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PORTRAIT OF THE MODERN MAN

BY TONY CASE PAGE 17

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■ PTC'S BOZELL TO STEP DOWN JAN, 1

L. Brent Bozell III, the energetic scourge of coarse broadcasts, will resign from the presidency of the Parents Television Council on Jan. 1, the group announced Sept. 1. PTC executive director Tim Winter will assume the presidency. Bozell, who founded the group in 1995 and oversaw its growth to more than 1 million claimed members, said he no longer wished to run both the PTC and the Media Research Center, a conservative media watchdog. Winter, a former NBC and MGM exec, has been with the PTC since 2003.

RAB TAPS TW'S HALEY AS PRESIDENT/CEO

After a year-long search, the Radio Advertising Bureau has a new leader. Jeff Haley, senior vp of sales for the global marketing division of Time Warner, will take over as president/CEO of the radio industry's advertising advocacy group on Sept. 18. Haley succeeds Gary Fries, who will step down at the end of 2006 but remains on through the year as a consultant.

RPA ADDS \$100 MIL. MGM/UA

Adweek reports that independent media shop RPA (Rubin Postaer & Associates), a major spot TV buyer, has added studio MGM/UA's media buying along with some planning duties, according to sources. The agency declined comment. Estimated billings are \$100 million. The incumbent was Palisades Media Group in Santa Monica, Calif. The studio could not be reached for comment.

■ MEACHAM TO EDIT NEWSWEEK

Newsweek is expected to announce as early as this week that managing editor Jon Meacham will succeed Mark Whitaker as editor, The New York Post reported last week. Whitaker, who has held the top editorial job for nearly eight years, is expected to assume a

strategic online role at The Washington Post Co., publisher of Newsweek, Budget Travel and Slate. A Newsweek rep declined comment.

CSTV ROLLS OUT BROADBAND VIDEO PORTAL

CSTV has launched a new subscription-based broadband video portal, CSTVXXL.com, which will house more than 100 new video channels tied to individual NCAA athletic programs. Each broadband channel will feature both live and archived video of a variety of sports from each school, including athletic powerhouses such as Notre Dame and University of Miami. Though it is subscription-based, the video portal and its network of sites will be ad-supported, carrying both video and banner ad placements. Coca-Cola, Pontiac and State Farm have signed on as sponsors.

Through a deal with Elisabeth Murdoch's Londonbased Shine Ltd., Twentieth Television will debut My Games Fever, a live, participation game show (a popular programming genre in the U.K.). Launching in December, My Games Fever will air initially commercial-free, at 1-3 p.m. Eastern time on the 10 Fox

owned-and-operated MyNetworkTV stations, with further distribution targeted for early 2007...Advertising spending grew 5.1 percent in the first half of the year, according to preliminary figures from Nielsen Monitor-Plus. Most of the 15 reported media showed gains, with the Internet up a whopping 49 percent, followed by Spanish-language TV, up 21.8 percent due largely to the World Cup...Hachette Filipacchi Media last week shuttered For Me, the 300,000-circ young women's lifestyle monthly...Video game publishing powerhouse Electronic Arts has signed its first major deals to serve dynamic advertising within several of its titles, inking partnerships last week with two of the leading ingame advertising firms: Microsoftowned Massive Inc. and IGA Worldwide. Massive will begin serving ads in the upcoming version of the popular racing game Need for Speed, while IGA will begin serving ads within the futuristic war-themed PC game Battlefield 2142...

Jacques Natz has joined Hearst-Argyle Television as director of digital media content, from news director for WTHR-TV, Dispatch Broadcast

Group's NBC affiliate in Indianapolis...OLN will televise 54 regular-season National Hockey League games this coming season, including 26 of those games in high definition.

CORRECTIONS:

In the Aug. 21-28 issue, the Mediaweek Magazine Monitor should have noted that ad pages for Lucky's September 2006 issue rose 22.8 percent compared to the same issue the year prior. Also, the publishing frequency for Traditional Home is eight times per year.

Market Indicators

NATIONAL TV: STALLED Media agencies are still working on finalizing upfront holds for the new season with their clients and the networks. Movies, fast food, wireless and packaged goods are busy in scatter.

NET CABLE: ACTIVE Upfront dragged itself to the finish line, while third-quarter scatter keeps humming along, with some networks reporting volume increases of 10 percent. Telecom, financial and movies remain solid.

SPOT TV: GAINING Tight conditions in Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, as well as across Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida, due to political. Auto remains slow, retail improved, movies, tune-ins active.

RADIO: UNSETTLED Some political overflow from local TV and cable amticipated. But overall, soft conditions persist. Tune-ins active, retail better, fast food, financial, telecom steady.

MAGAZINES: MIXED Apparel continues to take it on the chin, as luxury brands top out domestic spend and focus on emerging markets such as China. But luxury continues to drive travel. Retail shaky as store consolidation takes hold. Suggish health/beauty business keeps hopeful eye on looming fragrance launches.



MEDIA WIRE

MyNetworkTV Upfront Sales May Reach \$50 Mil.

Bob Cook, president and COO of Twentieth Television, who is overseeing the startup of MyNetworkTV, said he expects the new broadcast network to take in about \$50 million in upfront ad dollars, but not necessarily by the time the network premieres on Sept. 5.

Cook said while the network has a solid base of ad dollars already in the coffers, a chunk of advertisers and agencies have placed holds on advertising that they plan to wait to exercise a few weeks into the season after they see how the network performs.

"A lot of advertisers are waiting to commit to orders until they see how we produce the first couple of weeks," Cook noted. "We are not unsatisfied by the amount of dollars placed so far, because you have to remember that we are starting the network from scratch. We did not have a base of advertisers to start with like [rival broadcast network] CW did. It took Fox two years when that network started up to take in \$30 million, and that was at a time when there were only three broadcast networks and many fewer cable networks. So we are being patient."

Cook said advertising placed so far has in large part come from clients targeting women, particularly packaged good advertisers like Procter & Gamble, Kraft and Unilever. That's no surprise, since the first two programs to air will be 13-week soap operas Desire and Fashion House.

Cook said the new network also has taken in fewer dollars because it refused to drop its rates just to increase the number of initial advertisers. "It will be interesting to see how we do when our programming, which will be first-run year round, goes up against the other networks' repeats," he said. "In the meantime, we realize we have to pay our dues." —John Consoli

Arbitron Preps for PPM Launch in Philadelphia

In preparation for a January 2007 launch, Arbitron has begun installing its portable people meter system in Philadelphia. Arbitron is recruiting a panel of 2,040 (Continued on page 6)

MAGAZINES BY LISA GRANATSTEIN

Time Considering Killing Rate Base

Or top newsweekly may reduce circ by 25 percent; media execs debate implications

n what could signal a sweeping change in the way magazine advertising is bought and sold, *Time* is seriously considering the elimination of its rate base, the circulation it guarantees to advertisers. While the Time Inc.

newsweekly would not be the first publication to do so, it would be by far the most prominent, as one of the magazine industry's leading titles and the largest-circ newsweekly. The move could pave the way for publishers, especially for other Time Inc. titles such as *Money* and *Essence*, to rely instead on metrics that track reader engagement and audience levels.

Over the past year, top Time Inc. executives have held meetings to discuss a

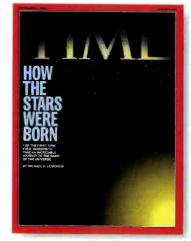
number of options that could alter the newsweekly's circulation strategy, said Time Inc. insiders. One such meeting in midsummer recommended a range of options from doing away with *Time*'s rate base to chopping

"There have been a lot of meetings about *Time* on a lot of levels," acknowledged a *Time* representative. "Many things are being discussed and considered, but nothing beyond what has been announced has been decided.

The focus right now is entirely on [managing editor] Rick [Stengel]'s editorial vision for *Time* and Time.com, and any business decisions will follow that."

Time's bold plans come as it faces both internal changes and external pressures. In July, Stengel, a Time veteran, became m.e. And like his counterparts at Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report, Stengel has his hands full with making his magazine relevant in a news cycle that's 24/7.

But there also may be other forces that are encouraging *Time* to act, namely circulation pressures. Publishers must contend with tighter circ rules imposed by the Audit Bureau of Circulations. Effective with the



TOP
RATE BASE
REDUCTIONS,
2000-2006

	RATE BASE CUT	CURRENT RATE BASE
TV Guide	-6.7 million	3.2 million
National Geographic*	-2.8 million	5 million
Reader's Digest	-2.5 million	10 million
Family Circle	-1.2 million	3.8 million
Soap Opera Digest	-600,000	500.000

SOURCE: CAPELL'S CIRCULATION REPORT USING AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS DATA. '2000 WORLDWIDE CIRC; 2005 U.S. CIRC

its guaranteed circ by as much as 25 percent to equal that of rival *Newsweek*'s 3.1 million circ, according to a Time Inc. source familiar with the meeting. *Time* is expected to make a decision as early as November, which is just two months shy of when the weekly's on-sale date moves to Friday from Monday.

reporting period covering the first six months of this year, publishers were required to break out public-place copies and those copies sent to individuals who are likely to have a strong affinity for the magazine (also known as negative-option subs). Previously, such copies had been lumped into the paid circulation

category; they now have been reclassified as verified (unpaid) circulation. That means rate bases may now include a blend of paid and nonpaid circulation, which could lead advertisers to begin scrutinizing how much of a rate base is paid, or a combination of paid and verified. Compounding this is the soaring cost of bulking up on subscriptions via direct mail or third-party agents.

"The rate base is really just an anachronism," said Rebecca McPheters, who is president of McPheters & Co., a consulting and research firm. "The value to the advertiser is not the number of copies or how they are paid for or distributed, but rather who reads it and who buys the advertiser's product. It would be a very brave thing for Time to do and would be an exciting development for the industry."

While Time's paid and verified circulation rose 1.2 percent to 4 million in this year's first half compared to the year prior, according to the ABC, its verified circ totalled 350,623. Newsweek's paid circulation fell 1.8 percent to 3.1 million in the same period (the title claims no verified circ).

If Time were to eliminate its rate base, it would not be alone. Some 43 ABC-member titles, or 17 percent of those titles making a rate-base claim, threw in the towel between 2000 and 2005, according to Capell's Circulation's Rate Base Review (including Newsweek Asia and Newsweek Latin America). Many of the publications, however, are enthusiast magazines that rely on endemic advertisers that are drawn to the targeted readership.

Should Time drop its rate-base guarantees, it may be a far tougher sell-at least one senior media buyer has a problem with it. "In the environment we are currently experiencing, in terms of transparency and accountability, it would be difficult to do business with a book that won't guarantee a rate base," said Robin Steinberg, senior vp, director of print investment for MediaVest. "The question is, will advertisers agree to a different form of measurement that is exclusive of circulation? And if other magazines follow suit, will buyers just move money to different media?"

These are all good questions that Time execs, who wouldn't comment for this story, must be considering. But if it's simply a matter of slashing millions of circ off the rate base, Time would certainly not be the first (see chart). Steinberg said she would be supportive if Time were to make dramatic cuts.

"Time should have done this a year ago," Steinberg said. "There's been a change in the way people consume news and ultimately it's driving down circ and audience in this category and medium. However, viewership is increasing online."

TV SPORTS BY JOHN CONSOLI

Nearing the Goal Line

Nets close to sellout levels of NFL inventory

n an otherwise lukewarm ad marketplace, TV sports is generating some heat. NBC has sold about 85 percent of its Sunday Night Football in-game ad inventory and has completely sold out its seven Notre Dame football telecasts and upcoming Ryder Cup golf coverage, while CBS is between 80-85 percent sold on its Sunday afternoon NFL game inventory and 90 percent sold out of its college telecasts.

Those sellout levels are in line with earlier reports by Mediaweek that ESPN has virtually sold out its Monday Night Football inventory for the season, ABC has sold out of ad inventory in its fourth-quarter Saturday night college football telecasts and Fox is about 85 percent sold out of Sunday afternoon NFL advertising. All nets pitching sports are landing mid-to-high single-digit cost-per-thousand rate increases. All of those sellout levels are pacing ahead of last year, and the CPM increases are higher than those received by the nets for general audience programming.

Jason Kanefsky, senior vp, group account director, national broadcast at media agency MPG, said a big plus for advertisers is sports programming's shorter commercial pods, which translates to less commercial clutter.

"Commercial pods in live sports telecasts are much shorter than in prime time, daytime or any other time," said Kanefsky. "If an advertiser is going to spend a considerable amount of money on a commercial unit, they have a better chance of it being watched in a sports telecast. Plus, there is a track record of ratings that is more consistent certainly than in a new prime-time show."

The networks' ability to offer advertising on their sports Web sites in conjunction with TV ad buys is also a motivation for advertisers, since in-game mentions can drive viewers to the Web. "A number of our NFL deals have connections to CBS Sportsline," said John Bogusz, president of CBS Sports sales.

Added Ed Erhardt, president of ESPN Sports Customer Sales and Marketing: "We wrote so much business based on our crossplatform tie-ins because sports fans get their information from so many venues today."

That's why NBC on Sept. 5 will relaunch its sports Web site, NBCSports.com, as a stand-alone site with a totally revamped look and content. Previously it was accessible only through the MSNBC site (see more details on mediaweek.com).



"Not only is the sports marketplace robust, but the online sports marketplace has an enormous user base that we need to tap into," said Gary Zenkel, president, NBC Olympics and executive vp, strategic partnerships. The site will have broadband elements tied into NBC's Sunday Night Football coverage, and will carry a pre- and post-game show for Notre Dame football. Toyota, Sprint and Vonage are among the site's launch sponsors.

Peter Lazarus, senior vp of sales and marketing for NBC Sports and Olympics, said the network has been able to sell a huge chunk of inventory despite this being its first year back into the market with NFL coverage. "Our competitors already had an ad base, but we had to go out and establish one," he said.

NBC has signed up General Motors' Chevrolet brand to be the presenting sponsor of the 8-8:15 p.m. segment of the SNF pregame show. In-game advertisers include Miller, Coors Light, Anheuser-Busch, Verizon, Sprint, GM, halftime-show sponsor Toyota, Ford, Nissan, McDonald's, Subway, Southwest Airlines and the major film studios.

Lazarus said SNF has a heavier sellout level beginning with the Nov. 11 game and continuing through the end of the season, when the flexible scheduling kicks in that will enable the network to select a prime game each week to air that Sunday night.

CBS' Bogusz said Sprint recently agreed to continue sponsoring the network's NFL halftime show, while the auto, beer, financial and wireless categories have also been strong.

Among the new advertisers in the sold-out Ryder Cup telecasts on NBC and sister cable network USA, Lazarus said, are Travelers, Vonage, Rolex and Charles Schwab.

MEDIA WIRE

consumers to carry the cell-phone sized PPM device, replacing the antiquated diary-based methodology used to measure radio since the late 1960s.

Although originally scheduled to be the second PPM market, Philadelphia could be the first if the Houston PPM service does not receive Media Rating Council accreditation by November. Arbitron intends to release the first ratings for Philadelphia upon completion of an MRC audit, currently underway.

Unlike Houston, where CBS Radio is the only radio customer signed for the PPM service, in Philadelphia the majority of broadcasters are ready to make the switch. Arbitron also has deals with national advertising agencies that account for more than 90 percent of the national radio ad dollars, and with top Philadelphia shops such as Harmelin Media and Mayo Seitz Media.

Clear Channel, radio's top broadcaster, called off PPM negotiations with Arbitron in June. CC's electronic ratings committee meets Sept. 7 with Arbitron and would-be radio ratings service The Media Audit/Ipsos. —Katy Bachman

TiVo Signs Research/Ad Deal With Omnicom Media

One month after creating a division to sell audience research and viewing estimates to advertisers, TiVo signed a research and advertising deal with Omnicom Media Group's OMD and PHD units. It's the second agency-wide pact for TiVo, which inked a multimillion dollar advertising agreement with Interpublic Media in May during the TV upfront buying season.

In addition to buying advertising on the TiVo system at preferred pricing, OMD and PHD will have access to TiVo's second-by-second research showing how its 4.4 million subscribers use digital video recorders to time-shift programming and pause, fast-forward or skip commercials. Omnicom also plans to partner with TiVo to develop an exclusive engagement study that incorporates TiVo's DVR behavioral data.

Although TiVo reported a quarterly revenue increase to \$59.2 million, from \$39.3 million a year ago, losses widened to \$6.5 million, compared to \$892,000 last year. —KB

WASHINGTON BY TODD SHIELDS

Bad Connection

Elections, Net neutrality may disconnect telecom bill

awmakers returning to Washington this week will be greeted by telephone company lobbyists engaged in a final, uphill push for help in emerging as cable's competitors.

Verizon and AT&T want final passage of a bill that would let federal officials rather than localities set guidelines for offering video services. Telephone executives say kowtowing to thousands of localities is a barrier to rolling out TV services that offer hundreds of channels over high-speed lines. Cities and counties are fighting the measure, saying it saps their power to protect constituents and rights-of-way.

The bill has prevailed in several votes and now needs an OK from the full Senate to clear Congress. But opponents have the calendar working for them. Lawmakers return to work Sept. 5 and adjourn by early October for the fall election campaign. The intervening weeks are likely to be jammed with routine appropriations and debate on national security.

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), the bill's main sponsor, said in July he believes he has the votes needed to prevail. Other vote-counters say he is falling well short. Even if Stevens finds his votes, he has yet to secure a pledge from Senate leaders for the floor time needed for the full body to consider the bill. Still, said

a Republican aide on the Senate Commerce Committee that Stevens chairs, "We are 100 percent behind this bill. We want to see it passed this year." Congress could pass some

version of the bill during a lame-duck session following the election.

The bill is weighed down by debate over Net neutrality, or whether companies that own high-speed data lines should be forbidden to offer better, quicker service to video, data or voice providers they prefer (or that pay for such a privilege). Those who would forbid such favorable treat-

ment lost in four preliminary votes. Now they claim to be gaining enough adherents to succeed. One early supporter, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) has asserted his privilege to block any vote on the measure.

Failure on Capitol Hill will not mean failure everywhere. Last week California's legislature voted to let video providers largely bypass localities, becoming the eighth state to recently offer such relief. And the Federal Communications Commission is studying what role it can play in speeding new video services. Its likely leanings are clear. "The continued deployment of broadband at affordable prices for consumers remains my top priority," FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said last week.



CABLE TV BY ANTHONY CRUPI

The Closer

MTVN's new ad sales chief will dial up digital dollars

hen MTV Networks at long last announced a successor to former ad sales chief Larry Divney on Aug. 30, many observers in the cable space saw the promotion as a fait accompli.

In naming Hank Close president of U.S. advertising sales at MTVN, the Viacom cable networks group not only brought down the curtain on an era, but also recapitulated its oft-stated objective to become as ubiquitous in the digital space as its flagship music net-

work once was in the linear TV arena.

Close, who had served as the executive vp and general manager of ad sales for MTVN's music and comedy groups since February 2005, has been groomed for the top spot since 1999, when Divney hired him as senior vp of ad sales for Comedy Central. And while MTVN put a provisional leadership team in place just prior to this year's upfront, pairing Close with Sue Danaher, who headed up ad sales for Nickelodeon, TV Land and Spike



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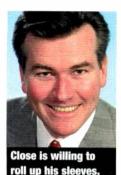


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TV, sources said that the two-topper model was always seen as an interim solution.

Danaher has since stepped down.

Reaction last week was somewhat muted, if only because few of those who have done busi-



ness with Close said they were at all surprised by the move. "For all the talk of looking at outside candidates, it seemed preordained," said one media planner. "I can't imagine they were seriously considering anyone else."

A buyer who has put in a lot of time

across the table from Close said there's a pragmatic element to the decision that goes beyond merely maintaining the chain of command. "Hank is someone the streets can still relate to, because he's not so far removed from shaking hands and pounding the pavement," the buyer said.

While Close said that there will be "a

buildout of feet on the street" on the digital sales side, those feet will have to hit the ground running if MTVN is to meet Viacom CEO Tom Freston's target of \$500 million in digital ad sales by 2008. While the cable division generated \$51 million in total digital revenue in the second quarter, Viacom executive vp and CFO Mike Dolan said that thus far digital ad sales do "not significantly affect the total domestic ad numbers...If it's a tenth of a point, it would be a lot."

"In a transitional year, we did fine," said MTVN president and COO Michael Wolf. who added that in this year's upfront, digital sales accounted for anywhere from 6 percent to 9 percent of MTVN's total ad revenue. Those numbers will grow "as more media agencies get set up to do multiplatform deals," Wolf added.

On the evening of Aug. 31, Wolf saw what was perhaps the best implementation of his digital doctrine, as MTV offered its 2006 Video Music Awards on its broadband site. Overdrive. Tellingly, in a show devoid of any defining watercooler moments, the sexiest and most compelling bit was a 30-second spot for J.C. Penney.

TV STATIONS BY KATY BACHMAN

Secondhand News

Fox 0&0s syndicate local coverage to nearby affiliates

ox Television Stations has quietly begun to create mini-regional networks by syndicating the local newscasts of owned-and-operated stations to Fox affiliates in other nearby markets. Two outlets have cut such deals. KDVR in Denver and WBRC in Birmingham. Ala. The unique arrangement has worked out so well that Fox is considering striking similar pacts in other Fox O&O markets.

