

Leading cable MSO Tele-Communications Inc. is buying the cable systems owned by The Chronicle Publishing Co. for an estimated \$580 million in stock. Chronicle serves 330,000 subscribers in California, Hawaii and New Mexico. Combined with other pending system deals, the acquisition of the Chronicle properties expands TCI's reach to approximately 15 million subscribers nationally.

George & Alana executive producer Paul Block has left the Rysher Entertainment show less than three months before its Sept. 11 syndication debut, necessitating a rapid search for a replacement that is expected to be announced this week. The reason for the departure of Block, one of the show's creators and a close friend of co-host Alana Stewart, was termed "a matter of chemistry between [co-host and co-executive producer George Hamilton] and Paul." Block was not available for comment.

Reports last week said that ABC and Philip Morris have had preliminary talks about settling a \$10 billion lawsuit brought by the tobacco company over a *Day One* story that alleged Philip Morris artificially increased nicotine levels in

95% listen to radio weekly

The spring 1995 RADAR report of national and network radio audiences shows that more than 95% of people 12 and older, or 203 million Americans, listen to radio for at least 15 minutes each week. In any average quarter hour, 23 million people are tuned in, the report concludes.

The report, compiled by Statistical Research Inc. of New Jersey, surveyed radio listening between May 1994 and April 1995. The report also shows that FM stations claim 80% of the national and network radio audience ages 12 and older and that 71% of the population is reached by radio stations that air some network programming.

some cigarettes. The trial is set for October, and the companies had no comment on ongoing settlement talks.

Clear Channel Communications is buying WHP-TV Harrisburg, Pa., from WHP Television Ltd. (Ralph E. Becker) for approximately \$30 million. Clear Channel owns 9 TV and 43 radio stations. WHP-TV is a CBS affiliate on ch. 21.

NBC Sports has reshuffled its NFL talent pool, creating a three-man top broadcasting team that includes network veterans Paul Maguire and Dick Enberg and former NFL great Phil Simms. Simms joined NBC in March after a one-year stint with ESPN. The threesome will handle the AFC championship game and Super Bowl XXX next Jan. 28 in Phoenix.

Worldvision Enterprises' new syndicated talk show spoof, *Night Stand with Dick Dietrick*, has been cleared in all top 25 markets for a fall debut. The weekly, one-hour show will launch in at least 91 markets covering 85% of the U.S. Top clearances include WWOR New York, KCOP Los Angeles and WPWR-TV Gary, Ind. (Chicago).

GGP has cleared two syndicated television specials, *NFL Pre-Season Special* and *College Football Preview*, on more than 120 stations for Aug. 18-Sept. 3 windows. The NFL special is cleared on 132 stations (75% coverage); *College Football Preview* has been cleared on 125 stations (70%). Both are being offered on a barter basis with 6 1/2 minutes local, 6 1/2 minutes national time.

Turner-owned cable sports service SportSouth signed a four-year agreement with the Southeastern Conference (SEC) covering 60 collegiate athletic events and more than 250 hours of SEC programming on the network per year. The agreement takes effect this fall and extends through the 1998-99 season. Programming includes a 35-week highlight show on all SEC sports, tentatively titled *This Week in the SEC*; *Game of the Week* packages for women's and men's basketball and baseball, and a women's volleyball package that includes the SEC championship game. The contract also covers three still-to-be-

CBS pushes telco retrans deals

CBS held a new-media workshop in Chicago last week and told its affiliates to negotiate with telephone companies wanting to retransmit their channels.

"The telcos are starting to talk to our stations about retransmission," says Mark Harrington, CBS senior vice president, new media.

Harrington says stations may want to bundle a local weather channel or negotiate other arrangements with telcos interested in retransmitting their broadcast programming.

Harrington is unsure whether the telcos would pay stations in cash to retransmit, but the issue will be taken up on "a station-by-station basis."

CBS hosted an informational workshop for network officials and 212 representatives of 112 affiliates and 37 station groups. Besides retransmission, topics covered during the two-day workshop included online and Internet activity, interactive TV and other new-media developments. —MB

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