

Nielsen rating/9 share nationally in the May sweeps. The show was moved to Los Angeles in February from its 13-year production facility in Nashville.

Although *Crook and Chase* had its trouble in the national ratings, it has fared well in a number of southern and midwest markets. It posted a 5.2/23 on WBIR-TV Knoxville, Tenn., and a 4.9/21 on KSDK(TV) St. Louis.

"It is a show that has had some good stories but hasn't done that well nationally," says Bill Carroll, vice president, director of programming, Katz Television Group. "They do a nice middle-of-the-road show, and unfortunately in today's market a middle-of-the-road show doesn't make it nationally."

Lorianne Crook and Charlie Chase have hosted the show for 14 years, and Owens vows the show will continue for many more years. ■

CBS shuffles program lineups



Look for programming changes at CBS this month, from new time slots for its shows to the addition of new and familiar faces in prime time.

Beginning July 23 and continuing through the summer, *Murphy Brown* will air twice each week—in its new 8:30-9 p.m. fall slot on Wednesday and in its 9:30-10 p.m. slot on Monday. On Aug. 5, *JAG* will move from 9-10 p.m. Friday to its new 8-9 p.m. spot on Tuesday. On Aug. 7, *Promised Land* jumps from 8-9 p.m. Tuesday to its new 8-9 p.m. slot on Thursday, and *Diagnosis Murder* moves from 8-9 p.m. to 9-10 p.m. on Thursday.

The midseason news magazine *Coast to Coast* will return to the schedule on July 23 in the 9-10 p.m. slot and will continue to air July 30, Aug. 13, Aug. 27 and Sept. 3. Bernard Goldberg, Cynthia Bowers and Steve Hartman are among the correspondents returning to the series.

On Aug. 1, CBS will debut *Ordinary/Extraordinary*, a reality-based series hosted by John Schneider and Leanza Cornett that celebrates the human spirit. CBS picked up six episodes of the show from LMNO Productions. —LR



Pick a number

This one from the "Which Nielsen Number Do You Pick?" book: Local data from the May sweeps have *The Late Show with David Letterman* outranking *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and *Politically Incorrect* with Bill Maher in adults 18-34. Ac-

ording to local data from 187 stations, *Letterman* garnered a 2.3/13, while *Leno*—according to data from 183 stations—earned a 2.2/13 in the young-adult demo. In *Letterman's* second half-hour opposite *Politically Incorrect*, the CBS show led in the demo with a 2.7/11 and Maher's show earned a 2.6/11, according to local data from 85 stations where the two go head-to-head. Yet in the national numbers, *Leno* still reigns in the demo with a 2.3/11, while *Letterman* trails with a 2.0/10.

ABC unveils movies, made-fors and minis

ABC last week announced its slate of theatricals, made-fors and specials for the 1997-98 season. Theatricals include "Apollo 13," "Waterworld," "Dangerous Minds," "First Knight," "Love Affair," "My Family/Mi Familia" and "Quiz Show." The miniseries include *Medusa's Child*—based on the novel by John J. Nance—as well as *Oprah Winfrey Presents: The Wedding*, starring Halle Berry, and *Peter Benchley's Creature*. Among the made-fors are *The Advocate's Devil*, starring Ken Olin, and *Bad As I Wanna Be: The Dennis Rodman Story*. Specials include *Motown's 40th: A Retrospective*, *A Tribute to Aaron Spelling* and the annual Academy Awards.

Creative appointment

Former Witt-Thomas president Gary Levine was tapped to replace Warner Bros.' David Janollari as executive vice president of creative affairs. As the number-two to

Warner Bros. TV President Tony Jonas, Levine will oversee all network drama and comedy series development. While at Witt-Thomas, Levine helped develop *Pearl* and *The John Larroquette Show*. The departing Janollari will form a production company with Bob Greenblatt, the former number-two in programming at Fox.

Bergeron out at 'Breakfast'

In a mutual decision, Tom Bergeron has left Fox's slow-growth morning show, *Fox After Breakfast*. The show, which has averaged a .9 rating since its debut, has already bid farewell to co-host Laurie Hibberd as well as the original executive producers. Announcer Nancy Giles will take over hosting duties with "Road Warrior" correspondent Jeff McGregor until a replacement is found.

WB sign-up

The WB has signed a four-year agreement with WBNX-TV Cleveland to carry the network's programming. WBNX-TV replaces WUAB(TV) there, which carried The WB as a secondary affiliate until a recent deal in which it will become exclusive to UPN beginning in January through 2004. The WB's start date with WBNX-TV has yet to be determined.

Morning addition

Hall Gessner has been named executive producer of *CBS News Saturday Morning*, the new two-hour broadcast that will premiere in mid-September. The broadcast will be co-anchored by Susan Molinari, who will step down from her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of July. Gessner was a senior producer of *Coast to Coast*, the freshman CBS news magazine that premiered in January.

Separately, ABC confirmed that Lisa McRee will replace Joan Lunden as co-anchor of *Good Morning America* starting in September. McRee has co-anchored two newscasts (5 p.m. and 11 p.m.) on KABC-TV Los Angeles since 1994. Before that she was an original anchor of *World News Now*, ABC's overnight newscast. —LR