

# ENTERTAINMENT LAW NEWS

by Steven C. Ameche, Esq.

January 14, 2001

*Issue 25*

## **NAPSTER POSES FOR FEDERAL COURT**

Napster will now offer a link to a CD retail sales site. The new site, *CDNow* is a unit of entertainment giant Bertelsmann Ag.. The CD sales link is supposed to be placed in a prominent position on Napster's front page. Users will now have a choice of downloading music for free or paying for it. Napster executives appear to have convinced Bertelsmann that this new forum will increase their CD sales. Meanwhile, Napster attorneys will most-likely use this new posture to bolster their Federal court argument of Napster's "...increased commitment to the evolution of a new business model" and thus, enhancing Napster's online legitimacy. To make this move effective, Napster will have to insure that Bertelsmann's sales increase during the first or second quarter, which could thus attract other labels to join in. Many industry insiders believe Bertelsmann's sales will indeed increase...at least until the lawsuit is over.

## **STRIKE DEADLINE GROWS NEAR**

Even with Regis smiling and tap dancing as fast as he can, "Millionaire" is fading. With the exception of "Survivor", other reality TV based shows have proven unsuccessful. "Big Brother" is back in Holland holding its finger in a dike...and is happy to have the job. So we all sit and wait to see if "The Mole" digs up any new interest in viewers. I believe many more industry people than let on are watching "Temptation Island". They just don't want to admit it. Will the return of "Survivor 2" recreate last year's primetime fever? Meanwhile, talk of the potential strikes seems to be dominating many industry insider conversations. All of this time and panic could be for nothing if the walk-outs never actually materialize. CBS Television President Les Moonves isn't quite so certain anything's going to happen. Moonves recently said, "I'm think I'm more optimistic than most of my peers. There is a way to work this out. The guys in the union are not as against coming to some sort of agreement as people think." One thing is certain, if "Survivor 2", "The Mole" and "Temptation Island" rekindle lasts years viewer feeding frenzy, the networks will be able to relax just a bit as the writers and actors take to the picket lines.

## OTHER NEWS

**Mike Pinera** (Iron Butterfly, Blues Image) has recently announced a merger with his Classic Rock Network and Multi Media Communications, a Florida based production company. The new company will be called "Omnicast". The multimillion dollar transaction should be completed by early February. **Rick Springfield** recently signed a 12 month contract with EFX through MGM Grand Entertainment in Las Vegas. Engagements begin on January 30, 2001. "Working at the MGM Grand will allow me to do what I like the most...mixing music and theater", said Springfield. **Gary Sinise** will be featured on "Celebrity Profile" for E! Entertainment Television. The air date will be sometime in late January or February. The show also includes an interview with Gary's wife, actor/ musician **Moira Harris Sinise**.

If you have any news you would like included in the next issue, please e-mail details to [scameche@aol.com](mailto:scameche@aol.com).

Visit our web site at [www.stevenameche.com](http://www.stevenameche.com)

Copyright © 2000, 2001 | Steven C. Ameche