

proven broadcaster who believes in our business plan," said Fox's Preston Padden.

"It's also an opportunity to increase minority ownership, something FCC Chairman Reed Hundt and Representative Ed Markey have identified as key policy objectives."

Blackstar may buy stations in markets where Fox already has affiliates, Padden said. "In those markets, there could be churn. We are committed to churn."

Oxendine and Padden insisted Fox would remain a passive partner. "We're pretty darn independent," said Oxendine. "This is John's company, not our company," said Padden. "It will always be that way."

The year has been distinguished by

other surrogate arrangements, beginning with Fox's \$100 million investment in SF Broadcasting, headed by former Fox executive Tom Herwitz. Capital Cities/ABC invested \$25 million in Young Broadcasting.

The big groups are settling for the minority interests to avoid running afoul of the FCC ownership restrictions, principally the national TV ownership rule. It limits each broadcast group to no more than 12 stations and coverage of no more than 25% of the nation's TV homes. (The caps for minority-controlled groups like Blackstar are 14 and 30%)

But the limits count only against stations in which the group has an "attributable" interest. And by the FCC's definition, attributable means voting stock

or partnership interest of 5% or more, except when another shareholder or partner ownership has more than 50% ownership. Non-voting stock is considered non-attributable.

The FCC's attribution rules have yet to catch up with limited liabilities companies like Blackstar. As an LLC, Blackstar expects the FCC to treat LLC just as they do stock corporations—in other words, to treat Fox's 20% non-voting LLC interest as non-attributable interest.

The treatment of LLCs is already before the FCC, most notably in the case of SF Broadcasting's proposed purchase of WLUK-TV Green Bay, Wis. On NBC's complaint, the FCC is considering whether Fox's 25% LLC interest in SF is attributable. ■

U/P Network unveils launch lineup

Signs up 10 new primary and 21 secondary affiliates

By Steve Coe

The United/Paramount Network will debut Monday, Jan. 16, 1995, and Tuesday, Jan. 17, with two hours of programming each night.

The network also has added 10 new primary affiliates and 21 secondary affiliates, bringing its total to 72 stations reaching 64% of the country. (The network is expected to announce additional affiliates this week.) U/P Network President and CEO Lucie Salhany made the announcements last Wednesday (Oct. 5) at a press conference on the Paramount lot.

Star Trek: Voyager will launch the network's schedule on Jan. 16 with a special two-hour episode at 8-10 p.m. The following week, the show will air in its regular 8-9 time slot, followed by two half-hour comedies—*Platypus Man*, starring Richard Jeni, and *Pig Sty*. The Jeni series features the stand-up comedian as a cooking show host in search of the right woman. *Pig Sty*, from former *Cheers* producers Dan Staley and Rob Long, is set in New York and centers on five young men sharing a two-bedroom apartment.

The Tuesday night schedule features *Marker* at 8-9 and *The Watcher* at 9-10. *Marker* stars Richard Grieco as a man whose father has died leaving behind "markers," or debts, that the son must settle. Set in Hawaii, the



The United Paramount Network stars, producers and executives got together last week in Los Angeles. Front row (l-r): Michael Greenburg, creator/executive producer, 'Legend'; Christopher Crowe, creator/executive producer, 'The Watcher'; Roxann Biggs-Dawson and Jennifer Lien, cast members, 'Star Trek: Voyager'; Denise Miller, cast member, 'Platypus Man'; Ethan Phillips, cast member, 'ST:V'; David Arnoff and Matt Borlenghi, cast members, and Rob Long, creator/executive producer, 'Pig Sty.' Middle row: Bill Dial, creator/executive producer, 'Legend'; Michael Piller, Jeri Taylor and Rick Berman, creators/executive producers, 'ST:V'; Lucie Salhany, president/CEO, United/Paramount Network; Richard Grieco, cast member, and Philip De Guere, executive producer, 'Marker'; Barry Fanaro and Mort Nathan, creators/executive producers, 'Platypus Man.' Back row: Tim Russ and Robert Picardo, cast members, 'ST:V'; Timothy Fall, cast member, 'Pig Sty'; Robert Beltran, cast member, 'ST:V'; David Dundara, cast member, 'Platypus Man'; Kerry McCluggage, chairman, Paramount Television Group; Dan Staley, creator/executive producer, Sean O'Brien and Liz Vassey, cast members, and Tom Leopold, co-executive producer, 'Pig Sty.'

series is from Stephen Cannell. *The Watcher*, created and produced by Christopher Crowe, is an anthology series set in Las Vegas.

The network has also signed *MacGyver*'s Richard Dean Anderson to star in *Legend*, a western in which Anderson's character uses his wits and

technological gadgetry to combat outlaws. The series is on back-up, with production set to begin in January.

Star Trek: Voyager has been given a full-season order of 22 episodes. The other series are starting out with more traditional 13-episode commitments, but Salhany says if the new series are