

ABC Radio Net

Watermark/ABC Radio Enterprises Inc., the West Coast production and syndication arm of the ABC Radio Division, has been transferred to the ABC Radio Networks. To be known as ABC Watermark, the firm, one of the nation's leading program production, marketing and distribution concerns, will continue to produce programs for the syndication market, as well as have primary distribution for the six ABC Radio Networks and ABC Talk Radio.

In a management restructuring, ABC Watermark will continue under the direction of Tom Rounds, president, and effective today, reports to Edward F. McLaughlin, president, ABC Radio Networks. Previously the unit had reported to Michael Hauptman, vp in charge, ABC Radio Enterprises.

ing offered to stations by ABC Watermark will continue their present distribution," McLaughlin said. The unit's international arm will also continue its sales of ABC Radio programs for use outside the United States, he explained.

Currently ABC Watermark produced "American Top 40" with Casey Kasem, "Spotlight Special," "Ringo's Yellow Submarine," "Soap Talk," produces and distributes "American Country Countdown" with Bob Kingsley, "Soundtrack of the '60s" with Gary Owens, "TV Tonite" with Ron Hendren, "Musical!" and "New Music News."

ABC Watermark International additionally markets the "King Biscuit Flower Hour," "Supergroups" and "Silver Eagle" (produced by DIR Broadcast) and "The Continuous History of Rock and Roll" (produced by Rolling Stone).

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TV REVIEWS

King Penguin: Stranded Beyond the Falklands

CBS, June 22, 8-9 p.m.

Cunning king penguins and two wildlife filmmakers, stuck in the antarctic by the Falklands War, share the spotlight in this Survival Anglia Ltd. documentary. British filmmakers Cindy Buxton and Annie Price had already spent six months recording king penguin behavior near antarctic South Georgia's St. Andrews Bay when the Falklands crisis delayed their return to England by six weeks. Since winter was descending, and their accommodations were primitive, the delay was

turn legal issues into sports-entertainment raises questions that are not restricted to the intricacies of the fictional cases dramatized.

The footage they compiled of these unique, comical-looking animals in their serenely rugged natural habitat, is surprisingly entertaining. Day-to-day events in a king penguin's life are more amusing than one might imagine, particularly when accompanied by cleverly selected music, as they are in this special. Penguin antics are contrasted with the intimidating behavior of massively threatening bull elephant seals, and albatross nesting dramas. The documentary is embellished by Orson Welles' eloquent narration.

"Stranded Beyond the Falklands" was produced and written by Colin Willock, and filmed by Buxton and Price. Editor was Leslie Parry, and executive in charge of programming was John Fleming Ball. — Gail Williams

Miller's Court

KTTV, June 17, 8:30-9 p.m.

Theatrical aspects of the legal profession take the stand in this new series anchored by Harvard Law School professor-celebrity legal authority, Arthur Miller. Miller's sense of humor and quick wit has served him well for moderating network media self-examination specials, in the past. In this lower common denominator series debut, some valid legal points are made, but the mock courtroom drama format caters primarily to the demands of showbiz, and only incidentally to conveying justice.

At points in this premiere episode, Miller's colorful commentary could have easily been mistaken for sports event announcing. For example, Miller described a questioning session as "a slashing, rapid-fire cross-examination." The sporting spirit of the program was further emphasized via "instant replays," illustrating the featured attorneys' strategies. This attempt to

turn legal issues into sports-entertainment raises questions that are not restricted to the intricacies of the fictional cases dramatized.

"Miller's Court" spotlights guest lawyers who argue opposite sides of a hot topic case. A mock jury eventually votes on a decision. In the premiere, Marvin Mitchelson, of "palimony" fame, argued on behalf of a woman who was suing her former roommate-lover for assistance in getting through law school, after she had supported him through medical school. Adriane Berg represented the defendant. The highlight approach included simplistic analysis of the counselor's strategies, and presented a distorted view of the legal system, since the real thing is frequently more tedium than entertainment.

"Miller's Court" was produced by Julie Sattler Rosene, and directed by William Lowell. The debut was taped at Pine Manor College near Boston, Mass. Actors featured in this dramatization, as plaintiff and defendant, were Linda Banks and Richard Nelson respectively. William C. Brennan executive-produced the weekly series for Metromedia Producers Corp.

— Gail Williams

NBC, Warner Bros. discuss return of 'V'

NBC and Warner Bros. TV have completed most points of the negotiations which will bring the highly-rated miniseries "V" back to the network in a six-hour, three-part sequel to air next season.

"V" is from Kenneth Johnson Prods. in association with WB TV. In addition, all the key actors are expected to return, and the story line will pick up where it left off.

Cannon signs Carter

Wayne Carter has been signed by Cannon Films Inc. to write the screenplay for the 3-D extravaganza "Escape From Beyond." The picture is due to commence principal photography in September in Italy and Spain. "Escape From Beyond" is a Golan-Globus production of a Tony Anthony film, with Anthony producing. Ferdinando Baldi will direct.

