

VOL. 12 NO. 41

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE MEDIA

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## **Deregulation to Pick Up Speed**

New Commerce chair McCain expected to push FCC's hand on ownership rules PAGE 4

### Honed for The Holidays

Broadcasters hope solid year-end carries into '03 PAGE 5

#### TELEVISION Universal Pulls Rank Into Cable

OMD exec switches sides to sell USA, Sci Fi, others PAGE 5

#### CABLE TV

#### Agencies Eager For Overnights

Buyers want Nielsen data for smaller nets

PAGE 6

Mediaweek Magazine Monitor page 34



As a relaxation of station ownership rules draws closer, relations between the networks and their affiliates are getting more tense BY TONY CASE PAGE 20 MARKET INDICATORS

NATIONAL TV: STRONG Remain ng first-quarter inventory is being gobbled up with some younger-skewing ad categories even buying up scatter time in the older-skewing evening news daypart.

NET CABLE: HEALTHY

Buoyec by holiday sales and year-end auto clearances, fourth-quarter scatter is nearly sold out. Deals are working for first quarter, along with a lew for second.

#### SPOT TV: TIGHT

000

With many advertisers having held budgets until the end of the political season, many markets are now tight through November as entertainment, retail and telecom come on strong for the holidays.

#### RADIO: STEADY

Brisk business from auto, real estate, entertainment, fast lood, beverages, restaurants and supermarkets continue to apply pressure to ad rates.

MAGAZINES: BUSY

Women's lifestyle and serv ce titles cite growth in new pharmaceutical and health and beauty products for first quarter. Packaged goods and automotive are holding strong. One awful addition.

Two very good ones.

obc Daytime Direction

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## At Deadline

#### CABLE, TV MANUFACTURERS STILL AT ODDS

The cable industry and TV-set makers at press time still had not reached an agreement on standards to allow digital TV sets to plug directly into cable outlets without a set-top box, but are "on a constructive path," said Robert Sachs, president/CEO of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association. "No final agreement has been entered into." Talks are expected to continue for several weeks. The aim is to make digital TVs easy to connect to the cable lines that deliver video to most American TV homes. One stumbling block: whether set makers will agree to restrictions on how users can make copies using digital equipment. Makers of movies and TV programs fear digital pirates will steal their fare. bound, semi-annual glossies each have a circulation of 2 million. The magazines will be distributed to Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge car owners via direct mail and dealerships. A second mailing is expected next spring. The project is Chrysler Group's first collaboration with a major publisher.

#### REVAMPED EARLY SHOW GETS RATINGS BOOST

In its first week on the air (Oct. 28–Nov. 1), CBS' revamped *The Early Show* increased its household ratings 4 percent from the previous week to a 2.2 rating/8 share and increased total viewers 200,000 to 2.8 million. However, NBC's *Today* enjoyed its best weekly household ratings since the May sweeps, recording a 5.3/19, with 6.5 million viewers. ABC's Good Morning America

recorded a 3.9/14, with 4.8 million viewers

#### **CBS SUES ABC OVER CELEBRITY**

CBS, home to hit reality series *Survivor*, is suing ABC over its planned midseason reality series titled, *I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!* Like *Survivor*, the ABC show features a group of contestants competing against one another in physical challenges. Unlike *Survivor*, the viewing audience of *I'm a Celebrity*—rather than fellow contestants—will vote to eliminate show participants. If CBS is unsuccessful in its legal action, the ABC show is scheduled to air during the February sweeps. Last year, CBS sued, then settled with, Fox over *Boot Camp*, which CBS claimed copied the *Survivor* concept.

#### BONNEVILLE BUYS 15 STATIONS

Bonneville International, the 12th-largest radio group, announced last week it will acquire 15 radio stations in three markets in the Southwest and Midwest regions from Simmons Media Group, for \$173.5 million. If approved by the Federal Communications Commission, the acquisition would give Bonneville a total of four radio stations in Salt Lake City, where it already owns News/Talk KSL-AM, two TV stations (NBC affiliate KSL-TV and Pax affiliate KCSG), and, through a sister company, daily newspaper the Deseret News. Unless Bonneville gets a waiver, the deal would put it in violation of the cross-media ownership rule currently under review by the FCC.

#### MEREDITH ROLLS OUT CHRYSLER CUSTOM PUBS

Meredith Corp., publisher of *Ladies' Home Journal*, last week rolled out custom-published lifestyle magazines for each of Chrysler Group's Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge brands. Created by Meredith's Integrated Marketing group with involvement from Chrysler Group and agency BBDO Detroit, the three perfect-



Belo's Sander says network comp payments to affiliates will decline further Page 20

Local Media 9 Market Profile 10 Media Elite 26 Magazines 33 ADDENDA: As part of BET's move to centralize programming in New York, Curtis Gadson, executive vp of entertainment programming, will leave the network after 10 years. In other BET news, Louis Carr, executive vp for broadcast media sales, was promoted to president of the department...Four MTV executives have been promoted to executive vps: Tom Calderone was promoted to executive vp, music and talent programming, MTV and MTV2; Lois Curren, who is responsible for developing The Osbournes and FM Nation, was promoted to executive vp, series and movie development, MTV; John Miller, who helped develop Jackass, was named executive vp. series and animation, MTV; and Dave Sirulnick was named executive vp, news and production, MTV...Premiere Radio Networks said it will cancel The Suze Orman Show at the end of the year-it started distributing the show in January...Arbitron response rates for the Summer 2002 survey were the worst on record, dropping to 32.6 percent from 34.4 percent a year ago and 36.6 percent in 2000... Christina Ferrari and Henry Muller, the just-married veteran Time Inc. editors, will launch an English-language lifestyle magazine in Switzerland that will target foreigners and natives of Switzerland. The unnamed magazine launches in early 2003...Mark Feldman, former COO of TVN Entertainment, was

named president/CEO of Univision and Televisa's joint venture digital cable and satellite TV networks.

**CORRECTION:** In the Oct. 21 Magazines Special Report piece "Where the Action Is," the number of ad pages through September for *Elle Decor* should have been 188. The figure was listed in the household furnishings category.

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## MediaWire

#### **Nielsen to Weight Spanish-Speakers in Key Markets**

Beginning Dec. 30, Nielsen Media Research will weight its TV audience sample by language preference in six metered markets with large Spanishspeaking populations: Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Houston, San Antonio and San Diego. "Weighting [Spanish] spoken in Hispanic households improves the accuracy of the reported daily household estimates," Nielsen said in a notice to its local ratings clients.

Hispanic TV broadcasters have sought the change for several years, saying that language preference in the home is a key factor in viewing habits in large Hispanic markets. "This will level out the peaks and valleys [in the ratings]," said Phillip Wilkinson, president/COO of Entravision Communications, which owns Univision affiliate KBNT-TV in San Diego. "We hope [Neilsen] will add more markets."

Meanwhile, Spanish-language radio broadcasters, who have experienced ratings losses in L.A. (Mediaweek, Oct. 21), want Arbitron to implement a similar change. Arbitron and Spanish broadcasters are scheduled to meet this week to discuss the issue. --Katy Bachman

#### **NFL TV Ratings Advance** In Households, Key Demos

Just past the midway point of the National Football League season, all four television networks airing games are showing increased ratings in households and key male demographics. NFL games this season have featured the highest scoring since the 1960s, and many games have extended into overtime.

Sunday Night Football on ESPN was averaging a 7.3 household rating after nine games, up 26 percent over last season, according to Nielsen Media Research. SNF's male 18-34 rating rose 30 percent to a 7.1, and men 18-49 grew 38 percent to a 7.4.

Nine telecasts of ABC's Monday Night Football averaged an 11.5 in households, up 3 percent. MNF's men 18-34 increased 19 percent to a 9.9, and men 18-49 grew 11 (continued on page 6)

## **McCain Expected To Fast-Track Dereg**

But will likely vex broadcasters on spectrum allocation, free-airtime issues

#### WASHINGTON By Todd Shields

estrictions on media ownership are more likely to be relaxed or go away altogether, while cable system operators could feel new heat over price hikes to their customers. Those are among the most clearly anticipated effects of last week's national elections, which returned the Senate to the Republicans, giving the GOP control of both houses of Congress as well as the White House.

When the new 108th Congress convenes in

January, the GOP will hold at least 51 seats in the 100-seat Senate, giving it control over committees and the ebb and flow of legislation. While rushed legislation will be slowed by rules that require 60 Senate votes for most major changes, the shift portends smoother progress for pro-business policies.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) will reclaim the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee chairmanship he surrendered to Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) after Vermont Sen. Jim Jeffords left the Republican party in May 2001. The switch in chairs replaces an ardent critic of media concentration with a maverick senator gownership-rules foe McCain (I.) will take over the Senate who has been antagonistic to broadcasters on spectrum allocation and free airtime for political campaigns but is decidedly

deregulatory in other areas.

Judging from his record, McCain will push the Federal Communications Commission toward loosening media ownership regulations. The agency is considering whether to retain or modify a broad range of rules, including those that limit the number of stations a TV network may own and that prohibit joint ownership of daily newspapers and nearby broadcast stations.

"[McCain] is going to be asking the FCC why they haven't moved on ownership. So that's helpful," said Shaun Sheehan, a lobbyist for Tribune Co., which holds several TV/newspaper combinations that could be at risk if the rules are not relaxed.

In 1997, McCain authored an unsuccessful bill that would have required the FCC to eliminate the cross-ownership ban. At a hearing last year, he was a vigorous critic of ownership restrictions and of the FCC, saying the agency had failed to remove "rules that arguably are the most anachronistic and anti-competitive."

Aside from questions of ownership, McCain is expected to offer a mixed bag for the TV industry. Networks eager to expand may appreciate his criticism of the ownership cap, while affiliates who want to maintain the rule think



Commerce Committee from consolidation-wary Hollings.

otherwise. McCain also wants to quickly auction spectrum that broadcasters were given to use during the transition to digital television. He has been a harsh critic of broadcasters' failure to meet federal deadlines for beginning digital broadcasts. McCain is also a proponent of free airtime for candidates—an issue that most broadcasters oppose. And in what has to be worrisome for the cable industry, McCain in April directed Congress' investigative arm, the General Accounting Office, to undertake a study of what he called "soaring cable rates."

McCain still is considering his agenda, and while specifics have yet to be determined, he expects to be a vigorous chairman, said Pia Pialorsi, one of his representatives. "He likes to keep a very active pace," Pialorsi said.

Elsewhere, Republicans could use their new control of the Senate to clear a backlog of judicial nominations contested by Democrats. That, in turn, could free the languishing nomination of Jonathan Adelstein as the fifth FCC commissioner, said Blair Levin, an analyst for Legg Mason. Adelstein, an aide to Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), was nominated by the White House last February and approved by the Commerce Committee in July, but his nomination stalled amid partisan rancor over the judicial appointments. Adelstein would become the second Democrat on the fivemember FCC. "We don't think his presence would change the direction of FCC policy," said Levin. "But we think he could push the rural agenda and be a voice of caution against dramatic changes in media ownership rules."

