

Iris winner was Flight 800 victim

NATPE gives out programing awards, including to 12-year-old who died in TWA crash

By Cynthia Littleton

NATPE has given out its Iris awards, including one for broadcast excellence that was awarded to a 12-year-old New York girl who died last July in the crash of TWA Flight 800 over Long Island.

Ana Duarte-Coiner won the 1996-97 Iris Award for on-camera talent for her *Action News for Kids* series on WBNG-TV Binghamton, N.Y. Duarte-Coiner was in her second year as a reporter for the station. She and her mother were on their way to a two-week vacation in France when the Paris-bound plane crashed shortly after takeoff.

"We found out that Ana and her mother were on the flight about as we were reporting the story," says Steve Koegel, news director for WBNG-TV. "We had to draw on all our resources as news professionals to pull ourselves together on the air."

This year's Iris Award winners in six program categories were selected

from more than 350 entries from about 200 different broadcast and cable outlets. The 30th annual awards will be handed out Dec. 9 at a ceremony held on the Sony Pictures lot in Los Angeles. Other winners unveiled last week by awards committee director Lynn Stepanian:

■ Entertainment: *Almost Live! View-*

ers Choice. KING-TV Seattle

■ Children's & young adult: *First Cut*. KRON-TV San Francisco

■ Public affairs: *A Civil Action/Chronicle*. WCVB-TV Boston

■ PSAs: *Family Now Mini Soap Opera Spots*. KSL-TV Salt Lake City

■ Writing & producing: *A Town of Hope*. KNSD(TV) San Diego ■

Grant heads CNN Newsource

As expected, Turner Broadcasting System veteran Susan Grant has been tapped to oversee distribution of CNN's syndicated news service as president of the newly formed unit, CNN Newsource Sales.

TBS's syndication arm, Turner Program Services, has been dismantled in the wake of TBS's merger with Time Warner. Grant, formerly president of TPS, will be based in Atlanta.

Time Warner's Telepictures Distribution has absorbed the rest of TPS's program slate, which includes a highly rated monthly series of first-run *National Geographic* specials and other wildlife specials. Telepictures also inherits Hanna-Barbera classics such as *The Flintstones* and *The Jetsons*. "This is high-quality, high-CPM television at its very best," says Scott Carlin, executive vice president of Telepictures. —CL

SYNDICATION MARKETPLACE

Real class

The setting for *Whose Class Is This Anyway?*, a new series about a group of teenagers who take over the administration of their high school, should have the look and feel of a real high school when it premieres next fall. The show's producers are finalizing a deal to shoot the series at a high school in Fairfield, Conn., that has been shuttered since 1994. Roger Ludlowe High School is expected to reopen in 2001; until then, the school is getting a lot of use as a set for TV and movie production. *Whose Class Is This Anyway?*, produced by Kelly News & Entertainment and LIN Television, is one of two half-hours in Kelly's new weekly educational kids block, which has been picked up for fall 1997 by WPWR-TV Chicago, KTVD-TV Denver and WABU-TV Boston.

Hasselhoff Christmas parade

Baywatch star David Hasselhoff is ready to parade down Hollywood

NSS POCKETPIECE

(Nielsen's top ranked syndicated shows for the week ending Nov. 10. Numbers represent average audience/stations/% coverage.)

1. Wheel of Fortune	12.1/228/96
2. Home Improvement	10.3/218/96
3. Jeopardy!	9.6/224/97
4. Oprah Winfrey Show	8.5/234/99
5. Seinfeld	7.9/209/95
6. Simpsons	7.0/203/96
7. Entertainment Tonight	6.4/189/96
8. ESPN NFL Regular Season	5.9/3/74
9. Hercules, Journeys of	5.7/225/97
10. Home Improvement-wknd	5.4/205/94
11. Inside Edition	5.2/151/89
11. Xena: Warrior Princess	5.2/220/96
13. Wheel of Fortune-wknd	5.0/154/69
14. Mad About You	4.9/206/95
15. Baywatch	4.8/215/94

Boulevard now that Tribune Entertainment has cleared its telecast of the 1996 Hollywood Christmas Parade in 139 markets covering 87% of the country and all top 40 markets. Hasselhoff is the grand marshal of the 65th annual parade, which will snake down Sunset and Hollywood boulevards on the evening of

Dec. 1. Bob Eubanks and Leeza Gibbons are set to host Tribune's two-hour telecast.

Frisby on rise

MGM Domestic Television Distribution has promoted the head of its Chicago sales office, Noranne Frisby, to executive vice president overseeing all sales of MGM programming to broadcasters. MGM officials say Frisby's is the first in a series of appointments as the studio, recently taken over by new, deep-pocketed investors, expands its syndication slate.

MGM raised eyebrows earlier this year with its decision to pull out of syndication's biggest sales gathering, January's NATPE convention in New Orleans. At the time, MGM officials said that the distribution division was due to expand and pursue a different sales strategy. MGM has already announced plans to launch two big-budget weekly dramas, *Fame L.A.* and *Stargate SG-1*, in 1997 and 1998.—CL