

Brandon Stoddard announced the network would offer nine new shows in prime time next fall, including four comedies, four dramatic shows and a new magazine show, *Our World*, a spin-off from last year's ABC News special, 45-85. In a presentation to advertisers last week, Stoddard said ABC's objective was to achieve "gradual improvement" in both the ratings and "quality level" of the prime time programing. "We are not trying to find lightning in a bottle," he said.

On Sunday, ABC will keep in place the *Disney Sunday Movie* which joined the schedule from 7 to 9 p.m. earlier this year, followed by *The ABC Sunday Night Movie* from 9 to 11 p.m. *Ripley's Believe It or Not* was canceled.

On Monday, *MacGyver* will lead off at 8 p.m., followed by the 17th year of *Monday Night Football*. ABC Sports President Dennis Swanson revealed last week that Frank Gifford had agreed to remain with the program, providing game analysis, while Al Michaels takes charge of the play-by-play duties. *Hardcastle & McCormick* is canceled.

Tuesday remains largely intact, with *Who's the Boss*, leading off at 8 p.m., followed by *Growing Pains* at 8:30 and *Moonlighting* at 9. *Our Kind of Town* will bow at 10 next season. The hour drama stars Shelly Hack and Tom Mason.

This year's midseason replacement comedy, *Perfect Strangers*, will lead off Wednesday at 8 p.m. It will be followed by a new comedy starring Howard Hesseman (formerly of *WKRP in Cincinnati*) as a teacher of a high school class of whiz kids "who must learn there is more to teen-age life than achievement tests and school books." *Dynasty* follows at 9, and *Hotel* will return to its 10 p.m. slot. *Our Family Honor*, *The Insiders* and *Hollywood Beat* have been canceled.

ABC has decided to counterprogram NBC's *Cosby-Ties* hour from 8 to 9 on Thursdays with a new news magazine show, *Our World*, which will focus on a day or

week or event in history and explore its significance today. The program is being produced by Av Westin, who is also executive producer of *20/20*, which will remain in its Thursday 10-11 slot. The two magazine shows will be separated by the returning *Colbys* from 9 to 10 p.m. Stoddard acknowledged that Thursday night was not an example of "perfect scheduling" with two magazine programs. "But it wasn't perfect last year either," he said. *Shadow Chasers* has been canceled.

Two returning comedies will stay in their slots to lead off the first hour on Friday nights, *Webster* at 8 p.m. and *Mr. Belvedere* at 8:30. Three new shows will then make their debut. The half-hour drama, *The Last Electric Knight*, will bow at 9. At 9:30, it's *Sledge Hammer*, a half-hour spoof of the tough-guy detective/cop genre. At 10 *Starman* will bow, described as a "continuation" of the recent theatrical release with the same title. *Different Strokes*, *He's the Mayor*, *Fall Guy* and *Benson* have all been canceled. Two comedies airing this spring, *Mr. Sunshine*, and *Joe Bash*, have also been canceled.

Lucille Ball will be reunited with Gale Gordon in *Life with Lucy* leading off Saturday at 8 p.m. The show pairs the two as partners in a hardware store. Their children are married to each other, have their own children and all are living under one roof. A second comedy follows at 8:30 starring Ellen Burstyn as a college professor, also living in an extended family situation. A drama, tentatively titled *Cold Steel and Neon*, will make its debut at 10. It's about a widowed cop and his two children. *The Redd Foxx Show*, *Love Boat*, *Lady Blue*, *Line Street* and *Fortune Dane* have all been axed.

ABC is planning to carry fewer hours of mini-series next season, 27 hours compared to 34 last season, but four more hours of made-fors, 24 hours compared to 20.

Among the minis will be the 12-hour *Amerika*, which received press attention earlier this year when the project was almost scrapped after the Soviet Union made veiled threats about shutting down ABC's news coverage in that country. The mini-series is about life in America after the supposed takeover of the country by the Russians. □

## PBS holdout threatens must carry

**Negotiations end after demand for carriage of all stations; cable fears deal could unravel; there's still no movement at FCC**

"The shelf life of this deal is not forever," said National Cable Television Association President James P. Mooney last week in assessing the general prospects for adoption of the must-carry compromise pending at the FCC. Mooney's remarks came after he met last Tuesday with Bruce Christensen, president of the Public Broadcasting Service, and was unable to reach an accommodation with PBS on the compromise.

Public television opposes the compromise and is insisting that any new must-carry rule

require mandatory carriage of all public stations. Commercial broadcasters and cable apparently have offered to modify the compromise and give must-carry status to at least one public station. The noncommercial broadcasters won't accept that offer and instead are holding out for the must-carry proposal offered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration that would basically require cable systems to carry all public television signals. Mooney expressed concern that the "whole thing could come unraveled."

Representatives of the FCC Mass Media Bureau met with Chairman Mark Fowler for about two hours last Wednesday (May 14) to discuss what to do about the must-carry pro-

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday		
	ABC	CBS	NBC	ABC	CBS	NBC	ABC	CBS	NBC
8:00			The Cosby Show (Carsey-Werner)	Webster (Paramount)	Scarecrow & Mrs. King** (Warner Bros.)	A-Team** (Stephen J. Cannell Prods.)	Life With Lucy* (Spelling-Ball)	Downtown* (Ron Samuels Prod./Tri-Star)	Facts of Life** (Embassy)
8:30	Our World* (ABC News)	Simon & Simon** (Universal)	Family Ties (JBU/Paramount)	Mr. Belvedere (20th Cent. Fox)			Ellen Burstyn Show (Walt Disney)		227** (Embassy)
9:00			Cheers (MTM)	Last Electric Knight* (Motown-Disney)					Golden Girls (Witt-Thomas-Harris)
9:30	Colbys (Shapiro/Spelling)	Knot's Landing** (Roundelay/Lorimar)	Night Court (Starry Night/Warner Bros.)	Sledge Hammer!* (New World)	Dallas (Lorimar)	Miami Vice** (Universal)	Cold Steel & Neon* (20th Cent. Fox)	Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer** (Columbia)	Amen* (Carson Prods.)
10:00									
10:30	20/20 (ABC News)	Kay O'Brien, Surgeon* (Orion TV)	Hill Street Blues (MTM)	Starman* (Columbia Pics.)	Falcon Crest (Lorimar/Amanda/M.F.)	LA Law* (20th Cent. Fox)	Spencer: For Hire** (Warner Bros.)	Twilight Zone* (CBS Prods.)	Hunter** (Stephen J. Cannell)
11:00									