

"Workin' " named Best in SHO

"Hardly Workin' " by Paul Marino and The ILL Clan in the Experimental Category won the "Best SHO" Grand Prize in the first alt.SHO.com Alternative Media Festival on Thursday night at the MTV Studios. Alt.SHO.com is Showtime's newest online entertainment destination, and the festival is an event that encourages innovative new media content creation by offering a high-profile viewing venue for animators, directors, and online entertainment enthusiasts to debut their work. In addition to the grand prize, eight other awards were handed out. Winners received a crystal award as well as a \$10,000 check. An additional \$20,000 was awarded for grand prize.

ShoWest honor for WB's Wayne

Joel Wayne, the veteran Warner Bros. Pictures advertising executive responsible for campaigns for films ranging from "The Matrix" to "Driving Miss Daisy," will be honored at ShoWest 2001 next month with the event's inaugural achievement in motion picture advertising award. Wayne said Thursday that news of the award came as a complete surprise and is especially meaningful because it comes from theater owners. **Other honorees:** Emmy-winning writer-producer Paul Haggis ("Family Law") will be this year's recipient of the WGA West's Valentine Davies Award, given each year to a writer who has "contributed to the entertainment industry as well as the community at large and who has brought dignity and honor to the profession of writing everywhere" ... British actress Charlotte Rampling, French director Agnes Varda and French actor Darry Cowl are to receive honorary Cesar Awards at France's top film awards Feb. 24.



Wayne

Emmys get reality check

Bowing to the new reality of primetime television, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences has created two new Primetime Emmy Awards categories to recognize reality shows and other nonfiction programs. Both categories — outstanding nonfiction programming (reality) and outstanding nonfiction programming (special class) — are so-called area awards, wherein the nominees and final winners are selected by the 370 members of ATAS' nonfiction programming peer group.



Spiegel

Spiegel upped to vp at SPE

Karen Spiegel has been promoted to vp corporate communications at Sony Pictures Entertainment, where she will continue to handle SPE's internal and external communications. Spiegel will continue to report to Susan Tick, who was recently promoted to senior vp corporate communications. **Other promotions:** Jack Sussman has been upped to senior vp specials from vp at CBS Entertainment. Sussman will be responsible for developing and overseeing production of all CBS primetime specials.

5 first-timers get DGA docu noms

For a third consecutive year, the Directors Guild of America has nominated five first-time contenders for the guild's outstanding directorial achievement in documentaries nod. The nominees are Charles Braverman for "High School Boot Camp," Laurie Collyer for her Puerto Rican family study "Nuyorican Dream," David deVries for "The True Story of the Bridge on the River Kwai," Mark T. Lewis for "The Natural History of the Chicken" and Michael Mierendorf for his look at child abuse, "Broken Child."

Probe: No intentional bias on Election Night

By Craig Linder

WASHINGTON — A congressional investigation into the television networks' botched Election Night predictions failed to turn up evidence of intentional bias by the news operations, the congressman leading the inquiry said Thursday.

Rep. W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, R-La., said problems with the Election Night coverage were instead largely a result of flawed data collection and outmoded statistical models used by Voter News Service, the consortium that develops the exit poll data on which the networks' projections are based.

"There appears to be clear evidence of a statistical, though unintentional, bias in the models used by VNS," he said.

On Election Night, all of the broadcast and cable news operations initially projected a Florida victory for Al Gore, only to retract that call as the numbers tightened. Much later that night, the networks projected a Florida victory for George W. Bush, which, if accurate, would have awarded him the presidency. The networks later retracted that call, too.

The House Commerce Committee will grill the top executives of ABC News, the Associated Press, CBS News, CNN, Fox News, NBC News and VNS on Wednesday Feb. 14 at a hearing into those Election

Night projections.

The hearing will fulfill a vow made by Tauzin in November to investigate what he then called the "rather biased reporting system" used by the networks. Next week's hearings also come on the heels of several harsh internal reviews of the networks' Election Night coverage. ■

'Heart' murmur: CBS pilot puts Huffman on call

By Nellie Andreeva

Felicity Huffman ("Sports Night") is in final negotiations to join Tony Shalhoub as the female lead in the CBS drama pilot "Heart Department,"



Huffman

produced by Columbia TriStar Television and created and executive produced by Chris Keyser and Amy Lippman.

Huffman will play a cardiologist who is invited by Shalhoub's character, a psychiatrist, to join him at a university hospital in Berkeley, Calif., after she breaks up with her boyfriend. ■

NAACP keeps eye on film biz

By Borys Kit

NAACP president Kweisi Mfume said Thursday that his organization has been quietly assessing data on the film industry.

"We are amassing huge amounts of data on the industry so that we're able to discern where that industry is relative to where we think they ought to be, in terms of opportunities that are being made available," he told The Hollywood Reporter during the second annual NAACP Image Awards luncheon at the St. Regis Hotel in Century City.

The NAACP has been highly and publicly critical of the lack of minorities in front of and behind



Mfume

television cameras. Those attacks resulted in several agreements to increase diversity on all levels of the networks' operations.

Now, the NAACP is turning the same attention to the film industry, he said.

"We're doing a quiet assessment ... collecting data on the motion picture industry," he said.

Mfume also noted that while some progress has been made in television, it wasn't enough. ■