

TV guidelines propose restrictions for children

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logue and situations."

The rating "TV-14," would mean programs may contain "sophisticated themes, strong language and sexual content." The rating "TV-M" would mean the program may contain vulgar language, "graphic violence and explicit sexual content."

TV shows on broadcast television are rarely expected to carry the "TV-M" rating, broadcasters said, pointing out that the rating is intended to flag more explicit shows like ones shown on HBO or Showtime — cable channels that people specifically choose to buy.

Before taking effect, the TV

industry's final ratings plan must be approved by the Federal Communications Commission. Critics hope to win changes in the regulatory process.

"Parents are going to scream bloody murder," predicted children's TV activist Peggy Charren.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., who wrote legislation calling upon the industry to rate programs, wants a system that gives viewers more information about a program's content, including sex, violence and language.

"Parents want to know is it violence or is it sex? But if it is all in one huge category, it is fairly useless," he said.

Country singer Young commits suicide

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Faron Young, country singer whose string of hits included the classic Willie Nelson song "Hello Walls," died Tuesday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was 64.

He died at Columbia Summit Medical Center, said Melanie Lamb, hospital spokeswoman.

A suicide note was discovered with him Monday when a friend found him at his home, wounded. The note detailed Young's plans to kill himself, police said.

Young, whose hits also included "Sweet Dreams," "It's Four in the Morning" and "Live Fast, Love Hard, Die Young," had been depressed recently about health problems, friends said. He had emphysema and recently

underwent prostate surgery, said his lawyer, Grant Smith.

Donald Reeves Sr., a neighbor, said the performer "wasn't his same old exuberant self" the past three months.

Besides a series of hits on the country charts from the '50s onward, Young was a successful businessman and occasional movie actor. He founded and later sold the country music fan magazine "Music City News."

His nickname, The Singing Sheriff, came from a role he played in the "Hidden Guns." Among his other films were "Raiders of Old California" and "Daniel Boone."

Young was known for aiding the careers of younger artists and songwriters. He recorded the songs of Nelson, Don Gibson and Bill Anderson early on, and Kris Kristofferson

earned rent money working as a laborer for Young.

Country stars like Roger Miller and Johnny Paycheck played in Young's band before going on to careers of their own.

Nelson's "Hello Walls" was a No. 1 country hit in 1961 and also made it into the top 20 on the pop charts.

Among his other hits, some of which Young wrote: "Country Girl," "I Miss You Already," "Your Old Used To Be," "Backtrack" and "Wine Me Up." He also had hits as part of a duet with Margie Singleton, such as "Keeping Up With The Joneses."

Born in Shreveport, La., Young got his start on KWKH Radio's "Louisiana Hayride," inspired by the music of Hank Williams Sr.

Lawsuit aims to eliminate hidden-camera journalism

Supermarket chain sues "PrimeTime Live" for fraud and trespassing.

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Hidden-camera journalism went on trial Tuesday in a closely watched lawsuit brought by Food Lion over an ABC "PrimeTime Live" exposé that accused the supermarket chain of selling rat-gnawed cheese and spoiled chicken.

Seeking \$2.5 billion in damages from the network, Food Lion is suing not for libel but for fraud and trespassing, accusing two ABC producers of using illegal tactics in going undercover to get the story in 1992.

The case could help open a new line of legal attack for companies burned by hidden-camera exposés. The question is whether reporters have the right to pose as employees of the company they are investigating.

Robert Sack, a First Amendment lawyer in New York, said corporations and the news media are watching.

"Reporters don't always get news by being wholly up front and forthcoming," said Sack, whose clients include The Wall Street Journal and Newsday. "It is likely that important law will be made by this case precisely because some variant of this form of behavior is part and parcel of what reporters do to get the truth."

ABC's report accused the supermarket chain of unsanitary practices such as selling cheese that had been gnawed by rats and spoiled meat that had been washed in bleach to cover the odor. The Salisbury-based chain denied the allegations and sued.

Food Lion attorney Andrew Copenhaver told the jury in his opening statement that the two ABC producers had no intention of working for the supermarket and spent their time on the job looking for incriminating evidence, even encouraging or creating some of the bad conditions seen in the report.

"ABC claims ... that the cameras and sound devices were merely bugs on the wall to record a day in the life at a Food Lion store," Copenhaver said. "Our contention is that the truth is as far from that as the Earth is from the moon."

