

Briefs

Estefan's 'Magic'

Gloria Estefan will be the featured guest performer at "Winter Magic," the Super Bowl XXVI halftime show slated for Sunday, Jan. 26, in Minneapolis.

Divorce court

Director Alan Parker was divorced Monday from his wife of 25 years. The London Divorce Court granted Annie Parker, 49, an uncontested divorce on grounds of her husband's adultery. They married in 1966. The director of "Mississippi Burning" lives in California; his wife resides in England. He is a British citizen.

Alleged 'attack'

Former "Dance Fever" host Doney Terrio claims in an exclusive interview to air tonight on the syndicated "A Current Affair" that producer Merv Griffin "sexually attacked and sexually harassed me for seven years." Terrio, who has filed an \$11.3 million lawsuit against Griffin, said he was first "attacked" by Griffin in 1978. "I was like his boy," Terrio told Bill McGowen. "It was hard for me to get other work because I was Merv's boy," he said. Two women who used to live with Terrio are also interviewed; both said they doubted the veracity of Terrio's claims about Griffin, whose company produced Terrio's TV show.

Coleman staying put

Weathercaster Fritz Coleman has signed a new long-term contract with KNBC-TV in Los Angeles, the station announced Monday. The new deal also calls for Coleman to star in comedy specials. Coleman has been the primary weatherman at KNBC since 1983.

Appel exits Apple

Veteran New York sports and television executive Marty Appel has stepped down as vp sports and public relations at WPIX-TV to join the Atlanta Olympic Organizing Committee. Appel, who also served as executive producer for the station's sports broadcasts, will assume his new post as head of public relations for the 1996 Olympic host later this month.

Dresner to FNS

Steve Dresner was named Monday as sports producer for Fox News Service. Dresner is responsible for FNS' daily national sports highlight feeds and produces sports features and stories for FNS' regular daily newfeed. Dresner joins Fox from HBO's "Inside the NFL," where he was talent coordinator.

Chapter 11 for RKO Warner video

By PAULA PARISI

Citing the ongoing effects of the recession in Metropolitan New York, the RKO Warner Video chain has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The 27-store chain becomes the largest video chain to file for bankruptcy protection. The chain was ranked fourth in the nation in a Video Store survey that placed its '91 revenues at \$35 million, a 17% drop from the prior year's \$42 million.

The chain was the only one in the top 10 to take a tumble.

A statement issued by the New York City-based outfit cited "the deep recession in Metropolitan New York retailing coupled with the

total unavailability of new bank loans" as the primary reasons for the action.

Twelve of the company's 27 stores are in Manhattan.

The statement goes on to say that rapid growth in the '80s prompted the company to spend \$2 million laying the groundwork for future franchise expansion, an action that caused "severe cash flow problems."

Among the franchise-related expenses listed were the cost of preparing franchise manuals, hiring a team of franchising specialists, launching an ad campaign and securing franchise approvals nationally.

On an operational basis, the company "continues to be profitable,"

according to a spokesman, who was unprepared to provide debt and asset figures.

It is believed that the distributor Commtron is the company's largest creditor.

"As a result, the company finds — continued on page 88

Par plans second 'Star Trek' spinoff

A spinoff version of the successful weekly syndicated "Star Trek: The Next Generation" is on the drawing board at Paramount Domestic Television, according to station rep sources.

Also said to be planned by Paramount is another new hour weekly of "The Untouchables."

Both projects are expected to be announced at the annual meeting of the Association of Independent Television Stations in San Francisco, which begins today.

According to one station representative, the "Star Trek" project is understood to be a prequel.

Paramount had no comment on the speculation.

Rogers, Astaire win Nabisco suit

By JEFFREY DANIELS

Ginger Rogers and the widow of Fred Astaire won a federal court injunction preventing Nabisco Inc. from using the image of the dancing duo for marketing purposes as well as an undisclosed financial settlement from the food giant.

U.S. District Judge David Williams in Los Angeles ordered the defendants to cease manufacturing, — continued on page 85

Lifson-Pompan to Triad as agent

By ANDREA KING

Byrdie Lifson-Pompan has joined the motion picture literary department of Triad Artists as an agent, department head Todd Harris confirmed Monday.

She most recently completed a two-year stint as an agent-trainee at — continued on page 88

Stone enlists congressman in drive to open JFK probe files

By KEVIN PHINNEY

Accused by some of using "JFK" to distort history, Oliver Stone has found an ally in Congress who may help him rewrite the official account of President Kennedy's assassination.

Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., told The Hollywood Reporter on Monday that even though he hasn't seen the controversial film yet, he wants to introduce legislation to release the House Assassination Committee's documents pertaining to President Kennedy's murder — now sealed until 2029.

