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'HiStory' rewritten

By ARMY ARCHERD

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 of, first, muffling them, but that would make them (those words) even more noticeable. 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

**Jackson**

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MORE DISKERY DISCORD

Fuchs jolts Warner labels, biz by axing Morris

By ADAM SANDLER

The music industry was stunned yet again Wednesday when Warner Music Group chairman 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 rancorous infighting at the company, Fuchs also shocked execs at the world's largest music arm, who

were told of the firing through an interdepartmental memo.

Fuchs, who summoned Morris into his offices at HBO for the firing, will assume the latter's duties, with all of the label, music publishing and manufacturing heads reporting to him.

The news put a question mark

**Morris**

over the futures of Danny Goldberg, chairman of Warner Bros. Records, and Stuart Hersch, president of WarnerVision

(also an exec veep at Warner Music). Both are longtime Morris supporters who sided with Morris during his simmering power feud with former

**Fuchs**

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Helmer Jon Turteltaub will direct John Travolta in the fantasy "Phenomenon."

7 Fits the Bill

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

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

ABRY pays \$500 mil for Act III B'casting

By JOE FLINT

ABRY Communications has made its long-awaited return to station buying, acquiring Norman Lear's Act III 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 the webbet.

For tax purposes, the sale is structured as a stock purchase, and as part of the sale ABRY will

also assume Act III Broadcasting's debt, which is about \$150 million. According to Act III, 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 operating 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

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TROIKA TAPS TALENT

By ANITA M. BUSCH

DreamWorks is getting into business with filmmakers such as Robert Zemeckis ("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 percentage 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.

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Richmond trots to Fox

By KATHARINE STALTER

Jon Richmond has been named president of Fox Interactive. He joins the company three weeks after Fox announced the resignation of senior VP/general manager Ted Hoff, who ran the interactive unit on a day-to-day basis.

**Richmond**

Richmond reports to Fox Filmed Entertainment president and chief operating officer Bill Mechanic. That's a change in di-

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Gingrich lambastes Internet smut regs

By DENNIS WHARTON

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) is criticizing an amendment added to the Senate's telecommunications reform bill that imposes stiff fines and prison sentences for distributors of pornography on computer online services 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 Exon (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 for distributors of indecent material on

computer networks that are available to children 18 and under.

The infopike bill now awaits action on the House floor, where backers of the Exon measure presumably will 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 tank the

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'RICKI' NIPPING AT 'OPRAH'S' HEELS

By JIM 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.

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