

In Brief

A Delaware court is now the venue for controversy surrounding the aborted \$70.2 million sale of WHO-AM-TV and KLYF(FM) Des Moines, and KFOR-TV Oklahoma City. Attorneys representing would-be purchaser VS&A Communications Partners LP, the majority owner of Hughes Broadcasting Partners, asked the court to force the seller, Palmer Communications, to resume negotiations toward a definitive contract. The suit is also said to assert that Palmer's firing of its VP, broadcasting, Ken McQueen, violated a provision in the sale's letter of

intent. Last Tuesday Palmer filed a motion to dismiss the suit, saying it had no binding obligation to negotiate or execute a definitive agreement. A hearing on the motion to dismiss has been set for May 26. If the court allows the suit to proceed, the trial is expected to begin in late July.

Blair Television has signed a new agreement to handle the national and spot TV sales for King Broadcasting Co. and the new ownership of the five-station group, the Providence Journal Corp., ef-

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(Nielsen's top ranked syndicated shows for the week ending April 12. Numbers represent aggregate rating average/stations/% coverage)

1. Wheel Of Fortune 12.6/223/96
2. Star Trek 12.1/235/98
3. Jeopardy! 10.6/214/95
4. Oprah Winfrey Show 10.4/222/99
5. Entertainment Tonight 7.8/186/95
6. Married...With Children 7.4/175/93
7. Current Affair 7.1/175/94
8. Wheel of Fortune 6.6/182/78
9. Cosby Show 6.1/203/96
10. Donahue 5.9/226/99
10. Inside Edition 5.9/130/87
12. Sally Jessy Raphael 5.4/208/98
13. Hard Copy 5.2/175/93
13. Star Search 5.2/189/96
14. In the Line of Duty 5.1/100/74

BONNEVILLE RESTRUCTURES MANAGEMENT AT KSL-AM-TV SALT LAKE CITY

Bonneville International announced it is combining management and certain operations of its KSL-AM-TV Salt Lake City. The two stations will now have one general manager, William Murdoch; one vice president for sales, Cliff Snyder, and one vice president for news and programming, Al Henderson. Murdoch, formerly general manager of KSL-TV, will continue to report to KSL President Bruce Reese.

According to Reese, "Our primary product is news in both properties. We have benefitted from increasing cooperation between the two news-gathering organizations over the past few years. It is only natural that we recognize that cooperation in our organization structure."

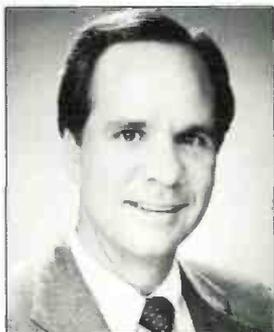
Rodney Brady, Bonneville International president, added: "The objective is to cause the two stations to operate as much as possible as a single unit." He said the workforce would not be reduced, but instead, "the same number of people will get much more accomplished."

Brady added that Bonneville was still working on any physical relocation involving the CBS-TV affiliate and the news and information radio station.

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William Murdoch



Cliff Snyder



Al Henderson

fectively expanding the relationship Blair has had with King since 1949. According to Tim McAuliff, president of Blair Television, the rep firm will also take over responsibility for King's regional rep firm, Northwest TV Sales.

David Kirschner was named chairman of Hanna-Barbera Inc. last week after serving as the company's president-CEO since 1989. The move is seen as an effort to get the company that TBS acquired five months ago more involved in theatrical production. Coinciding with Kirschner's appointment, the company also announced that **Fred Seibert has been hired as president.** Seibert, who most recently oversaw his own advertising agency, Fred/Alan Inc., will be responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of Hanna-Barbera.

Kevin Slattery, executive in charge of production of Tribune Entertainment's *The Dennis Miller Show*, has been named producer of the late night talk show, which averaged a 1.3 rating/7 share (NSI) in the February sweeps. Also, **Larry Ferber**, who came over on loan from Tribune's *Joan Rivers*