchers tie-in comes just a few months after Simply Lite Foods, a low-fat candy purveyor, signed an exclusive license with WW for its Sweet 'n Low sugar-free butter toffee product. Other competitors in the diet candy category include Sorbee International and Snack-Well's, from Nabisco.

Launched last year, Sweet Escapes had about \$87 million in food, drug and mass sales in the year ended March 30, according to Information Resources Inc. Hershey spent \$15 million to launch the product last year, according to Competitive Media Reporting.



Rovers row: New ads position Land Rover as *the* source for info on SUVs.

The two new Sweet Escapes flavors are line priced with other SKUs in the brand. The peanut butter bars have 90 calories and three grams of fat per serving, while the fudge bars have 80 calories and two grams of fat. —Sean Mehegan

ST. IDES GOLD BEER

Advertiser: McKenzie River Partners Agency: Odiorne Wilde Narraway

Groome, San Francisco

Begins: Now Budget: \$10 million Media: Radio, TV

McKenzie River Partners, based in San Francisco, is pushing into the mainstream beer market with St. Ides Gold premium beer, aimed also at maturing consumers of its St. Ides Malt Liquor who graduate to beer as they enter their 30s.

Backed by a radio and TV ad blitz, Gold launches despite postponement (from May 3 to June 28) of the World Boxing Association rematch between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson that was to be the key promotional peg for the introduction.

With sponsorship rights, POP, radio and TV airing on BET, ESPN and ESPN2, total budget likely approaches \$10 million. Initial episodic ads follow two comics in a bus on the "Quest for the Best"—encountering fight promoter Don King and others en route to the fight. Media schedule, POP and some creative have been revamped following the postponement.

"We're going right up against Budweiser," which usually owns boxing, said marketing coordinator Emma Wharton. Target is top 50 markets by year-end. Overall theme for the fight sponsorship is "Celebrating the spirit of champions."

Colt 45 malt liquor marketer G. Heileman Brewing similarly tried to break out of the malt liquor ghetto in 1993 with the short-lived Colt 45 Premium Beer. Stroh Brewery, Detroit, picked up both Heileman and the brand last summer and also is handling sales duties on St. Ides per an alliance struck with McKenzie River late last year. McKenzie River also is testing a St. Ides freeze-and-squeeze slush in five flavors. —Gerry Khermouch

CMR TOP 50

A Weekly Ranking of the Top 50 Brands' Advertising in Network Prime Time

Week of April 14-20, 1997

| Rank | Brand | Class | Spots |
|------|--|-------|-------|
| 1 | BURGER KING | V234 | 73 |
| 2 | MCDONALD'S | V234 | 37 |
| 3 | 101 DALMATIANSVIDEO | H330 | 22 |
| | KFC RESTAURANT | V234 | 22 |
| | SEARSSALES ANN | V321 | 22 |
| 6 | DOMINO'S PIZZA | V234 | 21 |
| 7 | M&M CANDIES | F211 | 20 |
| 8 | LITTLE CAESAR'S | V234 | 19 |
| | RED LOBSTER | V234 | 19 |
| 10 | WARNER BROSMURDER AT 1600 MOVIE | V233 | 18 |
| 11 | BOSTON MARKET | V234 | 17 |
| 12 | ACURA AUTOSRL | T112 | 16 |
| 13 | MAZDA TRUCKSB-SERIES PICKUPS | T118 | 15 |
| | MILKY WAY | F211 | 15 |
| | PRIMESTARSATELLITE SYSTEM | H320 | 15 |
| | WALT DISNEY WORLD | V239 | 15 |
| 17 | FRUITOPIARTS FRUIT DRINKS | F223 | 14 |
| | JC PENNEY | V321 | 14 |
| | OLIVE GARDEN RESTAURANT | V234 | 14 |
| | PEPSI | F221 | 14 |
| | TACO BELL | V234 | 14 |
| 22 | ADVILPAIN RELIEVER TABLETS | D211 | 13 |
| | MAZDA AUTOS626 | T112 | 13 |
| | PAYLESS SHOE SOURCEFAMILY | V313 | 13 |
| | SUBWAY RESTAURANT | V234 | 13 |
| | ULTRA SLIM FASTRTS DRINK | F123 | 13 |
| 27 | FORD TRUCKSF-SERIES PICKUPS | T117 | 12 |
| | NIKEMEN'S SNEAKERS | A131 | 12 |
| | PLANTERSVARIOUS NUTS | F212 | 12 |
| | TRIDENTSUGARLESS GUM | F211 | 12 |
| 31 | AMERICAN DAIRY ASS'NMILK | F131 | 11 |
| | COLGATE WHITENINGBAKING SODA & PRX PST | | 11 |
| | FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION | B189 | 11 |
| | SATURN CORPAUTOS CP | T111 | 11 |
| 35 | 1-800-COLLECT | B142 | 10 |
| | 20TH CENTURY FOXVOLCANO MOVIE | V233 | 10 |
| | BUENA VISTAROMY & MICHELLE'S/SCHL RN | V233 | 10 |
| | CHEE-TOS | F212 | 10 |
| | DENTAL CARETOOTHPASTE | D121 | 10 |
| | LISTERINEMOUTHWASH | D121 | 10 |
| | RADIO SHACK | V341 | 10 |
| | SATURN AUTOS | T111 | 10 |
| | SPRINT LONG DISTANCERESIDENTIAL | B142 | 10 |
| | UNIVERSALMCHALE'S NAVY MOVIE | V233 | 10 |
| 45 | 3 MUSKETEERSCANDY BAR | F211 | 9 |
| - | BURLINGTON COAT FACTORYWOMEN | V311 | 9 |
| | CLARITINALLERGY RX | D218 | 9 |
| | CPC INTLREGIONAL | F180 | 9 |
| | GILLETTE SENSOR EXCELWOMEN'S RAZOR | D127 | 9 |
| | HOME DEPOT | V345 | 9 |

