

# Local Mammoth Records Leaves for New York City

# Network Feud Put on Hold

Associated Press

RALEIGH - The dispute between Time Warner and ABC's parent company ended temporarily Tuesday, but not before some subscribers got antennas so they could watch their favorite ABC programs.

"It's the main thing I watch," said Susan Bogaczyk of Raleigh after standing in a fast-moving line at a Time Warner Cable office to get free rabbit-ear antennas.

"If it was a minor channel, that would be a lot different. I think Time Warner should do what it takes to carry ABC. That's my channel of choice."

ABC-owned WTVD was cut from the Time Warner Cable service at midnight Sunday. The move caused bewilderment and some anger among customers and prompted a demand from the town of Cary that the channel be restored.

The corporate brawl deprived 3.5 million cable TV customers nationwide of ABC for more than 27 hours, restoring the channel in time for millions to see "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

The cable company and the Walt Disney Co., ABC's parent, didn't settle their differences, but set a new deadline of July 15 for their negotiations over compensation for cable channels.

WTVD General Manager Bruce Gordon praised the station's viewers for being "immensely supportive. I believe this quick change for Time Warner putting us back on the air was a direct result of our viewers."

The media giants are fighting over the money Disney wants for allowing Time Warner to air some of its cable channels, the Disney Channel, Toon Disney and the Soap Opera Channel. Time Warner has estimated this would cost the company an additional \$300 million that would be passed on to customers.

The impasse had driven down Disney's stock over the past two days as investors feared that a prolonged show-down could have an impact on ABC's revenues. Shortly after the companies announced a compromise, Disney shares recovered, rising 62-1/2 cents to \$42.62-1/2 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Customers had reacted angrily when Time Warner systems in seven cities, including New York, Houston and Los Angeles, stopped airing ABC programs at 12:01 a.m. Monday. The blackout started a run on rabbit-ear antennas and satellite TV systems.

The compromise came in the middle of a news conference called by Time Warner Cable Chairman Joseph Collins. He was offering Disney a six-month extension to continue airing ABC's signal, without resolving the disputed issue of cable compensation.

Disney had earlier rejected an eight-month extension. Collins said ABC programming would not be restored until ABC had agreed to the extra time.

In the midst of the news conference, broadcast live by Time Warner-owned CNN, Collins stepped away from the podium shortly past 3 p.m. to confer with his executives.

He returned to the microphone to announce that Disney had offered the extension until July 15.

ABC issued a statement saying it was "gratified that Time Warner is now making the viewers their first priority."

Only select employees and bands are traveling with the independent music label to its New York City location.

By AMY DOBSON  
Staff Writer

Mammoth Records is seeking greener pastures in the Big Apple, taking a bite out of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro music scene.

The parent company, Disney, is closing Mammoth's Carrboro office, leaving local bands without a label and local employees without jobs.

The label's headquarters is relocating to New York City, and only select bands and employees are moving with it.

Chapel Hill's Squirrel Nut Zippers, with their fourth album's release set for late summer, will remain on the label.

The future of other bands on Mammoth's roster remains to be seen.

"If an artist has made a good record, we'll keep them on the label," said one Mammoth official. "We're not going to

drop 12 artists just for the sake of doing it."

Mammoth would not reveal whether other bands rooted in the Triangle such as Tyfu, Strangefolk and Far Too Jones had a secure future with the label.

Disney acquired Mammoth for a reported \$30 million in 1997, after albums produced by its bands Seven Mary Three and Squirrel Nut Zippers went platinum.

Following Disney's acquisition, Mammoth's record sales have steadily fallen, prompting the label to downsize and relocate.

*"That's the nature of the corporate world. When you are owned by a big company, you put yourself at its mercy."*

ROBERT MORGAN  
Carrboro Town Manager

Those affected by the transition, including Mammoth employees and local bands, declined to comment.

"We aren't releasing any information until the final move is

made so as not to jeopardize our position with Disney," said a Mammoth employee.

A Mammoth representative said three to six people would remain in the Carrboro office until mid-July before moving to New York City.

Carrboro Town Manager Robert Morgan said he was saddened by the

demands placed on small companies by large corporations.

"That's the nature of the corporate world," he said. "When you are owned by a big company, you put yourself at its mercy."

But Morgan said he preferred to view the move optimistically. He said the move to New York City complimented the label, boosting it to a national audience.

He also said he hoped those left without jobs would start up a new successful label, keeping Carrboro's music scene alive.

"(Mammoth) won't be easily replaced," he said.

"We can only hope that the laid-off employees, the heart and brains behind the operation, can recreate another great local music label."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

## Campus Calendar

Today

noon - Dr. Robert Duronio will speak on "The Role of Drosophila E2F Transcription Factors in Cell Cycle Control and Development" at the Lineberger Cancer Center in Room 00-002. Admission is free.

4 p.m. - The last in the Asian Poetry Reading Series of the spring semester will feature poetry by Rumi, a Persian Sufi, in Graham Memorial 011.

Carl Ernst will read translations from the Persian poet Rumi, the great 13th-century Sufi mystic, along with recordings of musical settings of the poems. The reading is free and open to the public.

7:30 p.m. - Habitat for Humanity will hold its last meeting in 101 Greenlaw Hall.

Saturday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - The Optimist Club of Chapel Hill is sponsoring a Day of Nonviolence Celebration at University Mall. Activities for children will include

police, fire and EMS vehicles on display, presentation by the K-9 crew, a visit by McGruff, free throw and soccer competitions with special prizes, a bicycle rodeo with 10 free helmets being given away, face painting, discounted food coupons and more.

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