Among developments that could signal smoother sailing for parties seeking to weaken ownership restrictions is the fact Hollings will no longer chair the commerce subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. The post is likely to revert to Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.). Hollings used the subcommittee's power of the purse early this year to scuttle a plan to exclude the Federal Trade Commission from a role in reviewing media mergers. Earlier, he used the same power to forbid the FCC from moving toward changing the cross-ownership rule.

At the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) takes over from Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.). Leahy opposed a Hollings bill mandating copy-protection technologies for digital content such as movies and TV programs, saying the measure went too far. Hatch has supported copyright protection.

Over at the Judiciary Committee, the chairmanship of the antitrust subcommittee, whose purview includes media mergers and copyright issues, moves from Sen. Herbert Kohl (D-Wis.) to Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio). "DeWine and Kohl work so closely together that which one is chair makes no difference," observed a DeWine representative.

In terms of how the Senate's shift will impact pending media-related bills, prospects have dimmed for a measure from Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) dealing with concentration of radio ownership. The bill would stem any loosening of ownership restrictions and threatens license revocation for companies unfairly using joint ownership of stations and concert venues.

The election means only minor changes in the composition of the House Commerce Committee, which is crafting a bill aimed at speeding the digital TV transition. Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-La.) is expected to continue as chairman, with Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) as ranking minority member.

## Holiday Hopes Extend to '03

#### Broadcasters say spending will stay up in 1st Q, but indicators are uncertain

#### THE MARKETPLACE By Sandy Brown and Katy Bachman

aving fattened up their coffers with a record \$900 million bonanza in political advertising over the past few months, local TV stations are expecting a steady flow of holiday-season ad dollars to carry them to positive revenue growth for the year. But the arrival of the first quarter may well bring an end to broadcasters' recent robust gains.

"It should be a pretty soft first quarter, with flat growth compared to first quarter this year," said Rich Hamilton, CEO of Zenith Optimedia Group.

First quarter is traditionally the lightest advertising period of the year. But first quarter 2003 could be even dicier for spot TV and radio because many agencies are playing a waitand-see game before allocating budgets. "We are waiting until the [November ratings book] before we place spots for next year. A lot of us are waiting to see how the year sums up before we commit," said Anne Pomeranz, group broadcast director for OMD.

Broadcasters are more positive, betting that several major ad categories will keep spending past the holiday season and into the new year. Vinnie Malcolm, station manager of Tribune Broadcasting's WB outlet KTLA-TV in Los Angeles, said he expects his station's sales "will be flat to up slightly in early 2003 on the strength of the film industry, retail and telecom, led by Verizon."

Riding on the coattails of a strong network upfront should also help, Malcolm said. "Money should continue to flow to spot because network scatter is so expensive, and advertisers don't want to pay the heavy freight," he said.

However, some economic indicators cast doubt upon retail's strength into and past the holidays. In October, the consumer confidence index plunged from 93.7 to 79.4 leading to the question: Will retailers heavy-up on advertising to move merchandise and promote sales, or will they cut budgets to boost their bottom lines?



The automotive category, meanwhile, has

been a consistent spender on spot TV as well as radio throughout the year, and some believe that trend will continue. "We expect the manufacturers to keep up their incentives into first quarter next year," said Mary Beth Garber, president of the Southern California Broadcasters Association. Garber said stations are expecting dealers and dealer associations "to advertise even more" early next year because they have rising inventories of both new and used cars.

Radio station owners are subject to many of the same market conditions as their TV counterparts, only in smaller degrees. They, too, are bullish about fourth quarter based on strong activity from several categories, but like the TV groups, they stop short of forecasting significant growth into the first quarter.

Radio stations are also expecting continuing good health from auto dollars. "Even if the economy remains sluggish, we'll still see strength from auto," said Lew Dickey, CEO of Cumulus Media. The auto category is not as vital to radio, contributing about 15 percent to 20 percent of revenue compared to 25 percent to 30 percent in TV.

## **Universal Beefs Up Sales**

#### Rank leaves OMD to work under Lucas, a former client, along with 3 others

#### TELEVISION By Megan Larson and John Consoli

or the second time in a month, a national cable ad sales operation has lured a major player in the media world to join its sales team. Following Discovery's hire of CBS sales chief Joe Abruzzese in October, Universal Television Group last week tapped Dan Rank, managing partner at OMD USA, to switch sides of the negotiating table and become executive vp of ad sales. Rank, who relocates to Chicago from New York, will run ad sales for USA Network, Sci Fi Channel, Trio and News World International, overseeing sales offices in

## MediaWire

#### percent to a 10.3.

On Fox's Sunday telecasts, household ratings were up 5 percent to 10.2, while men 18-34 jumped 13 percent to an 8.8 and men 18-49 rose 10 percent to a 9.2. Sunday NFL games on CBS were also seeing growth, with household ratings climbing 4 percent to a 9.3; men 18-34 were up 11 percent to an 8.0, and men 18-49 were up 14 percent to a 7.7.

All the networks are 90 percent to 95 percent sold out through their NFL playoff telecasts. They have been bringing in extra revenue by selling ad units previously held back for audience deficiencies that have not materialized. —John Consoli

#### FCC's Copps Wants More Time for Comments on Caps

The Federal Communications Commission's lone Democrat says the agency may be rushing to judgment in its current review of media ownership rules. Commissioner Michael J. Copps issued his written comments last week after the agency said it would extend by one more month the period for receiving comments on the ownership caps. Copps said the new Jan. 2 deadline is too short.

"I am disappointed in the extreme and alarmed at the prospect of forging ahead to dismantle the limits and caps before we fully understand the effects of such action," Copps said. FCC Media Bureau chief Ken Ferree, whose office issued the extension, said it will help to "further ensure a full and open debate" about media ownership. —Todd Shields

#### BusinessWeek, Dow Jones, Forbes Make Staff Cuts

BusinessWeek last week laid off 19 editorial staffers—13 from the magazine and 6 from BusinessWeek Online—plus 2 from the mag's business side. The layoffs amounted to a 4 percent staff reduction at the McGraw-Hill Cos.–owned title, bringing staffing levels in line with 1996 levels, the company said in a statement. Also last week, Dow Jones & Co., publisher of *The Wall Street Journal*, announced it will lay off 230 staffers, 3 percent of its work force. Another business pub, *Forbes*, has laid off about two dozen staffers this month. —*Lisa Granatstein* 

#### Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles.

Jeff Lucas, UTG's sales president, has been working overtime to overhaul the ad sales department. Just prior to Rank's hire, Mike Tedone, most recently vp of pricing and planning at NBC, was named executive vp of national ad sales, overseeing the New York office. Kevin McAuliffe, previously senior vp of affiliate marketing at Gemstar, was named to the new position of senior vp, cross-platform sales, in charge of creating packages across all of Universal's TV properties as well as other Universal out-

lets, such as the film

studio, theme parks and

the music group. Addi-

tionally, Lloyd Schloss,

most recently vp of

pricing and planning at

UPN, has been named

senior vp of operations.

pace with our program-

ming," Lucas said of

the hires, referring to

"We have to keep



Rank is making the jump to cable.

the success last summer of USA Network's original series *Monk* and *The Dead Zone*. "The biggest thing we have added is experience."

Spurred by ratings growth at USA Network—where third-quarter prime-time ratings among adults 18-49 and 25-54 were up 12 percent and 11 percent, respectively—Lucas is rebuilding the sales department after two years of what some media buyers characterized as mismanagement. When USA's ratings declined during 2000 and 2001 and the network's ad pricing eroded, the sales department was hit by high staff turnover. Lucas is the unit's third president in a little more than two years.

Rank has valuable contacts among major advertisers that are OMD clients, including JC Penney, State Farm, Pepsi and Frito-Lay. "He walks in their door knowing a lot of paying customers," said a sales executive at a competing cable network. And Rank is going to work for another OMD client—Universal.

Still, rival sales execs questioned if Rank's more than two decades as a media buyer might hurt him as he sells cable inventory he once deemed insignificant. One exec, who requested anonymity, said, "During the last upfront, he told my [sales] guys that we were 'this big' [his fingers spaced out just a little bit]. How many years can you say cable is nothing and have it be OK to change your mind suddenly?"

At OMD meanwhile, internal candidates such as Debbie Richmond, who has worked directly under Rank, may be considered by OMD Worldwide president/CEO Joe Uva to succeed him. Outside contenders are said to include Mel Berning, president of U.S. broadcast at MediaVest; Donna Speciale, executive vp, director of national and local broadcast at Mediacom; and Rino Scanzoni, president of the broadcast division at Mediaedge:cia. Uva could also tap a former colleague, Turner Broadcasting Sales' executive vp of marketing and research Barry Fischer, who in the mid '90s ran national TV buying at Wells Rich Greene.

Following Rank's departure, OMD last week promoted Page Thompson from chief strategy officer to CEO of OMD North America, a new position. Monica Karo, managing director of OMD West, will succeed Thompson as OMD USA's top strategy executive and will retain her regional responsibilities.

## **Show Us the Ratings**

Some buyers want Nielsen to release overnights for several growing nets

#### CABLE TV By John Consoli

ome media buyers who are spending advertiser dollars on several growing cable networks are at odds with Nielsen Media Research over the company's policy of not releasing overnight ratings data to agencies unless the networks become fully paid subscribers to Nielsen.

The agency executives who are opposed to the Nielsen policy, none of whom would speak for attribution, claim that the networks have grown to the point where they are no longer "startup" or "emerging" services, and that their overnight ratings should be posted by Nielsen regardless of whether they are subscribers. The networks include Golf Channel (which currently reaches 47 million households), MTV 2 and Oxygen (nearly 40 million homes each), ESPN News (29 million), BBC America (27 million) and Health Network (25 million). National Geographic Network (27 million homes) was on the buyers' list, but it recently became a Nielsen subscriber.

None of the cable networks returned calls. "We really have no idea how these networks are performing on a day-to-day basis," said one agency executive. "Nielsen releases some of their ratings data in pocket pieces or custom studies that come out monthly or quarterly by

Squeaking by on a 4000 % mark-up

Somewhere in Malibn, a music exec lies on his \$7000 Mies Van Der Rohe daybed, whimpering because album sales are down. A CD casts roughly because album sales are down. A CD casts roughly because album sales are down. A CD casts roughly because album sales are down. A CD casts roughly because album sales are down. A CD casts roughly because album sales are down. A CD casts roughly because album sales are down. A cD casts roughly because album sales are down. A cD casts roughly because album sales are down. A cD casts roughly because album sales are down. A cD casts roughly because album sales are down. A cD casts roughly because album sales are down. A cD casts roughly for to produce and package, and despite charging because album sales are down. A cD casts roughly for to produce and package, and despite charging because album sales are down. A cD casts roughly his Commes Des Garcons fiventy bucks for it, he's losing his Commes Des Garcons forty minutes to forget won't garner much sympathy. forty minutes to forget won't garner that sympathy. for the fill that six car garage either. Maybe you won't fill that six car garage much sympathy. for the fill that six car garage and despite that that should charge more. No wait, you already tried that. for the fill that six car garage and despite the sympathy. for the fill that six car garage are sympathy. for the sympathy symp dayparts, but no program-specific ratings are being released overnight."

