

## Monitor

**A possible maybe.** In television land, Moscow Olympics have turned out to be one big pain to just about everybody who had planned to be involved, especially NBC-TV. Irony is that CBS-TV may turn out to be only commercial network reaping any good out of affair with Elmar Productions' *Phyl and Mikhy* (Monday, 8:30-9 NYT). Sitcom deals with American track star (Phyl) who marries defecting Russian athlete (Mikhy). In four outings, replacement series has been doing well, keeping up with its lead-in, *WKRP in Cincinnati*. CBS officials concede that show may have afterlife in spring—"The idea is being investigated," one network official said. Debuting with 21 share May 26, program has marked impressive audience gains—33 share June 2, 34 share June 9 and 30 share last Monday, June 16, winning time period. CBS has ordered six episodes of show. Network official added, however, that "the competition has not been overwhelming." Hal Cooper and Rod Parker are producers.

**Back in the saddle.** Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley has declared this week (June 23-29) "Gene Autry Week" in honor of Autry's 50th anniversary in entertainment. Proclamation coincides with opening of "Gene Autry: A Time for Heroes," 13-week exhibit and film retrospective at California State Museum of Science and Industry in Los Angeles. Autry's KTLA (TV) there is presenting one-hour special, *Gene Autry: An American Hero* Wednesday, June 25. Other Autry specials are scheduled by station during week. He began his career in radio in 1930.

**In the fold.** Phillip (*Barnaby Jones*) Saltzman has signed exclusive production agreement with Warner Bros. Television. His Woodruff Productions will make series, miniseries, long-form and motion pictures.

**Economics 101, pay TV.** Ten dollars from each of 109,000 households equal cool \$1.09 million. That's what ON-TV Los Angeles stood to gain last Friday night (June 20) with its pay TV broadcast of Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran welterweight championship fight. Subscription television company was offering boxing match to regular subscribers for extra \$10 fee and had passed that revenue mark by last Wednesday. Andrew Walk, ON's senior vice president for programming, reported that company expected viewer total to reach 130,000 by time of fight. Subscribers could order extra service any time up to three hours before bout was scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. NYT.

## PlayBack

**Gearing up.** Chuck Mangione will entertain at this year's National Association of Broadcasters Radio Programming Conference, scheduled for Aug. 24-27 at Hyatt Regency in New Orleans. NAB plans all-day forums on promotion, news/public affairs and management in addition to concurrent workshops, exhibit hall and hospitality suites. Deadline for early registration is July 4. Fees for early registrants are \$150 (member) and \$300 (nonmember); after July 4: \$175 (member) and \$350 (nonmember).

**Live from New York.** DIR Broadcasting, in conjunction with CBS Records and Polydor Inc., will present new monthly program, *Afternoon Live*, over 14 East Coast FM stations. Program consists of concerts broadcast live from New York recording studio, plus interviews by host Scott Muni, program director of WNEW-FM New York. According to DIR's Peter Kauf, use of 24 track studio allows for control that is "unavailable in clubs and concert halls where live broadcasts are traditionally done." Concerts, which began this month, are broadcast during afternoon drive time.

**First fives.** The top five records in **contemporary radio airplay**, as reported by BROADCASTING's *Playlist*: (1) *It's Still Rock 'n' Roll To Me* by Billy Joel on Columbia; (2) *Coming Up* by Wings on Columbia; (3) *Against the Wind* by Bob Seger on Capitol; (4) *Biggest Part Of Me* by Ambrosia on Warner Bros.; (5) *Steal Away* by Robbie Dupree on Elektra. The top five in **country radio airplay**: (1) *It's True Love* by Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn on MCA; (2) *You Win Again* by Charley Pride on RCA; (3) *Bar Room Buddies* by Merle Haggard and Clint Eastwood on Elektra; (4) *Friday Night Blues* by John Conlee on MCA; (5) *Blue Side Of Me* by Crystal Gayle on Columbia.

BROADCASTING's weekly "Playlists" chart the top 100 contemporary and top 100 country records. Orders to 1735 DeSales St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. \$12 each, annually.

videocassettes. He said the existing 3-M sales team would act as wholesalers for a range of BBC programs under a "BBC Video" trademark.

Any such agreement, however, would be overshadowed by the failure to obtain video rights with the artistic unions. Negotiations have been in progress for four years without success, although Parkin expressed optimism that some agreement would be reached. Until this happens however, the BBC will not be able to enter the home video market.

Nor will BBC Video be able to offer the full range of BBC programs because the rights are sometimes sold to outside co-producers in return for financing.

The BBC also announced an undertaking with the commercial British network, ITV, to try and cut down on the pirate recording and selling of television programs. BBC officials claim that the pirating of its programs is widespread internationally, especially in South Africa, where the actors union, Equity, forbids the sale of programs. Parkin said that in some cases pirate ships are actually involved making dubs of tapes while the ship sails in international waters.

## 27 PBS stations decline to choose 'Suicide'

At least 27 public television stations last week chose not to air a controversial hour-long documentary on suicide.

The film, *Choosing Suicide*, followed a woman who, suffering from cancer, commits suicide by taking an overdose of pills. The complaint of some stations that rejected the film was that it offered a one-sided view favoring suicide.

A law suit, naming KUHT (TV) Houston and the Public Broadcasting Service, was filed in Houston, asking that the film not be shown, as it might tend to cause people to take their own lives. The suit was dismissed, however, and no appeal was filed.

The documentary, which was produced by Richard Ellison, former director of current affairs programming for PBS, was dropped by the Connecticut, Maine and Mississippi networks, in addition to individual stations across the country.

PBS, which provided most of the funds for the piece, ran a one-hour panel discussion on the subject following the show. A spokesperson for PBS said only a few calls about the show had been received from viewers following its airing.



Jo Roman before her suicide