On Dec. 20, the day Stone's production opened nationwide, the director met in Washington with

Hamilton, who has asked for the materials to be released through letters and meetings with former committee members.

"It seems to me the bulk of the files ought to be released," said Hamilton. "This is an enormously important event in American history, and I don't have any theory about who killed President Kennedy. I just think the American people ought to have a chance to make up their minds."

Hamilton said he will not take any action before meeting with fellow congressman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, the former chairman of the House Assassinations Committee who saw Stone's — continued on page 8

Docu maker Burns fails Stone in history

By LISA de MORAES

Documentary producer Ken Burns criticized director Oliver Stone on Monday, saying he "continues to be troubled by manipulation of history."

"The Civil War" producer — speaking to reporters following a press conference about his new PBS documentary on the early days of radio — said that while he had not seen Stone's latest film, "JFK," "I have been concerned by his past films because I worry that Stone has

convinced people the '60s was the way he saw it.

"I applaud (Stone's) artistry, but we have to remember it is artistry — not history."

Stone's greatest service, Burns added, is that he has "opened up" questions about President Kennedy's assassination and the 1960s, subjects about which "we have fallen asleep."

Burns said he had wanted to be a Hollywood producer but "found it — continued on page 8

Happy holidays for PBS pledge drive

By DAVID KELLY

WASHINGTON — Despite the rough economic climate, pledges to PBS member stations during December pledge drives jumped from \$16 million in 1990 to \$19 million in 1991, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting said Monday.

The average individual pledge during December was \$69.33, vs. \$66.66 per pledge in December 1990.

The number of pledges in Decem-

ber was 280,012, up from 272,636 the previous December.

PBS said the increase in the number of pledges during the recession is further evidence that public television makes a difference in people's lives and that contributors see their investment as benefiting all levels of society.

The service has come under increasing pressure to lower its levels of taxpayer support.

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Burns

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was more satisfying to tell the truth of what really happened than what should have happened," adding that his greatest fear would be to have an executive tell him "you know, this needs more sex."

Burns, who's "Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio" is slated to air on PBS on Jan. 29, said at Monday's news conference at the Television Critics Assn. press gathering in Marina del Rey, Calif., that he would continue to refuse offers to work for other networks.

"The fundamental reason I do not intend to move is that (PBS) is the only place on the dial that is free of commercials, and where there is a lack of interference," Burns said.

"Can you imagine what 'The Civil War' would have looked like (if it had been on a network)? Dan Rather would have walked from behind an antibellum column," continued Burns. "If Turner (had aired it) all my black-and-white photos would have been colorized... (with) commercials every six to eight minutes, and the Time-Life ads for the cassette of the program would have become indistinguishable from the program."

Burns said he plans next to delve into biographies, naming Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Roosevelt and women's rights activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton as possible subjects, among others that he said had become "such clichés," as had histories of the Civil War: "We spent a century thinking that 'Birth of a Nation' and 'Gone With the Wind' are the official history of the Civil War."

Likewise, our "sanitized view of history" is what compelled Burns to executive produce "Empire of the Air," he said. The documentary, based on the book of same name written by Tom Lewis, profiles David Sarnoff — who headed the Radio Corporation of America and whom Burns called "a Citizen Kane character" — Lee De Forest, the inventor of the vacuum tube, and Edwin Howard Armstrong, who created the system of FM broadcasting.

"Edwin Armstrong should have been taught about in school, but was lost in the capricious nature of history," said Burns, who produced the show in conjunction with Lewis.

The Jan. 29 air date of "Empire of the Air" coincides with the second offering in PBS' Ken Burns retrospective. "Brooklyn Bridge," Burns' first documentary for PBS, is also slated for that night. The retrospective series — a "GM Mark of Excellence" presentation — will also include "The Statue of Liberty" and "Huey Long." "The Shakers: Hands to Work Hearts to God" aired Nov. 29. All are documentaries produced by Burns before the success of "The Civil War" catapulted him into the public eye.

Stone

continued from page 3 —

"JFK" on Sunday. Hamilton expects to meet with Stokes when Congress reconvenes later this month.

"I am still trying to get to the truth," said Stone in an interview from Hawaii. "A movie is a finite thing. But the government has to be challenged and prodded, even though I have limited powers."

Former Robert F. Kennedy aide Frank Mankiewicz is backing Stone's call to have the files opened. Mankiewicz was one of those attending the Dec. 20 meeting in the nation's capital. He now works as a publicist for the PR firm Hill & Knowlton Inc. and handles non-entertainment related press for Warner Bros. "JFK."

