

ABC has signed Tribune's wgn(tv) New Orleans to a 10-year affiliation agreement. The current ABC affiliate, Burnham's wvue, is being sold to SF Broadcasting, the joint venture between Savoy and Fox, and will become a Fox affiliate. Current Fox affiliate WNOL-TV is expected to take over wgn's WB affiliation. The CBS and NBC affiliates remain unchanged, WWL-TV and WDSU, respectively.

Keeping to their respective corporate plans to sell nonstrategic cable systems and reduce debt, **Time Warner Cable and Cox Communications have agreed to sell three cable systems to the Washington Post Co. for \$120 million** in cash. Time Warner has sold systems in Prescott, Ariz., with an estimated 24,000 subscribers, and in Cleveland, Miss. (approximately 16,000 subs) for \$70 million. Cox, meanwhile, sold its Texarkana, Ark., system (approximately 25,000 subs) for \$50 million.

Rather than roll out its new fall schedule over several weeks, CBS will debut most of it Sept. 18-24. The exceptions are the Wednesday night schedule, which premieres on Sept. 13, and its Sunday shows, which include *Cybill* taking over the *Murder, She Wrote* slot at 8 p.m. on Sept. 17. Also, *New York News*, a late addition to CBS's schedule, will debut on Thursday, Sept. 28. The season officially begins on Monday, Sept. 18.

Harpo Films, Oprah Winfrey's production division, has optioned the rights to "The Keepers of the House," the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel written by Shirley Ann Grau. The book, published in 1964, chronicles from the 1930s to the 1960s the lives of a wealthy white southern landowner, his black housekeeper and their three children. The project will be

produced under the *Oprah Winfrey Presents* banner, which supplies made-for-TV movies to ABC.

Actor Brian Dennehy will write, direct and star in the fourth of a continuing series of Jake Reed movies for NBC. The two-hour drama, *Jake Reed: One of Our Own*, will be produced by The Kushner-Locke Co. The first of the telefilms aired in November 1992.

For the week of July 31-Aug. 4, **NBC's *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* tied for first with CBS's *Late Show with David Letterman*,** with both shows averaging a 4.8 Nielsen rating/14 share. Among adults 18-49, *Letterman* pulled a 3.0 share versus *Leno*'s 2.5.

With the addition of nominees in six more categories, **the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences has updated its nomination totals for prime time Emmy awards.** Getting the biggest boost was *ER*, which adds three nominations to the 20 announced on July 20. *Frasier*, *Star Trek: Voyager* and *Larry Sanders* each picked up two more. The new nomination totals: NBC, 96; CBS, 91; HBO, 50; ABC, 42; Fox, 19; PBS, 18; TNT, 18; The Disney Channel, 10; UPN, 9; syndicated, 8; TBS, 6; MTV, 5; Comedy Central, 3; A&E, 2; The Cartoon Network, Cinemax, Discovery Channel, Family Channel, Nickelodeon, Showtime, USA and WBN, one each.

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences announced finalists for its annual community service programing Emmy awards: WKYC-TV and WEWS, both Cleveland, Ohio; KRON-TV San Francisco; KPLR-TV St. Louis; WMAQ-TV Chicago; WTVs Detroit; WCIX Miami; KARE and WCCO-TV, both Minneapolis; KPRC-TV Houston; WNYC-TV New York, and WFAA-TV Dallas. The

awards will be presented at a ceremony in New York on Aug. 29.

The FCC last week proposed resolving 268 rate complaints against Comcast Cable Communications. The proposed resolution requires Comcast to issue \$6.6 million in subscriber refunds in the form of bill credits and to forgo inflation and external cost adjustments of more than \$3 million. The FCC said those filing the original complaints have until Sept. 13 to offer comments on the proposed resolution.

The FCC last week wrapped up work on two video dialtone rulings. One levies a \$200,000 fine against Ameritech for constructing a cable system without first obtaining a "Section 214" waiver, but the other streamlines the process of obtaining such waivers to operate cable systems. The new procedures apply to telcos that have obtained injunctions barring the FCC from enforcing the telco-cable crossownership ban.

MGM/UA Telecommunications Group has signed an exclusive multimillion-dollar licensing and co-production deal with Australia's Seven Network. In the deal, Seven obtains exclusive Australian free-TV rights to all MGM and UA films and TV programming, including MGM's new syndicated series *The Outer Limits* and *LAPD*, in addition to future projects. The two-part deal also calls for MGM and Seven to co-produce projects that MGM will own and distribute worldwide.

Tele-Communications Inc. International has named three new members to its newly created board of directors: Sumitomo Corp. President Tomiichi Akiyama; Paul Gould, executive VP/managing director, Allen & Co., and Pierre Lescure, CEO, Canal+. The three join TCI International board

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