

45 episodes per season, as was done with *Cops* on Fox, to allow for first-run stripping within two years, possibly for fall 1997. Meidel hopes the show will launch this summer.

■ The company's *David Viscott* late-night talk strip is being pitched to cable networks. After launching on cable, the show simultaneously would be sold into the syndication market in different dayparts. The show is targeted for June 1995.

■ *Sherman Oaks*, a new late-night comedy serial, is being aimed at syndication. Discussions are being held with a major station group—sources say it is Chris Craft—to serve as a launch platform for the show.

■ *America's Most Wanted: Final Justice*, a strip of the off-Fox network show that adds new footage updating the cases, is cleared in nearly 50% of the country for a fall 1995 launch, including 13 of the top 15 markets. Clearances include Chris Craft/United stations in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Phoenix, New World stations in Detroit, Atlanta, Cleveland, Tampa and Miami and Gaylord's Houston station.

■ A daytime hour talk show strip

SI gets into syndication

Time Warner's Sports Illustrated Television for the first time will make sports programming available to the syndication marketplace, with initial programming to include shows based on the magazine's 1994 and 1995 swimsuit specials, a *Year in Sports 1995* retrospective and its 40th anniversary special, which aired on NBC last September.

The shows will be syndicated by Raycom, a national events, marketing and syndication company specializing in sports programming.

The SI swimsuit specials are behind-the-scenes looks at the making of the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue, one of the most popular annual magazine issues in the world. The 1994 show aired on ABC in February and will be offered in late spring or summer, 60 to 90 days after NBC's airing of the 1995 show. The 1995 show will be syndicated roughly simultaneously with the 1994 show. The shows are full barter, with three and a half minutes each for local and national. The one-hour anniversary show, *40 for the Ages*, is hosted by Bob Costas and celebrates the 40 most compelling sports figure of the past 40 years, as chosen by the editors of *Sports Illustrated*. The show, which accompanied distribution of the magazine's 40th anniversary issue, likely will be syndicated in mid-1995. The show is full barter, with seven minutes local and seven minutes national.

The Year in Sports 1995 hour will air in late December or early January 1995 in first-run syndication. There will be a seven-minute local/seven-minute national barter split.

—DT

with former ABC News personality Kathleen Sullivan is being pitched to networks.

■ The company also is developing a talk show featuring *Beverly Hills*,

90210 star Gabrielle Carteris for a fall 1995 syndication launch as part of Fox's deal with the New World stations to jointly launch a show on their station groups. ■

Columbia taps Bledsoe for talk

Columbia TriStar Television Distribution is pitching a daytime talk strip for fall 1995 featuring former *Cosby Show* child actress Tempestt Bledsoe. Tempestt, which Columbia hopes will attract the same young demos as its *Ricki Lake* talker, is being sold on a cash-plus-barter basis with a barter split of 10.5 minutes local/3.5 minutes national.

The hour show will be produced by Dick Clark Productions. One station rep says that Tempestt looks promising. "She's very good, and they did an excellent job of presentation," says Pety Television's Dick Kurlander. "I think it will get on the air with no problem." Since *The Cosby Show* ended in 1992, Bledsoe, now in her early 20s, has hosted and guest starred in a number of specials.

—DT

Top cable shows

Following are the top 15 basic cable programs for the week of Dec. 5-11, ranked by households tuning in. The cable-network ratings are percentages of the total households each network reaches. The U.S. ratings are percentages of the 95.4 million households with TV sets. Source: Nielsen Media Research.

Program	Network	Time (ET)	HHs. (000)	Rating Cable U.S.
1. <i>NFL Football</i>	ESPN	Sun 8:00p	6,302	10.0 6.6
2. <i>NFL Prime Time</i>	ESPN	Sun 7:00p	2,885	4.6 3.0
3. <i>Movie: 'Big'</i>	USA	Sun 3:00p	2,672	4.3 2.8
4. <i>NFL Sportscenter</i>	ESPN	Sun 11:24p	2,644	4.2 2.8
5. <i>Movie: 'A Christmas Story'</i>	TBS	Sun 10:35a	2,300	3.7 2.4
6. <i>Murder, She Wrote</i>	USA	Thu 8:00p	2,260	3.7 2.4
7. <i>Movie: 'Scrooged'</i>	USA	Sat 8:00p	2,223	3.6 2.3
8. <i>Flintstones Christmas</i>	TBS	Sun 7:05p	2,142	3.4 2.2
9. <i>Movie: 'Lily in Winter'</i>	USA	Thu 9:00p	2,132	3.4 2.2
10. <i>Movie: 'Big'</i>	USA	Wed 9:00p	2,089	3.4 2.2
11. <i>WWF Monday Night Raw</i>	USA	Mon 9:00p	2,020	3.3 2.1
12. <i>Murder, She Wrote</i>	USA	Wed 8:00p	1,945	3.1 2.0
13. <i>Murder, She Wrote</i>	USA	Mon 8:00p	1,911	3.1 2.0
13. <i>College Basketball</i>	ESPN	Wed 7:30p	1,885	3.0 2.0
15. <i>How the Grinch Stole Christmas</i>	TBS	Mon 8:05p	1,880	3.0 2.0

Following are the top five pay cable programs for the period of Dec. 5-11, ranked by the number of households tuning in. Source: cable networks based on Nielsen Media Research.

1. <i>Movie: 'Witch Hunt'</i>	HBO	Sat 8:00p	2,170	10.6 2.3
2. <i>Movie: 'Under Siege'</i>	HBO	Fri 8:00p	2,142	10.5 2.2
3. <i>Movie: 'Rising Sun'</i>	HBO	Sat 9:45p	2,099	10.3 2.2
4. <i>Movie: 'Indecent Proposal'</i>	HBO	Sun 8:00p	2,020	9.9 2.1
5. <i>Movie: 'Rookie of the Year'</i>	HBO	Sun 6:00p	1,865	9.1 2.0