Said another buyer: "We pay Nielsen to provide us with overnight data, and they should make it mandatory that when these networks reach a certain level of households, their ratings must be published. Nielsen should be able to decide when a network is large enough to have its ratings released. Right now we don't really know how many eyeballs we are paying for."

Jack Loftus, senior vp of communications for Nielsen, which like *Mediaweek* is a unit of VNU, said the research company "cannot force networks to subscribe." As such, Loftus said, Nielsen cannot share their ratings data. "We do custom service for some of these networks, but that information is released only to them," he added. The networks in turn release that data to agencies, but some buyers complain that it is selective and not as reliable as overnights.

Loftus believes the matter is up to the agencies and the networks to work out. "If the agencies want this data released, they should put pressure on the networks to subscribe," he said.

John Rash, chief broadcast negotiator for Campbell Mithun, agreed. "No one should be required to do anything," Rash said. "But there is pressure on all networks to release as much information as possible to advertisers. And those networks that don't allow their data to be released could potentially lose business."

Jon Mandel, chief negotiating officer for Mediacom, took issue with the complaining buyers. "I don't buy the griping, since the agencies that buy these networks know going in that they are not going to have access to their data," he said. "It's like buying *Jerry Springer* and then saying you have to pull out because of the content. You know what it is when you buy it."

Still, Mandel said Nielsen should reconsider its policy. "The agencies are paying Nielsen lots of money to give them ratings data, and Nielsen is measuring everyone," he said. "There's no excuse for Nielsen not to release the data just because the networks won't pay them to do so." —with Megan Larson

## **NBC Finally Lands Bravo**

#### 65 million-sub entertainment channel may be sold with NBC, cable nets

Kingpin could run on Bravo.

#### TELEVISION By Megan Larson

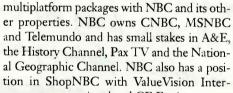
fter several futile attempts to acquire a cable entertainment network over the years, NBC finally scored one last week with its \$1.25 billion purchase of Bravo from Cablevision Systems Corp.

The deal will help Cablevision pay down

its \$7.5 billion in debt and gives NBC a long-desired cable platform for entertainment content, as well as NBC Studios projects. "In this environment, where it's really tough to make a profit at a broadcast network, it's important to have cable networks so you can buy additional runs on network shows and feed them to your cable outlet," said Kagan World Media analyst Derek Baine.

While most of the Bravo

staff is expected to remain with Cablevision in order to run sister network the Independent Film Channel, Bravo sales president Hanna Gryncwajg will travel with Bravo. An NBC representative said the channel will have its own dedicated sales force. And though nothing has been decided with regard to how advertising sales will be handled in the future, it is likely that Bravo will sometimes be bundled into



national and GE Equity.

NBC Entertainment president Jeff Zucker, who will oversee Bravo, last week lauded the network's potential repurposing opportunities. Zucker said it's possible NBC will air a more graphic version of its midseason drama *Kingpin* on Bravo while running a more broadcastfriendly version on the network. As far as Cablevision is con-

cerned, the seventh-largest cable operator may be selling more

assets. Kagan's Baine expects the company's Rainbow Networks to eventually be "dismantled and sold." AMC may be the first to go. MGM has been interested in Cablevision's classic movie channel and, in a call with analysts late last week, Cablevision CEO James Dolan reportedly said that the company will consider what it sees as the right offer for the 80 million-plus-subscriber network.



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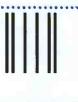


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## Local Media TV STATIONS | NEWSPAPERS | RADIO STATIONS | OUTDOOR

#### MAGAZINES

RADIO

## Most Night Programming Doesn't Light Up the Dial

**Bright spot: Talk host Delilah** 

#### **BY KATY BACHMAN**

Radio after dark (7 p.m. to 6 a.m.) is asleep at the mike. When the sun goes down, radio loses about half its audience and draws even less revenue. As a result, the daypart is usually a lower priority for programmers who put their creative juices into mornings, a daypart that on aver-

age pulls in half of a given station's revenue. Most buyers place 80 percent of their advertising run in mornings, with the rest of their dollars flowing into afternoon drive and midday.

"Not too often do you package nights. It's one of the lowest-priced and least-used dayparts," said Kevin Garrity, senior vp and director of national sales for Interep, the radio rep firm.

However, despite the overwhelming concentration on the money dayparts, there are a few signs that radio broadcasters aren't ready to write off evenings as a loss leader.

"Evenings are a wide-open opportunity," said John Sykes, CEO of Viacom's Infinity Broadcasting, which today premieres a simulcast of *The Late Show With David Letterman* on 15 top-market stations.

In an attempt to attract larger adult audiences at night, Cox Radio last week rolled out *The Dream Doctor*, hosted by Dr. Charles McPhee, on four of its stations in Atlanta; Miami; San Antonio, Texas; and Tulsa, Okla., from 7 to 11 p.m. The show, which combines McPhee's analysis of listeners' dreams with music, had enormous success in Santa Barbara, Calif., on KRUZ-FM, where it challenged *Delilah*, one of the few programming success stories at night. The nightly show is syndicated by Jones Radio Networks on more than 200 stations.

Radio was not always a 7 a.m.-to-7 p.m. medium. Many a boomer remembers the days when nights were populated with the likes of a Wolfman Jack, Cousin Brucie and Alison Steele ("the Night Bird"), among others. "Nighttime radio listeners are looking for personality, and when they find it, it becomes appointment radio," said Steve Young, a program director with JRN, one of the few companies to develop syndicated programming for radio after 7 p.m. "If radio can present entertaining per-

sonalities, it can compete against other media," added Young.

"It doesn't have to be a wasted daypart," agreed John Gehron, regional vp and market manager in Chicago for Clear Channel Communications. "But you do have to work a little harder to make it valuable."

That might take dollars that radio groups already pressured by bottom-line concerns simply don't want to spend. It also may be tougher to change peoples' media habits at a time when consumers are flooded with increasing choices from TV, cable and the Internet. "People go home at night and they watch TV. I don't know that the pattern is going to change," said Natalie Swed Stone, director of national radio services for OMD.

"It's going to be difficult for radio to come up with programming in the evening hours that would compel them to switch off TV and turn on the radio," said Allen Shaw, co-COO of Beasley Broadcast Group.

So is repurposing high-profile programming from TV the answer? Advertisers said it depends on how it translates. "60 Minutes [which airs on 18 Infinity stations] is a great success story, but that's all news," said Karen Agresti, senior vp and director of local broadcast for Hill, Holliday, Connors, Cosmopulos. "Letterman is an interesting idea, the programming is right for that time. But what concerns me is that Letterman is a visual guy. You'll lose his mannerisms." (continued on page 10)

#### **Little Steven Proves It All Night on Sundays**

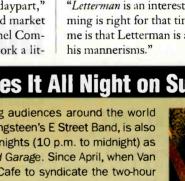
Steven Van Zandt, who is rocking audiences around the world these days on tour with Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, is also rocking radio listeners on Sunday nights (10 p.m. to midnight) as host of *Little Steven's Underground Garage*. Since April, when Van Zandt partnered with Hard Rock Cafe to syndicate the two-hour show devoted to garage bands and rock 'n' roll, the show has had the success most daily syndicated shows only dream of and is the first of its kind to be cleared in every top-10 radio market. "In a short time, Little Steven's show has become appointment radio," said Rich Russo, director of broadcast services for JL Media. In New York, where *Underground Garage* airs on WAXQ-FM, Clear Channel's Classic Rock station, time-period ratings have climbed from a 1.6 to a 5.1 among adult men. In Miami, on Clear Chan-



nel's Classic Rock WBGG-FM, ratings are up from a 2.5 to a 9.6 among men.

Van Zandt, who also stars in HBO's *The Sopranos*, said he knew audiences would find him. "A few years ago, radio pushed all the personality into Talk, and the ratings went with it. I'm trying to bring back music-personality radio, and the audience is responding," he said. While music stations' playlists usually consist of about 250 songs, Van Zandt's list numbers about 900, he said. The show's relatively light commercial load has pulled in major advertisers, including Unilever and Pepsi.

"My fantasy is that some station will say to me, 'Let's do this 24 hours a day,'" Van Zandt said. That wish almost came true three years ago, in the months preceding Infinity Broadcasting's decision to dump Rock on WNEW-FM in New York for Talk. Van Zandt applied for the program director position. "Part of what I suggested was that they let DJs put together their own sets," he recalled. "That was the deal-breaker." —*KB* 



## Market Profile

#### **NEW YORK TV STATIONS**

#### **Tower Travails Continue**

In the ongoing effort to find a new home for the digital-transmission towers destroyed in the collapse of the World Trade Center, Empire State Building officials last week told broadcasters that the landmark is upgrading its facilities in order to serve all New York stations. "We are capable of providing a home to all the stations," said Alex Smirnoff, ESB director of telecommunications.

However, that message got a cool reception from the Metropolitan Television Alliance, which is backing a plan to build a new 2,000-ft. tower somewhere in the New York metro area. With the exception of Viacom's WCBS-TV, stations have been sharing antenna on the Empire State Building and have complained of poor reception. "It's an old building, and it would require adding an awful lot of equipment," said MTA president Edward Grebow.

Meanwhile, the Durst Corp.'s plan to erect a 358-foot transmission tower atop the Condé Nast building in Times Square is not viewed by the MTA as a viable option. "We're happy to have another alternative, but that does not solve the problem," said Grebow. —Sandy Brown

#### HOUSTON RADIO

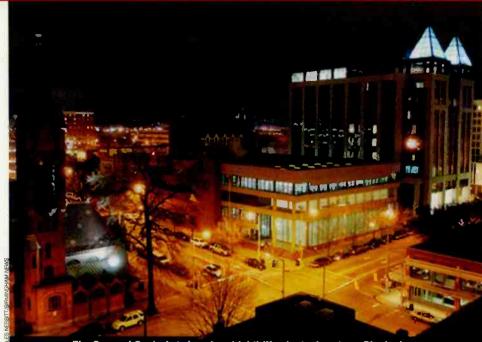
#### **Infinity Tunes In Jazz**

Instead of continuing to operate the No. 3 Country station in Houston, Infinity Broadcasting last week flipped KIKK-FM to Smooth Jazz, leaving the Country battle to Infinity's other Country station, KILT-FM, and Cox Radio's KKBQ-FM.

"It was very difficult for three Country stations to survive in the market," said Laura Morris, vp and market general manager for Infinity's four-station radio cluster. Houston had been one of only two top-50 markets that had three Country stations.

KIKK, which has changed its call letters to KHJZ, is modeled after successful Infinity Jazz outlets in L.A. (KTWV-FM), Dallas (KOAI-FM) and Detroit (WVMV-FM).

