

Nielsen released national ratings Friday for Fox Broadcasting Co.'s April 5 prime time debut, in which *Married... With Children* and *The Tracey Ullman Show* were shown three times each. *Married* averaged 3.6 and *Ullman* 3.1, according to NBC research department. No shares were available. *Married* received 3.9 for its first airing (seen on 106 stations), 3.6 and 3.2 (both on 105 stations). *Ullman* received 3.5 (106 stations), 3.1 (105 stations) and 2.8 (104 stations). Fox officials, however, emphasized cumulative ratings for two programs: *Married*, 10.7, and *Ullman*, 9.4. Coverage totals about 80% of country.

Purchase of five independents by TVX Broadcast Group from Taft Broadcasting for \$240 million, less closing adjustments, was completed last week. Deal had earlier been expected to close previous week but was held up due to what some observers suspected was drug-related testimony impugning TVX President Tim McDonald ("Top of the Week," April 6).

Five percent ownership in Multimedia Inc. was filed with Securities and Exchange Commission last week by investment entities associated with **Sandler Capital Management**. New York-based investment and brokerage firm said it bought 559,297 shares (at average price of \$35.93) for "investment business." Multimedia stock closed last Thursday at 56¼ per share.

"Eleventh-hour about-face," said one Wall Street newsletter to describe **Jack Kent Cooke's abandonment of billion-dollar financing plan through Shearson Lehman Brothers** ("Closed Circuit," March 23). Private placement, to finance purchase of **McCaw Cable** and **Los Angeles Daily News**, had reportedly already been "circled"—buyers had been found—but Cooke is said to have decided certain covenants in package were too restrictive. Middleburg, Va.-based businessman is said to have since shaken hands on new plan with Drexel Burnham Lambert.

Preliminary results of new **Radio-Television News Directors Association**-commissioned radio-television deregulation study, conducted by Vernon Stone, journalism professor at University of Missouri, point to **FCC radio deregulation order of six years ago as having affected news operations more at major- and medium-sized market stations than small-market outlets**. Deregulation, according to RTNDA's survey, has been blamed for cutbacks in news staff at about one of every six major-market (population of one million-plus) radio stations—in some cases whole news staffs were eliminated—and at approximately one out of eight medium-market stations (population of 250,000 to one million.) But most smaller-market stations report that deregulation has not affected their news operations. Radio portion of study is based on responses from 343 news directors. For more recent deregulation of television industry, only 1% of 368 responding TV news directors across all sizes of markets said deregulation has caused cutbacks in news staffs and 3% blamed it for less public affairs programming. RTNDA survey found cutbacks in TV news more likely occur at independent stations than network affiliates.

At end of last week, **Viacom Enterprises** reported it had added **seven more stations** to its clearance list for **The Cosby Show**: ABC affiliate WJET-TV Erie, Pa.; ABC affiliate WISN-TV Milwaukee; ABC affiliate WRAL-TV Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; CBS affiliate WIVB-TV Buffalo, N.Y.; ABC affiliate WQAD-TV Moline, Ill.; NBC affiliate WPXI-TV Pittsburgh, and CBS affiliate KIRO-TV Seattle.

Tribune Entertainment said last week that **Geraldo!**, proposed **daily first-run show** with Geraldo Rivera, was firm go for next fall and that Paramount Domestic Television has been hired to clear show in markets 30 and below. It's first time Paramount has picked up show not produced by company. As part of deal, Rivera will do regular monthly series of investigative reports for Paramount's *Entertainment Tonight*. Dan Greenblatt, member of Tribune En-

tertainment's office of president, said last week that Tribune would sell two minutes of barter advertising time retained in *Geraldo!*, which has so far been cleared in 68% of country.

First U.S. feature recorded on high-definition video begins production this week at **Kaufmann Astoria Studios** in Queens, New York. Actor-director Robby Benson stars in \$5-million independent, produced by Barry Rebo and Denis Bieber of Rebo High Definition Studio in New York and by New York accountant Jubran Jubran. Rebo last year became first U.S. buyer of Sony's 1,125-line HDTV system and produced music video of John Lennon's "Imagine," now U.S. entry in Cannes Film Festival. Location shooting in Manhattan began last week on current, untitled project, will also star Danny Aiello, Tawny Kitaen and pop singer Carla DeVito, Benson's wife.

U.S. district court opinion dismissing **suit by CBS News correspondent and Reporters Committee for Freedom of Information to gain information from Justice Department and FBI has been overturned** by three-judge panel of U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington. Appeal by CBS News's Robert Schakne and Reporters Committee involved Freedom of Information Act requests they had filed with Justice dating from 1978. Appeals court panel said district court had erred in holding that rap sheets and "nonfinancial crime" information being sought were exempt from FOIA under its privacy provisions. Panel sent case back to district court for determination as to whether Justice holds criminal record information that, in accordance with panel's decision, must be disclosed. Requests had sought arrest and related information on Philip, Charles, Samuel and William Medico, four brothers, in connection with investigation Schakne was conducting into activities of allegedly corrupt U.S. congressman. Eventually, case boiled down to controversy regarding records of Charles Medico; William had died before request for information had been filed, and department made his "rap" sheet available to Schakne. Philip and Samuel died while information was being sought, but department said it had no rap sheets on them. It also said it had no "financial crime information" on Charles. District court dismissed resulting suit.

Writers Guild of America strike, which began March 2, continued last week, with **no settlement** of major issues between striking WGA and representatives of Capcities/ABC and CBS. Also, both CBS and ABC have turned down WGA's request for binding arbitration to settle strike. WGA spokesman would not characterize progress of negotiations, but said there had been "long, intense discussions." Also, ABC chief White House correspondent, Sam Donaldson, said on *Donahue* show last week that "strike is affecting us. The strike is hurting us. These people [on strike] are talented and dedicated and we need them back." About 525 employees at ABC and CBS, including some network O&O's, are on strike.

CBN Cable Network will move into "phase two" of its **scrambling** schedule April 27, scrambling its signal from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (NYT) on weekdays only, "in the fixed key mode," CBN said. On June 1, CBN said it expects to send 24-hour, full-time fixed key transmission, and beginning June 29, cable network will begin with one-hour addressable testing of its signal. Network expects to send full-time addressable transmission by Aug. 24.

Intelsat's Meeting of Signatories last week called on Board of Governors and director general to continue test of **pricing flexibility** available under Article V(d) of Intelsat charter. Assembly of Parties originally ordered test of flexibility in October 1985, as means of resolving dispute growing out of then-Director General Richard Colino's contention that Intelsat would lack pricing flexibility it needed to compete unless Article V(d) were amended. Signatories, in three-day meeting that ended on April 8, said board and director general should continue using flexibility of Article V(d) "by establishing market-responsive tariffs for services which are subject to competition, taking into account the cost of service provision, and to report to the next and future meetings of the Assembly