Ranked in order of total spots. Includes ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, UPN and WB. Regional feeds are counted as whole spots.

Spots indexed to average spots for all brands advertising in prime time, i.e., if McDonald's Index=1308, McDonald's ran

1208 percent more spots than the average.

Source: Competitive Media Reporting

Media Person

BY LEWIS GROSSBERGER



Rag Them Not

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN KNOW-IT-ALL, WISE-ASS punks like Media Person made cruel sport of the

National Enquirer. No more. Fini. The Enquirer is not the Polish joke of journalism any longer. It is not to be trifled with. Not since *Time* magazine named Enquirer editor Steve Coz one of the 25 Most Influential People in America for 1997. ◆ "Coz, 39, is one of a new breed of editors who are making the tabs more influential," *Time* kudoed. "In contrast to his predecessor, Iain Calder, who only finished high school, Coz graduated cum laude from Harvard. He has stressed hard news, opening a Wash-

ington bureau and aggressively pursuing the stories that end up on the evening news."

Upon seeing this, Media Person (product of an undistinguished, non–Ivy League university and depressingly old breed) realized he had been remiss. He not only began reading the *Enquirer* regularly, he vowed to refer to it henceforth as "the influential, Harvard-edited weekly" instead of "that sleazy, lowbrow, supermarket rag," a phrase he is now mortified to admit ever escaped his formerly sneering lips.

A contrite Media Person admits he has learned much from the new, serious *National*

Enquirer—and this after only two weeks. Space does not allow a full account here, but let MP share with you just a tiny fragment of the enlightenment he has acquired about the state of the nation and the world:

Comprehensive Angel Tracking: Who but the *Enquirer*'s enterprising, new-breed editor Coz would think to offer a \$300 reward to readers "who have been touched by an angel?" His innovative policy brought in a story from Indiana about a woman who was pinned alone in her wrecked car until an angel shone down a beam of light from heaven, alerting rescuers to save her life, and another story from about awed pilgrims from around the world flocking to a Tennessee town to see glowing angels that appear daily in the windows of a tiny church.

Does the Wall Street Journal or Nightline keep you informed of fast-breaking angel developments?

Exclusive Tony Randall Coverage: Of course, other news organizations reported that Tony became a father at 77. But only one was invited "into his plush Manhattan apartment to introduce the world to his newborn bundle of love, Julia Laurette." Yes, you guessed it—the new *Enquirer*. Only the *Enquirer* ran *five* exclu-

Who but the 'Enquirer's enterprising editor would think to offer a \$300 reward to readers "who have been touched by an angel?"

sive photos of the beaming mom (Tony's "stunning, 26-year-old wife, Heather") and pop and cute-as-a-button baby, along with such heartwarming captions as: "At right, the happy parents send their bundle of joy off to dreamland with a kiss."

Old-Actor Health Bulletins: Richard Crenna is battling thyroid cancer. George Carlin's wife is battling liver cancer. Edward Mulhare is battling lung cancer. Ricardo Montalban is battling left-leg paralysis with prayer! *Too Close for Comfort* star Jim Bullock is battling AIDS. Susan Strasberg is curing her breast cancer with herbs! Loretta Young's 89-year-old husband is no longer battling. *The Enquirer* reports that Loretta found him dead in her garden.

Young-Actor Relationship Updates: Ellen

dumps live-in love for Steve Martin's ex-gal pal! Seinfeld dumps girlfriend! (*The Enquirer* reveals that the wisecracking, 43-year-old comic "suddenly got cold feet about tying the knot," the kind of vivid writing that smacks unmistakably of advanced Harvard English seminars.) *Slingblade* director Billy Bob Thornton is running around with Laura Dern and the *Enquirer* has pictures to prove it! Country superstar Vince Gill's wife broke his heart by giving him a surprise present for their 17th wedding anniversary—a divorce!

