



"Happily Ever After"



"Children's Hour"



"May to December"

**Boston Trilogy.** The first in a three-part series examining the changing role of the American family airs Thursday (Oct 1) on WNAC-TV Boston. Entitled *The Changing Family*, the "unusually comprehensive" project is engaging the efforts of WNAC-TV's news, programming and public affairs departments. The station has established three "theme weeks" in which its news teams will present special reports and a multi-part series relating to topics covered in each documentary. Such public affairs programs as *Weekday* and *Senior Circuit* also will include segments devoted to issues examined in the series. The station also prepared a family study guide for each program, made resource lists of local agencies and ser-

vices, and a supplemental reading list for distribution to community organizations. Each of the documentaries around which the project focuses is an hour in length, followed by a live, 30-minute, in-studio discussion including call-in responses from area viewers. The first—"The Children's Hour" deals with social and economic changes that have affected youths. The second—"Happily Ever After," on Nov. 5—looks at the ways Americans meet, marry, stay together or part. The final documentary—"May to December," on Dec. 3—explores conflicts facing older adults, such as mid-life career changes and divorce after many years of marriage.

## Monitor

**Vice-versa.** For first time, show produced for distribution on Public Broadcasting Service will appear first on pay cable service, show's producers said last week. *Working*, drama produced by noncommercial WNET-TV New York and KCET-TV Los Angeles for PBS's 1982 "Playhouse" series, will first appear on Showtime pay cable service, according to Bill Lamb, WNET vice president. Lamb said Showtime bought rights to run show 10 times for \$200,000. Lamb said money would be plowed back into stations and thought such arrangements necessary for public stations to raise revenues for productions. Lamb noted WNET was also discussing possible co-productions with number of other cable services.

**Donahue switch.** WGN-TV Chicago's circulation as superstation is leading to transfer of production and local telecast of Phil Donahue's syndicated daily hour from WGN-TV to WBBM-TV Chicago, effective Jan. 1. Walter E. Bartlett, president of Multimedia Inc., producer of *Donahue*, explained: "We are extremely sorry to end our seven-year association with WGN-TV. We've become great friends with WGN's management and staff, and deeply appreciate their efforts for us. But WGN's widespread cable viewership across the U.S. is in direct conflict with our national syndication sales effort of the daily *Donahue* program to commercial television stations. Our contract with WGN-TV expires at the end of this year and we feel it is the appropriate time to move."

**RCA disk catalogue grows.** RCA's videodisk catalogue has been expanded with addition of 25 new titles, including segments featuring Julie Andrews, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Elvis Presley, David Janssen and Humphrey Bogart. RCA catalogue now totals 151 titles.

**But can they pull it off?** Escapade, adult pay cable service, announced production of its first original pilot—celebrity guest quiz show titled *Everything Goes*, which will feature "surprise penalties along the lines of classic strip poker." Cable programmer also announced acquisition of exclusive long-term rights to seven films by producer Radley Metzger.

**Rona's 'Tomorrow' departure.** Entertainment industry reporter Rona Barrett has officially ended her association with NBC-TV's *Tomorrow* show and will become major contributor to new prime-time entertainment magazine show that will premiere on NBC-TV Saturday, Dec. 5, 10-11 p.m. (ET). New entry is scheduled to continue in that time period until Jan. 9, when *The Angie Dickinson Show* is set to premiere. Other correspondents on the magazine, *Television: Inside and Out*, will be announced soon.

## Donahue vs. Wildmon

**CBTV chairman, appearing on talk show, tells Donahue he makes 'flagrant use' of abnormal sex**

The *Donahue* one-hour syndicated series was enlivened last week by the appearance of the Rev. Donald Wildmon, founder and executive director of the National Federation for Decency, who jostled with host Phil Donahue on the alleged sexual emphasis of the program.

At the outset of the program, Wildmon—who is also chairman of the Coalition for Better Television—apologized on the air, repeating a statement that he had made earlier that four Chicago area members of the federation had engaged in "hyperbole" in describing the show. But he insisted that Donahue makes "flagrant use" of some areas of abnormal sex.

He said he was referring to several programs dealing with homosexuality and Donahue's apparent acceptance of this life style. Wildmon added that he accepts homosexuals as individuals but could not accept homosexual acts. Similarly, he said, he could accept criminals and alcoholics as human beings but not their actions.

Donahue referred to the statement by the four Chicago members of the federation (they were invited but did not accept the invitation to appear on the program) that 40% of Donahue's programs deal with sexual topics and often portray abnormal sex favorably. Wildmon said his own research since the beginning of the year shows that about 20% of Donahue's shows deal with sex.