Court says kissing couple not pictured

PARIS (AP) — You can't fight City Hall — not even with a kiss.

An appeals court has upheld a ruling against an elderly couple claiming to be the young lovers stealing a kiss in Robert Doisneau's famed photo, "Kiss At City Hall."

The Laverignes, who are retired, claimed in 1993 they were photographed without their knowledge in 1950 as they were strolling on the promenade in front of Paris' Hotel de

Copenhaver accused the producers, Lynne Dale and Susan Burnette, of lying to get their Food Lion jobs, then spending their time "wandering around the stores, working as ABC producers, going into offices, looking at time records on other Food Lion employees. These are things that were not part of their duties as Food Lion employees."

He said the women were equipped with what he called "spy rigs" — hidden cameras in their wigs and recorders in their bras.

ABC doesn't deny any deception but contends there was no fraud or trespass, said ABC attorney Bill Jeffress. "They did do their jobs. They faked nothing. They committed no fraud, no trespass or breach of duty," he said.

Copenhaver said some 45 hours of videotape not aired by ABC shows the producers tried to persuade other Food Lion workers to sell out-of-date products and say bad things about the company. About five minutes of the tapes were used in the broadcast.

Food Lion operates more than 1,106 stores in 14 states, mostly in the Southeast. The chain claimed its sales and stock price suffered after the story aired.

Last year, U.S. District Judge Carlton Tilley ruled that Food Lion could not pursue damages for loss of reputation unless it could prove that the report was false and that ABC knew it at the time.

The lawsuit is part an emerging trend in which businesses unhappy with a broadcast report attack how the news was gathered rather than the truth of the story — a development that worries Washington-based First Amendment lawyer Bruce Sanford.

"The public interest is served by aggressive enterprise reporting by news organizations that tell us about the world we live in," Sanford said.

The case isn't the first involving ABC's hidden cameras.

Last year, two men who claimed ABC violated their privacy won more than \$1 million in damages for a "PrimeTime Live" exposé on psychic hot lines.

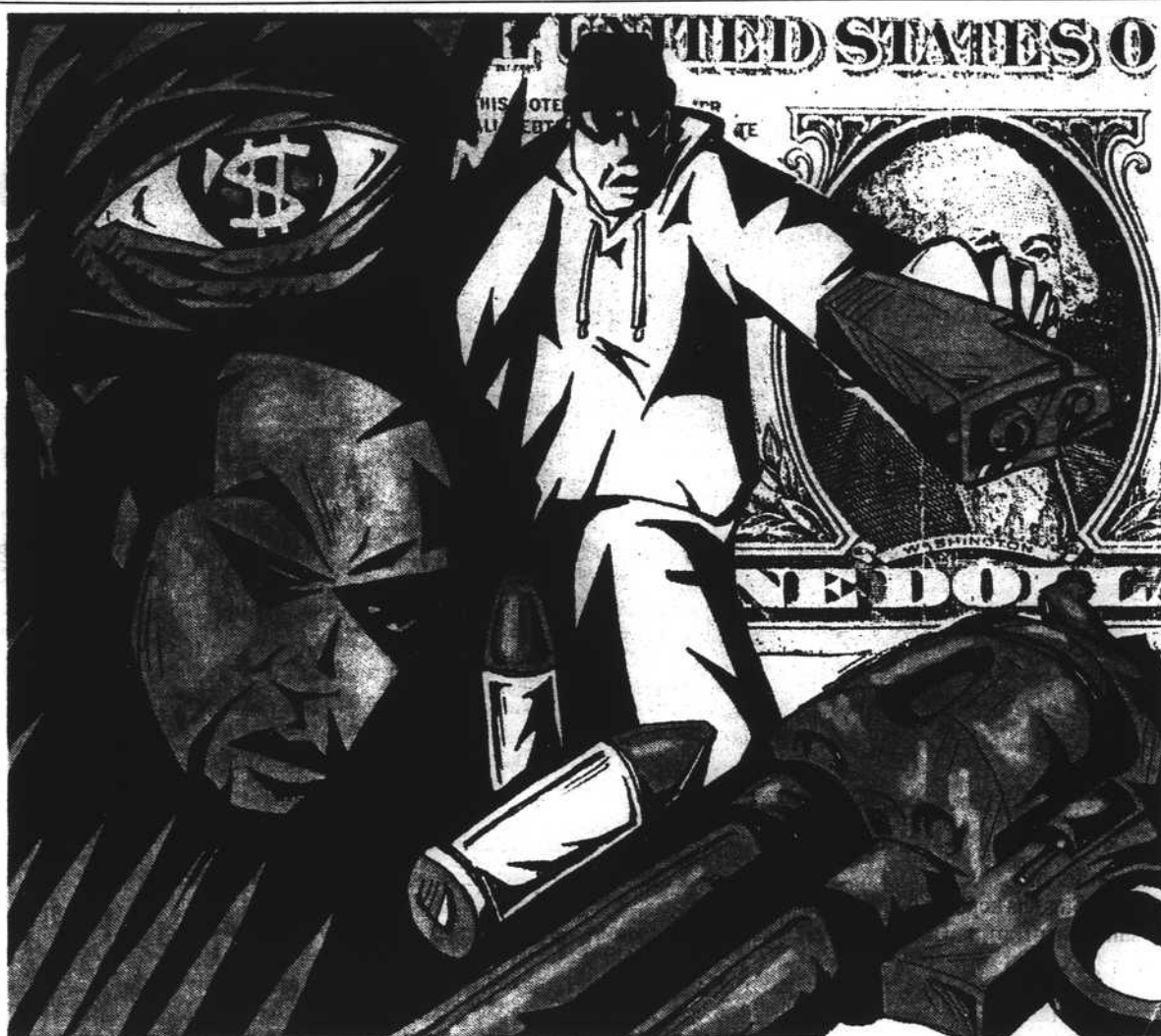
In 1993, a Chicago-based chain of eye care centers sued for \$50 million over another "PrimeTime Live" report, accusing ABC of defamation, trespassing and violating privacy.