While Smooth Jazz seeks out its audience, the two Country stations will be going headto-head. Cox's younger-skewing KKBQ has been gaining on KILT with a lighter spot load. "We're on their back bumper, flashing the headlights and honking the horn," said Chris Wegmann, vp and general market manager for Cox's Houston stations. -KB



The Concord Center's twin spires (right) illuminate downtown Birmingham.

## Birmingham, Ala.

SITUATED IN THE NORTH CENTRAL PART OF ALABAMA NEAR THE FOOTHILLS OF THE Appalachian mountain range, Birmingham is a metropolitan hub in a region that also features dozens of rural communities. The diverse local economy of greater Birmingham got a significant boost in 2001, when

Mercedes-Benz USA doubled the size of its manufacturing plant in the region. Honda also constructed a brand new automotive plant in the area that year, which it recently expanded.

In general, the city is experiencing a rebound in the fourth quarter after shaking off a sluggish summer, thanks largely to the region's automotive sector, says Sharon Gee, publisher of the *Birmingham Business Journal*, a weekly business publication.

Beyond automotive, Birmingham, the

IELSEN MONITOR-PLUS		
O SPENDING BI		NGINAM
	JanDec. 2000	JanDec. 2001
Spot TV	\$124,574,000	\$122,310,000
Local Newspaper	\$60,436,000	\$60,831,000
FSI Coupon	\$4,769,000	\$4,532,000
Local Magazine	\$2,127,000	\$2,408,000
Total	\$191,906,000	\$190,081,000
Source: Nielsen Monitor-Plus		

state's largest city, with a population of 246,903 according to the 2000 U.S. Census, is home to six institutions of higher learning, including the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The university's renowned medical research and development facilities continue to foster local economic growth, as well.

Birmingham, the nation's No. 40 television market according to Nielsen Media Research, also includes the Alabama cities of Anniston and Tuscaloosa, the home of the

> University of Alabama. With 690,030 TV households, the latest development in Birmingham's broadcasttelevision scene is a proposal by a local businessman to launch the market's first Spanishlanguage television station. Jonathan Barbee,

## Watches while she works out.

## #1 in Non-Children's Cable Daytime Among Women 18-34\*

A Baby Story 9am & 3pm A Wedding Story 10am & 2pm A Personal Story 11am A Makeover Story 12pm A Dating Story 1pm



\*TLC ranks as the #1 non-children's ad-supported cable network among women 18-34 AA% for the 2001-2002 season to date.

Source: NHI; 10/1/01 - 9/1/02; Daytime is Monday-Friday 9a - 4p; all ad-supported cable; ratings based on network coverage area; mon-children's ad-supported cable excludes networks airing children's programming (Nickelodeon, ABC Family, Cartoon Network and Toon Disney).

## Market Profile

president of Birmingham-based advertising and public relations firm Media Works International, hopes to negotiate a deal with Univision Communications, Telemundo or TV Azteca to create a Birmingham affiliate.

Barbee and two private investors would foot 52 percent of the estimated \$6 million-\$7 million in startup costs, with the remaining stake taken by other investors. Barbee says he anticipates creating 75 to 100 new jobs with the proposed station (probably a low-power outlet at the outset), which he hopes to have on area cable systems by the end of next year.

"The Hispanic population has risen about 300 percent in the last 10 years, so we decided to bring a Spanish-speaking station to town," says Barbee. While the U.S. Census pegs the number of Hispanics in the Birmingham metro area at around 17,000, or about 1.8 percent of the population, Barbee says he has evidence that Hispanics number around 50,000 in the metro area and could actually be double or triple that amount because of underreporting.

The top two stations for local news are Fox owned-and-operated WBRC and Allbritton Communications' ABC affiliate WBMA. Lowpower WBMA uses two satellite stations to boost its reach in the market.

As part of an affiliation swap that affected the market in the mid-1990s, WBRC—at one time both an independent and an ABC affiliate—switched to Fox but retained its strong local news and dominant market position. WBRC produces more local news than any other rival in the market. Its news shows also include local newscasts from 5 to 7 a.m., followed by its local news and entertainment show, *Good Day Alabama*, from 7 to 9 a.m. and a noon newscast. The station picked up *Dharma* & *Greg* this fall, which airs after its 10 p.m. news.

WBMA picked up *The Oprah Winfrey Show* after WBRC dropped it in 2000 for *Judge Judy* and *Divorce Court*, and now airs it as its early news lead-in at 4 p.m. and again at 11:35 p.m. WBMA, which had been No. 1 in early news, has since lost that lead. Frank DeTillio, who became WBMA's new gm in October, declined comment. DeTillio had previously served as gm of Nashville NBC affiliate WSMV.

In February, NBC O&O WVTM hired new president and gm David Doebler, who arrived from NBC's Raleigh, N.C., O&O WNCN, where he was vp of sales and creative services. Doebler says WVTM this year installed a new management team, some new on-air talent and an entirely new sales team. He says WVTM has seen very strong ratings growth in each sweeps this year, jumping

#### NEWSPAPERS: THE ABCS

	Daily Circulation	Sunday Circulation	Daily Market Penetration	Sunday Marke Penetration
Jefferson County: 260,154 Househo	olds			
The Birmingham News/Post-Herald*	110,081		42.3%	
The Birmingham News	98,182	122,174	37.7%	47.0%
Tuscaloosa County: 63,952 Househ	olds			
The Birmingham News/Post-Herald*	2,813		4.4%	
The Birmingham News	2,767	3,110	4.3%	4.9%
The Tuscaloosa News	771		1.2%	
Talladega County: 30,588 Househol	ds			
The Birmingham News/Post-Herald*	2,367		7.7%	
The Birmingham News	2,321	3,002	7.6%	9.8%
The (Anniston) Star	1,362	1,500	4.5%	4.9%
Walker County: 27,846 Households				
Jasper Daily Mountain Eagle	11,064	11,566	39.7%	41.5%
The Birmingham News/Post-Herald*	3,493		12.5%	
The Birmingham News	3,493	4,551	12.5%	16.3%
St. Clair County: 23,843 Household	S			
The Birmingham News/Post-Herald*	4,192		17.6%	
The BirmIngham News	4,192	6,318	17.6%	26.5%
The Gadsden Times	678	772	2.8%	3.2%
Blount County: 19,772 Households				
The Birmingham News/Post-Herald*	2,493		12.6%	
The Birmingham News	2,492	3,516	12.6%	17.8%
The Gadsden Times	212	246	1.1%	1.2%

\*Combined daily circulations of The Birmingham News/Birmingham Post Herald. Source: Audit Bureau of Circulations

#### **RADIO OWNERSHIP**

OWNER	STATIONS	Avg. QtrHour Share	Revenue (in millions)	Share of Total
Cox Radio	1 AM, 5 FM	34.8	\$20.5	41.7%
Citadel Communications	2 AM, 3 FM	19.7	\$12.7	25.8%
<b>Clear Channel Communications</b>	1 AM, 4 FM	17.4	\$9.4	19.1%
Crawford Broadcasting	1 AM, 2 FM	9.1	\$2.7	5.5%

Includes only stations with significant registration in Arbitron diary returns and licensed in Birmingham or immediate area. Ratings from Arbitron Summer 2002 book; revenue and owner information provided by BIA Financial Network.

from third place in news a year ago to being a close second or tied for first in some dayparts in key adult demographics.

"It's a cleaner product—the storytelling is much cleaner, much more viewer-benefit focused," says Doebler, who adds that the first eight minutes of all WVTM's newscasts are now more fast-paced with more local stories.

On the programming front, WVTM added Life's Moments, Dr. Phil and The John Walsh Show to its afternoon lineup this fall. It also launched a new Sunday-night sports show featuring University of Alabama football coach Dennis Franchione that airs 10:30-11 p.m.

Sinclair Broadcast Group owns the market's only duopoly with UPN affiliate WABM and WB affiliate WTTO. Sinclair finalized its purchase of WABM from Glencairn in February. Sandy Stewart was promoted to gm of WTTO and WABM in December 2000 from director of sales, following the promotion of Stephen Mann to group manager for Sinclair.

The two stations each have their own general and local sales managers but share a national sales manager. In March of 2001, Mary Margaret Henry was promoted from account ex-

# Surpriser We're #1.

Discovery Channel's new daytime series Surprise by Design is #1\* in its time slot on Ad-Supported Cable.



Weekdays 10am & 1pm<sub>e/p</sub>

Surprise By Design

Hosts and designers Robert Verdi & Rebecca Cole

For more information contact your Discovery Network Sales Representative or log on to adsales.discoværy.com

> Source: NHI. Women 25-54 (CvgAA%) ran∢, M-F 1P, 9/30-10/27/02. \*Tied with LIFETIME

## Market Profile

ecutive to local sales manager for WABM, a newly created position. Administration and sales staffs for the stations are located in one building, while production and engineering are in a separate facility.

Neither WTTO nor WABM produces local news. "Right now our backbone is sitcoms and sports," says Stewart. WABM changed its early fringe lineup this fall with the additions of The Hughleys, That '70s Show and Everybody Loves Raymond. Second runs of Everybody Loves Raymond and That '70s Show air on WTTO at 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m., respectively.

WTTO will carry 13 Southeastern Conference football games and 26 basketball games this fall through a Jefferson-Pilot package. "If you live in the South, you live and breathe football," says Stewart. "When you carry an Alabama or Auburn game, it's like carrying the Super Bowl." Besides college football and basketball, WTTO is also the exclusive broadcast home of the Super 6, high school state championship basketball games that will air Dec. 5-7.

Media General's CBS affiliate WIAT generally ranks fourth in the market in local news. Its late newscast even gets outdelivered by WABM's reruns of Good Times and WTTO repeats of The Andy Griffith Show. Executives at WIAT did not return calls seeking comment.

Paxson Communications' Pax TV outlet WPXH, featuring its family-oriented fare, does well in this Bible Belt market.

Time Warner Cable had been the dominant cable company in Birmingham until July 2001, when Charter Communications acquired AT&T's Birmingham system. This past July, Charter began handling ad insertions for Time Warner in the DMA. Charter also controls the Greater Birmingham Interconnect, which reps about 344,000 subs, or 73 percent of cable homes in the DMA. Serving about 242,000 subscribers in the market, Charter has 51 percent of cable households in the DMA. Comcast also has a large presence in the market, with 86,500 subs in Tuscaloosa and Gadsden.

Charter inserts on about 40 networks on most head-ends, up from 30 in 2000. In Nielsen's July DMA survey from 6 a.m. to midnight, 40 networks on Charter, on a seven-day average, did a combined 26 household rating/52 share, says Charter general sales manager Joie Davis. That compares to a combined 22.8/45 for the market's seven broadcast stations. Charter also does well when the local football teams are playing. The Oct. 26 Alabama vs. Tennessee on ESPN pulled a local overnight rating of 36.2/47. The game was up against the World Series on Fox, which did an 8.2/11. "When you look at our market, college football is a monster for us," Davis says. Cable penetration in the market is 69 percent, on par with the top-50 market average, according to Scarborough Research.