"As a network, we want our distribution system to be as good as it can be," said Dennis Swanson, president of the 35-station group, who added he's going to focus next on finding a partnership for Detroit O&O WJBK. "This makes Fox's distribution stronger, it advances the Fox news brand and hopefully down the road there will be economic impact to it."

Fox first experimented with the idea in February, when KDVR agreed to provide its morning show, Good Day Colorado, and 9 p.m. news hour to KFOX, the Fox affiliate owned by Hoak Media in Grand Junction, Colo.

Last month, WBRC's Good Day Alabama, the market's top-rated morning news program (5-9 a.m.) in Birmingham began airing 7-9 a.m. on WCOV, the Fox affiliate in

Montgomery owned by Woods Communications. WBRC is also in discussions with Fox affils WZDX (owned by Grant Communications) in Huntsville and Raycom Media's WDFX in Dothan, to add Good Day Alabama in 2007. If all comes together, GDA would reach 73 percent of the state's TV homes.

Lacking the resources for news, stations in smaller markets approached Fox about the idea, Swanson said. For KFQX, the pact with KDVR put it in the news game, taking its ratings from hash marks to a 1.2 and 1.0 rating in May and July among adults 25-54. In exchange for the programming, KDVR gets a portion of the inventory to sell and breaking news content from the western part of the state provided by KFQX's sister station and CBS affiliate, KREX, in the market.

"We're a better news operation and we have unique content our competition doesn't have," said Bill Schneider, vp and general manager for KDVR, who would like to work out a pact with KXRM, the Fox affiliate in Colorado Springs, next. "It depends on what you define as your community and in Colorado, the state sees itself as a community," he said.

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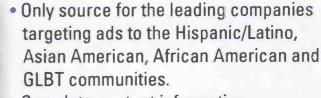
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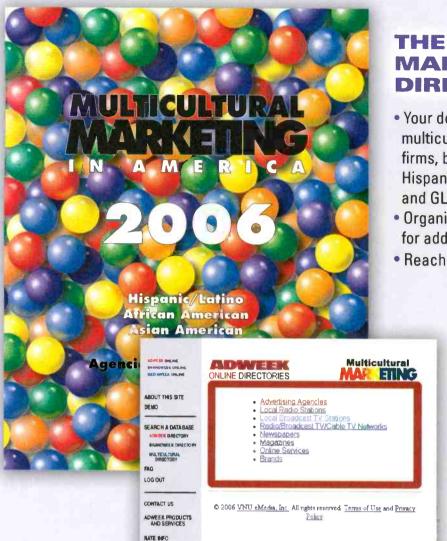
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MIKE HARDING

The Sales Generation Gap

Online trading of ad inventory is here old-timers, get out of the way

"METHINKS HE DOTH PROTEST too much." Shakespeare's dictum seems well-suited to the current broadcast thought-leaders who are protesting online trading.

News flash: Online trading already occurs. It's happening in every sales department and rep firm cubicle...today, right now. Those who think otherwise are out of touch with account executives and sales practices in their organization.

Pitches and proposals sail through online technology everyday. It's called e-mail.

Face-to-face selling is now the exception, not the rule. Media buyers send e-mails. Sales reps respond by e-mail with a proposal and attach a few "one sheeters." It's a clunky, disorganized, inefficient "system," but it's what evolved when technology took a dominant role in our business.

We've migrated from manually written traffic logs to ones generated by high-powered computer programs. We no longer cut and splice 16mm film for our 6 p.m. news, preferring digitized images edited on a computer. We wouldn't think of manually running a commercial from a film chain with slides and a cart (don't forget to flop the mirrors), quad carts or 3/4 inch tape. Instead, the air product is automatically and smoothly switched by a computer program which cues, rolls and switches a commercial from an array of hard drives.

The disconnect in today's discussion of online trading is not one of technology. It's more simply defined by the old-fashioned concept which faces every family with teenagers in the home: the generation gap.

Our industry is suffering a generation gap between the buyers—mostly twenty-something women who grew up with a computer mouse in one hand and a cell phone in another—and the sellers, 50-something executives who struggle to stop the VCR from flashing 12:00. Neither speaks the other's language or understands the other's technology.

Several high-profile media executives (I won't embarrass them by mentioning their names) have told me they don't understand computers, don't like to use them, and struggle to turn theirs on every morning. They believe their sales reps still go out every day and make in-person calls all day. The business, they say, will never go to an online trading platform where computers organize, systemize, facilitate, and process sales.

Really?

As a senior member of a technology-savvy TVgroup-owner told a conference earlier this year, those are the type of "executives" they're looking to retire or fire. Like it or not, technology now drives our business and, to the extent it expedites product or process, technology enhances profit margins and efficiencies.

In my more recent days as a chief executive of television stations, I've watched seasoned sales people e-mail a sales proposal, complete with attachments, to a client who was only four blocks from our station! To boot, "negotiations" with media buyers in distant cities occurred online via email. The final order was faxed in and manually typed into the traffic system. Then the cancellations and makegoods began, through a slow, manual, labor-intensive process.

Online trading is here, and it's here to stay. Broadcast thought-leaders who want to eliminate online selling can do so only by removing computers and e-mail addresses from their sales reps. Or, they can put a tracer on e-mail traffic and fire a sales rep on the spot when caught emailing a proposal to a buyer. We all know neither scenario will happen.

The relative discussion, then, is not if or when-but how-online trading will develop. Will the industry choose an auction environment where sellers throw spots up in the air for sale to the lowest bidder? Or, will the industry adopt a platform, such as spotbuy.tv, which keeps all players in the game, preserves the art of negotiation in the buy-sell process, systemizes the buys, expedites sales, downloads commercials for immediate air, simplifies the cancellation and makegood procedures, and interfaces data across a common schema?

We think the choice is a clear one.

Mike Harding is managing member of MMI Advertising, which is owner and operator of Spotbuy.tv and Scatter.tv, high-tech media marketplaces for spot, syndicated and network TV inventory. He can be reached at mharding@spotbuy.tv.



MEDIA PERSON LEWIS GROSSBERGER

The Ugly (Betty) Truth

WELL, IT'S OFFICIAL. The new television season starts this month and there's nothing anyone can do to stop it. Iran and North Korea may try, but unfortunately their nuclear programs are not yet far enough along. Here then, while there is still time to flee, comes Media Person's Annual TV Preview. You have been warned.

Studio 60 at 30 Rock: The cast of The West Wing returns, this time playing staffers of a network comedy series. As before, they spend their time walking through corridors and offices deep in conversation, only instead of discussing tax legislation and foreign policy, they make up jokes about Tom Cruise and Lindsay Lohan, then debate whose joke was funnier. (NBC, premieres Sept. 18)

Studio 30 at 60 Rock: Another show set backstage at an SNL-like comedy show. Alec Baldwin stars as the tyrannical boss who screams at writers: "Do you see me laughing? Then it's NOT FUNNY." This will become a national catchphrase, bigger than "Awesome, dude." (NBC, premieres Sept. 18)

Ugly Betty: Will America watch a show about an ugly woman named Betty? That is the question asked by Ugly Betty, a show about Betty, who is ugly. Hence the title.

(ABC, premieres Sept. 28)

Pretty Tom: Making his first foray into television sitcom, Tom Cruise stars as a Scientologist pharmacist who refuses on grounds of conscience to fill Paxil prescriptions for mothers claiming to have postpartum depression. Brooke Shields guests. (Fox, premieres Jan. 28)

Perky Katie: The comic misadventures of a slightly mischievous forty-something who tries

to cheer up the world when she becomes anchor of a network news show only to find the news is so depressing, it requires a higher Paxil dosage. (CBS, premieres Sept. 5)

Standoff: Tense drama about a pair of hostage negotiators who are dating. In the first episode, things reach a crisis when Bob and Sally get into an argument over Bob's old girlfriend Jill, and a felon, tired of being ignored, blows up six people he's holding prisoner. (Fox, premieres Sept. 5)

Lost: The castaways face another harrowing season when one of them spots a camera crew and the suspicion grows among them that their every word and deed is being televised to a nationwide audience. (ABC, We'll call you)

Shannen Doherty Terminates Your Relationship: In the opener, Shannen (Lindsay Lohan) tells Tom Cruise that Katie Holmes is leaving him, causing him to jump off a high sofa, and breaks it to John Karr that the news media have started seeing other perverts. (premiered while you weren't looking)

The Knights of Prosperity: Formerly titled Let's Rob Mick Jagger, this series about a gang of losers who set out to rob the Rolling Stones star, believing him to possess the world's biggest drug stash, stars Keith Richards and Kate Moss. (ABC, premieres Oct. 17)

Let's Kill and Mutilate Andy Dick and Drag His Body All Over L.A. Behind a Truck: This much-hyped comedy lost some of its creative juice when Andy Dick dropped out of the production. But producer Simon Cowell promises his replacement, Saddam Hussein, will be even better. (PBS, premieres Sept. 22)

I Pity the Fool: In an over-the-top fantasy that will be hard for many viewers to swallow, Mr. T makes his television comeback as a kick-ass U.S. President who mispronounces most of the few words he utters, declares war on a different country every week, entertains aides with fart jokes and has no respect for the Constitution or the environment. (Fox, premiered in 2000)

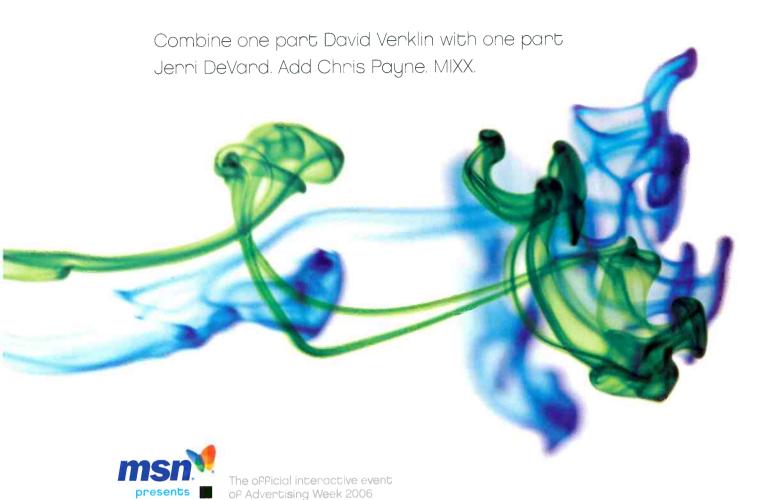
Dexter: Michael C. Hall from Six Feet Under stars as a serial killer who also happens to be a cop. Watch for the brutal fight scene in episode one when he catches himself red-handed with a victim's body and attempts to place himself under arrest. (Showtime, premieres Oct. 1)

Men in Trees: A ripoff of Snakes on a Plane, this horror series is set in an all-female nudist colony whose inhabitants discover to their consternation that the forest around them is full of men with binoculars. No one knows what to do until a feisty dog manicurist (Paula Abdul) declares: "Gather rocks, girls. Soon the leaves will be gone and then we attack." (ABC, premieres Sept. 22)

Help Me Help You: Ted Danson is a highly successful shrink with the most attractive and witty patients in town, but he keeps having a recurring nightmare in which he's a bartender in Boston, surrounded by drunks, slackers and Shelley Long. (ABC, premieres Sept. 26)

Kidnapped: Created by award-winning teleplay scripter R.L. Stevenson, this realistic thriller, set in the wealthy Queens section of New York, features a large family, the Vanderschwartzes. Each week, another Vanderschwartz child is kidnapped and held for ransom. The suspense builds to such agonizing levels that many viewers will need to increase their Paxil. (NBC, premieres Sept. 20)

Watch for the brutal fight scene when Dexter catches himself red-handed...and attempts to arrest himself.



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MOVERS

CARLE

Mike McCarley has been elevated to vp. strategic marketing, promotion and communications for NBC Universal Sports and Olympics. McCarley previously served as vp, communications and marketing, NBC Uni Sports and Olympics... Peter Dougherty has been appointed to the newly created position of senior vp of branding for Cartoon Network, based in Atlanta. He joins Cartoon after working as an independent creative consultant since 2001...Joshua Berger has been named vp of programming operations for AMC and WE. Berger joined Rainbow Media in 2003 as director of programming operations where he helped spearhead the transition of AMC and WE into adsupported networks...The mtn., the newly launched regional sports network of the Mountain West Conference, appointed Kim Carver to the position of general manager. Most recently, Carver served as vp of network presentation at the Asian broadcaster ESPN Star Sports.

MAGAZINES

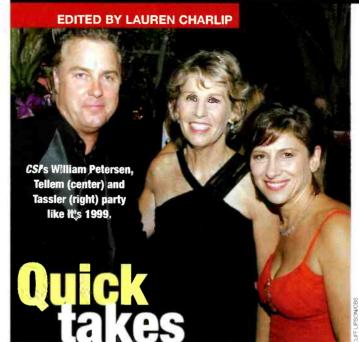
Ziba Kashef, a veteran editor of Essence and Parenting, has been named editor in chief of Future US' Pregnancy. Kashef joins as the title moves its offices from Atlanta to San Francisco in December...Kitty Morgan has been named executive editor at Better Homes and Gardens, effective Sept. 18. She currently holds the same title at Oprah Magazine: O at Home.

Doug Abernethy was promoted to the new position of regional manager for Radio One's stations in Houston, Dallas and St. Louis, in addition to his current responsibilities as vp and general manager of the company's Houston stations... Mariann Staino was named general sales manager for KISS 104.1 (WALR-FM) owned by Cox Radio in Atlanta. She hails from Clear Channel.

INTERACTIVE

Martin Wolk has been named business editor for MSNBC.com. Wolk was most recently the site's chief economics correspondent, penning the column "Eye on the Economy."

media elite



THE FLASHBULBS have faded and the red carpets have been rolled up for this year's Emmys. We saw cleavage, we saw gams and we saw bling, and even, on **Entourage's** big winner Jeremy Piven, a cravat. Just as inter-

esting-perhaps even more sowere the parties surrounding the awards. Rocking the Entertainment Tonight/People after-party was none other than Mr. Purple Rain himself, the artist again known as Prince. He treated the crowd of more than 800 to a twohour set on the covered-pool stage at the Mondrian hotel. Heidi Klum and Seal were in front, and so was Vanessa Minnillo, heads bobbing. Many a lovely lady was touched up at the Maybelline New York Beauty Bar while Nan-

cy Tellem, president of CBS Paramount Network Television Entertainment Group, and Nina Tassler, president of CBS Entertainment, milled around outside enjoying the gorgeous weather...The V-club will lose another member this fall if 7ane has any-

thing to do with it. Sarah DiMuro, a 29vear-old rising comicand virgin—was introduced Aug. 22 on the magazine's Web site. She is looking to find "the one" who will deflower by her 30th birthday. DiMuro pitched the idea herself to Fane lifestyle editor Katy McColl and the Jane staff quickly realized it lent itself better as a Web package. The site allows guys to sign up, and every week readers choose a date

for Sarah—as does her dad, and someone else close to her. Naturally, everybody blogs after each date. "Guys are coming in handover-fist. We're almost working doubletime to vet these guys and get them up online,"

> said Web editor Melinda Anderson. TV's Insider is tracking Sarah, too. The day after the first segment aired, Anderson said 150 guys queued up. "Just to be clear, we're setting her up on dates." Anderson said. "She's looking to make a connection with someone, instead of just someone to..." Her voice trailed. Spinoffs could be in the works: DiMuro's first date hit it off with one of 7ane's publicists, leaving staffers pondering what's next. At the vetting table, Anderson said, "With at least every

eighth or 10th guy, someone says 'Oh, I know someone for him." In the end, she said, "It's a numbers game. A lot of single women can relate to that"... The Wall Street Journal Weekend Edition bid adieu to its summerlong Hamptons film

series with the premiere of The Illusionist Aug. 12. The star-studded affair featured the likes of Howard Stern and Debbie I arry. Two lucky guests scored tickets to Bermuda in their giftbags.





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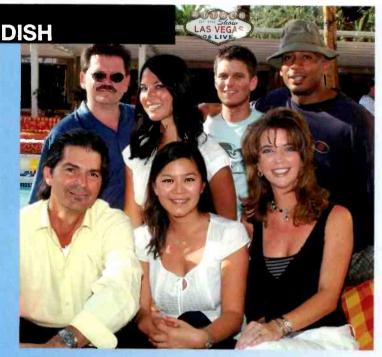






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▲ Cox Communications Las Vegas executives visited the set of G4's Attack of the Show on Aug. 14, the first day of its weeklong live remote broadcasts from Sin City. Front row (i. to r.): Cox's Juergen Barbusca, manager of communications; G4's Katherine Le, director of affiliate marketing; Stephanie Stallworth, director of public affairs at Cox. Back row (I. to r.): John Rieber, G4's senior vp, production; Olivia Munn and Kevin Pereira, Attack of the Show co-hosts; James Lesure, star of the NBC drama series Las Vegas, a guest on that day's live broadcast.



▲ NBC Universal celebrated the launch of diversecitynbc.com and screened semifinalist films at the Comedy Short Cuts Film Festival in NYC Aug. 29. Casting agents, writers and net and studio executives were in attendance. From left: filmmaker Steven Tsuchida; Damona Resnick, NBC Universal diversity programming; Mykelti Williamson of Kidnapped; filmmakers Camille Mana and Joe Hernandez-Kolski.



 Actress Angle Harmon poses for the paparazzi with Dave Morris. Entertainment Weekly president and publisher, at the magazine's fourth annual pre-Emmy event in Los Angeles Aug. 26.



▲ When the bubble bursts: A star-studded special, SOAPnet Reveals ABC Soap Secrets, hosted by Lisa Rinna and Ty Treadway (former Soap Talk co-hosts), aired Aug. 31 on ABC—in The View's time slot—and on SOAPnet. The sudsy preview gave fans the inside scoop on forthcoming dastardly deeds, sordid affairs and other sundry tragedles on All My

Children, One Life to Live and General Hospital. From left: Brian Frons, president, Daytime, Disney-ABC Television Group; Natalia Livingston, General Hospital, Rinna; Eden Riegel and Cady McClain, All My Children, Treadway; Bree Williamson, One Life to Live; and Deborah Blackwell executive vp and general manager, SOAPnet.

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CALENDAR

- At the Waldorf Astoria, Sept. 10–Sept. 12, the 20th annual National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications Conference will look into multimedia platforms, multi-ethnic consumers, customer loyalty and profitability. The event addresses how companies get the greatest return on their investment in multi-ethnic markets. Register at namic.com.
- The Mobile Entertainment Summit takes place in Los Angeles on Sept. 11. Covering mobile entertainment from games and music to multimedia, messaging and marketing, leaders in the mobile arena are slated to attend. For more, see ihollywood.com.
- The CTIA Wireless I.T. & Entertainment 2006 conference in Los Angeles Sept. 12–14 focuses on mobile entertainment—games, music and video—as a key source of new revenue for content providers. The conference will address customized content and personalization. Go to ctia.org/wirelessIT06 for more info.
- Women in Cable and Telecommunications will host an executive women's luncheon at the Pierre in New York on Sept. 14. Called Cable at the Crossroads: The Future is Today, panelists include execs from Disney/ABC, NBCU and Mediacom. To sign up, e-mail nywict@yahoo.com.
- The Next Big Idea (East): The Future of Nontraditional Marketing takes place Sept. 14 at the Millennium Broadway Hotel in New York. Hosted by Adweek, Mediaweek, Brandweek, The Hollywood Reporter, Billboard and Sporting Goods Business in association with NYU's Stern School of Business, the event examines the convergence of marketing, music, Hollywood, sports and gaming. Visit thenextbigidea.com.
- At New York's Crowne Plaza Hotel, the MIXX Conference and Expo, Sept. 25–26, is geared toward marketing and agency professionals, as well as publishers and technology firms. The multimedia creative MIXX Awards, judged by an independent panel, will conclude the event. See mixx-expo.com.

inside media

EDITED BY ROBIN ELDRIDGE

Weinsteins to Jumpstart Arts Net Ovation

A consortium of private investors, led by movie moguls Bob and Harvey Weinstein and the Hubbard Media Group, has acquired the 10-year-old arts network Ovation. The channel, currently reaching 5.3 million cable subscribers, aims to double its distribution in the coming year, while remaining devoted to the arts. Tennis Channel chairman and CEO Ken Solomon will step in as non-executive chairman, while former Fine Living exec Charles Segars will serve as CEO.

Lycos, Blinkx Form Video Search Platform

Former leading Web portal Lycos, which is rebranding itself into a broadband video destination, has partnered with startup video search engine blinkx to launch a new video search platform. Through the deal, Lycos, which still reaches nearly 24 million unique visitors each month, will offer users access to over 5 million hours of searchable video content, including clips from popular TV shows, music videos and video blogs.

Google to Provide Non-U.S. Ads for eBay

Google will become the exclusive distributor of text-based ads on all eBay sites outside the U.S. A few months ago, Yahoo signed with the auction giant to be its exclusive provider of graphical and text ads on ebay.com within the U.S. Per the deal, Google's "click-to-call" ad technology will also be integrated into eBay's e-commerce platforms, allowing Web users to contact merchants directly via an Internet voice call.