In-Depth Political Analysis: Nationwide *Enquirer* poll shows that more people recognize golfing superstar Tiger Woods than Vice President Al Gore!

Distinguished Science and Medical Reportage: Heart surgery saved Arnold Schwarzenegger's life! Pregnancy shrinks your brain! (But don't worry; you'll return to normal after delivery.) Former top surgeon Dr. Alan Resnick traded in his scalpel to chop vegetables in a restaurant kitchen at minimum wage, and he's never been happier! Ghostbusters star Dan Aykroyd says space aliens are about to invade planet Earth; he himself narrowly avoided abduction by the sinister little creatures, who are among us already scouting for their attack! Melanie Griffith is TERRI-

FIED that she's pregnant—because another baby could unmake her new \$50,000 makeover! Plastic surgeons have discovered a miracle

healing balm—Crisco!

Authoritative JonBenet Reportage: Gangway! Pulitzer, here we come! One sensational Enquirer scoop follows another: JonBenet Ramsey's tormented mom, Patsy, is suicidal as investigators prepare her jail cell! Cops' secret report fingers daddy and reveals: WHY JONBENET WAS MURDERED! And almost as shocking: JonBenet's little dog Jacques abandoned by family! Left with neighbor Joe Bauhill and the parents have never asked for it back! Turned their backs on the adorable little bichon frise pup JonBenet loved so! Did the New York Times report this? No! You want to know why? MP will tell you: Those Times editors? A bunch of Yale graduates. And probably not even cum laude.





"Hewlett-Packard makes bronzing a meat loaf seem like a good idea to my customers."



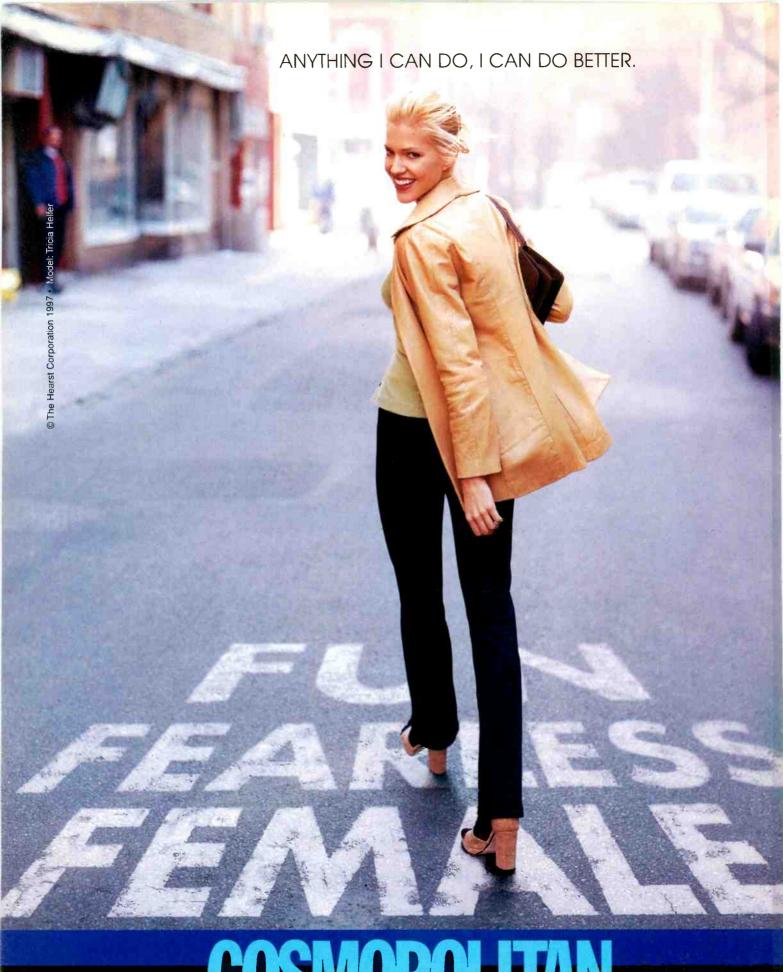
- Allen David Owner, The Bronze Company

Crystal clear colors. Eye-popping blacks. A meat loaf that lasts for eternity. Heartburn induced nightmare? No. Just another perfect page from The Bronze Company's HP DeskJet *Professional Series* printer. From color flyers with bronze baseball gloves to brochures on metal meat products,

Allen David can show his customers bronzing is no longer just for baby shoes. Find out how the best color desktop printer in the business can help yours at www.hp.com/go/sbprinters.



HP DeskJet Professional Series



COSMOPOLITAN