Cox Radio dominates the Birmingham radio market, which is ranked No. 57 in the country. Cox owns a total of seven stations in the market, although one, WRJS-AM, does not show up in the Arbitron ratings books. About six weeks ago, Cox blew up the format on WRJS, making it the market's first fulltime Spanish-language station. WRIS had been a Gospel/Talk outlet. "There's been a large increase in the Hispanic population in Birmingham," says David DuBose, vp/market manager of Cox Radio-Birmingham. "We felt like there was an opportunity there. Also, our

#### **RADIO LISTENERSHIP / BIRMINGHAM**

FORMAT	Avg. UtrH Morning Drive, 12+	OUT Share Evening Drive, 12+	
Soft Adult Contemporary	2.9	0.6	
Urban Adult Contemporary	2.1	1.6	
Country	1.6	1.5	
Christian	1.3	1.0	
Rhythmic Contemporary Hits	1.2	1.2	
Classic Rock	1.1	1.0	
Alternative	1.1	1.0	
Gospel	1.1	0.8	
'80s Hits	0.8	0.8	
Adult Contemporary	0.8	0.7	
	Soft Adult Contemporary Urban Adult Contemporary Country Christian Rhythmic Contemporary Hits Classic Rock Alternative Gospel '80s Hits	FORMATMorning Drive, 12+Soft Adult Contemporary2.9Urban Adult Contemporary2.1Country1.6Christian1.3Rhythmic Contemporary Hits1.2Classic Rock1.1Alternative1.1Gospel1.1'80s Hits0.8	FORMAT Drive, 12+ Drive, 12+ Drive, 12+   Soft Adult Contemporary 2.9 0.6   Urban Adult Contemporary 2.1 1.6   Country 1.6 1.5   Christian 1.3 1.0   Rhythmic Contemporary Hits 1.2 1.2   Classic Rock 1.1 1.0   Alternative 1.1 0.8   '80s Hits 0.8 0.8

Source: Arbitron Summer 2002 Radio Market Report

#### **NIELSEN RATINGS / BIRMINGHAM** EVENING AND LATE-NEWS DAYPARTS, WEEKDAYS

Evening No		N PERSONAL PROPERTY AND		1.10
Time	Network	Station	Rating	Share
5-5:30 p.m.	Fox	WBRC	10.3	19
	ABC	WBMA+	8.9	16
	NBC	WVTM	4.0	7
	CBS	WIAT	3.0	5
	WB	WTTO+*	2.7	5
	UPN	WABM*	2.3	4
	Pax	WPXH+*	1.3	2
5:30-6 p.m.	Fox	WBRÇ	9,4	16
6-6:30 p.m.	Fox	WBRC	10.6	18
	ABC	WBMA+	8.1	14
	NBC	WVTM	5.4	9
	WB	WTTO+*	4.9	8
	UPN	WABM*	3.1	5
	CBS	WIAT	3.0	5
	Pax	WPXH+*	2.4	4
Late News				
9-9:30 p.m.	Fox	WBRC	10.3	14
9:30-10 p.m.	Fox	WBRC*	7.6	11
0-10:30 p.m.	Fox	WBRC	8.8	13
	ABC	WBMA+	8.3	13
	NBC	WVTM	7.6	11
	WB	WTTO+*	4.9	7
	UPN	WABM*	4.2	6
	CBS	WIAT	3.5	5
	Pax	WPXH+	1.5	2

Audience estimates for parent station plus satellite/affiliate stations "Non-news programming Source: Nielsen Media Research, July 2002

Money built walls around the truth.

One man knocked them down.

# DOMINICK DUNNE PRESENTS NUMBER OF STATES OF S

## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15" 8PM/7C

**BIG. BOLD. BLOCKBUSTER.** 

## Market Profile

clients were asking us to help them reach Hispanic listeners."

Cox maintains its dominant position in the Urban genre, with three stations targeting the market's sizeable African American community. They are Urban Adult Contemporary station WBHK-FM, the No. 1 station overall in the market and in adults 25-54 and 18-49; Rhythmic CHR station WBHJ-FM; and Contemporary Inspirational station WAGG-AM.

"We think we're in a good position with covering the demographics across the Urban spectrum here," says DuBose. Cox's Country station, WZZK-FM, has been the heritage Country outlet in the market for the past 20 years. Cox launched '80s Hits station WBPT-FM in November 2001.

Citadel Communications relaunched its Classic Rock outlet WZRR-FM in March as The Buzzard. "We increased the attitude, pushed the edge a little bit more," says Terry Bond, vp/gm for Citadel's Birmingham fivestation cluster.

WJOX-AM, Citadel's Sports/Talk outlet, this year inked a five-year deal to be the new radio home of University of Alabama football, basketball and baseball. The Crimson Tide football games had previously been on Cox's WBPT, and its basketball games were on WAGG. WJOX also re-upped with NASCAR in February for a two-year deal. WJOX's host lineup has also changed in the past six months, including adding Jay Barker, a former Crimson Tide star quarterback, to mornings; and Ray Melick, a sports writer at the Birmingham News, to an afternoon-drive show. Between WIOX, WZRR and Alternative outlet WRAX-FM, Citadel owns the 18-plus, 25-54 and 18-34 male demographics in Birmingham. The popular, good-humored Rick and Bubba Show originates from Citadel's Soft Adult Contemporary station WYSF-FM.

On the newspapers front, the *Birmingham* News, a morning paper, and the afternoon *Birmingham Post-Herald* have been in a joint operating agreement since the 1950s, with shared business operations but separate newsrooms. The JOA is due to expire in 2015. The News, owned by Advance Newspapers, publishes a morning edition seven days a week. The Saturday paper is a combined paper featuring both the News and Post-Herald as part of the JOA.

The News' Monday-Thursday circulation of 153,172 was up 2.3 percent for the six months ended March 31 versus the same period in 2001. Its Friday circ of 175,890 was down 1.3 percent year-over-year, and its Sunday circ of 190,259 was flat year-over-year.

#### SCARBOROUGH PROFILE

#### **Comparison of Birmingham**

TO THE TOP 50 MARKET AVERAGE

	Top 50 Market Average %	Birmingham Composition %	Birmingham Index
DEMOGRAPHICS			
Age 18-34	31	29	94
Age 35-54	41	40	99
Age 55+	28	31	108
HHI \$75,000+	29	18	63
College Graduate	13	10	84
Any Postgraduate Work	11	7	63
Professional/Managerial	23	19	84
African American	13	23	178
Hispanic	13	#	#
MEDIA USAGE-AVERAGE AUDIENCES*			
Read Any Daily Newspaper	55	50	91
Read Any Sunday Newspaper	64	57	90
Total Radio Morning Drive M-F	22	21	93
Total Radio Afternoon Drive M-F	18	16	87
Total TV Early News M-F	29	34	119
Total TV Prime Time M-Sun	39	40	104
Total Cable Prime Time M-Sun	13	17	129
MEDIA USAGE-CUME AUDIENCES**			
Read Any Daily Newspaper	75	72	97
Read Any Sunday Newspaper	77	72	93
Total Radio Morning Drive M-F	76	72	95
Tota Radio Afternoon Drive M-F	73	69	94
Total TV Early News M-F	70	76	108
Total TV Prime Time M-Sun	91	94	103
Total Cable Prime Time M-Sun	59	67	114
MEDIA USAGE-OTHER			
Accessed Internet Past 30 Days	60	49	82
HOME TECHNOLOGY			
Own a Personal Computer	69	59	86
Purchase Using Internet	38	23	60
HH Connected to Cable	69	69	101
HH Connected to Satellite/Microwave Dish	16	23	140

#Respondent count 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: 2002 Scarborough Research Top 50 Market Report (February 2001-March 2002)

E.W. Scripps' *Post-Herald's* Monday-Friday circulation fell 19.4 percent, to 11,313, from 14,041 in 2001. In January 2001, Victor H. Hanson III, previously gm of the *News*, was promoted to publisher, succeeding his father, Victor H. Hanson II, who retired after 46 years at the paper. A member of the family has been publisher of the *News* since 1910.

The 19-year-old Birmingham Business Journal, which competes with the two dailies, publishes on Fridays and is distributed in the Birmingham metro area. *La Voz Latina* is a weekly bilingual newspaper targeting the market's Hispanic community.

Over the last few years, Lamar Advertising has steadily gobbled up nearly all of the competition in the Birmingham outdoor market, giving it 95 percent to 97 percent of the outdoor inventory in the market. The company offers bulletins, 30-sheets and 8-sheets.



This Nike campaign came out in January. The energy leapt off the page. People followed the swoosh into the steely eyes of an Olympian. Hazel Clark. Sporting a tight Nike hoody. And they realized, hey, I'm no Hazel Clark, but I can look just as cool.



By November, apparel sales were up 35%.

#### Bottom line, magazines make a difference.



Magazine Publishers of America

To see more successful magazine case histories, visit www.magazine.org. The Nike ad ran as part of an overall media mix.





## HDTV's Killer App

#### News reports have the strongest potential to spur consumer interest

**HERE'S AN INTERESTING STATISTIC: 22 PERCENT OF AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS BELIEVE** they already have digital TV. The actual number is closer to 1 percent, according to a survey by the Yankee Group. So as the long-awaited cable rollout of high-definition TV approaches, huge numbers of consumers

**HD pictures** 

invite a new

lary: deeply

powerfully

engaging and

experiential,

they require a

more detailed

editorial voice.

visual vocabu-

falsely believe they have seen the future—and they're presumably underwhelmed.

As HDTV becomes reality, what will move the market from early adopters to mass consumer demand? Answering that question matters, because HDTV's success depends on the same factors that apply to any new-technology introduction. The equipment might be revolutionary, but consumers need to believe

they can get something not just new and different but also of personal value and benefit before they shell out thousands of dollars for new gear.

HD needs a "killer app"—an application that has the "wow" factor to turn heads and fundamentally change the viewing experience. Until very recently, HD was the domain of highend nature documentaries, lush travelogs and sports. But what began as a unusual experiment may have unlocked the door to the real distinctive difference for households with HDTV.

It's news-pictures of real

events, important events and distant conflicts brought into living rooms with a vivid and piercing presentation that is both riveting and rich with detail and data.

How do I know this? Because since Sept. 11, 2001, CameraPlanet has been deploying HDTV field teams producing reports in some of the most hostile and dangerous places on earth—Afghanistan, Israel and Iraq. The result has been more than 20 finished hours of hard-news programming produced entirely in HD and presented to viewers of HDNet, the all-high-definition programming channel available via satellite. HDNet viewers have voted with their remote controls, putting our programs in the top 10 of HD program viewership (and that includes broadcast-network series and HBO films).

Initially, the challenge seemed immense. How could we replicate the mobility of Beta and small-format newsgathering for HDTV broadcasts? Initially, we thought it couldn't be done. Traditional HDTV protocol would have required equipment and backup that would

likely never clear customs in Pakistan, let alone make it over the bombed-out roads on the Khyber Pass.