Adult Radio Shows Steepest Growth

Radio formats targeting adults are maintaining or gaining audience share, while formats geared for a younger audience are showing declines according to a Katz Media Group analysis of Arbitron data for the Spring survey. The biggest audience gains were among Urban and Spanish-language stations, up 10 percent compared to a year ago. For the study, Katz analyzed over 4,000 radio stations and nearly 50 formats in 296 Arbitron markets to produce the figures.

GolTV Renews Coverage of La Liga

GolTV has extended its exclusive multiyear agreement to broadcast the Spanish League, or La Liga, in the U.S. and Canada. The contract includes the right to carry live telecasts of all of the league's teams.

ESPN Uses College Football as Mobile Bait

ESPN is using college football as an enticement for consumers to subscribe to ESPN's struggling wireless service. The sports megalopoly announced that its Mobile ESPN service will stream up to 25 full-length college football games each month during the upcoming season, pulling feeds directly from either ESPN or ESPN2. The new offering, available to Mobile ESPN subscribers for no additional charge, kicks off Sept. 4 with the Florida State-Miami contest. In related news, the sports net has launched ESPNU.com, a Web site dedicated exclusively to college sports net ESPNU.

AOL's Music Now Offers New Options

AOL has revamped its music product by launching AOL Music Now, the first digital music subscription service to offer unlimited on-demand music streams, videos and downloads. The new multitiered service features more than 200 AOL Radio stations plus select channels from XM Satellite Radio, specialty "artist discovery" channels, and a music library of 2.5 million songs. For the thousands of videos, AOL has struck deals with several record labels, including Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

Azteca America to Join National Ratings

Azteca America, the Spanish-language TV network available in 52 U.S. markets, has reached an agreement with Nielsen Media Research to be included in Nielsen's National Television Index. Azteca America will be reported along with the other Spanish-language and English-language national broadcast networks, versus being reported solely within the Nielsen Hispanic Television Index service. Azteca will continue to be measured under the NHTI until September 2007.

Tennis Channel Nabs Its First Grand Slam

The Tennis Channel recently acquired the cable rights to cover the French Open, taking the reins from ESPN. Per the deal, which begins in 2007 and could run for nine years, the Tennis Channel has exclusive telecast rights to all French Open matches, with the exception of the NBC broadcast coverage windows. The Tennis Channel also obtained U.S. rights to all media, including exclusive broadband and video-on-demand rights, as well as year-round access to the French Open media archives.

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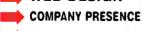
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administrative and support services.

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Proposers will be responsible for the delivery of their proposals. Reliance on the U.S. Mail or other carriers is at the proposer's risk. Late proposals will not be considered.

A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for 10:00 Å.M., Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at NJ TRANSIT Headquarters located at One Penn Plaza East in Newark, New Jersey.

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Metrosexual Mortality

Editors strive to strike a balance between macho and manicured men as hype dies down By Tony Case

THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH CHATTER LATELY ABOUT THE DEATH OF THE METRO-

sexual-that over-moisturized, mani/pedi-loving, style-obsessed man who would rather spend the afternoon at Bloomingdale's than the local pool hall that it's leading those who run the dominant men's magazines to do some

some serious soul-searching.

When Condé Nast's men's shopping titles Cargo and Vitals quickly came and went, it spelled the beginning of the end of a stereotype that, as publishers and marketers now say, was really more a creation of Madison Avenue than a real demographic. As with the rise of the "laddie" magazines a few years back and their focus on the beer-swilling, babe-chasing young man, the industry is waking up to the fact that the metrosexual represented only a tiny-and overhyped-segment of the population. A study by Leo Burnett Worldwide, as reported in a recent Business-Week story on the metrosexual's demise, estimated that only one-fifth of the U.S. male population could be identified thus.

"It was the evolution of men being more interested in themselves and how they look and using toiletries, but it's not like men haven't been using hair gel for 20 years," said Dennis Santos, media director of PGR Media.

"It was nothing new, and now you're seeing a bit of a backlash."

Even Marian Salzman, the JWT Worldwide executive credited with coining the term metrosexual, concedes that his days are numbered and that men want their manhood back. Witness the results of a Harris poll last year, quizzing Americans about their favorite celebrities: The top 10 was dominated by the likes of testosterone-brimming Clint Eastwood, Sean Connery and John Wayne. (Tom Cruise, the Cliniquescrubbed, something-uncomfortably-feminine-about-him actor whose star continues to plummet, hasn't appeared on the annual survey in years.) Today, terms like "übersexual" and "retrosexual" are being tossed around as much as metrosexual used to be.

Of course, men remain highly interested in style and grooming, and men's magazines are still littered with spreads for \$3,000 suits and an array of fragrance and skin-care lines. And



Tattooed he-man Jesse James butches up the latest cover of the Wenner monthly.

men's style magazines like Condé Nast's Men's Vogue continue to pop up. Still, as always, male consumers stubbornly avoid fitting neatly into this or that classification. As Rob Gregory, group publisher of Dennis Publishing's 2.5 million-circ Maxim, put it, "Men defy labeling. They don't want to be called metrosexual or retrosexual. They want to be called men." (Maxim has spun off a virtual industry catering to the man who's all man, including its Maxim Lounges and a casino in Las Vegas, scheduled to open in 2010.)

According to the latest Audit Bureau of Circulations figures, overall paid/verified circ is growing for manly-man magazines like Maxim (up 1.9 percent in the first half of this year versus last) and Wenner Media's 700,000-circ Men's Journal (up 4.1 percent). But sales are also on the upswing at style and fitness guides like Condé Nast's 800,000-circ GQ (up 3.4 percent) and 400,000-circ Details (up 2.7 percent) as well as Rodale's 1.7 million-circ Men's Health (up 4.7 percent).

Metrosexual "was a media firestorm surrounded by very little evidence," said David Zinczenko, editor in chief of Men's Health and editorial director of 400,000-circ lifestyle spinoff Best Life. "The birth and death of the men's shopping books reinforced this. They chased the chimera and, not surprisingly, failed to catch him. Our take is that style and grooming are just two of the tools guys need to succeed in the world. It would be as foolish to ignore those as it would be to overvalue them."

Zinczenko shrugged off the suggestion that Men's Health, with its focus on narcissistic pursuits like six-pack abs and fall fashions, helped to perpetuate the metrosexual trend. "We just gave guys permission to care about

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BIWEEKLI	ES SEPTEM	IBER 4, 2	2006					
	ISSUE DATE	CURRENT PAGES	ISSUE DATE LAST YEAR	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT CHANGE	YTD PAGES	YTD LAST YEAR	PERCENT
BUSINESS/ENT	ERTAINMENT							
ESPN The Magazine	11-Sep	109.97	12-Sep	82.47	33.35%	1,053.63	1,134.80	-7.15%
Foibes	DID NOT REPORT				N.A.	1,847.07	1,775.31	4.04%
Fortune [®]	4-Sep	88.51	5-Sep	104.38	-15.20%	1,781.65	1,810.01	-1.57%
Nacional Review	25-Sep	20.80	26-Sep	26.30	-20.91%	306.90	304.40	0.82%
Rolling Stone	7-Sep	96.49	8-Sep	75.99	26.98%	964.96	993.57	-2.88%
CAFEGORY TOTAL		315.77		289.14	9.21%	5,954.21	6,018.09	-1.06%

	ISSUE	CURRENT	ISSUE DATE LAST YEAR	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT	PAGES	LAST YEAR	PERCENT
NEWS/BUSINESS	UATE	Aucs	DAST TOWN	CASI TEAN	Unande	FAUES	LASTTEAN	CHANGE
BusinessWeek	4-Sep	48.99	5-Sep	48.58	0.84%	1,638.33	1,665.14	-1.619
The Economist® DID NO	T REPORT				N.A.	1,298.00	1,302.00	-0.319
Newsweek ^E	4-Sep	41.40	DOUBLE ISSUE		N.A.	1,134.48	1,147.88	-1.179
The New Republic DIO NO	T REPORT				N.A.	167.19	196.23	-14.809
Time [£]	4-Sep	28.80	5-Sep	59.80	-51.84%	1,280.65	1.338.52	-4.329
U.S. News & World Report	4-Sep	36.97	5-Sep	29.77	24.19%	1,078.53	1.047.99	2.919
CATEGORY TOTAL		156.16		138.15	13.04%	6,597.18	6,697.76	-1.509
SPORTS/ENTERTAINM	IENT/LEISUF	E						
AutoWeek	4-Sep	27.65	5-Sep	25.95	6.55%	805.66	798.71	0.879
Entertainment Weekly	1-Sep	33.09	2-Sep	35.24	-6.10%	1,037.54	1,111.45	-6.65
Golf World ^F	1-Sep	19.00	2-Sep	30.83	-38.37%	876.40	930.20	-5.789
n Touch	4-Sep	20.83	5-Sep	14.00	48.79%	578.34	411.31	40.619
Life & Style+	4-Sep	12.17	12-Sep	7.00	73.86%	294.39	264.39	11.359
New York	4/11-Sep	135.43	DOUBLE ISSUE		N.A.	2.139.32	1.800.65	18.819
People	4-Sep	93.20	5-Sep	84.67	10.07%	2,428.68	2,452.80	-0.989
Sporting News	8-Sep	44.54	9-Sep	31.08	43.31%	553.62	526.82	5.099
Sports Illustrated	4-Sep	94.97	5-Sep	78.23	21.40%	1,380.60	1,361.50	1.409
Star	4-Sep	22.67	5-Sep	17.00	33.35%	667.65	595.57	12.109
The New Yorker@/R	4-Sep	92.52	5-Sep	74.62	23.99%	1.093.59	1,319.92	-17.15
Time Out New York	30-Aug	54.75	31-Aug	39.88	37.29%	2,142.49	2,117.76	1.179
TV Guide (redesign) ^T	4-Sep	22.75	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	550.12	N.A.	N.A
Us Weekly	4-Sep	31.17	5-Sep	28.15	10.73%	1,231.05	1,190.47	3.419
Woman's World	5-Sep	7.00	6-Sep	7.00	0.00%	248.98	239.31	4.049
CATEGORY TOTAL		711.74		473.65	50.27%	16,028.43	15,120.86	6.009
WEEKEND MAGAZINE	s							
American Profile	3-Sep	7.82	4-Sep	12.07	-35.21%	367.14	345.61	6.239
Life@@	8-Sep	8.33	9-Sep	4.00	108.25%	271.73	225.01	20.769
Parade	3-Sep	10.57	4-Sep	13.49	-21.65%	454.43	436.89	4.01
USA Weekend	3-Sep	11.39	4-Sep	12.98	-12.25%	483,34	464.52	4.05
CATEGORY TOTAL		38.11		42.54	-10.41%	1,576.64	1,472.03	7.119
TOTALS		906.01		654,34	38.46%	24,202.25	23,290.65	3.919

DOUBLE ISSUE=Numbers reported in last week's Magazine Monitor; @=One less Issue in 2006 than in 2005; E=Estimated page counts; F=Fiction Issue; +=One more issue in 2006 than in 2005; R=Sept. 4, 2006 issue Includes polybagged version of Fashion Rocks; T=Relaunched Oct. 17, 2005 with different rate base; @@=Three less issues in 2006 than In 2005

	IS SUE DATE	CURRENT PAGES	LAST YEAR	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT CHANGE	PAGES	LAST YEAR	CHANGE
NEWS/BUSINESS BusinessWeek	OUBLE ISSUE		OUDI F ICCUF			4 500 04	4 040 05	4 000
The Economist®	19-Aug	24.00	OUBLE ISSUE	10.00	N.A.	1,589.34	1,616.65	-1.69%
	OUBLE ISSUE	24.00	20-Aug	19.00	26.32%	1,298.00	1,302.00	-0.319
The New Republic	4-Sep	5.41	29-Aug 5-Sep	41.98 8.94	N.A. -39.49%	1,093.08	1,147.88 196.23	-4.779
Time ^E	28-Aug	35.93	29-Aug	35.78	0.42%			-14.809
U.S. News & World Repor		82.07		62.61		1,251.85	1,278.72	-2.109
CATEGORY TOTAL	t Zo-Auy	147.41	29-Aug	168.31	31.08% -12.42%	1,041.55 6,441.01	1,018.22 6,559.70	2.29%
SPORTS/ENTERTAL	NMENT/I FISU	RE				THE		2 11 11
AutoWeek	28-Aug	13.47	29-Aug	20.62	-34.68%	778.01	772.76	0.689
Entertainment Weekly	25-Aug	39.70	26-Aug	15.33	158.97%	1,003.10	1.076.21	-6.799
Golf World ^P	25-Aug	32.16	26-Aug	17.50	83.77%	857.40	899.37	-4.67
In Touch	28-Aug	14,74	29-Aug	8.67	70.01%	557.51	397.31	40.329
Life & Style+	28-Aug	9.24	5-Sep	8.00	15.50%	282.22	257.79	9.489
New York	28-Aug	96.96	29-Aug/5-Sep	118.54	-18.20%	2.003.89	1,800.65	11.299
People	28-Aug	61.24	29-Aug	55.50	10.34%	2.335.48	2,368.13	-1.389
Sporting News	1-Sep	16.75	2-Sep	15,17	10.42%	509.08	495.74	2.699
Sports Illustrated	28-Aug	29.87	29-Aug	25.96	15.06%	1,285,19	1.283.29	0.159
Star	28-Aug	13.83	29-Aug	16.33	-15.31%	644.98	578.57	11.489
The New Yorker®	28-Aug	18.34	29-Aug	69.51	-73.62%	1.001.07	1,245.30	-19.619
Time Out New YorkS	23-Aug	83.69	24-Aug	85.06	-1.61%	2,087.75	2.077.88	0.489
TV Guide (redesign)T	28-Aug	28.82	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	527.37	N.A.	N.A
Us Weekly	28-Aug	36.11	29-Aug	29.17	23.79%	1,199.88	1,162.32	3.239
Woman's World	29-Aug	7.00	30-Aug	5.83	20.07%	241.98	232.31	4.169
CATEGORY TOTAL		501.92		491.19	2.18%	15,314.91	14,647.63	4.56%
WEEKEND MAGAZ	NES							
American Profile	27-Aug	16.67	28-Aug	8.95	86.26%	359.32	333.54	7.739
Life@@	1-Sep	4.00	2-Sep	7.88	-49.24%	263.40	221.01	19.189
Parade	27-Aug	13.52	28-Aug	14.69	-7.96%	443.86	423.40	4.839
USA Weekend	27-Aug	12.48	28-Aug	16.94	-26.33%	471.95	451.54	4.529
CATEGORY TOTAL		46.67		48.46	-3.69%	1,538.53	1,429.49	7.639
TOTALS		696.00		707.96	-1.69%	23,294.45	22,636.82	2.919

DOUBLE ISSUE=Numbers reported in last week's Magazine Monitor; @=One less issue in 2006 than in 2005; E=Estimated page counts; P=Includes PGA championship coverage; +=One more issue in 2006 than in 2005; S=Includes student quide section in both 2005 and 2006; T=Relaunched Oct. 17, 2005, with different rate base; @@=Three less issues in 2006 than in 2005

CHARTS COMPILED BY ROBIN ELDRIDGE

their health and the things that mattered to them most," he said. The Men's Health reader would "run screaming" from the metrosexual, he maintained.

"There are about the same number of metrosexuals as there are hockey fans in the United States," quipped David Granger, editor in chief of Hearst Magazines' 700,000circ Esquire. "It nailed a certain aspect of a man's life that was coming to the fore but didn't define their lives. Men are not defined by shopping patterns or the products they use."

Granger admits that balancing editorial content for the guy's guy and the more spiffed-up, scrubbed-down fella is a challenge. The September Esquire sports a cover story on the rugged new James Bond, Daniel Craig, and a look at the 2009 Camaro concept car. It also checks out the latest scent from John Varvatos and a thousand-dollar J. Crew weekend bag. While it's true that Esquire's grooming expert Rodney Cutler owns a string of Manhattan hair salons, he is also an Ironman triathlete. "Very few magazines will serve all men," Granger said. "I try to do an intelligent magazine for men, but not pretentious. It's that mix of both inspiring them and amusing them, but also serving them with [elements such as] style and grooming advice."

Emap's 1.25-million circ FHM announced last week that it was cutting its fashion staff and coverage. Editor in chief Scott Gramling said the cuts were part of an "internal restructuring" that had nothing to do with a shifting editorial direction. While the magazine has instituted more metrosexual-esque elements, including fragrance and fashion tips via frontof-book product guide Hombre, introduced last year, certainly nobody would call it a magazine for the Queer Eye for the Straight Guy set, sporting half-naked, buxom World Wrestling Entertainment diva Torrie Wilson on its September cover and a poker column starting in November. The end of the metrosexual surely won't hurt a magazine like FHM, but it won't necessarily help it either, Gramling said, explaining, "The vast majority of guys are still in the middle."

Magazine advertisers certainly seem to be turning their back on the metrosexual more and more. In place of underwear ads that look like the cover of Blueboy magazine, come ever-more-macho appeals, be they for the Hummer or moisturizer. Take a Jeep advertorial spread in Men's Journal mapping trips to adventurous destinations, or the magazine's Beefeater-sponsored guide of the best bars in London. "Marketers," said publisher Will Schenck, "are looking to reach real men."

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Goodbye, and Hello

TECHNICALLY THERE ARE STILL TWO WEEKS LEFT BEFORE THE START OF the fall season, but it's fair to say the summer is finally, thankfully, over. And what a terrible summer it has been, given the likes of—get the barfbag ready—ABC's The One: Making of a Music Star, How to Get the Guy.

Master of Champions and One Ocean View; CBS' The Tuesday Night Book Club; and NBC's Treasure Hunters and Windfall. Although no one ever said finding an audience in the summer was easy, garbage like this certainly did not fuel interest in the already depressed June through August TV landscape. Once again, the networks lost the opportunity to use strong summer programming to help launch the new fall season.

CBS couldn't even capitalize on its Big Brother franchise. Taking a page from Survivor, it created an "all-star" edition this summer, which did nothing to boost the fading fortunes of this reality show. It didn't work for Survivor, and it didn't work for this show. Just give viewers Ordinary Joes and Josephines looking for their 15 minutes and some cash, instead of jaded reality stars stretching those 900 seconds.

If most viewers are like me, however, they are ready to move on. There is one show that is getting a lot of preseason buzz-most of it negative. CBS' Survivor, this season set in the Cook Islands, New Zealand, is featuring a cast of 16 contestants, organized into four teams determined by race (White, African-American, Hispanic and Asian-American). I do think the network intended to drum up some publicity for the aging and deteriorating reality competition. But I don't think this is such a big deal. It won't be long before the teams are merged, and the races begin to mix. **ABC** is foolishly putting the insanely addictive Lost on a three-month hiatus in **November after just** six episodes

No one should get too bent out of shape.

What I am really looking forward to are the scripted shows. Like millions of others, I am eagerly awaiting the return of the insanely addictive Lost, hands down the best drama in prime time today. You never know what to expect on that roller coaster of absurdity. But ABC, which foolishly didn't heed my advice (Mr. TV, July 24), is putting Lost on a threemonth hiatus in mid-November after just six episodes to make room for new Taye Diggs drama Day Break (the story of a detective who is living the same hellacious day over and over again). If ABC really can't get enough episodes of Lost produced in time (a lame excuse in my opinion), I vote for a January premiere a la Fox's 24 so we can get 22 consecutive original episodes.

Remember, if you dangle something in front of a viewer, then take it away, you may lose that viewer. And that's something the networks don't want to do, not with so many other viewing options available.

Thankfully, though, ABC was wise enough to push new sitcoms Big Day and Notes From the Underbelly to midseason, which would have been brutally clobbered in the Thursday 8 p.m. hour, and replace them with the more promising Ugly Betty. Although Ugly Betty faces the potent Survivor: Cook Islands, HUT levels on Thursday are significantly higher than Friday. If the network is patient (and Fox comedies 'Til Death and Happy Hour fall flat), ABC could have something here.

I also find it odd that NBC chose to push the still relatively potent Medium to midseason instead of giving Law & Order: Criminal Intent (which lost its Sunday 9 p.m. time period to football in fourth quarter) a much needed rest. Do we really need two hours of Law & Order (Criminal Intent leading into SVU) on Tuesday? And I think moving veteran Law & Order to Friday at 10 p.m., which almost collapsed when it briefly relocated to Wednesday at 9 p.m. this spring (to make room for failed drama Heist), is a bad move. After 16 seasons, the mothership is too fragile to move, and lackluster ratings for repeats in the Friday time period this summer could demonstrate that CBS' competing Numb3rs will have the advantage. NBC should have put new drama Kidnapped on Friday and left Law & Order on Wednesday.

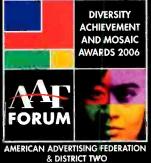
But as we have seen, network TV schedules seem to have become a perpetual work in progress. I fully expect to see changes as early as October. Nevertheless, I am excited to have a wide array of new options at my fingertips in just two weeks. As for what looks promising this fall, keep an eye on CBS' The Class and Shark and ABC's The Nine. And forget about ABC's The Knights of Prosperity and Men In Trees; CBS' Jericho and NBC's Friday Night Lights.

