



HIGH - FLUING Seven trendsetters whose

Seven trendsetters whose ways of dressing—and of living—really take off from the rest

BY MARGARET WENDT

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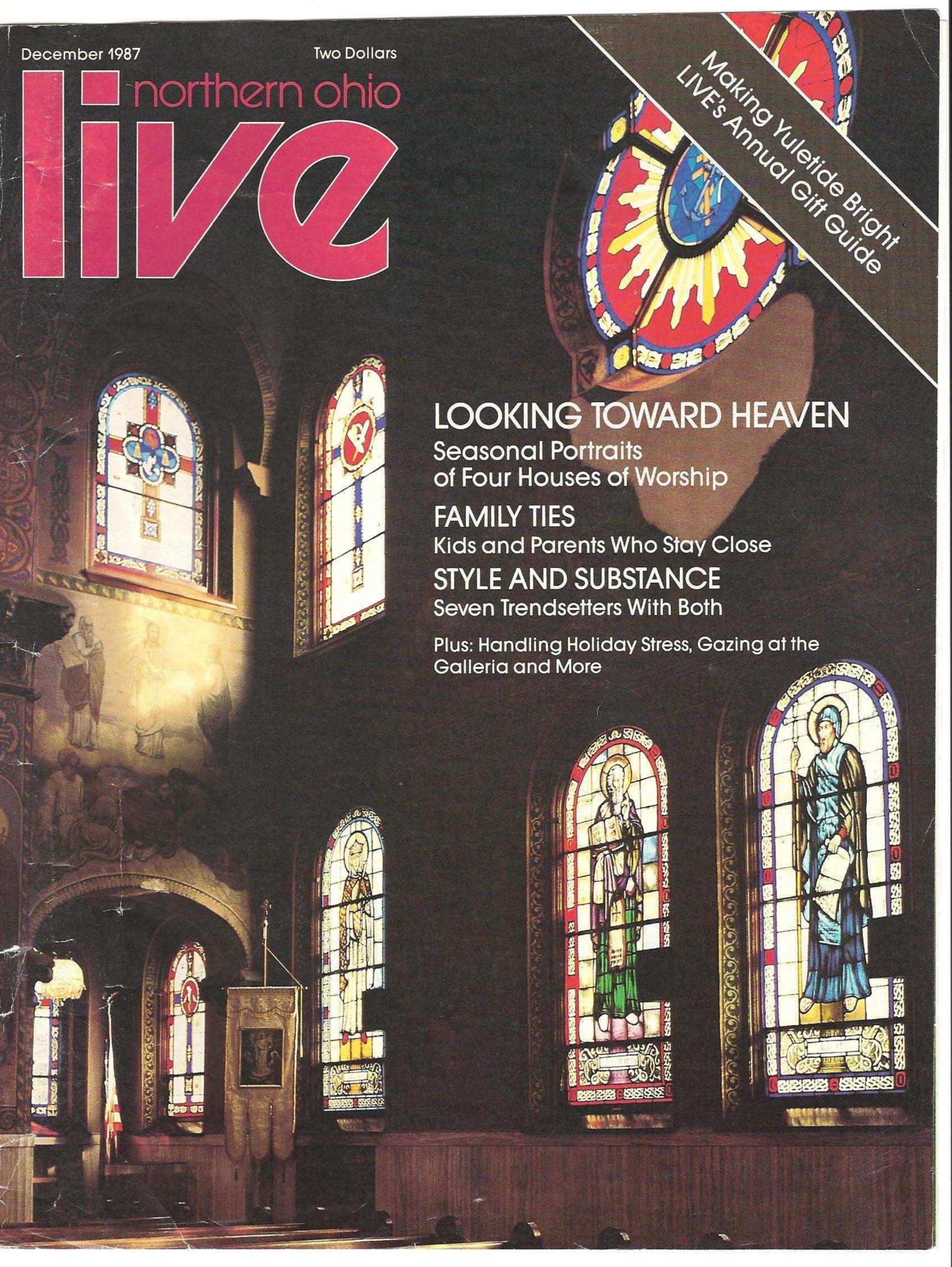
PHOTOGRAPHY BY James R. Cessna

ic Gelb has taken his unusual wardrobe preferences and developed them into one of the most distinctive styles in Northern Ohio. The Cleveland native is known for his colorful ties and pocket scarves - but he's won even more fame for his unique capes, which he wears on all occasions - from board meetings of the business ventures he's involved with to activities of the nonprofit institutions he leads as a volunteer. A case in point is this navy wool wrap. Gelb bought his first cape years ago at Harrod's in London; it was, naturally enough, a Sherlock Holmes Inverness style. The East Sider was so taken with the garment's comfort and pizazz that he's never since worn a coat. Today, when he travels with his wife, Joan, or on business - as chairman of Victor Gelb, Inc., which purveys industrial fibers - he shops the world for wardrobe additions. And he has tailors in Hong Kong working on capes in different styles a colors for his private

As seen in Northern Ohio LIVE magazine







(1. Yao Yongzhan)

(2. Luo Haixing)

(3. Han Dongfang)

and more than 200 other Chinese prisoners who were eased thanks to the wily interventions of one American businessman.