Ville.

The photograph is one of Doisneau's most famous pictures, symbolizing the carefree sensuality of post-war Paris. The couple embraces passionately while people pass by indifferently.

The couple said they recognized themselves on the basis of a bracelet and clothes.

They lost their case after Doisneau acknowledged he had paid two models to pose for the picture.



MATT HANEY/DN

Universal Studios criticized for distributing profane music

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Education Secretary William Bennett, an outspoken conservative voice on issues of morality, said Monday Universal Studios Inc. is violating a commitment not to distribute profane or violent music.

Universal Studios, formerly MCA Inc., sells music recordings under the MCA and Geffen labels.

"MCA now joins other corporations in America in trying to make as much money as it can out of the wreckage of civilization," Bennett said at a news conference. "Their word is not worth anything."

When Interscope Records moved to MCA in February, MCA said they "would not profit from or distribute music they found offensive," said Bennett's aide, Christian Pinkston. Interscope artists included "gangsta" rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg and the late Tupac Shakur.

So far, MCA has failed to live up to its commitment, according to Bennett, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and C. DeLores Tucker of the National Political Congress of Black Women, who previously have teamed up to criticize "gangsta" rap and other music containing violent and sexually explicit lyrics.

"Gangsta rap, pornographic pedophile rap, containing those insidious thuggish and denigrating lyrics is race-driven, drug-driven, violence-driven, and, the bottom line for these drooling corporate executives, monstrously greed-driven," Tucker said.

MCA Music Entertainment

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C. DELORES TUCKER

The National Political Congress of Black Women

Group said Tuesday it is monitoring the content of its releases and "as a result of the process, MCA has chosen not to release certain music. This is a subjective process and not everyone will always agree with these decisions."

Hilary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America here, said MCA declined to release "Death Row's Greatest Hits," an album of gangsta rap.

"MCA passed on distributing that record, and it's probably going to make a lot of money," Rosen said. "Just because Mr. Bennett and Ms. Tucker found some record that MCA does distribute and they don't like, that's always going to happen."

Bob Bernstein, spokesman for MCA Music, refused to identify music that MCA has declined to release because of objectionable content.

MCA's acquisition — a deal valued at \$200 million — came after Time Warner Inc. dropped its Interscope stake in September 1995 in the midst of attacks over explicit lyrics.

Among the critics were Bennett and Bob Dole, then a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.

As part of the agreement, MCA reserved the right to pass on "objectionable" records Interscope might be considering releasing. Gangsta rap accounts for less than one-fifth of Interscope's sales.

Records deemed unacceptable were to be manufactured, distributed and marketed by unrelated companies, and MCA would not share in the profits.

"It will be done on a case-by-case, record-by-record basis," said Doug Morris, chairman of the MCA Music Entertainment Group.