

TV networks making plans in case actors, writers strike

BY DAVID BAUDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Special to The Gamecock

PASADENA, Calif. — Television executives are hard at work on two schedules for their networks later this year — one they hope to use and another they fear they'll have to.

If a looming strike by actors and writers becomes reality, television viewers can expect a lot of game shows, *Survivor* knockoffs and marginal series, and less of the fictional characters they've grown to love.

"We've had strike-planning meetings on a bimonthly basis for about 10 months now," said Scott Sassa, NBC West Coast president. "And I hope that those plans are for naught."

However, too many people have talked about the strike as an inevitability. The Writers Guild of America contract, which covers 11,000 writers, expires May 1. Contracts covering 135,000 actors expire on July 1. Walkouts would virtually shut down the TV and movie industries.

A 22-week strike in 1988 cost the industries millions of dollars and delayed the start of the fall television season.

In the contingency plans, nonfiction programming plays a big part.

"Everybody has a lot more reality in development, which is not union-dependent," said Leslie Moonves, CBS Television president.

CBS has already scheduled its third *Survivor* installment for next fall. Bet on *Big Brother* coming back if there's a strike, despite its lukewarm reception last summer. NBC has signed the first *Survivor* winner, Richard Hatch, to be host of an American version of a popular British game show, *The Weakest Link*.

The Cube, a series where 10 strangers are locked in a room with 24 hours to figure out what they have in common, is due from the WB, along with *Kiss the Bride*, which films real-life wedding pro-

Television viewers might be seeing more shows like Regis Philbin's *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* if actors and writers decide to go on strike. Networks are preparing schedules of game shows and reality shows in case the walkout occurs.

posals. A game show starring Paul "Pee-Wee" Reubens called *You Don't Know Jack!* is being prepared by ABC.

Because *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* already airs four times a week and could be shown more, ABC may be in a more enviable position than its rivals.

"We're not looking to just throw something up on our airwaves that we don't believe in," said Lloyd Braun, ABC entertainment chief.

ABC has also bought the rights to 13 classic James Bond movies that could air next fall in the event of a strike. Overall, movies on TV, which have faded in popularity this year, could become more prevalent.

Expect more newsmagazines or news specials, too. "There will definitely be more of a news presence on prime-time," Moonves said.

The WB has already ordered 13 episodes of four entertainment series for the fall that will be prepared before the strike deadline, including the long-running comedies *For Your Love* and *The Steve Harvey Show*.

For actors, the payoff for the extra

work is a guarantee their shows will be around for another season.

"While no one wants to see a strike happen, we have taken some steps to ensure that we are ready for the fall with original episodes that will take us through the first of next year," said Susanne Daniels, the WB entertainment president.

Some networks are shelving new series that they might have tried out this winter and spring in order to have them for the fall. One example: *When I Grow Up*, a romantic comedy from producer Glenn Gordon Caron that was ordered by Fox.

Network executives would love to see their producers stockpile episodes of established series and, in many cases, have asked for extra shows. But some believe that's an attempt to undermine the union; producer John Wells (*ER*, *The West Wing*) wrote to fellow guild members that he wouldn't cooperate.

Producer Dick Wolf has promised to help NBC by making extra episodes of *Law and Order* and *Law and Order: SVU*. NBC has also ordered 13 episodes of a third spinoff, *Law and Order III: Criminal Intent*.

COLUMBIA MOVIE DIRECTORY

DUTCH SQUARE CINEMAS

All the Pretty Horses: 1:50, 5, 7:40, 10:15
Antitrust: 1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40
Cast Away: 1, 4, 7, 10:10
Double Take: 12:40, 3, 5:10, 7:30, 9:30
Emperor's New Groove: 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 7:35
The Family Man: 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45
Finding Forrester: 12:50, 4:20, 7:10, 10
Miss Congeniality: 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 9:50
Proof of Life: 9:25
Save the Last Dance: 1:30, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
13 Days: 12:30, 3:50, 7, 10
Traffic: 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:10

Vertical Limit: 1:50, 5, 7:50, 10:20
Wes Craven Presents Dracula 2000: 1:10, 3:10, 5:15, 7:40, 9:40
What Women Want: 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55

Finding Forrester: 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
Miss Congeniality: 1:40, 4:20, 7:15, 9:40
Save the Last Dance: 1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
Traffic: 1, 4, 7, 10

PAVILION CINEMAS

Antitrust: 2, 5, 8, 10:20
Cast Away: 1, 4, 7, 10
Double Take: 2:30, 4:45, 7:45, 9:45
The Emperor's New Groove: 2:15, 4:05, 6:20, 8:15
The Family Man: 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:05
Miss Congeniality: 1:15, 3:45, 6:45, 9:10
13 Days: 1:30, 4:35, 7:30, 10:30
What Women Want: 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10

NICKELODEON THEATRE

Cecil B. Demented: 7, 9

ST. ANDREWS ROAD MULTI CINEMAS

Charlie's Angels: 2:20, 4:20, 6:15, 8:05
Chicken Run: 2:15, 3:45
The Legend of Bagger Vance: 2:30, 7:25
Meet the Parents: 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10
Man of Honor: 5
Remember the Titans: 2, 4, 6, 8
What Lies Beneath: 5:15, 7:35

REGAL CINEMA 7

Cast Away: 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
Double Take: 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
The Family Man: 1:30, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

Study finds science textbooks contain numerous errors

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. — Twelve of the most popular science textbooks used at middle schools nationwide are riddled with errors, a new study has found.