Kamm's List By Tina Rosenberg

osip Incorporated (or, How the Falcos Beat the Hunseckers), by Kurt Andersen

a BPi publication

65th year

December 15-17, 1995

\$1.25 (California) \$1.75 (Elsewhere)

Imagine lands at Uni again

Critics Circle finds 'Vegas,' **Cage glittering**

By Lea Saslav

NEW YORK — MGM/UA's "Leaving Las Vegas" was voted best film of 1995 by the New York Film Critics Circle on Thursday, with Nicolas Cage winning best actor honors for his portrayal of a self-destructive alcoholic in the film. It was the second award in two days for Cage, who a day earlier was honored by the National Board of Review.

"Sense and Sensibility's" Ang Lee also won for the second day in a row, capturing best director honors for his work on the Jane Austen adaptation. Lee also was See CIRCLE on page 41

Thurman near Niccol's Col pic

By Stephen Galloway

Five months after winning a bidding war for an untitled, futuristic script by "The Truman Show" writer Andrew Niccol, Columbia Pictures is close to wrapping a deal for Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke to star in the film, sources said Thursday.

See THURMAN on page 41

Media4 square on pilots, clients

By Lisa de Moraes

Ninety days after its formation, production-management company MediaFour, under partners Scott Siegler, Steve Sauer, Pam Prince and Don DeMesquita, is developing programming for three networks. It has also signed

See MEDIAFOUR on page 42

First-look deal covers 6 years

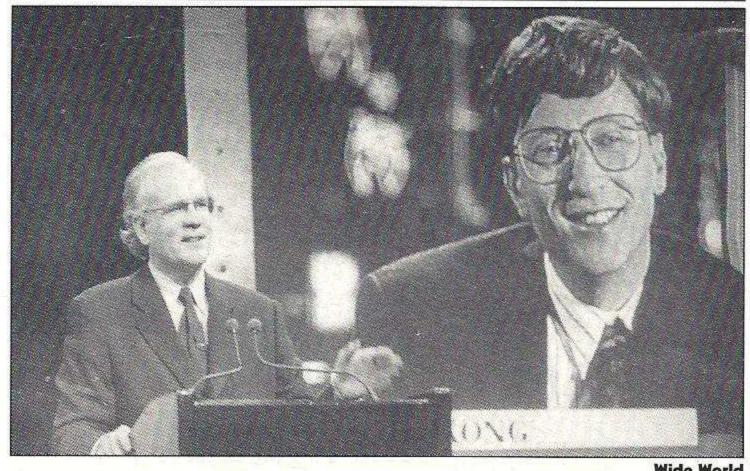
By Stephen Galloway

In the wake of the phenomenal success of "Apollo 13," Imagine Entertainment has signed a new first-look deal with Universal Pictures that will cover the next six years.

At the same time, Imagine co-CEO Ron Howard's services as a director will now be exclusive to Universal for that period, with the exception of one film that has yet to be determined. "He has one 'out' during the six years to direct another film," Imagine co-CEO Brian Grazer said Thursday. That does not include Howard's work on "Ransom," now in preproduction at Touchstone Pictures with Mel Gibson starring.

Grazer noted the agreement technically dates from October and replaces a pre-existing first-

See IMAGINE on page 38



Wide World

NBC CEO Robert Wright, at podium, and Microsoft chairman Bill Gates, via video from Hong Kong, as they bowed MSNBC news net.

Microsoft paying NBC \$220 mil in news pact

By Stephen Battaglio

NEW YORK — MSNBC, a cable news network that will give viewers 24-hour news coverage on television and text and real time video over their computers, was unveiled Thursday by NBC and Microsoft Corp. But the \$400 million joint venture by the two companies was met with polite praise and a lack of commitment from cable operators.

Leading software maker Microsoft will pay NBC \$220 million for a 50% stake in America's Talking, the cable channel the network launched 18 months ago. The news-talk channel will be converted to MSNBC by mid-1996, putting the service in 20 million homes, a staggering launch for any new cable network.

The network also has commit-See MICROSOFT on page 38

'Friends' show up early for WB syndie party

By Steve Brennan

Marking a milestone for the syndication business, Warner Bros. Domestic Television Distribution has carved out a major clearance deal for NBC's hit sitcom "Friends" for its off-network rollout three years from now in fall 1998.

Adding fuel to the fire for "Friends" is the pending sunset of the Prime Time Access Rule, which prompted an early run at the show by several Big Three network affiliates looking for a blue-chip sitcom to play in access. PTAR prevented affiliates in top 50 markets from airing off-network shows in the primetime access slot.

