

When you're number 7 you try harder. A recent *Hollywood Reporter* story ranked the volume of film business done in North American states and provinces. California is, of course, on top, followed by New York, Florida, Ontario, North Carolina and Quebec.

B.C. was seventh having generated about \$66 million in film business in 1986. California was \$6 billion, New York - \$2.3 billion, Florida and Ontario are neck-and-neck at \$144 million, North Carolina-\$128 million and Québec is just ahead of us at \$87 million.

• Last month we reported on the takeover of Tegra Industries by Pacific Video. The Vancouver Stock Exchange has approved the details; Pacific Video of Los Angeles now owns 70 per cent of the stock. Apart from Gunter Henning's departure (he sold the stock), the Board remains intact with Crawford Hawkins as CEO. Tegra says the takeover will allow greater competitiveness in both Canada and the U.S.

• Can West Broadcasting is wasting no time moving in on CKVU-13 now that there's only one more court saddled with the chore of untangling the lawsuits launched between CanWest and 'VU founders, Daryl Duke and Norman Klenman.

President and CEO of CanWest Donald Brinton has moved into the station's sales department. Once the litigation is over Brinton will become CEO of Western Approaches Limited, the company that now owns CKVU.

Mind you, it ain't over till it's over and Duke and Klenman are both noted for their tenacity.

• Klenman is doing more than meeting with lawyers. He's writing the screenplay for an international co-production of Dostoevski's novel "The Gambler". We mean International.

The film, to be called *Passion*, is being made by American, Austrian and Soviet interests. The producer is Austrian Wolfgang Odelga (*Peter the Great*), Natassja Kinski will star and Soviet director Konstantin Khudviakov will be behind the cameras... Interiors are expected to be shot at the Mosfilm Studios in Moscow.

Might be some lessons there for hanging onto your media properties.

• MGM is in pre-production in Vancouver on a one-hour pilot for ABC. *Knights of the City*, based on the vigilante group, the Guardian Angels, will wind up shooting here in the second week of March.

Director on the project is Farhad Mann, who directed the *Max Headroom* pilot; the script is by Kevin Sullivan.

• After finishing *The Outside Chance of Maxmillian Glick*, Northern Lights Media is working to keep up the momentum. The Vancouver-based production company has "about 10 projects in the developmental stage," according to publicist Patricia La Nauze.

This fall they will begin shooting on *Hockeybat Harris*, a feature based on the story, by Geoffrey Bilson, about a street-wise English lad who is evacuated from London during the blitz to a small town in Saskatchewan. The script is by Michael Mercer.

This made-for-television film is a co-production with HTV of Bristol, England; funding is from CBC, Telefilm and HTV. Filming will take place in England and in Canada.

Another project Northern Lights is working on will be the feature, *The John Tenta Story*, the true story of a Burnaby, B.C. wrestler who went to Japan to study Sumo wrestling, and actually did quite well in the sport.

Meta Communications, which owns Northern Lights, has entered into a production partnership with Vidatron Enterprises, also of Vancouver. The new company hopes to enter into co-productions with Telefilm and B.C. Film.

• *Lighthouse*, a feature film about a couple who travel to a secluded lighthouse to get their lives back in order, and there encounter erotic poltergeists from a former love-triangle, will be in pre-production in early March, according to producer Harry Cole.

Cole, who is also the newly-elected president of the British Columbia Motion Picture Association, said the \$2.1 million feature is being made for theatrical release.

Bruce Pittman (*Hello, Mary Lou: Prom Night II*) will direct the film, which was originally scripted by Boon Collins.

Funding for the film came from Telefilm, B.C. Film and Vestron Pictures.

• Sailing fans will want to keep an eye out for two half-hour CBC-TV shows called *Sailwest*. They're produced by David Barr Mills of Pacific Barr Productions Limited.

The production highlights the spectacular experiences to be had sailing along British Columbia's awe-inspiring coast. As well as the TV versions, *Sailwest* is being marketed as a 50-minute home video in Canada and the U.S.

• Also coming to a TV set near you: The Eyes multimedia company is producing a television series on something they know a lot about, the B.C. Film Industry. The four-part series will examine technology, politics, economics and indirect benefits to the community.

• Which reminds us: The next issue of *Cinema Canada* will be a special B.C. edition. We'll be profiling both well-known and unknown talents, examining the issues and talking to industry leaders about the future.

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