Researchers compiled 500 pages of errors, varying from maps showing the equator passing through the southern United States to a photo of singer Linda Ronstadt labeled as a silicon crystal.

None of the 12 textbooks has an acceptable level of accuracy, said John Hubisz, a North Carolina State University physics professor who led the two-year survey released earlier this month.

"These are terrible books, and they're probably a strong component of why we do so poorly in science," he said. Hubisz estimated about 85 percent of children in the United States use the textbooks examined.

"The books have a very large number of errors, many irrelevant photographs, complicated illustrations, experiments that could not possibly work and drawings that represented impossible situations," he told *The Charlotte Observer*.

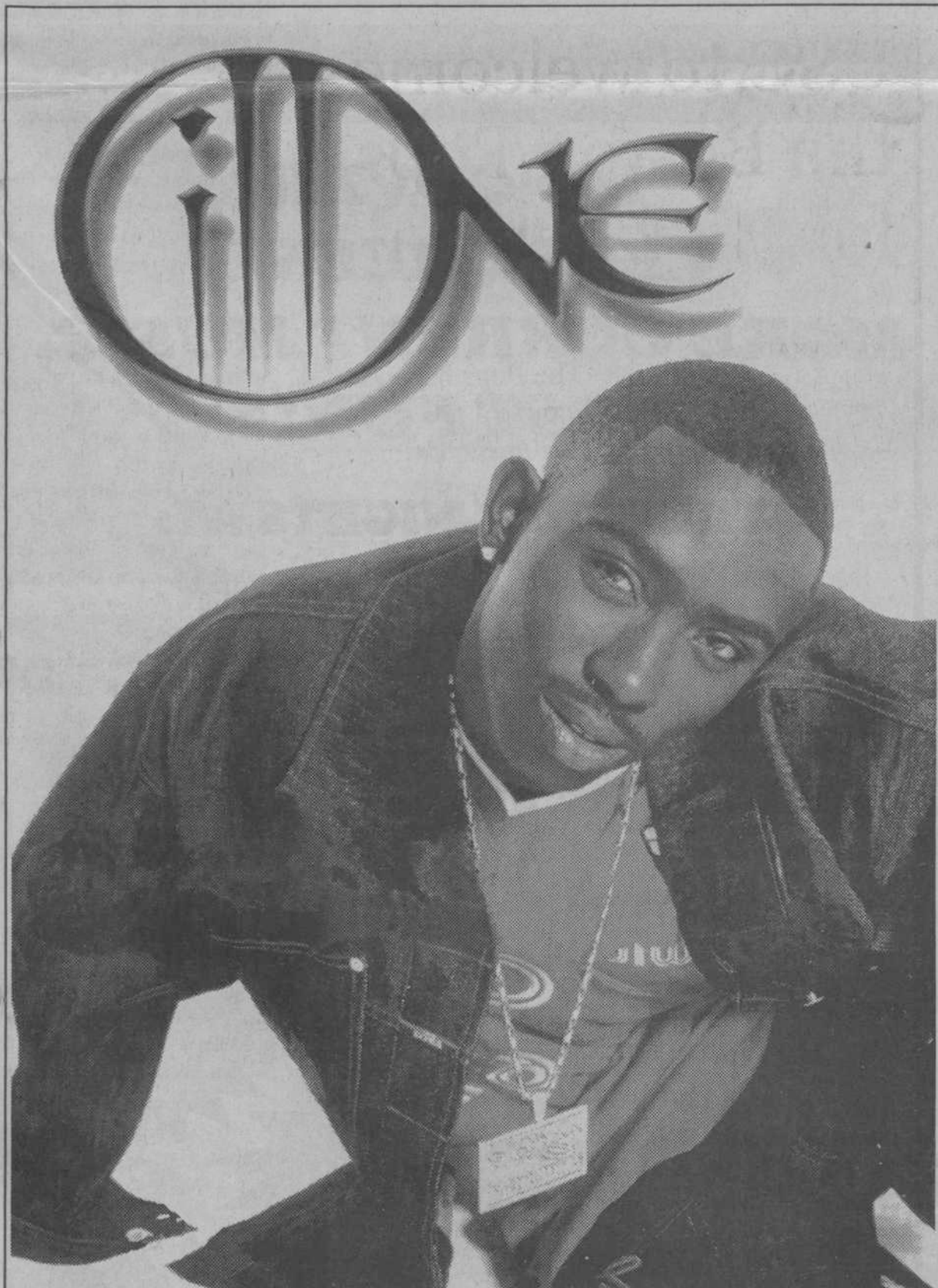
The study was financed with a \$64,000 grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. A team of researchers, including middle school teach-

ers and college professors, reviewed the 12 textbooks for factual errors.

One textbook even misstates Newton's first law of physics, a staple of physical science for centuries.

Errors in the multi-volume Prentice Hall "Science" series included an incorrect depiction of what happens to light when it passes through a prism and the Ronstadt photo. Hubisz said the Prentice Hall series was probably the most error-filled.

Prentice Hall acknowledged some errors, partly because states alter standards at the last minute and publishers have to rush to make changes.



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