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MORE DISKERY DISCORD

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THURSDAY

JUNE 22,1995
SI 45(H ISIDI l.\l IHIKWA

'History' rewritten
ByARMYARCHER D

Michael Jackson admits he made a mistake.
He called to tell me he is changing the lyrics to
the song "They Don't Care About Us," which
included the lines "Jew me, sue me" and
"Kick me, kike me."
"I'll go into the studio next week, Monday,
Tuesday or Wednesday and change it. I
thought o% first, muffling them, but that would
make them (those words) even more notice- Jackson able. So I'm going all the way to take them out,
and I've written new words." The substitute words, he said, will be "Strike me" for "Kike me" and "Do me" for "Jew me." "Or some other or better words," he said. When will these words Turn to page 4

Fuchs jolts Warner labels, biz by axing Morris
By ADA M SANDLER

The music industry was
stunned yet again Wednesday
when Warner Music Group chair-
man Michael Fuchs abruptly fired
Doug Morris, chairman/CEO of
Warner Music U.S.

In dismissing the music exec,
who'd been widely thought to
have weathered the recent rancor-
ous infighting at the company,
Fuchs also shocked execs at the
world's largest music arm, who

INSID E

Touchstone

tapsTurteltaub
Helmer Jon Turteltaub will di-
rcct John Travolta in the fan-
tasy ' ' Phenomenon.''

Fits the Dill

Bill Pullman has been cast
alongside Will Smith in Fox's
' ' Independence Day.''

Cox coin

CablerCox Communications
has raised $ 188 million in a
stock offering toward a tolol
goal of $1.1 billion.

E l World News

Spanish producers crow over
increased market share for
local films; the French appear
to be backing off on the flghl
to tighten European Union TV
quotas.

EX Dish
Michelle Pfeiffer is in talks to
star in "Privacy," a New Line
pic to be directed by Brian
Gibson; Fox and WB slate du-
eling space invasion movies.

ABRY pays $500 mil forActlllB'casting
By JOE FLINT

ABRY Communications has
made its long-awaited return to sta-
tion buying, acquiring Norman
Lear' s Act 111 Broadcasting in a deal
valued at well over $500 million.

The deal had been anticipated
for several months and makes
ABRY one of the largest owners
of Fox affiliates. Act III owns
eight TV stations, all currently
affiliated with (he wcblct.
For tax purposes, the sale is
structured as a stock purchase,
and as part of the sale ABRY will

also assume Act III Broadcast-
ing's debt, which is about $150
million. According to Act HI, its
stations reported cash flow of
$44.7 million on net revenue of
$93.8 million for the 12 months
ending March 31, 1995. Its oper-
ating income for the same period
was $30.6 million.
ABRY is expected to continue
looking for more stations. The
funds for the Act III purchase were
raised through Wall Street firm
Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette and
the company still has access to

were told of the
firing through
an interdepart-
mental memo.
Fuchs, who
summoned
Morris into his
offices at HBO
for the firing, Morris
wil l assume
the letter's duties, with all of the
label, music publishing and man-
ufacturing heads reporting to
him.

The news put a question mark

DreamWorks is getting
into business with filmmak-
ers such as Robert Zcmeckis
("Forrest Gump") and
Brad Silberling ("Casper")
and said it will change the
construct of writers' deals
by throwing out net profit
and offering writers a per-
centage of adjusted gross on
films. The partners also will
offer screenwriters who sign
term deals a chance to share
in a gross profit pool of all
DreamWorks films.

Turn to page 26

Gingrich lambastes Internet smut regs
By DENNIS WHARTON

WASHINGTON House

Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.)
is criticizing an amendment
added to the Senate's telecom-
munications reform bill that im-
poscs stiff fines and prison sen-
tences for distributors of pomog-
raphy on computer online ser-
vices such as the Internet.
Gingrich called the provision
"clearly a violation of free speech
and ... a violation of the right of

adults to communicate with each
other. I don't agree with it and I
don't think it is a serious way to
discuss a serious issue.

The provision to crack down on
cyberspace smut was offered by
Sen. James F\on (D-Neb.) and
added to info highway legislation
passed last week by the Senate. The
amendment, which passed by a
vote of 84-16, would impose fines
of $100,000 and require prison
terms of up to two years Ibr dis-
tributors of indecent material on

computer networks that are avail-
able to children 18 and under.

The infbpike bill now awaits
action on the House floor, where
backers of the Exon measure pre-
sumably wil l seek anti-
pornography lingo of their own.
Gingrich's criticism of the
Exon amendment came Tuesday
night on the cable TV show
"Progress Report," a weekly
program that is sponsored by the
conservative think lank the

over the fu-
tures of Danny
Goldberg,
chairman of
Warner Bros.
Records, and
Stuart Hersch,
president of
WamerVision Fuchs
(also an exec

veep at Warner Music). Both are
longtime Morris supporters who
sided with Morris during his sim-
mering power feud with former

Richmond

trots to Fox

By KATHARINE STALTER

Jon Richmond has been named
president of Fox Interactive. He
joins the company three weeks
after Fox an-
nounced the
resignation of
senior VP/gcn-
eral manager
Ted Hoff, who
ran the inter-
active unit on a
day-to-day
basis.
Richmond reports to Fox
Filmed Entertainment president
and chief operating officer Bill
Mechanic. That's a change in di-

AT'OPRAH'S' HEELS

DyJIM BENSON

With King World's dominant
talkshow "Oprah Winfrey"
watching its lead over "Ricki
Lake'' shrink to a mere 1.2 rating
points in the most recent Nielsen
national barter rankings, some are
wondering if a new talk queen
could be crowned soon.