

IN BRIEF

Warren Potash resigned as president-CEO of Radio Advertising Bureau last Thursday (March 28). Potash will leave at end of



year. He cited "unforeseen personal matters" as reason for leaving organization less than three years after he joined. Rick Buckley, president of Buckley Broadcasting, and chairman of RAB board; Gary Edens, chairman of Edens Broadcasting and RAB finance committee chairman, and Paul Fiddick, president, radio group, Heritage Media and RAB board vice chairman, have been named to search committee formed to find Potash's replacement. New York-

based Joe Sullivan & Associates has been hired to assist in search.

NCTA board, meeting in New Orleans last week following convention, **approved dues increase** that will generate up to \$10 million annually for association's expanded public relations efforts. And as part of those efforts, board approved selection of Bozell Inc. to handle \$6 million multimedia advertising campaign touting virtues of cable TV. According to NCTA President Jim Mooney, Bozell will place ads on cable and, possibly, in newspapers and magazines. There are no plans for broadcast buy, he said. And in apparent effort to make policymaking executive committee more democratic, board expanded it to even dozen by adding three new seats. Filling them are: Glenn Jones, Jones Intercable; Brian Roberts, Comcast, and Robert Miron, Newhouse Broadcasting. Miron had been on committee as immediate past-chairman. Board also elected new officers: Jim Robbins, Cox Cable, chairman; Joe Collins, Time Warner, vice chairman; Amos Hostetter, Continental

Cablevision, secretary; Dick Roberts, TeleCable Corp., treasurer. In addition to those elected to new seats and officers, executive committee now includes Mooney, John Malone, Tele-Communications Inc.; Tony Cox, Showtime; Larry Wangberg, Times Mirror, and Jerry Lindauer Prime Cable, as immediate past chairman.

ABC announced several schedule changes last week that will bring two new comedies onto schedule. *Dinosaurs*, half-hour live-action show, debuts in 8:30-9 time slot on Friday, April 26. *Family Matters*, currently in that slot, will move to 9-9:30 and *Perfect Strangers* will also move up half hour to 9:30-10. *Dinosaurs* is based on idea from late Jim Henson and is produced by Jim Henson Productions and Michael Jacobs Productions in association with Walt Disney Television. *Stat*, latest project from producer/director Danny Arnold debuts on Tuesday, April 16, in 9:30-10 slot. In addition, *Baby Talk*, currently airing on Friday at 9:30, moves to Tuesday at 8:30. *Coach* and *Davis Rules*, currently airing Tuesday at 9:30-10 and 8:30-9, respectively, will have completed their series orders. ABC also announced that *Into the Night Starring Rick Dees* has been renewed through October 1991. Late-night series, which premiered in July 1990, airs Monday-Friday from midnight to 1 a.m.

Washington news bureaus for ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN have agreed to one-month experiment, beginning April 8, to pool coverage of President Bush's daily schedule. Network news executives, characterizing experiment as cost-saving measure, already pool Bush speeches from Oval Office and major press conferences.

Supreme Court heard oral arguments last Wednesday in *Cohen v. Cowles Media Co.* that could decide if news organizations can break reporters' promises of confidentiality without being liable for damages that result. Source, Dan Cohen, lost his public relations job after story during campaign for lieutenant governor ran that said Cohen supplied paper with "tip" that democratic candidate had once been arrested for shoplifting. Attorney representing two Minnesota pa-

PRESS ACCESS TO EXECUTIONS SOUGHT

U.S. District Judge Robert Schnacke last Wednesday granted KQED-TV San Francisco's request for a recess until May 3, when its attorneys plan to present evidence that the California news media and public have historically retained access to witness state executions.

A week earlier, California Governor Pete Wilson approved a San Quentin prison decision to bar all news media from the gas chamber witness area, broadening the stakes of the case beyond KQED-TV's year-old request to videotape and audiotape executions. Until then, print media had been allowed to witness executions with pen and pad provided by the state; sketch pads, tape recorders and cameras were banned. The *Los Angeles Times* and *San Francisco Examiner* and other print organizations will now join the RTNDA of Southern California in filing amicus briefs, said KQED-TV attorney William Turner.

"The editorial decision about whether to cover executions," said RTNDA President David Bartlett, "properly rests with news organizations, not with the government." He doubted that the right would be "exercised very often, if at all. But it's an important action of the state, and we believe that sort of activity should be available to the widest possible scrutiny."

Although Schnacke said he believes the law does not require media presence, Turner said the judge "obviously has an open mind on the First Amendment question, whether all the media could be banned," and on historical evidence. Said KQED-TV General Manager David Hosley. "We believe we've stood up for the First Amendment...for the industry, and we believe others will stand up too." Hosley said up to 10 California inmates could reach the gas chamber over the next three to four years.