

ed to begin airing a more permanent project. Episodes of *Wiseguy* will fill all but one of the late-night slots until May 11, when an episode of *21 Jumpstreet* will have its first broadcast airing on CBS's late-night schedule. Beginning today, three story arcs of *Wiseguy* will fill the time slot until May 11, with the exception of Friday, April 20, when *Save the Planet: A CBS/Hard Rock Cafe Special* will air. After the May 11 premiere of *21 Jumpstreet*, the majority of time slots will be filled with episodes of *Wiseguy*, with the exception of Friday, June 1, when the teen cop show will air for the second time. CBS has not announced how the two series will be scheduled beyond June 1.

Not surprisingly, all of the affiliates contacted said they were pleased with the decision to cancel the struggling talk show; one affiliate did not wait until the announcement to drop the show, having done so a week before its announced cancellation. "We dumped him a week ago," said Neil Kuvin, general manager, WHAS-TV Louisville, Ky., who also hopes the network will not try to develop another talk show. "I think it's probably suicide, programming-wise, to go with another couch and coffee table show with guests who are promoting a book or a movie. I wish Tisch would dip into that war chest and buy *Arsenio*. I wish they would go to the bank with *Arsenio* and write him a check for whatever he wants. That's what I'd like for Christmas," he said.

Kuvin said for the time being, his station will air episodes of *M*A*S*H*, *WKRP in Cincinnati* and *The Honeymooners* in the 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. time slot. "When CBS does correct the late-night mistake, we'll come back as a CBS affiliate." -sc

TBS-Tribune join hands for programing

Tribune TV stations will have access to CNN news feeds; CNN will have access to Tribune stations' news in 10-year agreement

Tribune Broadcasting Co. and Turner Broadcasting System have entered into a 10-year collaborative production agreement involving news, documentaries, specials and original long-form programing.

As part of this venture, WPIX(TV) New York will join Tribune's five other television stations as an affiliate of Turner's Cable News Network. These stations, KTLA(TV) Los Angeles, WGN-TV Chicago, WGNX(TV) Atlanta, KWGN-TV Denver and WGNO(TV) New Orleans will have nonexclusive access to CNN's Newsource and Newsbeam with excerpts from these services available to be used in local news broadcasts.

According to Russell Barry, president, Turner Programing Services, Newsource, CNN's news feed service, provides video to affiliates nine times a day, beginning at 4

Shriver cuts back

Maria Shriver, who last week returned to NBC from a four-month maternity leave, has given up her positions as co-anchor of NBC News' *Sunday Today* and Saturday anchor of *NBC Nightly News*. She will instead serve as anchor of a series of prime time news specials for the network, and do occasional segments for *NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw*. Dates for her specials have not yet been announced. "Having a child, I realized I could no longer keep up my weekly commute from Los Angeles to New York to Washington," said Shriver, "and travel as a correspondent doing *Sunday Today* and other reports as well."

At press time, Shriver's replacement on *Sunday Today* had not yet been named. Mary Alice Williams is considered to be a strong candidate, and sources at NBC told BROADCASTING that the job was part of the discussions taking place between NBC and Williams regarding her future role at the network.

a.m. Newsbeam, CNN's satellite news-gathering division, supplies CNN and broadcast stations with KU-band satellite services. CNN, in turn, will have access to Tribune stations' own news material, said Barry, who would not comment on the financial terms of the arrangement.

"We think localism is the direction in which the [news] business is going," said Dennis FitzSimons, general manager, WGN-TV Chicago. "We are going to use the resources of CNN to provide us with national news coverage."

As a corollary action to the companies' agreement, WPIX and WGN-TV will expand their local prime time news broadcasts to one hour, beginning this summer, FitzSimons told BROADCASTING. KTLA Los Angeles will also continue with its hour-long news format.

USA Tonight, Tribune's New York-based nightly newscast, and INDX, a news-gathering service to which all Tribune stations subscribe, will be cancelled as part of the new arrangement, said FitzSimons. Tribnet, a group newsgathering venture between Tribune stations, will continue to operate with a strengthened Washington bureau.

In addition to their cooperative news efforts, Turner and Tribune plan to produce a series of quarterly specials focusing on

what Barry called "the critical issues of the day" including crime, the environment and drugs. The resources and expertise of CNN, TBS Productions, Tribune Entertainment and the TBC stations will be combined to produce these programs, the first of which is planned for the third or fourth quarter. "This is a series of programs that will have real national and regional appeal, without compromising content," said Barry.

TBS and TBC will also collaborate on a number of original mini-series, three to four hours in length, to be seen on Turner superstation WTBS(TV) Atlanta, the Tribune stations and in general domestic syndication. Current plans call for the production of two mini-series a year, and "there may be more as we go on," Barry said. This entertainment programing will be distributed worldwide by Turner Program Services, while Tribune Entertainment Co. will handle all advertising sales.

According to FitzSimons, mini-series production is scheduled to begin in 1991 and will involve the participation of European investors. "Due to the cost of production now," he said, "you have to have a foreign partner."

TBS and TBC "hope to find other ways to cooperate together," said Barry, who suggested an extension of the agreement was possible. "Both companies have a high

NATPE 1991

"Partners in Programing" has been selected as the theme for the 28th annual NATPE International Program Conference in New Orleans, Jan. 14-18, 1991, according to NATPE Chair Vicky Gregorian. For the first time, the NATPE programing convention has received an endorsement from the U.S. Department of Commerce Foreign Buyers Program, which promotes select major domestic trade shows on a worldwide basis. The Foreign Buyers Program will promote the 1991 NATPE show via U.S. embassies, foreign trade associations, chambers of commerce, travel agents, government agencies, corporations, import agents and equipment distributors in target markets internationally.

"Partners in Programing is the uniting theme that symbolizes programers' growing efforts to reduce the costs of production and to maintain a growing and viable syndication marketplace," said Gregorian, who also serves as vice president and operations manager for wsvn-TV Miami. "All you have to do is look around and see that NBC is doing a joint venture with Group W to distribute House Party, and our [wsvn-TV's] partnership to jointly produce *Inside Report* with MCA TV further illustrates the growth of shared ventures. NATPE's ever-increasing role here is now being translated overseas, and we think foreign co-productions and syndication ventures with American programers is going to take off over the next few years," she said.

In recent years, the majority of NATPE's international participation has come from Europe, Canada and South America, but with added exposure from the Department of Commerce, NATPE hopes for an even broader segment of the global audience, and in particular, the evolving reformist countries of Eastern Europe.