Robin Williams appears with tape over his mouth at the Oscars. The song he was to perform was pulled after ABC raised objections.

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VIDEO
"Million Dollar Baby" won in most of the major categories at the 77th Annual Academy Awards. ♠ PLAY VIDEO
best minute-and-a-half they would have had last night,” said Shaiman, before adding: “Where does the buck stop?”

Chris Rock, the edgy black comedian called in to host the show, and, some say, to boost flagging ratings, was also in trouble long before the Oscars got underway.

He previously joked that straight, black men did not watch the Oscars, drawing an angry response from commentators like Jake Lamar, an African American who called Rock's comments "a massive generalization" and "depressing."

Then Oscar producer Gil Cates weighed in, calling ABC's decision to introduce a time delay in transmitting from Kodak Theatre a "terrible idea" and a concession to political correctness.

Back to Janet Jackson

Federal regulators may boost fines for U.S. broadcasters following last year's infamous Super Bowl "wardrobe malfunction" by singer Janet Jackson in which she bared her breast.

Earlier this month the U.S. House of Representatives voted to raise the maximum indecency fine to as much as $500,000 from $32,500.

On the one hand, commentators predict that the more networks are forced to sanitize shows, the less people will be inclined to watch.

But at the same time, the more a show's producer warns viewers they may be offended, the more they are likely to tune in.

"The entertainment industry is figuring out how to spin and use this paranoia we've encountered since the Super Bowl," said Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University.

"People wanted to make sure they were present if the next Janet Jackson moment happened."

In the end Rock's content was political and racial but avoided becoming the main issue on the night.

Thompson said Rock's natural instinct would have been to go much further with his humor, but he had too much to lose.

"He is going to play by the house rules," he said. "He realizes that certain compromises have to be made."

Williams was not available to comment on his act at the Oscars, but he told the New York Times on Friday:

"For a while you get mad, then you get over it. They're afraid of saying Olive Oyl is anorexic. It tells you about the state of humor. It's strange to think: How afraid are you?"
What Christina Applegate is doing now

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