Mankiewicz cited a recent Time Magazine-CNN poll showing three out of four Americans believe there was a plot to kill JFK. "That's a healthy sign," he said. "President Bush doesn't believe there was a conspiracy, but then, he didn't think there was a recession going on, either."

Hamilton's interest in releasing the files has been a matter of public record, the congressman said.

Stokes still isn't sure that opening the committee's files will further any potential investigation.

"We reviewed everything in those sealed files," Stokes said Monday, "and we found that while Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots that killed the president, we concluded there was probably a conspiracy involved. But there isn't anything in those files that would change the course of history."

After watching "JFK," Stokes

said, "I felt the filmmakers were able to raise some very good questions relative to the assassination. But on occasions, Mr. Stone was footloose and fancy free with historic accuracy."

Where does the investigation stand now?

Said Stokes: "We asked the Justice Department to pursue the leads we had developed, but the only thing they actually did was to empanel a group of scientists to dispute the findings of our acoustics experts."

The committee's experts in the late 1970s found a sound recording of the assassination which suggested gunfire had originated from multiple points in Dealey Plaza, contradicting the Warren Commission's lone gunman theory. "So what you have," Stokes said, "is one group of scientists disputing another."

That means the only action taken by the Justice Department was to refute the most damning evidence against the Warren Commission conclusions uncovered by the committee. "Yes, it's a little odd," Stokes said.

Stone calls his film "a counter-myth."

"I don't have all the facts," he admitted, "and have been taken to task for that. I would have more facts, except that they are sealed. The House committee's files are only part of it; there are FBI, CIA files, too. I would love to see what the CIA gave the committee."

Rep. Hamilton said it's time for the public to make up its own mind about what happened Nov. 22, 1963. "It is not up to me or Congressman Stokes to say these documents won't change the course of history. It's up to the American people."

Blockbuster

continued from page 4 —

Jacobson — who has a "strong buy" rating on the stock — said he expects Blockbuster to report earning 17 cents a share in the 1991 fourth quarter and 57 cents for the full year. This would compare with earnings of 13 cents and 43 cents, respectively, in the year-ago periods, he notes.

Among other things, Jacobson notes that Blockbuster stock has been a "laggard" recently and appears to be playing catch up. Jacobson said his near-term, or six-month, price target for the stock is 17 a share.

The stock's peak over the past year was 15¼ a share.

PaineWebber Inc. analyst Craig Bibb said he is confident in his 17-cents-a-share fourth-quarter estimate for Blockbuster, which puts his full-year estimate at 57 cents.

Bibb said he maintains an "attractive" rating on the stock.

Meanwhile, a Blockbuster spokesman declined comment on the ana-

lysts' earnings estimates, noting that Blockbuster is in a regulatory-mandated "quiet period" in connection with the registration of some Blockbuster stock. The stock transaction relates to the previously announced plans to acquire British retailer Cityvision PLC for cash and shares of Blockbuster common stock.

Dow Jones News Service contributed to this report.

'GMA' celebrates second year atop morning ratings

ABC's "Good Morning America" wrapped up 1991 with its second consecutive year as the No. 1 morning news show ahead of NBC's "Today" and "CBS This Morning," according to A.C. Nielsen Co. daytime rankings for the week of Dec. 23-29.

Despite some very close jousts between the leaders "GMA" and "Today" — including three ties — the ABC show won outright on 101 weeks in 1991 and 1992. "GMA" finished the week with a 4.0 rating/19 share ahead of "Today" (3.3/18) and "CBS This Morning" (2.5/12).

Meanwhile, CBS led in daytime for the 147th consecutive week with a 5.8/22, ahead of ABC (4.7/15) and NBC (3.7/12) in an unchanged lineup for the week. ABC and CBS continued to joust for the key demographic viewers of women ages 18-49 with a 3.8/21 and a 3.6/21, respectively.

ABC continued to inch ahead in the children's corner for the second consecutive week with a 3.0/13 average ahead of CBS (2.8/11), NBC (2.3/10) and FBC (1.5/7). ABC and CBS tie the season-to-date on Saturday morning with a 3.4/14 and a 3.4/13, respectively.

NBC's stalwart "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" (5.2/14) continued to dominate the 11:30-midnight slot ahead of ABC's "Nightline" (4.1/12) and CBS' "Crime Time" (3.4/9). "Crime Time" delivered its second highest rating in its 39 weeks on air.

The top five daytime shows were the CBS programs "The Young and the Restless" (8.6/27) and the second and first halves of "The Price Is Right" (8.5/28 and 7.1/24, respectively), ABC's "All My Children" (6.9/21) and "General Hospital" (5.9/18).

Headline kids shows was the second half of CBS' "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" (4.9/18).

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