Rev up the remotes, and let the games begin!

Do you agree or disagree with Mr. TV? Please e-mail mberman@mediaweek.com and let him know if you would like your response published in an upcoming issue.

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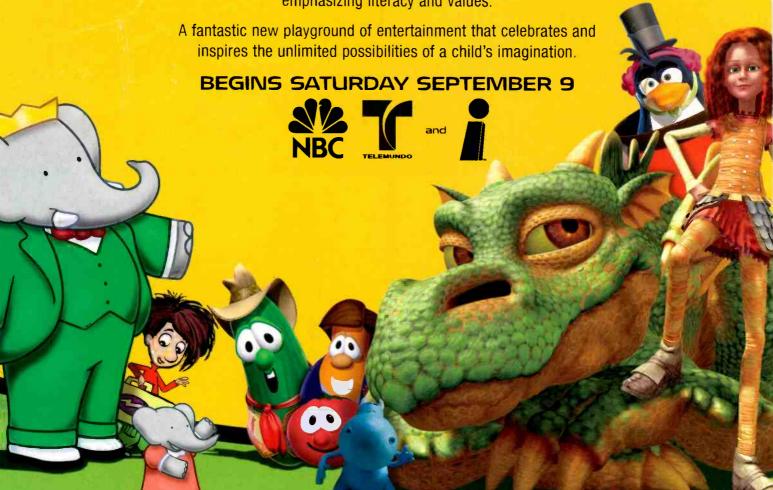




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THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE MEDIA

Cable Deals In to Upfront

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About 1 percent of spots are produced in high-def PAGE 6



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Shows That Matter

Do prime time's few remaining hits become more valuable to buyers as ratings decline?

By Eric Schmuckler

Upfront: Marketplace Analysis Special Report begins on page 22

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At Deadline

BATTLE OVER SHOCK PHOTO RAGES ON

The battle between Hachette Filipacchi Media and photographer Michael Yon over the use of Yon's Iraq War photo on the cover of Shock has heated up again, even though the two parties on June 2 were supposed to have reached an agreement. On June 9, Yon dissolved the deal, arguing the publisher had continued to use his image without permission. "I just don't see that they're dealing with us in good faith," Yon told Mediaweek. "The original agreement is scuttled." After some back-and-forth with the image on Shock's Web site, the image was taken down. You now contends the original cover should be taken off

the digital edition of Shock, available through Zinio. Yon also argued that his photo is being used in promotions in Canada and in the French version of the men's magazine without his permission. "We did not breach any part of the agreement that [Yon] publicly stated was acceptable to him," a Hachette representative said.

PPM ADDS FOUR NEW STATIONS

Four of the nation's largest radio groups last week signed multi-year contracts for Arbitron's portable people meter service, set to roll out in the top 50 markets. The four groups, Emmis Communications, Bonneville International, Greater Media and Lincoln Financial Media, join earlier signees CBS Radio, Spanish Broadcasting System and Beasley Broadcast Group. With the addition of the four new radio groups, Arbitron has now signed seven of the top 20 radio groups representing more than \$3.3 billion in radio revenue.

MYSPACE BUILDS AD-SAFE HUBS

MySpace plans to launch at least a dozen stand-alone programmed channels designed to offer advertisers more comfortable, and more policed

environments to reach the exceedingly popular social networking site's 70 million registered users. Already, MySpace has launched hubs geared for movie and book fans, with new channels for games and sports set to launch in the near future, according to Ross Levinsohn, president of Fox Interactive Media.

■ MOUNTAIN DEW PACTS WITH ADULT SWIM

Adult Swim will offer hip-hop fans a six-pack of free MP3s from Chocolate Industries artists like Lady Sovereign and Money Mark, beginning June 26.

Sponsored by Mountain Dew, the promotion marks the first ad sales initiative between Adult Swim and the beverage manufacturer. Adult Swim will drive viewers to a special "Chocolate Swim" micro site via on-air promotional spots that will begin running a week prior to the site launch. The site will feature branding for Mountain Dew's Code Red brand, as well as links to the company's home page. Since January 2005, Adult Swim has signed 90 new clients.

FAMILY FRIENDLY SUPPORTS FIVE PRIME SERIES

The Family Friendly Programming Forum has backed five new broadcast network prime-time series that

> were developed through the support of the Forum's Script Development Fund. The shows are ABC's Betty the Ugly, Notes from the Underbelly and Brothers & Sisters; NBC's Friday Night Lights and the CW's Runaway. The Forum is made up of more than 40 national advertisers, which represent about 30 percent of all TV ad dollars.

ADDENDA:

The focus of telecommunications legislation moves this week to the Senate, following House passage on last week of a bill to ease the way for Bell companies to offer TV services that compete with cable. Some senators vow to include measures to protect stance that could hinder passage... David Friend stepped down last week as senior vp of business news of holding down the network's top editorial post. Friend will be succeeded by Jonathan Wald, who most recently served as executive producer of On The Money...Comcast on June 9 began carrying

Philadelphia area....The radio industry's top 25 radio groups aren't expected to post revenue increases above 2.3 percent this year, according to a report from by BIA Financial Network, which also released a ranking of radio groups by 2005 revenue. Clear Channel, with 1,171 radio stations, remained the dominant group with revenue of more than \$3.5 billion...Thom Sherman, who headed ABC's drama development for five years before leaving to join producer J.J. Abrams' entertainment company, was named executive vp, drama development, for CW.

INSIDE

NBA's Stern shoots for

early extension

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the Internet that the House rejected, a at CNBC after three-and-a-half years ESPN2 HD, the high-def simulcast of ESPN2, in several markets, including San Jose, Calif., and the metro

Market **Indicators**

NATIONAL TV: SLOW All media agencies have registered budgets with the networks, but price negotiations are for the most part stalled. Both sides predict continued, protracted talks for weeks before upfront buying is totally done.

NET CABLE: STALLED With broadcast moving at a glacial pace, cable waits for its chance to jump into the marketplace. Talks are ongoing, but most networks report that clients have yet to register budgets.

SPOT TV: TIGHTENING The market continues to tighten, with political gathering momentum. Auto still flat. Telecom, movies, home improvement are active. Third and fourth quarter continue to be the focus of advertisers wishing to avoid the political crunch.

RADIO: RECOVERING Summer campaigns kicking in, including fast food, home improvement, auto aftermarket and financial. Overall, inventory is available, depending on station and daypart. Network segment is bouncing back after a slow start to the year.

MAGAZINES: GAINING Media category starting to pick up, due in part to campaigns in weekly magazines for new television shows. Travel also gaining in some financial and men's titles. Detroit starting to motor.

MEDIA WIRE

Reps Challenge Martin's Take on Digital Must-Carry

Powerful lawmakers last week warned Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin not to grant broadcasters space on cable systems for more than one digital TV channel.

Such a mandate would run counter to the market-oriented philosophy followed during the Bush administration, Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas), chair of the Commerce Committee and his top telecommunications deputy, Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), warned fellow Republican Martin in a letter last week. The lawmakers said consumer demand should decide what gets carried on cable systems rather than the federal agency.

Martin believes the public would get more programming if cable operators were required to carry all of each local broadcasters' multiple programming streams after the transition to digital TV in 2009. The FCC twice has voted that must-carry rules apply to just one channel per broadcaster.

The issue will likely remain a live one, at least for a while. The FCC last week set back by one week, to June 21, its monthly meeting. No reason was publicly given, but the delay would give the newest FCC commissioner, Republican Robert McDowell, three weeks on the job instead of two before casting his initial votes. —Todd Shields

Kaplan Abruptly Exits His Post as MSNBC President

After more than two years as president of MSNBC, Rick Kaplan last week announced his departure from the NBC-owned cable news network.

Kaplan, who was brought on to lead MSNBC after stints at ABC News and CNN, broke the news to his staffers in an internal e-mail in which he touted the network's 25 percent uptick in primetime viewership since he came aboard in February 2004. Neither Kaplan nor MSNBC elaborated on the impetus behind his exit.

NBC News president Steve Capus said an announcement regarding Kaplan's replacement will be forthcoming, but asked (Continued on page 6)

THE UPFRONT BY JOHN CONSOLI AND ANTHONY CRUPI

Cable Sneaks In Some Business

Fox, NBC, CW and CBS got a little dealing done, but the surprise is that Turner and MTVN did, too

ot to get all Discovery Channel about it, but while the broadcast networks stamped around the upfront marketplace last week like rival elephants scrapping over a shrinking watering hole in the midst of a drought, two major cable players made like gazelles and snuck some gulps of money under the pachyderms' trunks.

At week's end, sources familiar with the discussions privately confirmed to *Mediaweek* that Turner Entertainment completed its upfront business with Starcom, to the tune of about \$150 million. Earlier in the week, OMD and MTV Networks proudly proclaimed they had cut a significant multiplatform deal—neither party would confirm the dollar amount, but sources with knowledge of the deal said it valued roughly \$300 million.

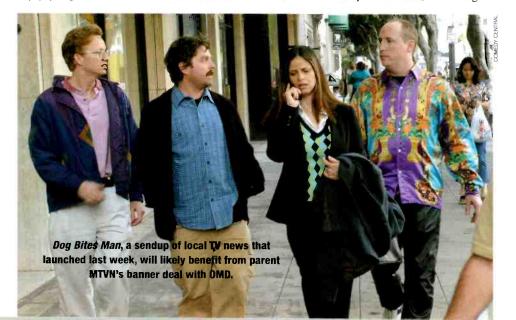
This isn't to say cable is going to drink up more dollars than expected—probably under \$7 billion in this year's upfront—but it does signal a change from the last few upfronts when the cable nets were made to wait until the broadcasters had drunk their fill.

The broadcast nets had started the week promisingly enough. Fox did some quick movie business at cost-per-thousand rate lifts as high as 4 percent, but the studios traditionally pay higher rates than other advertisers in exchange for selective positioning. And industry sources said Fox's negotiations with advertisers in other categories had stalled over price. CW was also cutting some smaller deals at flat pricing compared to what soon-to-be defunct WB charged in the last upfront.

But as the week progressed, it became clear the market was not going to pick up steam for the broadcast nets. NBC, the network least likely to get a spot at the watering hole—it is widely regarded as the weakest of the Big Four—actually did some business at significant CPM cuts (in the negative 6 percent range) to lay in a base of revenue, said buyers. OMD is reportedly one agency to have done business with NBC at negative CPMs.

ABC, which everyone expects to be the market leader, had still not written any business at press time, several media agencies said.

And there was plenty of misinformation going around, too. One broadcast network sales executive quipped, "I've stopped listening because I can't tell what is true or not true." For example, it wasn't clear at press time just what amount of business CBS had closed. The network was in serious conversations with Group M (MindShare, Mediaedge:cia, Media-Com) execs for much of last week, but hadn't sealed that deal by week's end, according to



insiders. "The agencies were trying to get CBS and the other networks to write business at negative CPMs compared to last year," said one agency executive.

But another network sales exec countered: "Neither the sellers nor the buyers are going to risk rushing to judgment and doing a bad deal." As of late Friday, all the agencies had registered budgets and sent the networks plans, but some had not yet even heard back from some of the sales teams.

Aside from the Turner/Starcom and MTVN/OMD deals—representing less than 7 percent of cable's expected upfront take—the cable upfront market remained all but dormant, too, with few clients even having registered budgets with the networks. "Unless you represent an endemic category, there have been very few budgets drawn up. Almost none," said an ad sales chief at a first-tier cable net. Among those registering budgets, some have cut back their spending this year.

MTV Networks' sweeping multi-network, multiplatform deal with OMD, however, has put the Viacom-owned properties in a better position than a few weeks ago. (Of that figure, about 10 percent has been earmarked for digital media.)

Merrill Lynch analyst Jessica Reif Cohen said that as cable's prime mover, MTV Networks may very well prove to be the big winner in this year's upfront. "Signing a relatively early deal is a positive indication that Viacom's digital platform could help the company outperform its competitors and the general marketplace," Cohen remarked in a note to investors. Viacom CEO Tom Freston said last month that anywhere from 5 percent to 8 percent of the company's upfront dollars this year would be tied to its digital properties—the timing of the OMD deal was the only wild card. "MTV really crashed the party here," said an ad sales exec from a rival younger-skewing network. "OMD got on board before it did much of anything on the broadcast side. That's different."

Joe Uva, president and CEO, OMD Worldwide, declined to comment on his rationale for moving quickly with MTVN, saying only that the deal guaranteed his clients, which include PepsiCo and Cingular, unparalleled access to a young, wired demo.

Details for the Turner/Starcom deal were sketchy, although a source suggested that that agreement also was bundled around a robust off-net package. Starcom clients include Miller Brewing and Macy's—a \$200 million newcomer to national TV.

The slow materialization of upfront sales was also affecting digital ad sales. "It's a continual flow of engagement, but it's too early to

talk about deals," said Alan Schanzer, managing partner of Mediaedge:cia's MEC Interaction. "TV buyers are getting engaged in negotiations and are bringing us in to evaluate digital inventory." But Schanzer said most digital deals are not going to get done until after the broadcast deals are finalized. "We're trying to not get in the way, while

talking to them on an ongoing basis," he said.

Sean Finnegan, U.S. director for OMD Digital, whose team helped put together the OMD/MTVN deal's digital components, said, "The networks are finally putting a lot of these packages together and are recognizing the behavior of the [digital] consumer."—with Mike Shields

TV SPORTS BY JOHN CONSOLI

Stern Fast-Tracks Talks

NBA commissioner wants to extend existing pacts

ational Basketball Association commissioner David Stern, buoyed by sizable ratings increases during the playoffs, said last week he would like to renew the league's current TV rights deals with partners ESPN/ABC and TNT by the end of this calendar year, which would be 18 months before the deals expire.

"It is our intention to sit down and see if we can extend the deals, and would like to do so with our current partners," Stern said in an exclusive interview with *Mediaweek*.

John Skipper, executive vp of content at ESPN/ABC Sports, said, "We have had some discussions and getting a new deal done by the end of this year is a doable time frame."

David Levy, president of Turner Sports, added, "We have every intention of continuing our relationship with the NBA."

Four years into the current six-year rights agreements, under which ESPN/ABC pays \$400 million annually, and TNT pays \$366 million per year, Stern said everything has come together in the playoffs. The networks are "in a good operating rhythm," he said, from each of their pre-game and in-game announcing teams, to on-air game presentation, to their willingness to cross-promote and drive audience to each others' games.

He said early extension conversations have taken place, but they have mainly been "generalities and us exchanging vows of loyalty and mutual admiration." The camaraderie of the partners could be seen on national TV when Stern was shown on camera in his courtside seats during ABC's telecast of the opening game of the NBA Championship in Dallas on June 8. ESPN/ABC Sports president George Bodenheimer was seated to his immediate right, and Levy was seated directly in front.

Stern said he believes a new rights deal should span between six and 10 years, and added that while he feels the NBA telecast rights are more valuable than they were when the current contract was negotiated, he



Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavericks pulled down a win in game one of the NBA finals last week

realizes that fee increases will be more modest than they have been in the past.

"We've learned from the NFL, Nascar and PGA deals that the days of high, annual double-digit increases are past," said Stern. "We are not looking to do something volcanic."

ESPN's regular season NBA telecast ratings were flat at 1.2 this season, while ABC's were down slightly from a 2.3 to a 2.2, but ESPN's playoff ratings were up 26 percent to a 3.3 from a 2.6, and ABC's playoff ratings lifted 11 percent to a 3.8 from a 3.4, heading into the finals. TNT's regular season ratings also were flat at 1.3, but its playoff ratings were up 4 percent to a 3.1. ABC's ratings for the Finals' game one, in which the Dallas Mavericks beat the Miami Heat, were up 8 percent to a 7.8 from a 7.2.

All parties see digital rights as playing a more important role in negotiations. "Since the last deal was done nearly five years ago, digital rights have become more of a focus with anyone wanting to do business with us," Stern said, adding that NBA digital rights "are a fertile, not yet strategically developed area."

Added Levy: "As we expand into video-ondemand and wireless, we would like to extend NBA programming along with our brand."

MEDIA WIRE

department heads to report to him in the meantime.

Despite some recent ratings gains—the news network grew its prime-time audience 14 percent in the first quarter of 2006—MSNBC remains a distant third to Fox News Channel and CNN. According to Nielsen Media Research, MSNBC's average prime-time audience in the first quarter of 2006 was 363,000, less than half of CNN's draw (783,000) and lagging far behind FNC's viewership (1.78 million). —Anthony Crupi

Time Inc.'s Meirs Weighs Magazines' Digital Destiny

The magazine business isn't going to be bowled over by the rapid advancement of disruptive technology, but publishers do need to respond, said Peter Meirs, Time Inc.'s director of alternative media technologies during a keynote address during last week's Meet the Innovators luncheon in New York, hosted by the Magazine Publishers of America.

One technological change that Meirs predicted will gain traction among consumers in the not-too-distant future will be electronic magazine-reading devices, which are in the works at companies like Toshiba and Kodak. "I believe it is going to happen within five years," he said.

Conversely, Meirs is less than bullish on companies like Zinio, which delivers complete digital reproductions of many major magazines to subscribers. "They haven't adapted," he said, pointing to the company's current delivery model, which requires its users to download a proprietary reader.

Among the other potential technological forces facing the publishing world, Meirs was far from enthused about magazine content appearing on cell phones. "I have no idea how to monetize mobile. It isn't a compelling experience [for users]." — Mike Shields

Cablevision Puts Its nDVR Roll Out on Hold Until Fall

Cablevision last week said it will delay the launch of its proposed network digital video recorder service until this fall, as part of an arrangement to accelerate the discovery (Continued on page 8) **WASHINGTON BY TODD SHIELDS**

Slime and Punishment

House OKs bill to boost indecency fines to \$325,000

Politicians and regulators say they still have plenty of work to do in addressing broadcast indecency, despite final congressional passage of a measure hiking fines tenfold.

The U.S. House on a 379 to 35 vote on



June 7 passed a bill to raise maximum fines to \$325,000. President Bush this week is expected to sign the measure that he said "will make television and radio more family-friendly."

The bill, which cleared the Senate in May, leaves unchanged federal stan-

dards for judging indecency. It omits aspects of earlier House-passed legislation such as lowering barriers to fining performers and jeopardizing repeat offenders' broadcast licenses. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas), called its final passage "a victory for children and families [that] will raise broadcast indecency fines to a meaningful level."

Some said the fines increase would not reform the airwaves. "If you think the TV in your family room is suddenly going to have every program cleaned up, you are mistaken," said Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.), a radio station owner. Walden said the bill does not affect cable or satellite programming. He said broadcasters need better guid-

ance from the Federal Communications Commission, which has decided that words that may draw a fine in some shows are acceptable in others, such as the use of the F-word in patriotic drama Saving Private Ryan.

Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), chair of the telecommunications subcommittee, said he would seek a meeting with the FCC to clarify standards. A gathering could be one of several venues for further action. Federal Communications Commission chairman Kevin Martin said the House vote "demonstrates that Congress...has a clear desire for a more meaningful enforcement of our indecency standard." Martin and Commissioner Deborah Tate said they want parents to have more control over programming—language that means support for à la carte, or channel-by-channel, subscriptions for cable TV.

As the House was passing its measure, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) introduced a bill that offers incentives aimed at spurring à la carte, saying it would lower bills and help parents fend off objectionable programming. "Watching cable is not always a family event," noted McCain. The National Cable & Telecommunications Association said Congress should not "disrupt a competitive marketplace."

McCain's bill now faces the uphill task of gaining inclusion in a broader Senate telecommunications bill that could bog down amid controversy on a wide range of issues, including safeguards for the Internet.

TELEVISION BY LAURA BLUM AND STEVE MCCLELLAN

Ad Interruptus

Despite rise of HDTV content, few ads made in medium

picture this: You're kicking back on the couch watching a ball game on your new high-definition TV. The clarity is stunning. Then comes the first commercial, and you remember just how lousy TV can look.

That's because experts estimate that less than 1 percent of all TV ads are produced in the HD format today, a fact that's hard to ignore if you're among the 20 percent of American consumers with an HD set. "We spend a great deal of time thinking about

media strategies that erase the signals that make people aware of commercials," said Pete Demas, vp., director at MediaVest branded entertainment unit Connective Tissue. "Could there be anything more jarring than seeing your beautiful 50-inch HD image slamming into a [standard definition] ad?"

Probably not, agreed Forrester Research principal analyst Josh Bernoff: "What they're basically saying is, 'This is a commercial, so you don't have to watch.'"

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Source: MRI Spring 2006 vs. MRI Spring 2005 * MRI measured magazines

MEDIA WIRE

phase of a copyright lawsuit brought against the cable operator by a number of networks and studios.

In a court filing released June 7, Cablevision agreed it will not launch its nDVR service "pending resolution by the Court of the question of liability in this action." A company representative said that in electing to hold off on the nDVR launch, which had been scheduled for this month, attorneys on both sides agreed to speed up pretrial actions that could have taken years to resolve. A hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York will begin on Oct. 30 or 31.