So we improvised, experimenting with cameras and equipment until we felt confident to run a four-person crew that could go anywhere a traditional news crew could go. We also named Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent Peter Arnett as CameraPlanet's chief correspondent; Arnett was to return to Baghdad, Iraq, last Friday with an HD crew.

Think about it—is there anything more tailor-made for the

clarity of HDTV than the global canvas of worldwide conflict? In 16:9 format, the 1080i [interlaced] camera not only delivers startling news images—from the breadth of the U.S. bombing campaign in the Tora Bora mountains to the dreadful consequences of a suicide bombing attack in Israel—it also captures the rawness of real life in remarkable new detail, from the agony of a refugee unable to afford medical care to the impact of tear gas on a group of demonstrators. And as viewers find themselves in the role of adjudicating the veracity of the players, HD provides an astonishing ability to read faces and expressions as if the person were sitting in your living room. HD provides a completely different feel to traditional news packages. It's almost like film in the way the action unfolds within the frame instead of being furiously panned and quickedited together. The picture feels like real life not produced, manipulated product. And that's the way viewers become hooked on the story.

For the first time, reporters have a technology that can match their efforts with the visual images their viewers see. The importance of this cannot be underestimated. Television news has spent the better part of the last 20 years on faster cuts, more graphics, more music-simply put, more "flash"—to try and attract a TVsavvy, young audience. But this style's time has passed, and the demos of the networks' core news products continue to get older. HD pictures invite a new visual vocabulary; deeply engaging and powerfully experiential, they require a more thoughtful, more detailed editorial voice. And viewers seem to welcome the opportunity to see and think about stories rather than have them rapid-fired in machinegun fashion. The evolution from "headline" pictures to pictures that add value and knowledge should not be underestimated. The powerful potential of this technology should open entirely new fields of opportunity for digital storytellers and audiences alike.

Newsrooms should embrace HDTV because reporters now have a technology that can match their efforts with the visual images their viewers see. If HD can deliver in Afghanistan, imagine what it could do for local coverage. From crime to entertainment to weather, local stations should be focusing like laser beams on HD and how it can enhance coverage and build new audiences for revitalized newscasts with all the intensity of real life.

As the HDTV rollout begins in earnest, it's simply smart business to start showing viewers that they have not even begun to see the future. At a time when news matters more than it has in a generation, we have a tremendous opportunity. Let's seize it.

Steven Rosenbaum is CEO of CameraPlanet, a York-based independent producer. The company's HDTV broadcasts can be seen on HDNet.

## HANNITY& HOLNES deposes King and takes control of 9pm.



"For the first time since 'Larry King Live' made its debut 16 years ago, something else has become the most-watched cable news program at 9 p.m."

- The New York Times, October 29, 2002

## **channel** We report. You decide."

### The Network America Trusts for Fair and Balanced News``

## Still Nasty After All These Years The adversarial relationship between the

BROADCAST NETWORKS AND THEIR AFFILIATES OFTEN EASES A BIT WHEN THEY STRIKE NEW DEALS. BUT CONSOLIDATION AND CHANGING ECONOMICS KEEP POISONING THE WELL BY TONY CASE

**Christmas came early this year** for affiliates of television network ABC. After months of sometimes-testy negotiations, the two sides announced last month that they had finally hammered out a deal that would, for the next two years at least, settle such long-contentious issues as network compensation to affiliates, repurposing of programming on platforms like cable channel ABC Family, network-cable cross-promotion, and station contributions to *Monday Night Football*.

A press release heralding the truce was emphatically upbeat, and in the weeks following the announcement, the network and its local partners lined up to praise the pact. Bruce Baker, vp of affiliates for Atlanta-based Cox Television and chairman of the ABC Television Affiliates Association, reported that the two sides "worked hard" to find "common ground," and expressed hope the deal would "strengthen" the relationship.

But despite some progress, relations between the major broadcast networks and their affiliates remain schizophrenic as ever. Everyone has watched those relations sour dramatically in recent years, as the networks slashed compensation (and in some cases, did away with it altogether), snatched advertising time from stations, and put programming on cable outlets that once was exclusively carried by affiliates.

The networks have, at times, been most brutal in their dealings with local partners. Witness NBC's tactics two years ago after Young Broadcasting, parent of San Francisco's KRON, refused to pay the network \$10 million a year for the privilege of carrying its programming. Rather than continuing to bargain, NBC swiftly cut a deal with Granite Broadcasting for a tiny station in nearby San Jose, devaluing KRON and sending shockwaves through all network-affiliated stations.

Or, consider the revolt that same year by several Fox affiliate groups,

including Northwest Broadcasting and Pegasus Communications, after the network tried to force stations to buy back prime-time ad spots at below-market rates. During that hubbub, an exec at one Fox affiliate said of the network, "They are no more partners of the stations than Genghis Khan." Fox's aggressive behavior led stations in markets as far-flung as Portland, Maine, and Jackson, Miss., to bolt for the WB network.

Pat Mullen, president of Tribune Broadcasting, which operates more than 24 major-market stations and is a part-owner of the WB, says that "heavy-handed" move did real damage to Fox's "already tense relationship" with its affiliates. "I think Fox has heard loud and clear from the affiliate body that the inventory buyback was an awful business deal for the stations and something that they simply could not do when it was time for renewal." (Fox Networks president/CEO Tony Vinciquerra declined to comment for this story.)

The networks maintain that tough economic conditions have forced them to get tougher with affiliates. "The network business has become more difficult with fragmentation and increased production costs, and there's always going to be a desire at the networks to have affiliates share more of those costs," says Dennis FitzSimons, president/COO of Chicago-based Tribune Co., parent of Tribune Broadcasting.

The networks continue to put pressure on stations even as they look to snap up still more affiliates of their own and control an even greater share of the local distribution system. After all, most of the broadcast networks lose money, while their owned-and-operated station groups invariably make a lot of money for the parent company. What could work to the networks' benefit is if the Federal Communications Commission next spring relaxes the rules that limit the size of already-behemoth media



conglomerates. Meanwhile, mergers and rumors of mergers continue: ABC stations are understandably jumpy these days, as talk of an ABC News-CNN marriage swirls. No wonder stations are more worried than ever about their standing.

The stations aren't taking it lying down: In September, Fox affiliates threw their support behind the Network Affiliated Stations Alliance, a group representing more than 600 ABC, CBS and NBC stations peti-



#### "Eisner didn't grow up in the station business, and it doesn't seem as central to him as it does to Karmazin." **BFII**

tioning the FCC to consider whether their contracts with the networks unfairly restrict them in such areas as preempting network programs.

CLEARLY, THE NETWORK-AFFILIATE dance is looking more like a standoff-and at a time when most say the networks, facing a declining audience base and mounting competition from cable and other media. need the good will of their local outlets. "The affiliates are more than willing to work with the networks to achieve their goals, as long as there's respect for the [stations'] concerns and problems," says Alan Frank, president of Post-Newsweek Stations, who's also chairman of NASA.

Although the ABC pact seemed to settle several disputes between the network and its stations, station execs admit to a far more cautious optimism. Randy Bongarten, president of Indianapolis-based Emmis Television, which just renewed deals not only with ABC but also with CBS and is close to renewing its contract with NBC, says the ABC agreement

was "a move in the right direction, without question," noting the headway made on such issues as NFL compensation. (Under the deal, affiliates will pay about \$34 million a year to help subsidize Monday Night Football, for which ABC pays the NFL an annual fee of \$550 million. But smaller stations will pay less than larger ones-stations in markets with NFL teams will pay the most.) But, Bongarten adds, "You can always go further on these things. Time will tell."

In a recent conference call with investors, Dave Barrett, president/CEO of New York-based Hearst-Argyle Television, the largest ABC affiliate group and secondbiggest owner of NBC affiliates (behind Gannett), said:

"ABC recognized it wasn't behaving like the other networks in terms of assignment and so forth." (The current assignment deal assures affiliates the network won't yank the affiliation if a station is sold. The issue had greatly hampered relations with affiliates, Cox's Baker says. "It created a very negative environment.")

Also taking a wait-and-see position in regard to the ABC agreement: Post-Newsweek's Frank, who is particularly concerned about parent Disney's consideration of the network and its local partners. "It doesn't help when [Disney chairman/CEO] Michael Eisner gets up and says two brands are important," he says, referring to the embattled CEO's comment at an investors' meeting in New York last month that the company's greatest strengths were its "two strong and differentiated brands"-Disney and ESPN. Alan Bell, president/CEO of Irvine, Calif.-based Freedom Communications, owner of three ABC outlets and five CBS affiliates, explains: "CBS is the most progressive in understanding the station business, because high-up in Viacom, [president/COO] Mel Karmazin grew up in the station business. At ABC, it's a harder slog, because Eisner didn't grow up in the station business, and it doesn't seem as central to him as it does to Karmazin."

Bell believes relations between ABC and its stations are generally stronger following last month's pact, and that executives like ABC Television president Alex Wallau increasingly show they "really feel" for the stations. But if relations are better than they used to be, Bell adds, it's not due to some "enormous epiphany" by the networks. "It's because you get to a point where you realize it's like a circular firing squad. Instead of killing the guy you've lined up against the wall, you shoot yourself. There's a realization on both parts that we have to figure out a way to get together. We understand at the stations that the networks need relief in certain areas, and they

understand certain things are showstoppers and deal-breakers and heartbreakers for station owners."

One lingering concern for ABC stations is the net's uncertain future in prime time. There are some bright spots this season-including Tuesday night, particularly the new John Ritter sitcom 8 Simple Rules. The network touts the strong 18-to-49 demos of shows such as The Bachelor and Monday Night Football. ABC's senior vp of affiliate relations, John Rouse, explains, "This never is a process that can shift three weeks into the new season. We want to be very clear, we're very aware we've got a lot more work to do." ABC affiliate group chair Baker says the stations strongly support Susan Lyne, ABC Entertainment president since January. Baker says he and his colleagues are patient, for now. "It takes a lot of energy to get the momentum back. They are in that phase right now."

ABC is not alone. Although NBC still dominates ratings on most nights, affiliates nervously watch as its hits ER and Frasier slowly slip from

#### "We would like to see compensation go away, and [the stations] would like to see it stay. It's one of the big issues." SCHRUTH



the top of the heap. (NBC has other issues on its plate: The network is investigating whether its Nashville affiliate, Meredith Corp.'s WSMV, squeezed additional commercial time in prime time. Meredith president Kevin O'Brien did not return calls. NBC's vp of affiliate relations, Joe Damiano, also declined requests for an interview.)

Meanwhile, Fox, coming off a miserable season last year, found a bona fide hit over the summer with American Idol but is struggling to build on that success, even as programs like 24 show promise.