However, the principal deal See "FRIENDS" on page 41

Tribeca 'Tale,' 'Whoopi' at Fox

By Lisa de Moraes

Tribeca Prods., under founders Robert De Niro and Jane Rosenthal, is developing a drama series for Fox based on Tribeca's successful small-release feature "A Bronx Tale" as well as a half-hour series with Whoopi Goldberg.

The projects, among several in the works at the company, also include a foray into children's specials programming.

See TRIBECA on page 40

WHAT'S INSIDE

China golden for Globes3 Leoni in DreamWorks pic3 Movies hit with low blow......8



D-KEM/FOT



A CAHNERS PUBLICATION . LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA . NEWSPAPER SECOND CLASS P.O. ENTRY

Morgan Creek buys Cannell's 'Victim'

By MICHAEL FLEMING

Though Stephen J. Cannell has long been established as a TV producer, it only took his second novel, "Final Victim," to make him a player on the feature level. In a deal completed Monday, Morgan Creek Prods. agreed to pay \$1 million for screen rights to the novel, which will be published by William Morrow in July.

Cannell hit the bestseller list with his debut novel, "The Plan," and has followed up with the tale of a serial killer murdering women for body parts to reconstruct a figure from his past. A female detective working the case figures out the killer's motive, and draws him out by putting herself in line to be his final victim.

Turn to page 58

SYNDES GAMEPLAN

With talk tough to sell, questions offer answers

ByJOEFLINT

Let the games begin.

With a glut of talkshows causing lower standards of conversation, advertiser backlash, diminished ratings and concern from broadcasters, Sony Television Entertainment and King World Prods. are betting that gameshows are the answer to the talk glut of 1995.

Both companies are going forward with new gameshows, with Columbia TriStar TV Distribution confirming plans to roll out an hour block of remakes of Chuck Barris gameshows "The

'Bullard' is Katz's meow, page 6

Dating Game" and "The Newlywed Game." Columbia will offer the shows as a one-hour strip tentatively titled "The Dating/Newlywed Hour" as a counter to day-time and early fringe talk, although the syndicator also will

look for clearances in access and latenight.

King World, meanwhile, is expected to roll out "Planet Hollywood Squares" for fall of 1997. The syndicator likely will make an official announcement later this week, and quietly has booked the Planet Hollywood restaurant in Las Vegas for the NATPE confab next week to unveil more details on the show.

Sony and King World also are

Turn to page 57

NUMBERS

Askin tapped

CAROLCO STOCK SALE PROBED

INSIDE

Peacock exex fire away

NBC's Bob Wright and Warren Littlefield took aim at their network competitors and Bob Dole in separate meetings with the press Monday.

6 B.O. bonanza

"Seven," "Goldeneye" and "Toy Story" lead the list of Hollwood pix performing spectacularly overseas.

8 Street sees cable comeback

Wall Street is bullish on cable for '96, despite the downturn in the stock market.

12 Pix Mix

Paramount honchos and the film's stars gathered for the preem of the Sally Field starrer "Eye for an Eye."

44 World News

Foreign pix are the big news at the 27th Intl. Film Festival of India, while a month of typhoons failed to dampen spirits at the Metro Manila Fest.

By REX WEINER and MARTIN PEERS

A Justice Dept. probe into the personal finances of Carolco Pictures co-founders Andrew Vajna and Mario Kassar is focusing on Vajna's 1989 sale of his Carolco stock to Kassar, according to

lion on the sale, and it is not clear whether he paid U.S. taxes on the deal.

Vajna then set up Cinergi Pictures Entertainment, which made a public statement late Friday confirming the federal investigation. Cinergi said it was "in the

Turn to page 57

33.1/56

The NFL championship games Sunday drew large numbers, with the NFC title game on Fox topping the 27.7/56 posted by the AFC's Pittsburgh-Indianapolis battle on NBC. Story, page 5.

By JIM BENSON

Samuel Goldwyn Television president Dick Askin has been named president-CEO of Tribune Entertainment Co.

The veteran program distribution exec, who during his nine years at Goldwyn launched "American Gladiators," "Gladiators 2000" and "Flipper," replaces Rick Jacobson, who left TEC last month to become president of Twentieth TV.

Askin joins Trib at a time when rumors are swirling around the Chicago-based station group's inhouse development, production, barter sales and distribution

Turn to page 50

Spelling enrolls Singer's 'Pupil'

BY ANITA M. BUSCH

Director Bryan Singer, whose film "The Usual Suspects" has won acclaim from the nation's critics, has set up his next directing project, "Apt Pupil," at Spelling Entertainment. The project will be distributed domestically through Paramount Pictures.

The psychological drama,

Turn to page 48