In May, a group of powerful programmers, including broadcast nets ABC, CBS and NBC, sued Cablevision over its nDVR proposal, charging that it would violate their copyrights. Cablevision filed a counterclaim, saying nDVR was protected by fair-use precedents. —AC

OPA Reports the Web Can Help Extend TV's Reach

The Internet can significantly extend the reach delivered by TV when the two media are used in tandem, says a new study released last week by the Online Publishers Association derived from extensive in-person observations and interviews with 350 subjects.

For example, during the early morning, a TV advertiser could potentially reach 42 percent of its target audience with TV. Adding the Web into the mix results in a increase of 51 percent, yielding a new figure of 62 percent. And during the afternoon, the Web can increase TV's reach by 42 percent. The same effect is seen when the Web is combined with consumer magazines, which can double reach numbers, says the OPA.

The new research project, dubbed "A Day in the Life: An Ethnographic Study of Media Consumption," was conducted by Ball State University's Center for Media Design last spring, when 350 individuals had their media consumption chronicled through roughly 80 percent of their waking day.

The study found the Internet to be a primary medium for most users, ranking No. 1 in usage for users at work and second only to TV at home. —MS

It's hard to determine how many ads are now shot in HD. An ABC rep said the network had aired 425 HD spots between August 2005 and May 2006, or an average of 1.4 spots per day. By comparison, each of the four broadcast nets shows an average of 600 ads a day, per Nielsen Monitor-Plus. But nearly all prime-time network schedules are now shot in HDTV, as are a growing number of daytime and sports programs, such as the Super Bowl.

Given the high price of Super Bowl spots (an average \$2.4 million per 30 seconds in the 2006 game) and the \$1 million or more that most clients spend making in-game ads, surprisingly, only 60 percent of this year's Super Bowl ads were in HD, according to ABC.

Mark Cuban, who co-founded HDNet, a niche cable net with all-HD programming, sees the issue this way: "Agency employees don't have HD at home. Where you find agencies with HDTV penetration, they push for HD. Where not, not."

But others argue that the case isn't so

black-and-white. Peter Gardiner, chief media officer at Deutsch, says the medium simply has not reached critical mass. "You have to have the high-def distribution with the viewership to justify the incremental costs. Consumers aren't sitting around saying, 'Gee, where are my high-def ads?"

Though some research indicates consumers may be noticing, another issue is cost. Dennis Bannon, vp, exec producer at Leo Burnett, says producing in HD can ratchet budgets up to 20 percent. And given that HD spots will only air where there's HD programming, "it's not worth the extra money."

David Perry, director of broadcast production at Saatchi & Saatchi New York, disagrees. He says there are many reasons why HD ads haven't caught on, but argues that cost shouldn't be one of them. Perry cited a production-cost survey by the American Association of Advertising Agencies that concluded the incremental cost for finishing a 35 mm film ad in HD is a modest \$10,000.

OUTDOOR BY KATY BACHMAN

Times Square West

CC, Westgate strike eye-popping out-of-home deal

ew York's Times Square is getting a desert town-rival. Clear Channel Spectacolor, a division of Clear Channel Outdoor, today will announce a partnership with the developer of the Westgate City Center, a new urban development in Glendale, Ariz., that will occupy a full square mile just west of fast-growing Phoenix. In addition to taking an equity position in the unique project, the 30-year deal gives Clear Channel the rights to manage and lease the largest collective grouping of out-of-home media outside of Times Square.

The Westgate signage will sport the latest in high-tech, eye-popping spectaculars. For the first phase of Westgate's development, due to wrap in November, Clear Channel is erecting more than 30 electronic signs up to 100 feet high with 80-foot wide panels. All the outdoor media at Westgate, including the more traditional outdoor street-furniture and bulletins, are designed to blend into the architecture and landscape of the center's 500,000 square feet of shops, restaurants, offices, theater complex, convention center, Glendale Arena and the new Arizona Cardinals stadium.

"This isn't just about selling a sign," said Dan Jasper, vp of Spectacolor's branded cities business group, which is already in discussions with several national advertisers. "We have the opportunity to create a strong brand platform for advertisers."

Combining marketing with a business deal, companies can get both category exclusivity in advertising and preferred-provider rights. "With the ability to integrate their products and services into the community itself, we are moving into a new world of truly integrated marketing," said Steve Ellman, chairman and CEO of The Ellman Cos., who refers to Westgate as Times Square West. For example, telecom provider Qwest, in a seven-figure deal, will not only have an advertising presence in Westgate, it also has the exclusive telecommunications rights for the development.



of outdoor media outside of Times Square.

Fields Served: Au

Recreation

Employees: 135

Chrmn./CEO Pres./COO

Exec. Vice Pres

Exec. Vice Pres./

Exec. Vice Pres. Exec. Vice Prope

Specialty, In Buying/Place

Relations, Sa

Planning/Mai

Fields Served:

Food, Insuran

Communicati

Employees: 4

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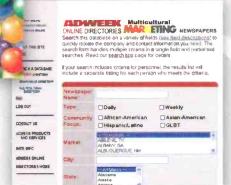
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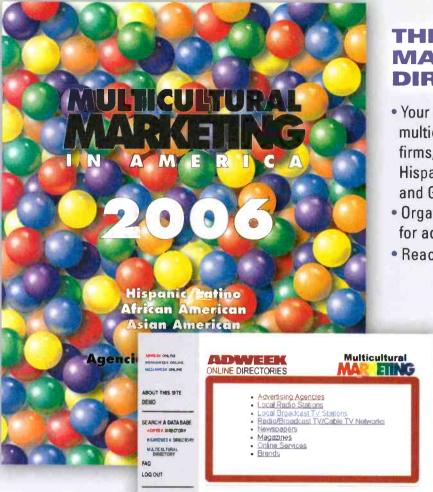
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market profile

SCARBOROUGH PROFILE

COMPARISON OF ALBUQUERQUE

To the Top 50 Market Average

TOP	50 MARKET AVERAGE %	ALBUQUERQUE COMPOSITION %	ALBUQUERQUE INDE)
DEMOGRAPHICS			
Age 18-34	31	30	99
Age 35-54	40	39	98
Age 55+	30	31	104
HHI \$75,000+	35	20	58
College Graduate	14	10	74
Any Postgraduate Work	12	12	100
Professional/Managerial	27	24	92
African American	12	#	
Hispanic	15	36	239
MEDIA USAGE-AVERAGE AUDIENCE	S*		
Read Any Daily Newspaper	51	40	78
Read Any Sunday Newspaper	58	44	7
Total Radio Morning Drive M-F	21	18	86
Total Radio Afternoon Drive M-F	18	15	88
Total TV Early News M-F	28	31	110
Total TV Prime Time M-Sun	39	37	9
Total Cable Prime Time M-Sun	15	15	100
MEDIA USAGE-CUME AUDIENCES**			
Read Any Daily Newspaper	70	60	86
Read Any Sunday Newspaper	72	58	8
Total Radio Morning Drive M-F	73	69	9.
Total Radio Afternoon Drive M-F	71	65	9
Total TV Early News M-F	69	72	10
Total TV Prime Time M-Sun	91	91	10
Total Cable Prime Time M-Sun	62	62	10
MEDIA USAGE-OTHER			
Accessed Internet Past 30 Days	63	59	94
HOME TECHNOLOGY			
Owns a Personal Computer	68	69	1.03
Purchase Using Internet Past 12 Month	ns 46	46	10
HH Connected to Cable	64	46	7
HH Connected to Satellite/Microwave I	Dish 24	31	13
HH Uses Broadband Internet Connection	on 37	25	6

#Respondent level too low to report. "Media Audiences-Average: average Issue readers for newspapers; average quarter-hour listeners within a specific daypart for radio; average half-hour viewers within a specific daypart for TV and cable "Media Audiences-Cume: 5-issue cume readers for daily newspapers; 4-issue cume readers for Sunday newspapers; cume of all listeners within a specific daypart for radio; cume of all viewers within a specific daypart for TV and cable.

Source: 2005 Scarborough Research Top 50 Market Report (August 2004-September 2005)

outlying communities. The two stations also sell local advertising on their satellite outlets.

The market's ABC, NBC and CBS affiliates are in a tight race in both revenue and ratings. In households, KRQE edges the competition in late news when the stations go head to head. For instance, KRQE earned a 10.1 rating/18 share in the May sweeps, well ahead of its rivals (see Nielsen chart on page 16).

However, KRQE does not compete directly in evening news with either KOAT or NBC affiliate KOB.

KRQE is driving to become more competitive in the mornings. KRQE's chief meteorologist Mike Hernandez, who currently does the 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. news, is moving to mornings. As part of that a.m. push, 20-year KRQE veteran Mike Powers, last year moved

from sports director to morning co-anchor. The station also hired Mark Ronchetti as its new chief meteorologist. Ronchetti, formerly meteorologist at rival KOAT, left the market to join KOIN-TV in Portland, Ore. Last December, LIN closed on its purchase of KRQE and four other stations from Emmis Communications for \$260 million.

KOAT, which airs shows like *Oprah*, *Regis* & *Kelly* and *Entertainment Tonight*, covers the outlying communities through its six news bureaus across the state, more than any other station in the market. It also has the market's only on-site chopper, says KOAT president/gin Mary Lynn Roper.

Meanwhile, KASA has a five-year-old partnership in which KOB produces its hour-long 9 p.m. late news, which is the only contender in the time period. This fall, KASA will launch several new shows in syndication, including Scrubs, According to Jim and Still Standing, and daytime shows Dr. Keith Ablow, Christina's Court and The Greg Behrendt Show, says KASA's Steffens, a 26-year market veteran.

Acme Communications owns market duopoly KASY-TV, the current UPN affiliate, and KRWB-TV, the current WB affiliate. With those two networks merging to form the CW network, KRWB will become the market's CW outlet, while KASY will become an affiliate of MyNetworkTV.

Dom Zarrella, program director for KASY and KRWB, says KASY will likely launch a show that will showcase a high school game-of-the-week from a local school. The program will air Sunday nights, he says. With no professional sports team in the state, high school sports and the University of New Mexico are hugely popular among area residents.

KRWB plans to pick up *Friends* (currently on KASA), as a double run from 9-10 p.m. *My Wife and Kids* will move from 9-10 p.m. on KRWB to KASY.

Albuquerque has a sizeable Hispanic population at 42.9 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. However, it is a very diverse population in that many have lived here for five or six generations and primarily speak English, while others may have just immigrated in recent weeks. For those who prefer to watch their news in Spanish, Entravision Communications' Univision affiliate KLUZ-TV produces the only local, Spanish-language newscasts at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Univision Communications owns Tele-Futura affiliate KTFQ, while Ramar Communications owns Telemundo affiliate



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1) Scurce: MRI Fall 2005: Ease Adults 18+, Rank based on % composition among past 3-day viewn_, == in both HHI \$75k+ and \$-00k+ homes and #3 in all of cache for medium == #8.

SCRIPPS NETWORKS

market profile

KTEL-TV, licensed out of Carlsbad, N.M. (Sales for KTEL are handled out of Ramar's headquarters in Lubbock, Texas).

Cable penetration in the Albuquerque-Santa Fe market is hampered by the same geographic difficulties faced by the broadcast TV stations. As a result, cable penetration is among the lowest in the country at a paltry 46 percent, according to Scarborough Research. For those same reasons, the market ranks No. 1 among metered markets for satellite and other alternate delivery systems in the country, with a penetration of 33 percent, according to Scarborough.

Comcast is the dominant cable service provider in the market. Its ad sales arm, Comcast Spotlight, serves as the local interconnect. Spotlight reaches 248,460 subscribers, or 96 percent of all wired cable homes in the DMA.

The nation's very first newspaper joint operating agreement originated in Albuquerque in 1933. The local Lang family owns the dominant JOA partner, the morning Albuquerque Journal, while E.W. Scripps owns the other JOA partner, The Albuquerque Tribune. The JOA partnership controls the business functions for both newspapers, although they compete with each other in newsgathering. The pact is set to expire in 2022. Executives at the Journal could not be reached for comment.

The smaller Tribune does not publish a Sunday edition. "We're an afternoon newspaper and there aren't a lot of them anymore," says Tribune editor Phill Casaus.

Casaus says that while declining circulation is a concern, he is optimistic that Albuquerque will retain its two voices. He says Scripps, which has owned the Tribune since 1923, has been very supportive.

The Tribune is enjoying growth in the online space. Last summer, the paper revamped its main Web site, abqtrib.com, with a new look and more relevant content, says Casaus. The *Tribune* also began offering podcasts, a first for the paper, and is breaking more news online, he says. "We used to think



tacular that Albuquerque hosts every spring.

www.vodisnottheenditsthebeginning.com

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that we were running newspapers," says Casaus. "Now we're running a media platform, and that is a 24-hour operation."

The paper hopes to attract more online users and advertisers in a new venture in the offing that would allow area residents to post their children's birth announcements for free, says Casaus. In recent years, many local newspapers, including the Tribune, ended their birth announcement sections after hospitals stopped sending out the information because of concerns over federal medical privacy regulations. Casaus says he hopes to roll out the new service in the next few months.

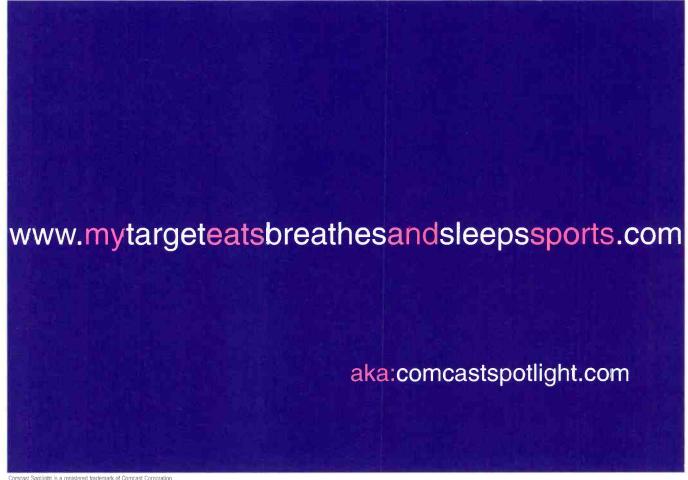
Casaus also says the paper is in the process of hiring additional staff for its arts/features/culture section known as La Vida. An Albuquerque native, Casaus says he wants the section to showcase Albuquerque's burgeoning arts and entertainment scene.

Neither of the Albuquerque newspapers filed their publisher's statements in time to be included in the most recent FAS-FAX report (March 31). The Journal had an aver-

NEWSPAPERS: THE ABCS

C	DAILY RCULATION	SUNDAY CIRCULATION	DAILY MARKET PENETRATION	SUNDAY MARKET PENETRATION
Bernalillo County: 234,986 h	Households			
Albuquerque Journal	70,132	102,057	29.8%	43.4%
The Albuquerque Tribune	11,941		5.1%	
Santa Fe County: 57,131 Ho	useholds			
The Santa Fe New Mexican	21,297	21,297	37.3%	37.3%
Albuquerque Journal	6,078	6,635	10.6%	11.6%
Sandoval County: 35,625 Ho	ouseholds			
The (Farmington) Daily Times	16,823	18,576	49.5%	54.7%
Albuquerque Journal	9,378	14,715	26.3%	41.3%
The Albuquerque Tribune	831		2.3%	
Valencia County: 23,644 Ho	useholds			
Albuquerque Journal	4,277	6,287	18.1%	26.6%
McKinley County: 21,064 Ho	ouseholds			
The Gallup Independent	8,257	9,876	39.8%	47.6%
Albuquerque Journal	1,366	1,620	6.5%	7.7%

Data is based on audited numbers published in the Audit Bureau of Circulationsi Spring 2006 County Penetration Report.



Comcast Spotlight is a registered trademark of Comcast Corporation

market profile

age paid circ Monday-Saturday of 106,878 for the six-month period ended Sept. 30, 2005. The Sunday *Journal's* circ was 149,443. The *Tribune's* daily circ was 11,960.

While the *Tribune* and *Journal* are news rivals in Albuquerque, they also compete with

The Santa Fe New Mexican in that part of the market. The newspaper, owned by the McKinney family of New Mexico, bills itself as the West's oldest newspaper, serving Santa Fe and northern New Mexico since 1849. The family also owns weekly newspaper, The

Taos News. Other local publications include the New Mexico Business Weekly and alternative Weekly Alibi. The market also supports several Spanish-language and bilingual weeklies including El Hispano News (the market's oldest in that category), La Razon, El Semanario and La Voz de la Nuevo Mexico, which is published by The Santa Fe New Mexican.

Fronteras, a Spanish-language weekly that had been published by a subsidiary of the Albuquerque Journal, ceased publishing after a year in December 2005.

In radio, the main broadcasters include Citadel Communications, Clear Channel Communications, Univision and American General Media. Albuquerque and Santa Fe are separate radio markets, ranked 70th and 236th respectively. That said, some Santa Fe stations are among Albuquerque's most listened-to stations, including Univision's Hip-Hop KKSS-FM, its sister Spanish Oldies station KKRG-FM and American General Media's Classical KHFM-FM.

Citadel's News/Talk KKOB-AM is the perennial leader in both ratings and revenue. The station earned a 7.6 average-quarter-hour share (in listeners 12-plus) in the winter 2006 Arbitron survey, well ahead of second place American General's Regional Mexican KLVO-FM, which earned a 5.6 share, and third-ranked KKSS, which got a 4.9 share.

KKOB, which airs University of New Mexico sports and the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys games, earned \$6.6 million in 2005, according to BIA Financial Network estimates, besting siblings Soft Adult Contemporary KMGA-FM (\$3.2 million) and Country KRST-FM (\$3.1 million).

Citadel owns eight radio stations in the market, although it recently put one of those, Classic Rock KBZU-FM, into Last Bastion Station Trust. Eleven Citadel stations were placed in the trust to be sold as part of the company's acquisition of ABC Radio, pending the Federal Communications Commission's approval. The trust is being operated independently by Media Venture Partners.

Among recent changes in the market, in March, Univision launched KKRG-FM, "Recuerdo 105.1," a Spanish Oldies format. The station primarily targets the adults 18-49 and 18-34 demographics.

Clear Channel Communications dominates the local outdoor market, which saw \$18.5 million in revenue in 2005, flat with its 2004 level, according to Nielsen Monitor-Plus. CC offers bulletins and 30-sheet poster panels. The major thoroughfares that run through Albuquerque are I-40 and I-25.

ARBITRON RADIO OWNERSHIP

STATIONS	AVG. QTRHOUR SHARE	REVENUE (IN MILLIONS)	SHARE OF TOTAL
3 AM, 4 FM	54.6	\$18.0	38.2%
1 AM, 6 FM	21.9	\$11.0	23.3%
5 FM	14.4	\$7.4	15.6%
5 FM	14.4	\$5.4	11.4%
1 FM	1.7	\$1.2	2.6%
1 AM, 1 FM	2.4	\$1.1	2.2%
2 AM	2.7	\$0.7	1.5%
1 FM	1.5	\$0.7	1.5%
	3 AM, 4 FM 1 AM, 6 FM 5 FM 5 FM 1 FM 1 AM, 1 FM 2 AM	STATIONS SHARE 3 AM, 4 FM 54.6 1 AM, 6 FM 21.9 5 FM 14.4 5 FM 14.4 1 FM 1.7 1 AM, 1 FM 2.4 2 AM 2.7	STATIONS SHARE (IN MILLIONS) 3 AM, 4 FM 54.6 \$18.0 1 AM, 6 FM 21.9 \$11.0 5 FM 14.4 \$7.4 5 FM 14.4 \$5.4 1 FM 1.7 \$1.2 1 AM, 1 FM 2.4 \$1.1 2 AM 2.7 \$0.7

Includes only stations with significant registration in Arbitron diary returns and licensed in Albuquerque or Immediate area. Some stations also rated in Santa Fe. Share data from Arbitron Winter 2006 book; revenue and owner information provided by BIA Financial Network.

NIELSEN RATINGS/ALBUQUERQUE

EVENING AND LATE-NEWS DAYPARTS, WEEKDAYS

TIME	NETWORK	STATION	RATING	SHARE
4-4:30 p.m.	CBS	KRQE+	3.9	10
	NBC	KOB+	2.7	7
4;30-5 p.m.	CBS	KRQE+	4.5	10
5-5:30 p.m.	ABC	KOAT+	6.2	13
	NBC.	KOB+	4.5	9
	Fox	KASA*	2.6	5
	Univision	KLUZ	24	5
	WB	KWBQ+	1.4	3
	Telemundo	KTEL+*	1.2	3
	UPN	KASY*	0.8	2
5:30-6 p.m.	CBS	KRQE+	6.6	13
6-6:30 p.m,	CBS	KRQE+*	8.1	15
	ABC	KOAT+	5.9	11
	NBC	KQB+	6.2	11
	Univision	KLUZ*	3.5	6
	WB	KWBQ+*	2.7	5
	Fox	KASA*	1.8	3
	UPN	KASY*	1.3	2
	Telemundo	KTEL+	0.2	#
ate News				
9-10 p.m.	Fox	KASA	3.5	6
10-1,0:30 p.m.	CBS	KRQE+	10.1	18
	ABC	KOAT+	7.6	14
	NBC	KOB+	7.6	14
	Fox	KASA*	2.5	4
	Univision	KLUZ	2.4	4
	WB	KWBQ+*	2.1	4
	UPN	KASY*	0.7	1
	Telemundo	KTEL+**	0.4	1

*Non-news programming. **National News. #Below minimum reportable level. *Parent station plus satellite/repeater station. Source: Nielsen Media Research, May 2006

IDEAS. THEY ARE WHAT EVERYONE
EVERYWHERE IS LOOKING FOR.
FIND OUT WHY MAGAZINES ARE
WHERE THEY LOOK FIRST.