Contrast ABC's year of building and the uncertainty at NBC and Fox with CBS' powerhouse prime-time lineup and ratings winners Everybody Loves Raymond, CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and its new spinoff, CSI:

# Audience delivery so young we've even scared ourselves.

## MONSTER FEST 24/7

This year's MonsterFest was the most successful ever. Making us #1 in adults 18-34 on Halloween night,\* and bringing in the youngest median age overall in the history of our exclusive monster marathon.\*\*



Source: Nielsen Media Research, 10/27/00-11/01/00: 8P-6A, 10/26/01-10/30/01. 8P-12A, 10/31/01: 6A-6A, 10/25/02-11/01/02: 8P-6A \*Halloween 2 on 10/31/02 ranked #1 on A18-34 delivery and concentration among all feature tilms aired between 8P-11P on ad-supported cable networks. \*\*Monsterfest 2002 median age was 47.8, 2001 was 48.5 and 2003 was 47.9. AMC measured starting 20 'Go. Qualifications available upon request *Miami*. Robust prime-time numbers this season have spelled bigger ratings and healthier ad revenue for stations' late-news broadcasts (a major moneymaker for the affiliates) while providing a better lead-in for ratings laggard *Late Night With David Letterman*. Not surprisingly, some say, CBS' relationship with its stations hasn't been this good in ages.

But all isn't rosey. In April of this year, Jacksonville affiliate WJXT broke its 53-year affiliation with the network over a compensation dispute. An exec at one mid-market CBS outlet says the network's good for-

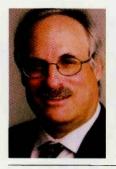
tunes are a "mixed bag" for affiliates. "CBS is a much stronger partner, and is exercising that power in their negotiations with stations," says the exec. The network has taken an especially hard line against stations preempting network shows and has headed off affiliate efforts to replace at least part of CBS' troubled *The Early Show* with local programming. But at the end of the day, "You'd rather have a bully for a network that gives results than a crappy network that acquiesces to your every need," says the exec with a shrug.

Robert Lee, president/general manager of CBS affiliate WDBJ in Roanoke, Va., and newly named chairman of the CBS Affiliates Advisory Board, says despite all the hand-

wringing about the state of network-affiliate relations, the dynamics of the partnership have remained mostly unchanged over the decades. "The interests of the network and the interests of the affiliates don't always run on parallel tracks," says Lee. "There comes the inevitable butting of heads over one issue or another from time to time."

CBS president/affiliate relations Peter Schruth, who also heads up affiliate relations for the UPN network, admits that despite the network's winning prime-time lineup and the general happiness right now among its affiliates, problems remain—including the shaky performance of *The Early Show*. Even in its revamped form. Especially in its revamped form. The recently retooled also-ran morning program—featuring three largely unknown female anchors and Harry Smith, who already co-helmed one failed incarnation—got creamed by the critics after its debut two weeks ago. "Bring back Bryant Gumbel: He was never this dull," read one scathing headline in the *New York Post*. "Foremost, it seems to me it can't be just another *Today* show, because the *Today* show and *Good Morning America* are already fighting it out," Lee says. Lee, who spent most of his career at ABC stations, recalls his skepticism when the network rolled out *GMA* in the 1970s. As for *The Early Show*, Lee is hopeful: "Lightning may strike twice, if we get it right."

ALL THE NETWORKS HAVE a proud history of listening to what their affiliates have to say about programming—then doing exactly what they want with their schedules. Station execs claim they aren't bothered by that. "They listen, but they don't want to throw out their schedule, according to 212 market responses to what programming there should be," says Jack Sander, president of Dallas-based Belo



"We would love to have comp, but you can't deny the economics of the business are changing, and we have to adjust to that." BONGARTEN

Television Group, which owns affiliates of all six major broadcast nets. Cox's Baker adds, "I'm not a believer that the network has an obligation to consult with us on creative ideas."

Sometimes, when the outcry is overwhelming, the networks will listen—and give in to the stations. A major reason CBS has put so much energy into the 10 p.m. block is because affiliates clamored for a strong lead-in to local news. Then there's Fox, which ended up returning its weekday-afternoon block of ratings-losing children's pro-

"The networks...run shows elsewhere, they have other business alliances. And affiliates aren't part of those discussions." FRANK



gramming back to its stations. "It was a problem having kids in the afternoon, then trying to build an audience going into news," Emmis' Bongarten says.

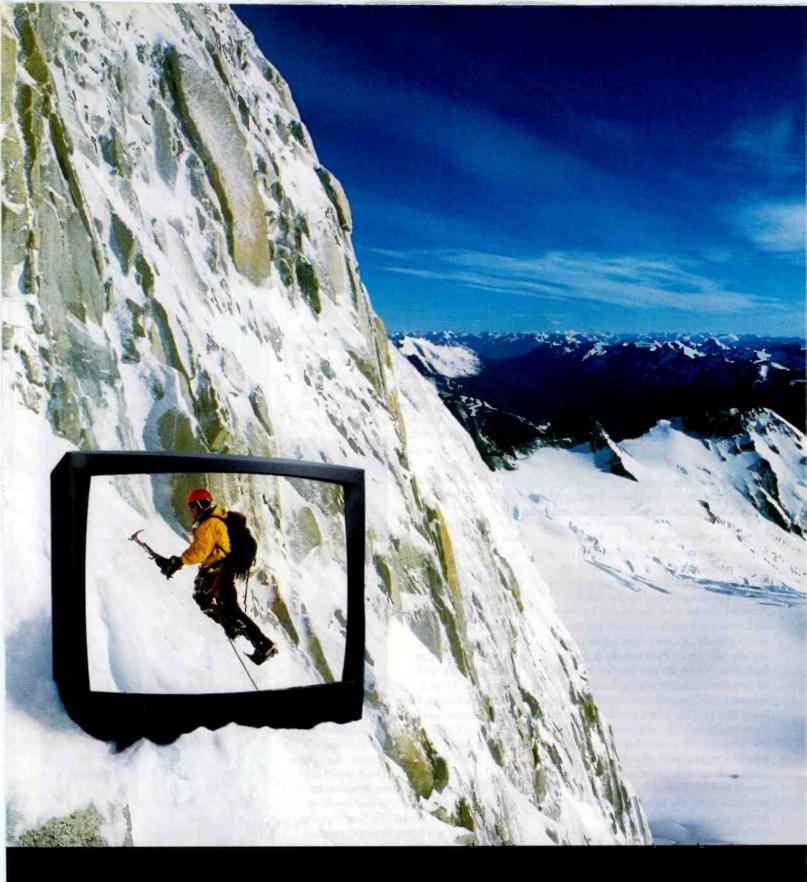
Repurposing of network programming was a major sticking point in the ABC negotiations. Affiliates seemed to bend somewhat on the network's rerun of programs on its ABC Family cable network. But overall, station owners are still concerned about the practice, and the issue is destined to remain a big obstacle in their future dealings with the nets. Fox recently announced plans to run repeats of its hit drama 24 on its sister cable network FX for the second year. And only last week, NBC bought cable network Bravo for \$1.25 billion—whether the channel becomes a repurposing outlet for the network remains to be seen.

"The networks have other partnerships, they're running shows elsewhere, they have other business alliances. It blurs things, and affiliates aren't part of those discussions. We're concerned about what the bottomline business practices will be," says Post-Newsweek's Frank. Baker says he's keeping an "open mind" about repurposing but "there is a point where you damage your brand."

Then there's that old chestnut, compensation (the fees networks pay their affiliates for airing their shows). Currently, comp accounts for some 3 to 5 percent of a station's revenue. Schruth says flatly, "We would like to see it go away, and [the stations] would like to see it stay. It's one of the big issues." Many say comp is on the way out altogether, as production costs keep soaring and the networks continue to squeeze their affiliates. Bongarten says of compensation, "We would love to have it, but you can't deny the economics of the business are changing, and we all have to adjust to that."

> Adds Sander, "You get comp in many ways. If I have additional inventory in particular programs, that's compensation too. The value will be sustained, but will hard compensation dollars change? You bet. Compensation as we know it...will diminish. I don't know if it will be zero." Pointing out that comp accounts for just 2 to 4 percent of his stations' revenue, Sander says the issue is more crucial for smaller affiliates, who are more dependent. "The networks have to be respectful of that."

> Time will tell whether the networks and affiliates can find the respect they need to maintain their fractured, fragile alliance.



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nationalgeographic.com AOL Keyword: NatGeoChannel

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# DITED BY ANNE TORPEY-KEMPH

## Quicktakes

**GUESTS AT LAST WEEK'S** premiere screening of Food Network's Eating Out Loud: New York watched star Ruth Reichl slurp giant oysters at 3 a.m. at the Fulton Fish Market-the longtime Gourmet editor's



Shucks and yucks: (L. to r.) Esca chef Dave Pasternack, Gourmet publisher Giulio Padua and Reichl

first visit to the legendary NYC foodie haunt-and lamented the developing caviar crisis (beluga sturgeon is on the brink of extinction). A highlight of the night for Reichl was being invited by the Food Network production crew to join celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, host of the network's popular A Cook's Tour, on an upcoming trip to China ... Paul Harvey is flying high since NASA shrinks decided it would be beneficial to beam him up to the International Space Station Alpha-his show, that is. The NASA psych ops unit in Houston thought the astronauts aboard the first permanently manned space station needed a regular dose of news from home to keep their spirits up, and HAPPY HALLOWEEN turned to ABC Radio's legendary newsman to fill the bill. Harvey's credentials for having his show selected as the one and only to be transmitted to Alpha? With 52 years on the air and more than 1,200 stations carrying his daily broadcasts, he's the most-listened-to newscaster in the world, known especially for his 15minute, storytelling-style noontime broadcasts. Starting last **Popular at parties:** Tuesday, NASA began sending forbes.com's Martha mask

Harvey's three daily newscasts to outer space. digitally encoded, along with other regular transmissions...Was it the haunted Halloween punch or are the figures at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum really that convincing? At

Parents magazine's recent "spooktacular" for advertisers at the renowned Times Square venue, publisher Jan Studin, all dolled up as Raggedy Ann for the occasion, said she had trouble distinguishing people from paraffin: "Repeatedly, I would bump into someone and apologize, only to realize a second later it was Gandhi."...At the risk of piling on: Martha Stewart's was the most-downloaded mask among those of

five legally embattled CEOs made available on forbes.com during Halloween week. Among some 74,000 site visitors

who downloaded one of the full-size, full-color, printer-friendly masks, the greatest number by far opted for the Martha model (the others were Stewart's friend Sam Waksal, of ImClone; Enron's Kenneth Lay; Worldcom's Bernard Ebbers; and Tyco's Dennis Kozlowski). Even



For Harvey, the sky's not the limit.

Forbes' competitors got in on the fun, when the hosts of CNBC's popular Squawkbox and CNNfn's Money Morning wore the masks on

their shows on Halloween day...Seen around town: Men's Health editor in chief Dave Zinczencko on the arm of Charmed star Rose

McGowan. We hear they met at a Bruce Springsteen concert in Los Angeles in August and have been jetting between coasts (she lives on the West, he on the East) to see each other on weekends. So much for the "Hottest Bachelor" status People bestowed on Zinczencko a few months ago.

