

Investigative reporter Duncan: out at 8

Channel 8 investigative reporter Charles Duncan, best known for his *Eat, Drink and Be Wary* series on area restaurants, has been dropped by the station, Channel 8 executive news director Marty Haag confirmed Wednesday.

Mr. Duncan, who had been with WFAA for 10 years, was sued several times by subjects of his reports. In June 1988, an Austin jury awarded the owner of Uni-Copy Corp. \$1.8 million in libel damages in connection with a 1982 series of reports by Mr. Duncan.

But Mr. Haag said Mr. Duncan's dismissal was not tied to any lawsuits against the station.

"We had made a commitment in March to bring the number of full-time news employees to 87," Mr. Haag said. "It occurred to me that we really needed to make sure that there was enough emphasis on daily news coverage rather than long-range stories.

Mr. Duncan, who could not be reached for comment Wednesday, often spent two to three months developing his reports, several of which won major awards.

Channel 8 will continue to do investigative reporting, "but not in the same sense where somebody is pulled out of pocket for months at a time," Mr. Haag said.

Investigative reporting "is one of the

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hallmarks that brought us to where we are today," he said. "But we have fewer reporters than we had three years ago."

— Ed Bark

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THEY JUST KEEP ROLLING: The final figures are in, and the venerable Rolling Stones, in their first concert tour since the early '80s, more than doubled the gross ticket sales of their nearest competitor in 1989.

The group generated about one-tenth of every dollar spent in North American concert admissions, according to figures compiled by the industry trade publication *Pollstar*.

The following are *Pollstar's* top five North American concert tours of 1989:

1. The Rolling Stones, \$98 million;
2. The Who, \$41.2 million;
3. Bon Jovi, \$36.7 million;
4. The Grateful Dead, \$28.6 million;
5. New Kids On The Block, \$23.9 million.

The top 1988 tour, Pink Floyd, grossed \$27.6 million. The top five tours of 1988 combined to gross \$125 million, compared to \$228.4 million for the '89 top five.

The Stones also had the top gross of 1989. The group's six sho

York City's Shea Stadium in October sold more than 387,000 tickets, grossing more than \$11.6 million.

— Vicente Rodriguez

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8MM VIDEOS — Three Dallas-area Sound Warehouse stores are selling movies on 8mm videocassette.

The test-marketing program, engineered by Sony, aims at owners of 8mm video recorders. The 8mm equipment, once used chiefly for home-movie recording, has begun to compete with the VHS and Beta formats in the prerecorded video sweepstakes. Almost 1,500 movies are available for purchase in the 8mm configuration, including blockbusters such as *Batman*, *Top Gun* and *Fatal Attraction*.

Along with two Sound Warehouses in Houston and a few others around the country, the Dallas-area stores participating in the 8mm revolution are at 5425 Greenville Ave., 9147 Skillman and 2926 N. Belt Line Road in Irving. Prices range from \$29.95 to \$49.95.

— Russell Smith

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STUPENDOUS ANIMATION — Here's your '80s list — the 10 most popular animated films of the decade.
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Thursday, January 4, 1990