WHODUNIT?

WAS IT A TEENAGER DREAMING OF HIS

FUTURE RIDE? OR A RECENTLY PROMOTED

EXECUTIVE READY TO STEP INTO THE BIG TIME?

EITHER WAY, AN IMAGE IN A MAGAZINE DOESN'T STAY PUT. IT MOVES FROM THE PAGE TO THE MIND. AND SOMETIMES, TO THE GARAGE.





Unbelievable as it

may seem, a play can

be seen only by a few

hundred people at a

technology.

time, due to primitive

MEDIA PERSON LEWIS GROSSBERGER

New Stage of Evolution

MEDIA PERSON HAS LONG championed the invasion by advertising of virgin territory, believing as he does that ultimately advertising must be present in every facet of human life, awake and asleep, for America to fulfill its manifest destiny. Thus MP was greatly cheered by the news that commercials have come to the theater.

So far it's merely a bridgehead, but from tiny bridges grow gigantic heads, as Kierkegaard used to say. Or perhaps Wittgenstein. One of those guys.

An audience recently assembled for an off-Broadway play titled *Stomp* (MP isn't sure but he thinks it's about a herd of renegade elephants stampeding through a pygmy village) was treated to a bit of precurtain dramaturgy featuring live actors who extolled the virtues of London as a tourist destination. (This had been arranged by an outfit called Visit London.) Voila! The first live theater commercial known to mankind.

That the audience did not boo, hurl rotten fruit, storm the stage, hang the actors upside down and mutilate their bodies must be considered a promising omen for the theatrical advertising concept. However, Media Person believes it may be a bit soon to take a shot at Broadway,

where theatergoers are still digesting the "premier ticket" strategy, i.e., being charged \$250 for the better seats.

Nonetheless, that is the obvious target and the logical end result: commercials not only on Broadway but in London's West End, in touring companies, in summer stock, in high school, college and amateur productions everywhere. The men and women of advertising must

prepare! They must study the new and challenging medium of theater to ready themselves for the coming revolution. And as always, Media Person stands ready to help. Here then, MP's Short Course in the Theatrical Arts for Advertising Personnel:

What Is Theater? It's an entertainment medium very much like the movies except there is no screen up front and no popcorn sold in the lobby. Etiquette note: Sometimes it can be hard to tell when the show is over because the closing of the curtains may signal only something called an "intermission" and that is not the proper

time to go home.

What Is a Play? A play is similar to a TV series episode except it's a bit longer, very talky and may contain something called "an idea," an obsolete tradition that producers retain only to humor the writers. Some curious facts: For some bizarre reason, there is only one writer for each play. And no executive producers. Unbelievable as it may seem, a play can be seen only by a few hundred people at a time, due to primitive technology. But a successful play may be in rerun for years.

What Is a Curtain? A curtain is a large piece of fabric that is used in place of a credit roll to cue the audience to provide applause, without which a play cannot end.

What Is the History of the Theater? Oh, who cares? Aeschylus, Shakespeare, O'Neill, Molière, Elton John, blah blah blah. Next question.

O.K., How Do I Exploit This Thing? Ferociously! Here are some examples. Let's say you have the Cialis account. First thing you do, you go out, you sew up all the advertising rights to *Hamlet*, a famous play about a very depressed guy who is always wondering whether to do himself in or not. After the contracts are signed, whenever *Hamlet* plays anywhere, at some point, the lead character comes out, sits on the lip of the stage and says, "To be or not to be? Hey, I don't even ask myself that anymore. With Cialis, I'm like, be, be, be all the way. Hey, Ophelia! C'mere, babe." (You might also want to think about selling the product in the theater lobby after the performance.)

Cialis might also do wonders for the hero of the current Broadway revival of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, a rather sad and no doubt unfulfilled fellow, but that otherwise jolly musical would be the perfect venue to pitch Tabasco sauce, no? Imagine Sweeney's pal, the unlovely Mrs. Lovett, dropping a few lines about how meat-pie sales have skyrocketed since she started providing customers with the popular hot sauce, previously unknown in 19th-century London.

Or say you have Jeep Wrangler for a client. Oh, does Media Person have a show for you! Can't you just see Tarzan himself, star of that big, green Disney musical, driving the product right onto the stage? As he does, he sings: No more stupid vines for me/I've something better now, you see/Don't need to swing from tree to tree/I'm going ape over my new SUV. In the background, you might consider a kickline of female gorillas showing a lot of leg—but that is your choice. Media Person doesn't want to crimp anyone's creativity.



OPINION ARTHUR A. ANDERSON

Trading Spaces

Backed by Wal-Mart, the time for an e-media marketplace is now

THE POSSIBILITY OF AN online auction trading exchange matching buyers and sellers of media inventory is here. Championed by the Association of National Advertisers and backed by Wal-Mart and other big media spenders, this is good news indeed. It is even better news that senior media agency executives are involved in this supportive dialogue.

It would be even better news if media sellers also got on board by engaging in supportive dialogue with their advertiser customers and their media agency intermediaries. After all, is not the customer (media user) king?

This is a big idea whose time has come, and the ANA is to be complimented in moving it along. It is now a much more substantive organization that can look at the merit of ideas, even if a particular individual member may not support it due to its particular point of view. The beauty of a good idea is that it is universal. After all, it's not who's right, but what's right.

I was a pioneer in the 1970's in launching the first full-service discount stock brokerage firm. The New York Stock Exchange yelled bloody murder, necessitating a rule by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which enjoined the NYSE from trying to prevent an idea whose time had come. Instrumental to making the discount stock brokerage idea work was the then-new NASDAQ electronic marketplace, which traded NYSE-listed stocks between nonmembers of the exchange.

Every big idea has a compelling difference. The compelling difference for discount stock brokerage was that stock buys and sells had a transaction cost unrelated to the NYSE's fixed commission cost. The true transaction cost was related to processing (computer) costs and not to the value or amount of the transaction itself. Whereas the NYSE charged a minimum (monopoly) commission based on price and volume, a discount stock brokerage charged a price per transaction, regardless of the number of shares or price. The only variable, given an efficient market, was the cost of overnight capital, or the carry cost. The transactional cost of the buy/sell was unbundled from the value or amount of the transaction.

The compelling difference of an online media marketplace is that the negotiating cost of the transaction is not the salary of the people to negotiate and approve the transaction, plus related overhead and process costs, but rather the execution (computer) cost, the intellectual capital that goes into deciding what to pay and when, and the carry cost if any. I believe that this will simplify and revolutionize media buying and selling and in due course, everyone, once adjusted to the new scenario, will prosper: media owners, sellers, buyers and intermediaries.

In today's environment, the cost of entry is low if there are enough players (advertisers) and media sellers to get a pilot off the ground. As envisioned by Wal-Mart's Julie Roehm and her task force, \$50 million in media inventory to begin with is loose change when the names also include Hewlett-Packard, Mars, Microsoft, Philips and Lexus. These companies alone spend billions in measured media every year. When others join in, \$50 million is a blip on the media-spending screen. It would appear that the TV networks are not part of the initial planning, but I suspect they will be when they see new profit opportunities for themselves inherent in this effort.

Moving forward, expect the following scenarios:

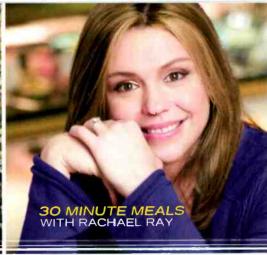
- Large agencies and holding companies may develop new, large revenue streams from "media trading" for their own account (as disclosed principals, not agents, to their clients). It enables the holding companies to use their knowledge in a way that increases their profit margins and adds liquidity to the marketplace. Who knows, maybe agencies will work for clients without any profit margin because the trading opportunities are so attractive. The analogy here would be the trading departments of the better known investment banking firms such as Goldman Sachs.
- Risk-oriented private equity firms and hedge funds enter the space to take risk, use their own capital and make money. Goldman Sachs has more loss days in its trading operations than profit days, but when all is netted out, the firm makes tremendous annualized profits from its trading operations.
- There will be derivative instruments, much like the new one for hedging and speculating on the housing market on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. I can see afficionados of *American Idol* seeing the power of this programming early on and putting their investment dollars to work where their hearts and their business savvy are.

Let the media exchange begin, and let many advertisers collaborate in this effort.

Arthur A. Anderson is a managing principal of Morgan Anderson Consulting, New York, marketing communications management consultants. He can be reached at aanderson@morgananderson.com.







THEIR BEAUTY IS IN THEIR RATINGS

FOLLOWING THEM FROM WEEKENDS TO WEEKDAYS, LOYAL FEMALE VIEWERS HAVE PUT EVERYDAY ITALIAN, PAULA'S HOME COOKING AND 30 MINUTE MEALS AMONG THE TOP 5 SHOWS IN THEIR DAYTIME AND FRINGE SLOTS!

DRAWING TALENT THAT DRAWS RATINGS. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING.



Ratings are consistently strong across all dayparts, but the beauty of weekend daytime is that it's even higher than prime. It's an opportunity to reach the audience just as they're poised to do the heaviest shopping of the week. -Karen Grinthal SVP, Ad Sales

Food Network Programming and Marketing Opportunities

Food Network's marketing platforms include targeted promotions, convergent opportunities and cross-channel visibility across Scripps Networks. Season's Eatings, Chocolate Obsession, Primetime In the Kitchen and Wedding Weekend all return, while franchises Iron Chef America, The Next Food Network Star and Food Network Challenge provide a highly effective showcase for your message.

Quarterly promotions Dine-In, Dine-Out and Ultimate BBQ. along with customized vignettes like Food Bytes and A Good Taste strengthen your association with our brand. New in 2007, the Food Network Awards delivers a fun, slightly irreverent tribute to innovators in the food world.

Food Network's programming lineup is enjoying unprecedented popularity. In The Kitchen ratings

FOOD NETWORK 1180 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 Launched: 1993 (acquired by Scripps Networks in 1997) Coverage: 89 Million HH Key Demographics: Adults 25-54

Program Franchises: Iron Chef America, Paula's Home Cooking, Everyday Italian with Giada De Laurentiis, Rachael Ray's 30 Minute Meals, Barefoot Contessa, The Next Food Network Star, Food Network Challenge

Other Cable Network Affiliations: Food Network is a subsidiary of Scripps Networks. which includes HGTV, DIY Network, FINE LIVING and Great American Country

grabbers Everyday Italian and Barefoot Contessa have paved the way for Nigella Lawson's Nigella Feasts and Healthy Appetite with Ellie Krieger. In primetime, Emeril Lagasse and Alton Brown are joined by Ham on the Street's George Duran, who serves food facts funny side up, and Duff Goldman, who combines sculpting with baking in Cake It to the Limit. In Throwdown with Bobby Flay, the popular host challenges unknown chefs to a culinary "OK Corral" and Paula Deen heads to primetime for Paula's Cooking Party.

Specials Trick or Treat Weekend, Season's Eatings and The Next Food Network Star all return, joined by the four-part Giada in Paradise and an all-new edition of Chefography.

Food Network. Beauty and the feast, all day, every day.

President: Brooke Johnson Head of Sales: Karen Grinthal Marketing: Laura Galietta, VP, Ad Sales Marketing: Michael Smith, SVP, Marketing & Creative Services; Susie Fogelson, VP. Consumer Marketing Head of Programming: Bob Tuschman Head of PR: Mark O'Connor

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT FOODNETWORKADSALES.COM

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LETTERS

Editor's Note: Effective with this Letters column, Mediaweek will now include letters responding to stories on mediaweek.com.

Showtime Deserves Support

I just read your Mediaweek.com article on Les Moonves' comments about Showtime

Dip in Upfront Dollars Likely

[Mediaweek.com, May 30]. All I can say is, I'm glad I don't work for him. Aside from the fact that he probably did nothing to make current Showtime employees feel very good about the work they do, I have to wonder if Mr. Moonves has ever actually watched the network he plans to "shake up."

I guess he equates shows like HBO's *The Sopranos* and *Sex and the City* with being "commercial" because they

both became pop-culture phenoms. In reality, neither show was considered "commercial," which is why they ended up on HBO. Aside from the fact that they are both well-written, well-acted and expertly produced, HBO also spent the money that was necessary to promote them. This fact, Mr. Moonves, is what you seem to ignore.

Showtime has always been the bastard stepchild of its corporate parent. Mr. Moonves should have gone out of his way to thank the staff at Showtime for the excellent work they have done with so little support from on high. Then Mr. Moonves should have pledged to shake up the marketing budget for the network so it would not have to rely on the kindness of critics (and the Golden Globes) to spread the word about first class original series like *Weeds*.

If you want to put it in terms Mr. Moonves and his bean-counters can understand: it was "off, off Broadway" programming like *Queer As Folk*, *The L Word* and *Weeds* that convinced me to drop HBO in favor of Showtime. Give credit where credit is due, Mr. Moonves. Showtime deserves your support, not your misguided derision.

Ron Hebshie Los Angeles

Mags Creating Digital Destiny

My, Lisa Granatstein sounds depressed! ["I Want My iMag," *Mediaweek*, May 22] It's really not so bad. Time Inc. has about a dozen ideas on how to translate our magazine content in the ways she envisions. And I don't think we're far from realizing some of

them. It's clearly not easy to be going through such massive change. But there is a very big difference between what we are facing now and what we faced, for example, with the pressure of competition of cable TV and special-interest programming that threatened magazines audiences. Despite the

MySpace-mania of the moment, we know that we can translate our trusted brands to digital form. In fact, we can do it easily. The same things that make magazines good (quality journalism, editing and design) also work in the digital realm. And doing it well gets us big audiences and big business opportunities.

John Squires Co-COO, Time Inc. New York



Mr. Television, you left a show out of your top ten ["Sad Finales," May 8]: My So Called Life. It was the ABC teen-angst drama that launched Claire Danes into the public consciousness. It was critically acclaimed and yet still underperformed, only to be cancelled well before its time. It deserved better and we deserved more.

Brian Reich Senior Strategic Consultant MindShare Interactive Campaigns, L.L.C. Boston

NBC Missing The Originality Boat?

Mr. Television, Am I the only one who thinks that NBC is missing the boat with Friday Night Lights? ["The Real Survivor," May 22]. Airing a show on Friday night about playing football on Friday night where the community comes out to watch seems like a no-brainer. Also, 30 Rock and Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip feel similar. Couldn't they come up with an original premise?

Howard Rosenstein Managing Director, Meredith Integrated Marketing New York

Mediaweek welcomes letters to the editor. Address all correspondence to Editor, Mediaweek, 770 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 or fax to 646-654-5368 or e-mail to mburgi@mediaweek.com. All letters subject to editing.

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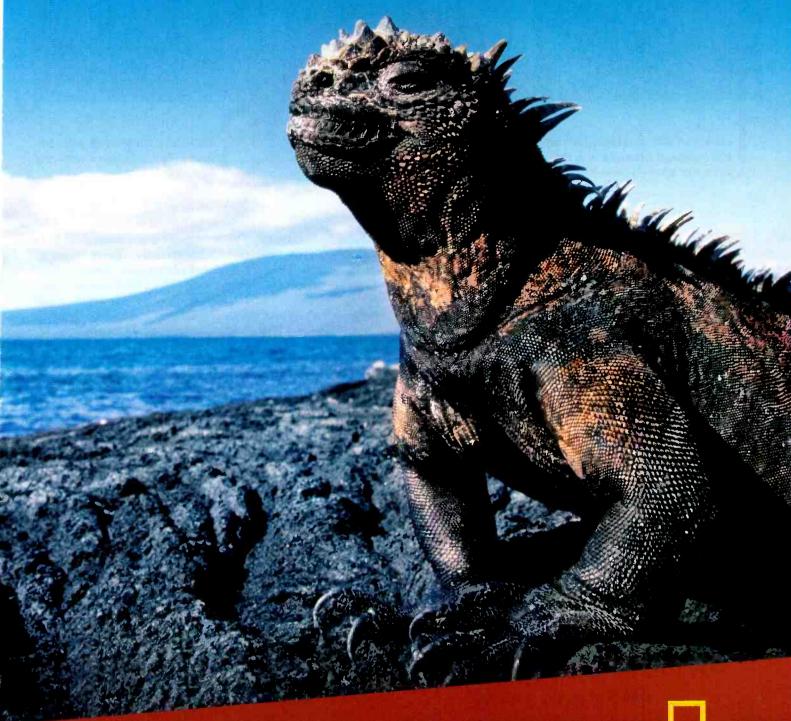
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DARE TO EXPLORE







AMERICAN IDOL (WEDNESDAY) This season's finale delivered a whopping 14.1 in adults 18-49.

Adweek Magazines Special Report Upfront: Marketplace Analysis



DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES ABC's hit Sunday show lost a little steam-can it get its mojo back?

The Shows Matter

Are the rich getting richer in prime time, and will that affect pricing for the few remaining megahits? By Eric Schmuckler WHICH ARE THE TELEVISION shows that really matter? In an historical sense, the list might include I Love Lucy, which invented the sitcom; All in the Family, that landmark breaker of barriers; M*A*S*H, an antiwar influence in the waning days of Vietnam; consciousnessraising movies Roots and The Day After and Murphy Brown, which proved such a hot "potatoe" for Dan Quayle.

For the business side of television, the scorecard is vastly different. To broadcast networks and the advertisers who foot the bills, the shows that really matter are the ones atop that little list maintained by Nielsen Media Research. These shows are the locomotive that propels the network choo-choo. In the just-concluded season, only five shows topped an 8 rating in adults 18-49 (all ratings are based on this adfriendly demo unless noted); only 16 rose above a 5 rating. Most buyers can tick them off with their eyes closed, but for those of you not so steeped in scheduling minutiae, they appear elsewhere in these pages. They are The Dozen Shows That Matter. (Since American Idol and Survivor are counted twice, consider this a baker's dozen.)

This is not to say that the shows ranked 60th or 90th are without value; some of them are even cool. But the dozen are what really ring that network cash register. And as broadcast ratings continue their long, slow descent into the primordial ooze—the four nets this season collectively dropped another half of a rating point, or 3 percentthese top shows seem more important than ever. Along with the Super Bowl, the Oscars and a blessed few others, they are the only big numbers still for sale—the vehicles that can drive awareness and deliver on the mass reach that is network TV's brand promise.

As the profusion of viewing options conspires to push ratings everdownward, it sure feels like big shows are thinner on the ground—the heaviest hitters are pulling away from the bunch in the middle of the ratings pack. To what extent is this so? Simple economics dictate that scarcity could drive these top shows, already premium-priced, to more dizzying heights. The prospect of the rich getting richer, relatively speaking, could spell trouble for advertisers and their media agents.

As any TV salesperson knows, there are countless ways to slice the ratings salami. No surprise, then, that sorting out the relationship between the dozen and the pack is not so straightforward. Several measures suggest these top shows have not lengthened their lead, but one keen analysis demonstrates that they are, indeed, more important now than ever.

Consider the top five programs, the top 10 programs and a desig-



GREY'S ANATOMY The hottest scripted show on television will really put ABC in the race on Thursdays.



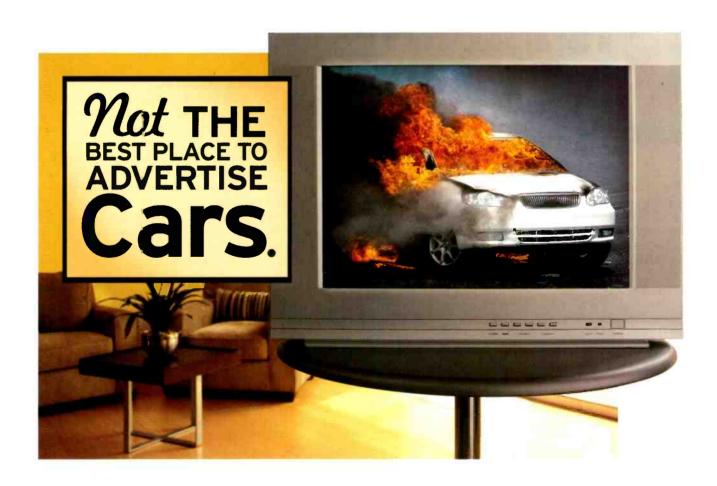
CSI There's apparently a limitless appetite for procedural dramas on TV, and this CBS hit still beats them all.



nated middle 10 (those ranked 51-60) in the adult demo this season, versus five and ten seasons ago, according to Nielsen data provided by Carat USA. The top 10 was 109 percent above the middle 10 this season, 119 percent above in 2000/01 and 71 percent above in 1996/97. So the top 10's advantage has grown over a decade, but not versus five years ago. Conversely, the top five versus that middle 10

showed a bigger spread a decade ago (+179 percent) than it does this year (+154 percent). No clear trend emerges here.

