

ENTERTAINMENT LAW NEWS

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NAPSTER SLEEPS WITH THE FISHES

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled against Napster allowing U.S. District Judge Marilyn Patel to issue an injunction shutting the 50 million subscriber music swapping service down. The decision came on Monday, February 12, 2001 resulting in an immediate frenzy on the internet with users grasping at what was feared as a last hoorah for MP3 file swapping. Chat rooms were jammed with irate language directed mostly at the RIAA from what appeared to be Napster fans who have grown accustomed to downloading artists' property for free. Meanwhile, Napster, which is still up and running pending the execution of the injunction, has offered a five-year \$1 billion deal to record companies if the recording industry agrees to drop its litigation.

SAG SENDS OUT WARNING SIGNAL TO MEMBERS

The Screen Actors Guild has suspended an actress for 5 years for crossing the picket lines and working during last year's commercial strike. The move comes at a seemingly strategic time as the July 1, 2001 deadline for the SAG contract renewal draws near. Many industry insiders believe the suspension is purely exemplary in nature and designed to discourage any non-union activity should the Guild fail to reach a settlement agreement with the studios. Meanwhile, contract talks also continue between writers and the networks. The negotiations are now in their 5th week. Sources believe the two sides are far from any settlement but are optimistic that an agreement will be made prior to the May 2, 2001 contract expiration.

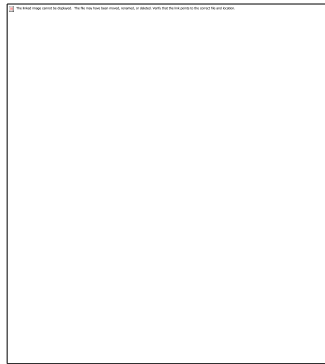
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS UPHOLDS COPYRIGHT EXTENSION LAW

A Federal Appeals court ruled on a 1998 copyright law allowing corporate copyrights to be extended from 75 to 95 years. The same law also allows authors and songwriters increased copyright protection from 50 to 70 years after the artist's death. The new law

was welcomed by thousands of family members who are heirs to classic works which would have fallen into public domain without the new legislation. Also benefiting from the ruling was the Walt Disney Company which would have lost exclusive rights to Mickey Mouse in 2003. The law was strongly supported by the late Sonny Bono (R-Calif.).

OTHER NEWS

Actor **Gary Sinise** will open on Broadway next month with "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". The show opens March 16th at the Royale Theatre in New York and runs through June 17th. -- The Classic Rock All-stars recently performed at the Super Bowl pre-game show in Tampa, Florida. The band consists of **Mike Pinera** (Iron Butterfly, Blues Image), **Jerry Corbetta** (Sugarloaf), **Peter Rivera** (Rare Earth) and **Dennis Koda**. Their set featured a guest appearance by SOBE Beverage Chairman **Jon Bello** who sat in on guitar during "Ride Captain Ride".



Mike Pinera and Jon Bello
(chairman of SOBE Beverage)
jam at the Super Bowl.



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