Cooper, Parker to 'Break'

Mort Lachman and Associates, creator of the NBC's "Gimme a Break," has named Hal Cooper and Rod Parker to assume the position of coexecutive producers on the half-hour sitcom, produced by Alan Landsburg Prods. Hal Cooper will direct, Rod Parker will be executive script supervisor and Artie Julian will produce the series.

Hill gets 'Shivers'

Dana Hill has been set in the role of the princess in the Faerie Tale Theatre presentation of "The Boy Who Left Home to Find Out About the Shivers" for Showtime. The presentation is a Platypus production with Shelly Duvall serving as executive producer.

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Playboy Channel starting prod'n on 4 made-for-pays

By JEFFERSON GRAHAM
Playboy Channel has put four made-for-pay movies into motion via various coproduction deals. The first will begin airing in October, with 36 per year now being planned.
Playboy Channel president Paul Klein said the move is being made to further differentiate the channel from the rest of the pack. He also wants to
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HBO to bid for '88 Olympics rights

HBO plans to bid for selected rights to the 1988 Olympic Games to be held in Korea.
HBO senior sports vp Jack Abraham said, "TV rights for the Games are now opening at \$1 billion, up from the reported \$225 million ABC paid for the 1984 Olympics."
Abraham said the price being asked
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CBS takes Nielsens as NBC looks strong

By ALAN L. GANSBERG
CBS took the Nielsens for the week ending June 19, as its "Newhart" topped the list of shows—now almost entirely in repeats. But it was NBC that must have taken home the most encouragement, as several of its series with only fair ratings during the season continued to get sampled in repeats.
Its "Knight Rider" was 2nd,
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NPR chrnm. resigns over \$6.5 mil deficit

By THERESA McMASTERS
Financial chaos at National Public Radio resulted yesterday in its 17-member board demanding that Myron Jones step down as chairman, which he did—and a replacement of the NPR financial officer, Art Roberts.
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Ruling on splits to be appealed; distribs applaud new precedent

By TERI RITZER
Although still reeling from a Milwaukee court's decision against four exhibitors last Friday, which pronounced the practice of product splitting illegal per se, at least one of the four defendants in the case will appeal U.S. District Judge Robert W. Warren's decision.
Despite the fact that Judge Warren found splits a form of price fixing and an illegal market allocation in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, United Artists Theatre Circuit Inc.,

one of the defendants in the case, will appeal the court's findings, according to Gary Mahler, corporate counsel for UATC. "I would say there is going to be an appeal," he stated. Mahler declined further comment since he had not yet seen the actual decision.
Ben D. Marcus, who heads the Marcus Theatre Corp., another of the defendants in the antitrust case, brought by the Justice Department, said he did not yet know whether Marcus would appeal or not. "I haven't even come up for air yet," he said, indicating dis-

New Century in \$60 mil joint financing venture for film/TV

By TINA DANIELL
The recently established film packaging and development company New Century Prods. has pacted with two other firms for a \$60 million joint financing venture to develop, produce and distribute theatrical features, telefilms and miniseries over the next four years.
New Century's two partners in the venture are Cine-Artist Film GmbH of West Germany and American Telnet

Corp., based in New York. Terms of the agreement are for New Century and American Telnet to supply 65% of the \$60 million 1983-87 budget, or \$39 million, with Cine-Artist films
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Compact Disc may worsen problem of hm. taping: Chiantia

From The Hollywood Reporter
New York Bureau
By TOM GILBERT
The rise of the Compact Disc will intensify the growing home taping problem by inciting consumers to hedge its higher price through renting or borrowing and taping, National Music Publishers' Assn. chairman Salvatore T. Chiantia told the NMPA annual meeting here yesterday afternoon.
Chiantia said that although those taping from CDs would not be able to
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Saban Ent. gears up to launch dom. record label in fall
By RENA KLEIMAN
Based on the success of its European record operation that creates and releases the theme songs to long-running television shows, Saban Enterprises is gearing up to launch a domestic record label operation this September that will compose, produce and market recordings of the theme music the company is currently creating for three upcoming U.S. TV series.
"A lot of music is repeatedly exposed on a TV series," company head Haim Saban told The Hollywood Reporter. "But the majority of it is not marketable. Producers look for music to fulfill the needs of the movie or TV series, and do not take advantage of the exposure, or how the music can be
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appointment and some surprise over the court's decision.

Distribution, on the other hand, considers the ruling "a major victory" for its side that was anticipated and a decision which will in all likelihood be used in the future as a guideline and legal precedent on which to govern future disputes arising over splitting, the allocation of motion pictures among exhibitors in one territory in order to avoid bidding against one another.
"I have always felt splits were violations per se," Barry Reardon, president of distribution for Warner Bros. said in commenting on the court's ruling. If Warner Bros. were to become
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N.Y. IATSE 644 angered by 659's 'Chiefs' invasion

From The Hollywood Reporter
New York Bureau
By SHARON LEE DOBULER
An old jurisdictional boundary dispute has flared up again between New York's IATSE International Photographers Local 644 and its West Coast counterpart, Local 659, over the latter's participation in the CBS miniseries "Chiefs," now shooting in Chester, S.C. Local 644 claims the 659 cameramen are on their turf, working on a NABET Local 15 picture.
IATSE president Walter Diehl has
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