That does not surprise Barry Fischer, executive vp/market strategy at Turner Broadcasting. He splits network programs into thirds, admittedly a more blunt instrument. He reports that the top third lost 42 percent of its audience over a decade; the bottom third lost 45 percent.









SURVIVOR: GUATEMALA Another CBS performer that buyers thought would peter out, but has settled in.



LOST ABC's Wednesday hit may have lost a ratings step, but it still generates the most watercooler buzz.

This season, the top third was 2.5 times higher than the bottom third; ten years ago, it was 2.8 times higher. "So the relationships haven't changed much for the four networks," says Fischer, who has long been on a mission to warn advertisers away from this dread lower-tercile.

The former network buyer anecdotally suggests that even network hits just don't matter as intensely as they used to. "Remember sitting



"We're still trying to reach a lot of people in a short time in an impactful way, and these shows can do it big-time." DONCHIN

at the upfronts wondering, 'How are they gonna ambush the other guy? How will they block that?" Fischer asks nostalgically. "It was a blood sport, but they just don't have that mentality anymore." It seems like all the nets can muster is just one battle a year, he says, in this case the touted Thursday face-off between Grey's Anatomy and CSI this fall.

Geri Wang, ABC's senior vp of prime-time sales, uses another path to a similar ratings destination. ABC clocks how many shows are 5 ratings points higher in the demo than the four-network average. This year presented four such shows—two Idols, Desperate Housewives and Grey's (CSI was close enough under horseshoe rules). Last year there were also four ratings monsters, and that upper class has stayed in the four-to-six show range for nine of the last 13 years. "It really is rather consistent," says Wang.

By now, this appears to be an open-and-shut case, but a fresh perspective blows in from Sam Armando, Starcom Worldwide's newly minted senior vp/director of television research. He removes the top three regularly scheduled performers for each network and voilà! ABC's average rating drops by 22 percent, Fox's by 27 percent, CBS' by 11 percent and NBC's by 6 percent. This demonstrates how heavily Fox and ABC bank on their biggest guns. Meanwhile, CBS (with five of the top

15) is nicely balanced and NBC (0 for 15) is uniformly mediocre.

This dependence on a handful of smashes is rising. Looking back five and ten years ago, removal of its top three programs never cost any network more than 14 percent of its audience. Even at the '95/'96 apogee of Must-See Thursday, NBC lost just that amount after subtracting Seinfeld, Friends and E.R. The power of that extraordinary

night elevated unworthy placeholders Caroline in the City, The Single Guy and Boston Common to the next three slots, while NBC scored four more in the top 20 to earn its robust average rating.

Perhaps this increasing reliance on a few supernovas explains why some experienced observers instinctively believe the rich are getting richer, ratings-wise. "It definitely feels that way," says Armando, "although there's a lot of bouncing around in any one year." For one thing, the upper-midrange seems to be fading away, he says. "Idol's at a 29 [household share], then there are a few big ones at 19 to 21 shares, then it drops to a lot of 10s and 11s. The range used to be pretty full, but now the gaps have widened between the

haves and the wannabes."

These ratings giants carry a heavier load, suggests John Rash, senior vp, director of broadcast negotiations at Campbell Mithun. "Top-rated, immediately understood programs are more important than ever in a fragmented media landscape," he says. "For audiences and advertisers alike, networks are increasingly defined by one or two or three key shows."

This argues for a hairsplitting difference between the handful of shows that matter and others that are merely very successful and profitable. For Fox, this obviously includes Idol, House and 24; failed satellite Unan I mous need not apply, its 10th-place finish making it a latterday Suddenly Susan. ABC boasts the trinity of Housewives, Grey's and Lost; buyers are unconvinced that Extreme Makeover: Home Edition belongs in such august company, even if sponsor Sears is a believer.

CBS has two CSIs and Survivor, but Without a Trace doesn't get the same kind of love. As for poor NBC, well, E.R. kinda sorta still matters—at least it's the closest thing the net's got. The Apprentice used to matter but that's ancient history, more than a year ago. Deal or No Deal just doesn't matter in this way, says a buyer, no matter how adequate its rating.







CSI MIAMI With MNF gone, CBS can expect to pick up even more male viewers at 10 on Mondays.



Okay, maybe it's not precisely a dozen. But there's still a financial point to be made here—the reason why this mattering matters. The top shows have always fetched a hefty CPM premiumthey are "indexed" anywhere from 10 to 25 percent above the norm for pricing purposes, say buy-side sources. Even if evidence is mixed that the dozen are pulling ahead of the ratings pack, they may loom

larger than ever psychologically. How do buyers and sellers see it, and has that affected the premiums paid for the biggest guns?

Buyers acknowledge the tremendous importance of the top shows, but hesitate to state definitively that premiums are expanding. "We're still trying to reach a lot of people in a short time in an impactful way, and these shows can do it big-time," says Andy Donchin, senior vp,





EXTREME MAKEOVER: H.E. This may have the least buzz of the top 15, but it's a solid family draw.



UNAN1MOUS This reality entry lost half its Idol leadin, so don't count on it coming back.



ies, sweat, gross-out stuff...it pulls in audiences of all ages.

director of national broadcast for Carat. "They are fewer and further between, and I do think psychologically they are of extra importance. I don't know if the price gap has increased. But when you get the season finale of that big-rated show, it is extremely attractive to usmaybe even more so than ever."

Steve Grubbs, CEO of PHD, cites the law of supply and demand.



"It definitely feels [like the rich are getting richer]... The range used to be pretty full but now the gaps have widened between the haves and the wannabes." ARMANDO

"The scarcer a commodity, the more its value increases," he notes, "and generally speaking, that makes these shows more valuable. When the average home gets 102 channels, there are only a handful of tent-pole shows out there-shows that can have a real impact in awareness. But are premiums greater than they used to be? I don't know about that."

Ed Gentner, Mediavest's senior vp, group director, is dubious that things have changed much. "The bar has been lowered overall," he says, "but I don't think you're looking at that many fewer hits versus the industry average." Nor has he noticed "a big difference in the [CPM] gap between those hit shows and the average shows. But that could change if all of a sudden there are fewer marquee shows going forward."

Viewing this debate from the cheaper seats of cable, Bruce Lefkowitz, FX Networks' president of ad sales, takes a contrary view. "I do believe [broadcast] premiums are going up," he says, "and they'll continue to go up in an era driven by DVRs and event-television. It's definitely psychological." (His next logical step, of course, is to wonder about the "cost/value relationship" for big broadcast hits and to ask whether "audiences can be garnered with lower-rated shows.") Lefkowitz is confident that premiums are higher despite buyer denials: "They'll never tell you because that's their report card," he says.

For the record, network sellers take pride in their hits but would never be so gauche as to flaunt their indexing in public. "We enjoy doing business with new clients in new categories as a result of our improved performance, and that's part of our pricing strategy," says Wang.

"Scarcity drives value in all areas of economic activity," says Jon Nesvig, president of sales for Fox Broadcasting. "Top-tier broadcast

shows remain a marketer's best value in building reach quickly."

Dig a little deeper, though, and more complicated smoke signals emanate from sellers who ask not to be identified. "Premiums haven't changed in the upfront, which is driven by volume," says one network sales source. "You have a wide range of clients, from packaged goods to finance to movie companies, all of them have their price points, and we have to do business with everyone. But it could be true when you get to scatter, which has a narrower range of avails. There are much more dramatic [price] swings there, and you can put that huge premium on those five or six ratings monsters. And it may be true that premiums have

grown in individual categories."

But there are limits to how high is up. A veteran buyer, for instance, says that Fox was not fully able to monetize its runaway Idol ratings this season. "They had so many GRPs to sell, especially when the show was on three times a week in February and demand wasn't so high," says this source. "It wasn't cheap, but you could get deals. The same thing happened to ABC with Millionaire a few years ago." This buyer firmly believes the biggest factor moderating premiums in recent years has been the overall languor of the network marketplace.

Another theory on why prices haven't run away for the few surviving prime-time hits comes from Steve Sternberg, executive vp and director of audience analysis at Magna Global. "It used to be that the highest rated shows were bunched on one network," he says, referring to the halcyon Must-See Thursday. "Now they're more evenly distributed. It's very different when most of the shows that matter are all on one net."

Ultimately, size isn't everything, say those on both sides of the table. Big ratings "have that 'wow' factor," says Wang, "but any time you get a secondary target—a huge 18-34 VPH, male comp, upscale—you generate higher demand." Others note that shows that do better on the Coasts can fetch a prettier penny than those that



WITHOUT A TRACE CBS' leastheralded hit, this drama must prove its mettle on Sundays.



24 Is there a more wicked and cool show on TV? It's the granddaddy of serial thrillers.

wow 'em in Dubuque. And don't discount buyer support—the shows the media community actually watches—to give a relatively low-rated show like Alias a relatively high premium. One buyer adds that even low-rated but prestigious cable offerings like CNN and USA's U.S. Open tennis coverage can rake in eye-popping premiums because "they're easy to explain to the CEO."

Size doesn't matter any more or less than it ever did, suggests Starcom's Armando. "Some clients want the biggest audience and most buzz," he says, "but ultimately it's about how well the concentration of a show matches your target. If I have a male target, the huge rating of [chick magnet] Grey's Anatomy doesn't do me any good. You want to stay targeted on strategy, not on the size of the rating."



MOVERS

MAGAZINES

Meredith Kopit was named publisher of Atlantic Media's 02138, a magazine dedicated to Harvard alumni, Kopit was most recently assocate publisher of The Atlantic Monthly...Stacey Newman Weldon and Andrew Mataraso were each named account director, a newly created position, for WebMD the Magazine. Newman Weldon was most recently Eastern Advertising Sales Manager for Budget Living. Mataraso has worked in sales at Eli Lilly and Entrepreneur Media, Inc.

RADIO

John Gehron has joined Harpo Radio as general manager. Gehron was most recently regional vp and market manager for Clear Channel's stations in Chicago... Charlotte Lawyer was named to the new post of vp of audience measurement for Cumulus Media and Cumulus Media Partners. She was formerly the director of corporate research for Susquehanna Radio...Tom Poleman, senior vp of programming and marketing for Clear Channel in New York, takes on operations man-



Tom Poleman

ager duties for WHTZ-FM. Sharon **Dastur** was promoted to program director of WHTZ, from assistant program director. Darren Pfeffer, marketing director for WWPR-FM, takes on those responsibilities at WHTZ...

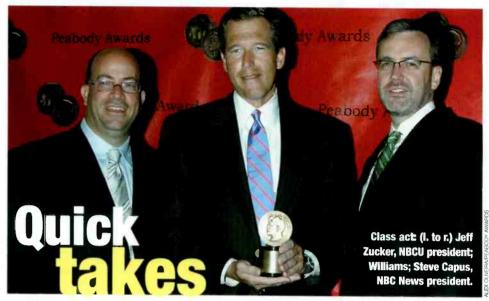
Aidan McCann earned senior account executive stripes at Clear Channel Radio Sales online sales in San Francisco. CCRS online is a division of Katz Media...Bob Freedline has joined Citadel Broadcasting as vp and COO. He hails from Viacom, where he served as vp, treasurer. Patty Stratford was moved to senior vp of finance and administration/assistant secretary, from acting COO.

MEDIA AGENCIES

Tyler Schaeffer, a veteran media agency executive, was named senior partner, worldwide strategic planning director, at MindShare North America, where he will oversee the American Express account. Schaeffer joins Mind-Share from (Continued on page 30)

media elite

EDITED BY LAUREN CHARLIP



THE PEABODY COMMITTEE was lucky to have Jon Stewart host this year's awards for excellence in broadcast media—or so he told them. Director Horace Newcomb introduced the "Secretary of Satire," Stewart, as if he were government official. "That's why I love the Peabodys," Stewart replied, "Normally I'm a comic." A comic, he explained, falls between mime and stripper in the showbiz continuum. "But a satirist, that's very important what I do, and you're lucky to have me," he joked. Four

different news outlets won awards for Hurrican Katrina coverage: WLOX-TV in Biloxi, Miss., WWL-TV in New Orleans, CNN and NBC Nightly News. NBC anchor Brian Williams thanked all who helped jury-rig the telecast as conditions in New Orleans grew worse, and delivered one of the more sobering lines of the ceremony. "I'll accept this for the people of New Orleans who had the misfortune of simply being residents...They were failed by their government," Williams said.

Marcia Hertz managing director, SGPTV

ALTHOUGH PBS IS CAREFUL to avoid using the word "commercials" when discussing its sponsorship agreements, the broadcaster relies on its client business to keep programming operations afloat. As such, its sponsorship team takes great pains to keep PBS visible to media buyers, especially during this time of year.

Marcia Hertz, managing director, marketing and client services of the Sponsorship Group for Public Television, PBS' national sponsorship department based at WGBH-TV in Boston, says the broadcaster is always on the lookout for new spot partners.

"We pay close attention to the buying cycles because we always want to make sure that we're on the radar screens of the folks with the media dollars," Hertz says. PBS has put together some unique sponsorship deals: a series of Google spots supports its Nova franchise and both Arby's and Green Dog (Macy's children's apparel brand) defray the costs of producing live-action series FETCH! with Ruff Ruffman.

SGPTV has been increasingly nimble in aligning sponsors, says Hertz, who notes that PBS "is much more flexible" about the length of its sponsorship agreements. "We used to get season-long commitments, but the reality is the clients just don't buy like that any more," Hertz says.

Sponsoring a PBS program lends a certain prestige to a brand, Hertz says. "There's a value in aligning yourself with PBS that goes beyond television." —Anthony Crupi

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MOVERS

Foote Cone & Belding, where he worked for 25 years in the agency's media department...Tom Hickey has been promoted to media director at McKinney. He joined the agency in 2005 as a group media head. Before signing on to McKinney, Hickey served as vp, group communications director at Universal McCann in San Francisco...Sue Zeiler will head up a new MindShare Interactive Campaigns office in Chicago. She is formerly director of interactive services and strategy at Noble-BBDS.

CARLE

Lifetime Networks tapped former NBC Universal executive Dan Suratt to fill the newly created position of executive vp. digital media and business development.



Dan Suratt

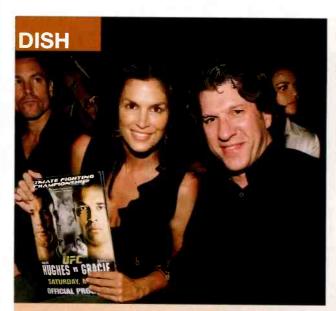
In his new role, Suratt will be responsible for operations, editorial and business development for Lifetime's Web site, wireless initiative and interactive platforms...Lisa Wagner has been upped to the newly created

position of director, ad sales, at YES Network. Before joining YES last year, Wagner had been an account executive at WPIX-TV in New York since 1983... Benjamin Tatta has been named senior vp of business development for Rainbow Advertising Sales Corporation, the advertising subsidiary of Rainbow Media Holdings...Bob Greene was elevated to the newly created position of executive vp, advanced services of Starz Entertainment Group. Greene, who had previously served as senior vp, advanced services. joined Starz three years ago...Comcast announced last week that David Fellows will step down as chief technical officer in January 2007, transitioning into a part-time executive fellow role. Fellows joined Comcast in 2002 following the MSO's acquisition of AT&T Broadband, where he had served as CTO.

INTERACTIVE

Linda Fisk has been named vp of marketing for IFilm. Before joining IFilm, Fisk served as vp of online marketing and analytics for Scripps Network.

media elite



◀ The good fight: Cindy Crawford and Brian Diamond, Spike TV's senior vp of sports and specials, ringside at UFC 60 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles May 29. UFC welterweight champion and former star of Spike's The Ultimate Fighter, Matt Hughes, was pitted against legend Royce Gracie,

Eat your heart out, Beau Brummell: GQ editor in chief Jim Nelson had the fellas over for cocktails at the **Museum of Modern Art June** 2, in honor of menswear nominees for the Council of **Fashion Designers of Ameri**ca 2006 Fashion Awards. Nelson (right), GQ associate publisher Michael Wolfe (left) and designer Tommy Hilfiger all cut a dashing figure at the party. The menswear designer of the year award went to Thom Browne on June 5.





Idol worship: The team at **United Stations Radio Net**works are huge fans of American Idol. The love was returned when Idol winner Taylor Hicks—fresh off of the season finale—stopped by the USRN studios for interviews with Launch Radio Networks and affiliates May 30. Hicks, who refers to his fan base as the "Soul Patrol," cheerfully gave 13-14 interviews. From left to right: Dave Ankers, director of operations, Launch Radio Networks, Hicks and satellite tours director Eileen Sullivan.

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CALENDAR

- The Breakaway Brand will take place June 13 at the Time & Life Building in New York. Senior marketing execs will explore the differentiators of the world's most recognizable and successful brands. Go to NYAMA.org for details.
- Paragon Media's Planning and Buying Seminar will be held June 14 at New York's Crowne Plaza, Advertisers, media sales reps, ad agencies and buyers will learn how advertisers translate goals into solutions, and how media is selected and purchased. Go to paragonmedia.com.
- The Circulation Management Conference and Expo, for newspaper and magazine circulators, will be at the Hyatt in Chicago June 14-16. It will cover fresh approaches to circulation challenges, and will discuss partnership marketing. Go to circmanshow.com for info.
- The Online Video and Advertising Forum will happen June 16 at the Puck Building in New York, Panels will discuss whether video should be part of an interactive marketing and advertising strategy, and what determines the success of an interactive marketing campaign. Register at registration@incisivemedia.com.
- National Sports Marketing Network will host the Sports Licensing Summit at Licensing 2006 International on June 20. The event will feature major sports properties and leagues. Licensing execs will discuss emerging trends, wireless opportunities, and licensing. Pre-register at sportsmarketingnetwork.com.
- American Research Foundation will hold its first Annual Audience Measurement Symposium June 20-21 at the Millennium Hotel in New York. It will discuss the new alternative measurement systems. For more info, go to thearf.org.
- Mediaweek will host the Media Plan of the Year awards on June 21 at the Rainbow Room in New York, More than 300 top media, marketing and advertising professionals will be at the luncheon to honor the most effective and creative media plans of last year. Contact ablod@adweek.com for more info.

inside media

EDITED BY ROBIN ELDRIDGE

TiVoCast Shifts Web Videos to TV

TiVo last week launched TiVoCast, which allows subscribers to transport video content from the Internet to their televisions. Subscribers can search for and select specific content through TiVo's Showcase and search menus, and then download that content for viewing on their TVs. As part of the launch, TiVo announced several new content distribution deals, including pacts with the National Basketball Association. the Women's National Basketball Association, The New York Times, Heavy.com, iVillage and CNET, all to supply video footage to TiVoCast.

FX Picks Up The Shield for 7th, Final Year

FX has picked up its gritty police drama, The Shield, for a seventh and final season of 13 episodes. The sixth season, which will consist of 10 episodes, will kick off early next year. Season five of The Shield averaged 2.8 million total viewers during its Tuesday night premiere runs. With repeats, the show lured an average audience of 5.65 million. FX has also ordered 13 episodes of a new one-hour drama series, Dirt, to be produced by Courteney Cox and David Arquette.

Gannett Acquires Tribune's WATL-TV

Following Tribune's recently announced intention to sell its non-core assets and buy back \$75 million shares of its stock, the company is selling WATL-TV in Atlanta to Gannett Broadcasting, owner of 21 TV stations, for \$180 million. The deal will give Gannett its third duopoly, with one in Jacksonville, Fla. and one in Denver, pending the acquisition of KTVD-TV. WATL-TV will become a MyNetwork TV affiliate in September and will be paired with WXIA-TV, Gannett's NBC affiliate in the market.

World Cup Games Air on FM Radio

For the first time, World Cup soccer games (June 9-July 9) will be heard on FM frequencies, notably on Entravision Communications' KLYY-FM in Los Angeles. In addition to L.A., the Games will also be broadcast on Entravision's KZMP-FM in Dallas, KORT-FM in Las Vegas and KSVE-FM in El Paso, Texas. National and local advertisers have signed on to sponsor the broadcasts, including McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Home Depot, Budweiser, Best Buy, Verizon Wireless and others, depending on the market.

Final Score to Compete With SportsCenter

Directly competing with ESPN's SportsCenter, FSN on July 3 will premiere a nightly 30-minute national sports highlights show called Final Score. The show will run across FSN's network of 21 regional sports channels. It will feature revolving hosts, thereby focusing on the actual highlights, rather than the commentary. Final Score will air live Monday through Fridays at 11:30 p.m., Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9 p.m.

JP Morgan Wins in Impressions Per Hour

According to Nielsen Sports' Sponsorship Scorecard, a comparative analysis that evaluates the effectiveness of sponsor-placed media across multiple sports, JP Morgan Chase, the top sponsor of golf's U.S. Open Men's Final on CBS, achieved 162 million impressions per hour, beating out Motorola, the Super Bowl's top sponsor on ABC, which earned 157 million. Lowe's Home Improvement, the top sponsor in the NASCAR Daytona 500 on Fox, achieved 110 million impressions per hour, above Citibank, the Rose Bowl's top sponsor on ABC, which earned 95 million. The scorecard measures televised impressions or viewers of a sponsor's logo on screen during the sports telecast.

