

the two stations. Viacom-Paramount refused to comment.

WCAU-TV is valued at roughly \$430 million, estimates TV broker Frank Boyle. But it's not just the money CBS wants; it's also interested in acquiring strong stations in strategic markets.

NBC may swap WTVJ(TV) Miami, KCNC-TV Denver and newly acquired KUTV(TV) Salt Lake City for WCAU-TV, according to industry sources. NBC's WRC-TV Washington, valued at \$250 million-\$300 million, also is mentioned as part of a possible trade.

Acquiring WTVJ would improve

CBS's position in Miami. Its current O&O there, WCIX(TV), suffers from poor signal coverage.

Bonneville International is worried about losing its CBS affiliations in Salt Lake City and Seattle, where the NBC swap and a possible Gaylord-CBS deal have Bonneville examining its options, CFO Glenn Larkin says.

Larkin speculates that KSL-TV, Bonneville's CBS affiliate in Salt Lake City, would still end up with a network affiliation: either NBC, as in a straight swap for KUTV(TV), or ABC, if Chris Craft abandons its ABC affiliate

KTVX(TV) for the Paramount network.

Larkin says the company is talking with other networks in Seattle, where a possible Gaylord-CBS alliance would leave Bonneville without an affiliation. For the time being, Gaylord is tied up in court, trying to get out of a contract with Warner Bros.

In other affiliate news, Providence Journal's KHNL(TV) Honolulu is expected to become the new home for NBC. KHNL lost Fox when SF Broadcasting purchased KHON-TV and dropped NBC.

Geoffrey Foiste contributed to this report.

## Belo, Wilson team for distribution

Former Columbia executive says he won't raid CTTD for partners

By David Tobenkin

**D**allas-based TV group owner A.H. Belo has established a new partnership with former top Columbia TriStar Television Distribution executive Ed Wilson to distribute programming from the station group and outside programmers.

Ending weeks of speculation on his future, Wilson, formerly senior vice president of syndication for Columbia TriStar Television Distribution, will join Belo in a venture to distribute programming for networks, syndication and cable, both domestically and abroad.

The still unnamed distribution organization will open its doors in October in Dallas and Los Angeles, with Wilson based in the latter location.

"It's a tremendous opportunity that doesn't come around that often in

one's life. I believe in the people I'm joining and the partnership," said Wilson, who will own a significant portion of the new operation. "It also gives me the ability to build something of my own."

He said that while additional partners will join Wilson in the new company, they will not include executives plucked from CTTD, as had been rumored. "Everyone at Columbia has contracts and I would never do that to them," said Wilson.

At CTTD, Wilson has already worked with Belo in distributing *Beakman's World*, a show produced by Columbia Pictures Television in association with Universal Press/Belo initially for syndication but now for CBS and The Learning Channel. Wilson earlier had extensive contact with

Belo officials when he was head of the Dallas Paramount Domestic Television sales office from 1984 to 1987.

Belo Vice Chairman and Broadcast Division President Ward Huey said that while they have not decided which shows will be distributed by the partnership; news, information, infotainment and children's programming are the most likely candidates. He said there are Universal Press Syndicate properties under consideration.

In addition to *Beakman's World*, Belo has produced weekly half-hour teen magazine *Scratch*, syndicated nationally by Muller Media to 140 markets. Its production activities are coordinated through its Belo Production unit, headed by Michael Grant. Another show, documentary series *American Portraits*, is being examined for national cable distribution.

Huey said the venture would also look to outside producers for product.

Belo owns and operates WFAA-TV Dallas-Fort Worth, KHOU-TV Houston, CBS affiliate KXTV(TV) Sacramento, Calif., WVEC-TV Hampton-Norfolk, Va., WWL-TV New Orleans and KOTV(TV) Tulsa, Okla., covering 6% of the country. The company also owns *The Dallas Morning News* and eight small community papers.

CTTD President Barry Thurston said that he has not yet decided on a replacement for Wilson. "He's leaving us with an absolutely terrific sales force and is moving on to something of his own," said Thurston. "I'm disappointed he's leaving but I'm happy he's part of something new."

### Bujold to star in 'Star Trek: Voyager'

Feature-film actress Genevieve Bujold ("Anne of the Thousand Days," "Coma") will star as Captain Elizabeth Janeway of the U.S.S. Voyager in Paramount TV Group's new United/Paramount Network show *Star Trek: Voyager*.

Other cast members include Robert Duncan McNeill (*All My Children*, *Masters of the Universe*) as Starfleet Lieutenant Tom Paris; Robert Beltran (*Shadow Hunter*, "Bugsy" and *Models Inc.*) as Maquis ship captain and Voyager First Officer Chakotay; Tim Russ ("Mr. Saturday Night," "Fire with Fire") as Vulcan Starfleet Tactical/Security Officer Tuvok; Garrett Wang (*All American Girl*) as Operations/Communications Officer Harry Kim; Roxann Biggs-Dawson ("Darkman II," "Bound by Honor") as half-Klingon Chief Engineer B'Elanna Torres; Ethan Phillips ("The Shadow," *Benson*) as alien male and ship cook and guide Neelix; Jennifer Lien (*Phenom*, *Another World*) as an alien female and Neelix's lover, Kes; and Robert Picardo ("Wagon's East," *The Wonder Years*) as Doc Zimmerman, a holographic doctor on the ship.

The show will anchor the U/P Network, scheduled to launch in January. —DT