

Briefs

'J.F.K.' OK

Dallas County commissioners tentatively agreed Tuesday to allow director Oliver Stone to shoot scenes for his film about President Kennedy's assassination inside the former Texas Schoolbook Depository. But don't expect the "J.F.K." cameras to roll on the sixth floor, where Lee Harvey Oswald is said to have taken aim. That floor houses an assassination exhibit run by the local historical society. A final vote is expected next week.

AFM bomb threat

A telephone bomb threat was received at about 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, site of the American Film Market, confirmed AFM executive vp Tim Kittleson. Santa Monica police and AFM and hotel security conducted a sweep of the building, which was not evacuated. No bomb was found.

Aykroyd gets 'Life'

Dan Aykroyd has joined the cast of 20th Century Fox's "This Is My Life," the Lynda Obst production that marks Nora Ephron's directorial debut. The film also stars Samantha Mathis and Julie Kavner.

Muppet regime

A spat over two Muppets from "Batibot," the Filipino version of "Sesame Street," has found its way onto a list of issues under discussion for a wide-ranging treaty on U.S. military bases in the Philippines. The dispute revolves around an agreement between "Batibot" and the Children's Television Workshop that the Filipino show will not use two particular Muppets — a turtle named Pong Pagong and a monkey named Kiko Matsing — in any program outside the Philippines. "Batibot" producers are in talks about doing the show in Indonesia.

Country road

The Grand Ole Opry is taking the show on the road to celebrate its 65th birthday. Performers include Ricky Skaggs, Garth Brooks and Minnie Pearl. The 10 road shows begin on April 4 in Detroit and end June 15 in Chicago.

Oscar update

Oscar-winner Michael Douglas ("Wall Street," "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") will be a presenter at the 63rd Academy Awards presentation March 25 in Los Angeles.



Nets begin exodus out of Baghdad

Michael Rooker has joined the cast of Oliver Stone's "JFK" in the role of Bill Boxley, assistant D.A. to the film's central character Jim Garrison, played by Kevin Costner. Rooker's screen credits include "Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer," "Sea of Love," "Days of Thunder," "Music Box" and "Mississippi Burning." —Claudia Eller

SHORT TAKES

Candy, Larroquette Join 'JFK' Team

John Candy and John Larroquette have joined the cast of Oliver Stone's "JFK," which stars Kevin Costner and is cofinanced by Warner Bros., Regency Enterprises and Canal Plus (Daily Variety, Feb. 25), sources confirm. Additional talent deals involving Gary Oldman, Tommy Lee Jones and Sissy Spacek are reportedly in the works. —Amy Dawes

Shearson hats on 'JFK' can film in book depository

DALLAS (AP) — Oliver Stone can film scenes for his movie "JFK" in the old Texas School Book Depository. Dallas County commissioners voted 3-2 on Tuesday to let the Oscar-winning director use the building from which President Kennedy's assassin fired the fatal shots, according to governmental findings. It is now the County Administration Building. The movie, which begins filming — continued on page 6

'JFK'

continued from page 4 — next month, will star Kevin Costner as former New Orleans prosecutor James Garrison, whose investigation maintained Kennedy was the victim of a CIA and FBI conspiracy and gunman Lee Harvey Oswald was the fall guy. Stone's Oscar-winning films include "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July," as well as the current "The Doors."

The late-night action hours will debut immediately following the end of the National Collegiate Athletic Assn. basketball tournament.

Maryland's ad-ban bill on ropes

By ANITA M. BUSCH A controversial bill that would impose a statewide ban on commercial advertising in theaters prior to running films was argued Tuesday in a Maryland General Assembly committee hearing. Maryland is the first state in the country to introduce such a bill. The Economic Matters Committee will now make a recommendation on the bill, deciding whether or

not it should be passed on to the House for a vote. However, according to industry sources, the highly debated bill is not expected to find its way to the House. Introduced by state democratic delegate Paul Pinsky, the Motion Picture Prohibitive Screen Advertising bill (No. 696) would prohibit commercials before movies except for movie trailers, slides between

Chip shots

Oliver Stone was just named the 1991 recipient of the Great Director Award at the 21st annual USA Film Festival, which starts April 18 in Dallas. Past winners include Frank Capra, George Stevens and Martin Ritt. Stone's next film, "JFK," starring Kevin Costner, rolls April 15 in Dallas.

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its list of stocks it will h is a feather in the cap ld because the invest-one of Wall Street's — continued on page 8

for April

by the network plans a cial featuring clips and the five new series, to NCAA Championship nday, April 1. time Time" will pre-1 p.m.-12:30 a.m. on ril 2, with "The Exile." hen J. Cannell-hosted "Scene of the Crime" hits the air-waves Wednesday, followed by "Fly by Night" on Thursday, and "Dark Justice" on Friday. — continued on page 27

and allows some Westerners to re- end Arnett and Piz- ted in the Jordanian 's John Donovan and nbers and NBC cor- 1 Aspell and his two networks said. — continued on page 28

ets terms : of FNN

RRY LAYNE — A federal bank- re on Wednesday ap- provisions of Finan- twork's \$105 million ell its media assets to unit.

led that any offer for the channel that is submitted while FNN is protected by Chapter 11 of federal bankruptcy statutes must have identical terms as its agreement

a bid st \$10 FNN-

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ntation ble sec- ductions

the: his uper duce Johnson to the newly created position of senior vp syndication and cable television. Johnson will develop live-action telefilms as well as animation programming for the two markets. He will also establish strategies with station and cable buyers for new ventures, according to company president and CEO David Kirschner, — continued on page 29

Sanitsky leaves Orion TV for ICM

Orion Television vp Bob Sanitsky has joined the TV division of International Creative Management. His responsibilities at ICM will include TV packaging, concentrating on syndication, cable, late-night and daytime as well as reality programming. Sanitsky had been vp production — continued on page 29

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