HBO Takes *Entourage* to NY Sports Clubs

HBO has hit the gym, through a deal with Zoom Media to promote the third season of Entourage and the DVD release of season two. New York Sports Clubs aired season two over a private TV network, which reaches 300,000 members, last week, leading up to the third season premiere on June 11. Besides the sampling campaign, HBO also tapped Zoom's venue networks to display billboards throughout 150 gyms and 135 bars and restaurants in New York and Los Angeles.

CBS Radio Reaches Listeners Via Texts

Through an agreement with mobile content provider Vibes Media, CBS Radio is going interactive. In New York, Los Angeles and 16 other top markets, 25 stations will be equipped with Vibes' iRadio instant response text-messaging platform, allowing CBS stations to interact with listeners through text-messaging on cell phones. Listeners can make song requests, comments or votes through texting. Advertisers can also take advantage of the new platform through sponsorships tagged to the messages.

EAST

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SOURCE: Nielsen //NetRatings AdRelevance

Note: AdRelevance reporting data reflects advertising activity served on pages accessible via the World Wide Web and not within AOL's proprietary service.

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HIS VEEK	LAS1 WEE	K PICTURE	WEEKEND GROSS	DAYS IN RELEASE	TOTAL GROSS
1	NEW	THE BREAKUP	39,172,785	3	39,172 ,78 5
2	1	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	3 <mark>4,017,2</mark> 47	10	175,348,409
3	3	OVER THE HEDGE	<mark>20,647,28</mark> 4	17	112,357,940
4	2	THE DA VINCI CODE	18,610,187	17	171,966,151
5	4	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 3	4,684,544	31	122,669,375
6	5	POSEIDON	3,492,361	24	51,760,587
7	6	RV	3,204,449	38	61,710,810
8	7	SEE NO EVIL	2,041,172	17	12,405,131
9	22	AN INCOVENIENT TRUTH	1,356,387	12	1,937,361
0	8	JUST MY LUCK	854,653	24	15,600,317
r week	ending	June 4, 2006		Source:	Hollywood Reporte

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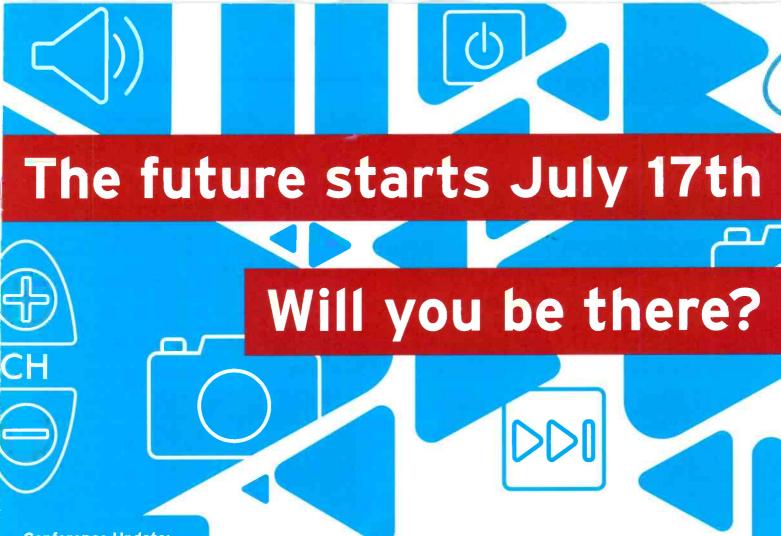
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New Sense of Style

Vibe this fall will spin off V-Style, a lifestyle supplement that takes aim at African American men

TARGETING FASHION-FORWARD MEN IS HARD ENOUGH FOR PUBLISHERS. BUT taking aim at stylish African American males has posed a bigger challenge. Hustler's Larry Flynt published Code in 1999, but the magazine closed two years later. Since then, the genre has remained largely under-







Vibe's fall supplement (prototype pages above) will focus on everything from grooming and fashion to spirits and cars.

served, with men's magazines barely touching upon the style sensibilities of African Americans. The range of titles include the more debonair offerings of Condé Nast's GQ and Hearst Magazines' Esquire—the monthly has named hip-hop producer Pharrell and musician André 3000 Best Dressed Men in the World-as well as the laddie-inspired King, published by Harris Publications, and Star Media's Smooth.

But now the publishers at Vibe believe there's a market for an urban men's fashion magazine somewhere in between the two extremes. In September, Vibe will debut V-Style, a stand-alone lifestyle supplement for progressive African American men that will cover the best in fashion, footwear, cars and spirits. The supplement will be polybagged with 200,000 copies of Vibe's October issue, and mailed to Vibe's male subscribers over 21.

"V-Style is where they can come to learn about fashion and accessories-what's the right cigar, the right wine, the right books to have in your library, not just the ones to say you've read, but the ones you should have read to transition from a boy to a man," said Len Burnett, Vibe's group publisher.

Added Jeff Mazzacano, Vibe's corporate accounts director, who spearheaded the project, "While V-Style men love sneakers and rims, they don't need to be inundated with it in every book they pick up."

V-Style expands upon the widening Vibe franchise, which now includes women's fashion and beauty quarterly Vibe Vixen; Vibe.com, a video-on-demand channel carried on Comcast; the Vibe Awards; the Urbanworld Vibe Film Festival and Mobile Vibe. The new offering will be published in partnership with liquor conglomerate Diageo and other advertisers (who are vet to be determined). Diageo's brands, such as Johnnie Walker and Crown Royal, will also be woven into the magazine's editorial.

Vibe will publish one issue this year tied to New York's fall Fashion Week and another tied to next spring's Fashion Week. Vibe and Diageo will host events nationwide to be taped and rebroadcast across Vibe.com, Vibe's VOD channel and its new MyVibe.tv streaming video network that will launch June 16. If readers and advertisers respond favorably, Burnett said V-Style has the potential to be spun off into its own magazine.

Burnett recognizes the challenge in wooing advertisers to a magazine that caters strictly to an urban audience. "We always get Phat Farm and Sean John, but unfortunately the big

houses don't buy into the fact that this audience sets the trends and pushes them forward," said Burnett. "Or if they do, they're not investing in it." There are some high-end labels in Vibe, however, including Dolce & Gabbana and Izod.

Vibe has struggled as of late with its ad pages. Through July, pages fell 8.2 percent to 624, reports the Mediaweek Monitor.

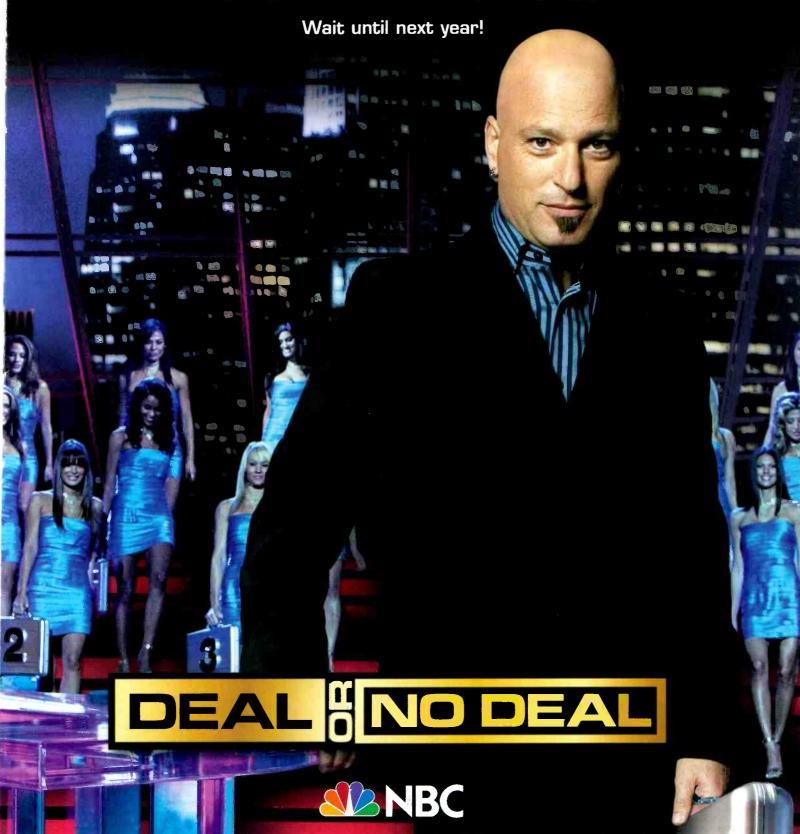
To ensure it had a strong ad base at launch, Vibe reached out to Diageo to be

the supplement's main sponsor. Not only will the high-end feel of V-Style mesh with Diageo's top-shelf liquor bands, the partnership allows Diageo to safely place its ads into a 21-year-old plus environment. "V-Style is eclectic, [covering] technology to different people in the entertainment industry. It makes the aspirational piece a sound focus more than just the run of the mill hip-hop magazine," said Jacquie Lee, Diageo's director of multicultural marketing services.

Vibe's strategy to test V-Style as a supplement also lets the magazine extend the brand to new areas without risking a huge amount of capital, especially after the failure of Condé Nast's men's magazines Cargo and Vitals. Media buyers believe V-Style has potential. "It's an interesting concept," said Beth Fidoten, senior vp, director or print services for Initiative. "They're hedging their bet and

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MAGAZINE MONITOR

	ISSUE DATE	CURRENT PAGES	ISSUE DATE LAST YEAR	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT	YTD PAGES	LAST YEAR	PERCENT
BUSINESS/ENTERTA	INMENT							
ESPN The Magazine	5-Jun	56.31	6-Jun	51.40	9.55%	595.53	654.48	-9.01%
Forbes ^F	19-Jun	211.75	20-Jun	167.11	26.71%	1,586.08	1,528.38	3.78%
Fortune [®]	12-Jun	120.62	13-Jun	75.03	60.76%	1,278.53	1,293.42	-1.15%
National Review	3-Jul	16.60	4-Jul	13.80	20.29%	230.20	212.80	8.18%
Rolling Stone	15-Jun	90.46	16-Jun	72.91	24.10%	599.71	628.33	-4.55%
CATEGORY TOTAL		495.74		380.25	30.37%	4,290.05	4,317,41	-0.63%

	DATE	CURRENT PAGES	LAST YEAR	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT	YTD	YTO	PERCEN
NEWS/BUSINESS	VAIE	FAGES	LASI TEAN	LASI TEAR	CHANGE	PAGES	LAST YEAR	CHANGE
BusinessWeek	12-Jun	46.82	13-Jun	43.31	8.10%	1,138.80	1,176.95	-3.249
The Economist®	3-Jun	41.00	4-Jun	35.00	17.14%	910.00	944.00	-3.60%
Newsweek ^E	12-Jun	38.40	13-Jun	44.71	-14,11%	829.06	810.03	2.35%
The New Republic		NOT REPORT	10 0011	44.71	-14.1170	115.29	110.68	4.179
Time ^E	12-Jun	45.33	13-Jun	35.72	26.90%	901.80	898.32	0.39%
U.S. News & World Report	12-Jun	32.41	13-Jun	47.39	-31.61%	688.20	689.06	-0.129
CATEGORY TOTAL	TE OUIT	203.96	10 0411	206.13	-1.05%	4,583.15	4,629.04	-0.12%
							100000	
SPORTS/ENTERTAINM AutoWeek	12-Jun	RE 26.23	13-Jun	24.42	0.750/	505.00	50444	0.400
Entertainment Weekly	9-Jun	45.90	10-Jun	24.12 53.05	8.75% -13.48%	526.38 675.85	524.14	0.43%
Golf World	9-Jun	57.00	10-Jun	60.83	-6.30%	596.55	726.48 623.17	-6.979
n Touch	12-Jun	19.00	13-Jun	17.50	8.57%	345.36	270.98	-4.27% 27.45%
Life & Style+	12-Jun	14.33	20-Jun	9.00	59.22%	193.61	167.64	
New York	12-Jun	45.90	13-Jun	119.70	-61.65%	1,370.30	1,271.60	15.49%
People	12-Jun	76.14	13-Jun	79.32	-4.01%	1,649.77	1,737.03	-5.02%
Sporting News	12-Jun	18.25	17-Jun	10.08	81.05%	333.78	346.50	-3.67%
Sports Illustrated	12-Jun	38.13	13-Jun	47.22	-19.25%	881.69	880.29	0.16%
Star	12-Jun	25.50	13-Jun	23.55	8.28%	445.33	385.25	15.60%
The New Yorker@/L	12-Jun	96.15	13-Jun	114.29	-15.87%	783.82	969.59	-19.16%
Time Out New York	7-Jun	58.75	8-Jun	48.13	22.07%	1,412.96	1.405.96	0.50%
TV Guide (redesign) ^T	12-Jun	15.78	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	365.48	N.A	N.A
Us Weekly	12-Jun	42.52	13-Jun	41.00	3.71%	839.99	831.32	1,04%
Woman's World	13-Jun	7.00	14-Jun	6.67	4.95%	167.66	157.99	6.12%
CATEGORY TOTAL		586.58		654.46	-10.37%	10,588.53	10,297.94	2.82%
WEEKEND MAGAZINE	s					THE		
American Profile	11-Jun	13.32	12-Jun	9.10	46.37%	241.21	231.35	4.269
Life@@	16-Jun	11.98	17-Jun	9.67	23.89%	189.65	153.73	23.37%
Parade	11-Jun	16.48	12-Jun	8.31	98.32%	314.23	299,44	4.94%
JSA Weekend	11-Jun	12.77	12-Jun	10.57	20.81%	330.85	306.15	8.07%
CATEGORY TOTAL		54.55		37.65	44.89%	1,075.94	990.67	8.61%
TOTALS		845.09		898.24	-5.92%	16.247.62	15.917.65	2.07%

@=One less issue in 2006 than in 2005; E=Estimated page counts; +=One more issue in 2006 than in 2005; L=double Issue in 2005; T=Relaunched Oct. 17, 2005, with lower rate base; @@=Two less issues in 2006 than in 2005.

CHARTS COMPILED BY ROBIN ELDRIDGE

doing it in a way that's sponsored. That way they can see what the market demand is."

Meanwhile, Vibe's paid circulation fell 2.8 percent to 836,611 through the second half of 2005, missing its 850,000 rate base, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations. Newsstand sales grew 8.1 percent. Burnett noted that total circ declined in part to Hurricane Katrina.

PRessing On MMR unveils latest survey

Over the years, reader engagement has been a hot buzzword, but until recently there has been little in the way of accurate data.

Last year, though, the tide began to turn. Monroe Mendelsohn Research developed the Publication Readership Satisfaction Survey, or PReSS, to help measure the qualitative attributes of magazines. The service was created to help advertisers and media buyers measure reader involvement and satisfaction from 16,000 survey participants, allowing for sideby-side comparisons between magazines.

On June 14, MMR will release its most comprehensive report to date. The 2005 PReSS survey will measure engagement across 17 metrics for nearly 200 magazines.

The survey "gives the advertising agencies the ability to take a look at how good the brands really are," said Bob Shullman, MMR senior vp and PReSS' chief architect. "This brings a new dimension to decision-making

as it effectively demonstrates the strengths of a publication vis-à-vis its competition."

Participants provided answers to questions such as how often they read a particular magazine and how enjoyable, entertaining and informative that magazine is. The survey also asked participants about the visual elements of the magazine; for example, how memorable its covers were. The responses were then assigned a numerical rating, which advertisers can compare in a multitude of ways. For example, an advertiser can weigh a group of newsweeklies based on how many times a reader read the magazine in a given month, or how many minutes subscribers spend reading the magazine.

A sampling of the latest data reported that National Geographic and Guideposts scored high in overall excellence, while Sunday magazine Parade and the bimonthly AARP the Magazine were the top two magazines for reader loyalty.

While magazines often conduct independent subscriber studies that show reader involvement, "It's an apples and oranges comparison when one magazine [compares] does it to another," said Coleen Kuehn, executive vp, chief strategist for MPG. "With PReSS, it's an apples-to-apples comparison."

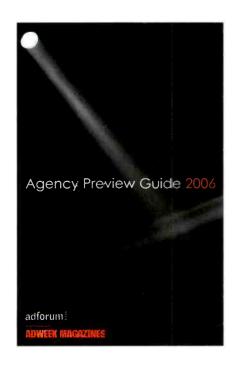
So far, many of the major media agencies including MindShare, MediaCom, Media-Vest, Starcom, OMD and MPG subscribe to the service. Interestingly, magazine publishers have so far been slow to sign on. Only two magazines from Time Inc. (Business 2.0 and Cottage Living) and two from Hearst Magazines (Veranda and Esquire) are on board, in addition to independent titles The Sporting News and The Economist.

"It's the one ingredient that has been missing from media analysis, especially from the perspective of advertising agencies," said Sims Bray, publisher of Hearst's Veranda. The hesitancy on the part of publishers could come from the fact that the product is unproven and expensive—the PReSS study is an additional \$30,000 to \$50,000 on top of the standard Mendelsohn Affluence data that costs approximately \$60,000. "Magazines are spending a small fortune on research as it is," said Bray.

On the heels of the release of PReSS, Simmons Research this fall will unveil its own Multi-Media Engagement Survey that measures engagement for magazines, Web sites, and television in both English and Spanish. Later this year, PReSS also will expand its reach for its 2006 survey to cover cable TV networks and Web sites of both magazines and popular destination sites.

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mr. television

BY MARC BERMAN



HBO's Midlife Crisis

SINCE THE WORST OF THE SOPRANOS IS STILL BETTER TV THAN MOST scripted dramas on television, even a disjointed season like the one just concluded left this fan craving for more. But after waiting two long years for this latest batch of 12 episodes, another seven-month delay for the

final eight shows is absolutely maddening. It's excruciating! And the decline in ratings for The Sopranos this year tells me that HBO had better find a solution to this haphazard scheduling, or more viewers are unlikely to find their way back to the premium channel (which won't be so premium for much longer now that Sex and the City, Six Feet Under and Oz are history and The Sopranos and Deadwood are heading for the land of the fishes). Can you imagine a broadcast network only airing 12 episodes of one series in two years?

The programming on HBO may be good (extraordinary, at times) but nothing-not even The Sopranos-is worth waiting that long for, particularly given the rise in alternative programming options. By delaying the start of The Sopranos, and putting other shows like Curb Your Enthusiasm on indefinite hiatus (When was the last time we saw an original episode of the Larry David sitcom?), the cable network is setting itself up for a fall. A viewer will only stay interested for so long, after all.

Even a stellar Sopranos would have been disappointing this season. The long delay inflated expectations. After waiting two years, we expected a miracle. When we didn't find one, we bitched, we moaned and now we are annoyed that the season is over already. And when you piss off a fan, the results in the longrun can negatively impact the entire network.

Although the rules on cable may be different, the priority is still the audience. HBO has to learn that you cannot play with the emotions of a loyal TV fan by holding back for 24 months, whetting his appetite, then pulling back again.

Six seasons into The Sopranos we have seen

just 77 episodes. I have debated the value of quality versus quantity, and often side with quality. But the dozen we had this season were nothing extraordinary. Tony on the verge of death, Paulie Walnuts learning the truth about his mother and lazy A.J. wandering about were nothing more than soapopera ploys that you can find in daytime. And in the two years since we bid adieu to Carrie,

Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha, nothing (including failed The Comeback and upcoming Lucky Louie) has come close to matching the flawless chemistry of Sex and the City. Let's face it: HBO is in a slump, and the demise of The Sopranos will only make matters worse.

Is HBO the NBC of cable? Could it eventually rebound?

I give HBO credit: It morphed from a destination movie channel to one that shaped the cable landscape with its made-for movies such as And the Band Played On and Barbarians at the Gate, then became the home of mustsee regularly scheduled TV that all but guaranteed its participants Emmy accolades.

But right now HBO is at a low point. Even an "A" list show like Entourage is too inside-Hollywood to appeal to a large audience, and the amount of original programming on the channel is limited. HBO once had a knack for satisfying the appetites of many with fare we could all relate to. But, does something like the recently introduced Big Love, a tale of a polygamist and his family, play all that well outside of the big cities? So far it hasn't. A troubled man talking to his therapist about family and work problems, four single New York women, and a dysfunctional family who ran a funeral business all worked because we recognized these types of people. A spoiled, neurotic actress on The Comeback didn't because we could not identify with Lisa Kudrow's obnoxious character.

While there is more hope with comedian Louis C.K. as a perennially out-of-work

> middle-aged auto mechanic emasculated by his more successful, bread-winning wife on Lucky Louie, my gut tells me I would be happier with repeats of Everybody Loves Raymond, a show with similar appeal, on TBS. Lucky Louie doesn't sound very original to me, and originality is what has set HBO apart.

> HBO certainly won't go away. It has come too far to not forge ahead. But in order to move forward it needs to find the next generation of hit programming. And to do

so it must avoid perennial long-term absences by upping original-episode orders. Though I might choose quality over quantity, not everyone will. Waiting another seven months for just eight more episodes of The

Sopranos will alienate more viewers.

Do you agree or disagree with Mr. TV? Please e-mail mberman@mediaweek.com and let him know if you would like your response published in an upcoming issue.

HBO has to avoid the perennial long-term absences of its hit TV shows by upping the original-episode orders.

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