### Movers

#### TELEVISION

Teri Vila-Caballero was appointed vp, national sales, Miami, at Univision Communications, where she will be responsible for overseeing national sales and developing new business for all Univision and Telefutura stations in the U.S. She was an account executive for Univision's national sales office in Miami, and before that was Southeast regional manager of sales and marketing for Radio Unica...Jim Chabin, most recently president of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, has rejoined Promax & BDA as CEO, replacing Glynn Brailsford, who has moved to the new role of chief creative officer. Chabin served as president and CEO of the Broadcast Promotion and Marketing Executives (which under his watch became Promax & BDA) from 1992 to 1998.

#### **MEDIA SERVICES**

Gerard Broussard has joined Interactive Market Systems, the data analysis and media software company, as senior vp of the new Advanced Analytics Group. He previously served as senior partner and director of media analytics at OgilvyOne, New York.

#### MAGAZINES

ESPN The Magazine has upped Roxanne Jones to the new position of senior deputy editor and coordinating producer. Since 2000, Jones has been deputy editor at the magazine and will now also produce television pieces from the mag's content for ESPN's Sports-Center and other programs. Jones helped conceive the ESPN show The Life...Reader's Digest has named Fred Tietze to the new post of director of the marketing solutions group, overseeing the title's creative and marketing services, custom publishing and partnerships. Tietze was director of integrated marketing solutions at G+J USA.

#### RADIO

At Clear Channel Radio, Jay Sterin, director of sales for Philadelphia stations, was promoted to regional vp of sales in the Philly area, adding responsibility for Allentown, Williamsport, Reading, Lancaster and Harrisburg, Pa.

Martha Stewart

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## Media Elite

Vedia



At the New York offices of Time Inc.'s Parenting Group to celebrate the completion of *Baby Talk*'s annual Cover Baby contest, (I. to r.) winner Lindsey Sage Pollack; Sue Montecallo, vp, corporate juvenile marketing, Babies 'R' Us; and Baby Talk editor Susan Kane



James Lipton, host of Bravo's Inside the Actors Studio (I.), with the cable net's senior vp of ad sales, Hanna Gryncwajg, and Robert Boyce, media director for Black Rocket, at the University of San Francisco's Presentation Theater for a screening and audience Q&A



On hand at New York's Bayards to fete John Hayes, executive vp of global advertising & brand management for American Express Co., recipient of the Advertising Club's Silver Medal Advertising Man of the Year award, (l. to r.) Jack Haire, executive vp, Time Inc.; Carla Loffredo of MindShare; and Erich Linker of Newspapers First



Latina toasted author Sandra Sisneros last week at Manhattan's Metronome restaurant upon the release of her new novel, Caramelo. (L. to r.) Actor Eduardo Verastegui; Sisneros; Betty Cortina, editorial director, Latina; and David Kahn, Latina publisher.



In the latest in WBOS-FM/Boston's series of intimate concerts, the Wallflowers played at the new Paradise Lounge to celebrate the band's forthcoming release, *Red Letter Days.* (L. to r.) WBOS program director Chris Herrmann, Interscope Records' James Evans, WBOS assistant program director Michele Williams; and Wallflowers frontman Jakob Dylan.

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# Inside Media

#### **Bochco Signs for HBO Series**

Veteran TV producer Steven Bochco, along with *Philly* writer Alison Cross, have signed with HBO to create a series about a married New York couple. The deal calls for a 13episode commitment with an expected launch in 2004. On programs ranging from the long-running *NYPD Blue* to the failed musical series *Cop Rock*, Bochco was perhaps the first TV producer to test network limits in terms of language and sex, and format. At HBO, he'll likely take even more license. In fact, the show's proposed format already is innovative: Filming of scenes will be confined to the couple's bedroom, bathroom and walk-in closet areas.

#### **Cablevision Speeds Up Digital Rollout**

Boosted by a \$75 million investment from New York-based Quadrangle, Cablevision Systems Corp. has accelerated its rollout of digital services. Up until two months ago, only 1.5 million customers of the 4.3 million Cablevision serves in the greater New York area could access digital cable, but the company expanded its reach to 750,000 more homes in October and plans to roll out service to an additional 1 million over the next month.

#### Thunderbox Puts On PPV Event

The weekly syndicated boxing series *Thunderbox* will stage *Fistful of Dollars*, a pay-per-view event, on Nov. 30 from the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, N.J. Boxing promoter and *Thunderbox* creator Cedric Kushner's winner-take-all, \$100,000 round-robin event will feature eight heavyweight boxers, including former world champion Tim Witherspoon and undefeated Gerald Nobles. The event will also feature hip-hop stars Eve and Xzibit.

#### 64 Signs Carriage Deal With TWC

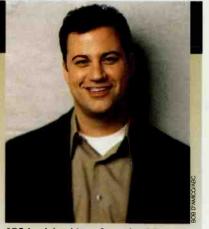
G4, the cable network targeted to videogame fans ages 12-34, has signed a carriage deal with Time Warner Cable that will distribute the network to the cable operator's digital subscribers over the next two years starting next month. The fledgling network has carriage deals in place with Comcast, Insight and AT&T Broadband. G4 launched in April and airs 13 original series.

#### VH1 Adds Specials, Awards Show

In a bid to boost sliding ratings, VH1 is adding new programming. A combination of MTV's music awards and movie awards shows, the VH1 Big in 2002 Awards will showcase the best and worst in music, movies, TV and people. The live event premieres Dec. 15. Other programs to launch over the next few months are *Inside/Out*, which examines the lives of artists at crossroads; *Rock Med*, which looks at a mobile emergency unit that tends to folks injured at rock concerts; and *Mock Rock*, which gives cover bands a chance to shine at a major concert. And in a hip-hop-themed special, the cable channel will honor artists including Run DMC,

#### **Kimmel to Kick Off Post-Bowl**

Comedian Jimmy Kimmel's new late-night show on ABC, Jimmy Kimmel Live, will premiere following the Super Bowl on Jan. 26 and will air live from Los Angeles to the East Coast in its regular time slot Monday through Friday 12:05-12:30 a.m. The show, featuring a weekly rotating cohost, will originate from space now known as the El Capitan Entertainment Center on Hollywood Boulevard, across the street from the new Kodak Theatre, where the Academy Awards show is held. Kimmel is currently co-host and co-creator of Comedy Central's The Man Show. His new show replaces Politically Incorrect With Bill Maher,



ABC is giving him a Super lead-in.

another instance of ABC plucking Comedy Central talent for its late-night roster.

### Calendar

The American Association of Advertising Agencles will hold its annual creative conference Nov. 13-15 at the Grand Hyatt San Francisco on Union Square. Contact: Michelle James, 212-682-2500.

American Women In Radio & Television will present two cocktail receptions with broadcast pioneer Phyllis George, Nov. 13 at the ABC Gallery in New York (contact: 212-481-3038) and Nov. 21 at the Viceroy Hotel in Los Angeles (contact: 818-509-0429).

PricewaterhouseCoopers will present the **Global Entertainment**, **Medla and Communications Summit**, hosted by CNN's Jeff Greenfield, Nov. 15 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. Contact: 646-394-2413.

IRTS will present a **panel on crossplatform media opportunities** Nov. 19 at the NBC building in New York. Contact: Jim Cronin at 867-6650, ext 305.

Ira Berman's Media All-Stars gathering of the bands will take place on Nov. 21 at Upstairs at Studio 54 in New York. For information, e-mail nycgigs@nycgigs.com.

American Business Media will present as part of its Midwest-region meeting the Fast Track Media Management Program, designed for middle management handling b-to-b media, Nov. 21 at the Fairmount Hotel in Chicago. For information, visit www.americanbusinessmedia.com.

Variety magazine and Frankfurt Garbus Kurnit Klein & Selz will present a media conference entitled **"Content & Commerce: Hollywood Meets Madison Avenue,"** Nov. 22 at the New York University Stern School of Business. Contact: 1-888-887-0288.

**Broadband Plus: The Western Show** will be held Dec. 3-6 at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, Calif. This year's event focuses on the technological advancements in broadband. For more information, visit www.broadbandplus.org.

### Don't Miss the Media All-Stars 2002 Awards Luncheon

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## Inside Media

#### MPA, ASME Combine Events

For the first time, the Magazine Publishers of America and the American Society of Magazine Editors will both present lifetime achievement awards at their annual late-January gala at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. The 2003 honorees are Ed Lewis, chairman/CEO of Essence Communications Partners and former MPA chairman, who will receive the Henry Johnson Fisher Award; and Art Cooper, GQ editor in chief for the past 20



Mag-industry achievers Lewis and Cooper will share the glory in January.

years, who will be inducted into the ASME Hall of Fame. Traditionally, the January gala is reserved for the HJF award, honoring a publishing executive and an editor in chief, and the ASME award is handed out at the National Magazine Awards in May. ASME editors said the Hall of Fame induction tended to be overshadowed by the National Magazine Awards, so the two groups agreed to combine their events. The HJF honor will now be given only to publishing executives.

Beastie Boys and Outkast in 50 Greatest Hip-Hop Artists of All Time. Premiere dates for the specials have yet to be determined.

#### AURN to Spin New Jazz Network

American Urban Radio Networks plans to launch American Smooth Jazz Network in January, anchored by two new daily features. In *Jazz Masters*, host Ken "Spider" Webb will focus on jazz artists who have gained broad popularity in America. *Jazz Notes* will be hosted by Angela Stribling, a host of BET's *Jazz Central* as well as a personality on WQCD-FM in New York. On the show, Stribling will give her personal perspective on some of the best known artists in the genre.

#### Postal Service: Rates May Hold Till '06

The U.S. Postal Service announced last week that current postal rates could remain in effect until 2006, after a financial review of its retirement fund determined that there is extra money from one of its pension funds. Last month, Postmaster General John Potter predicted the next rate hike would not go into effect until "well into 2004." The timing of the next postal-rate increase, however, is dependent on whether Congress approves legislation that recalculated the pension fund.

#### **Three HFM Titles Cut Rate Base**

Hachette Filipacchi Media will lower the circulation rate base and increase the cover price of three of its titles next year. *Premiere* will slash its rate base by 100,000 to 500,000 and increase its newsstand price to \$3.99 from \$3.50 with its February issue. *Premiere* will also reduce its publishing frequency from monthly to 10-times-yearly and revert to saddle-stitch binding from perfect-binding. The movie magazine will become an inch wider in trim size and add eight editorial pages. Also, David Fishman, currently senior vp of brand development of HFM U.S., has been tapped to also serve as senior vp/group publishing director to oversee the title's publisher and advertising team. Meanwhile, *Sound & Vision* and *American Photo* will shrink their rate bases by 50,000, to 400,000 and 200,000, respectively. *S&V* will raise its cover price to \$4.99 from \$4.50; *AP*'s cover price will jump to \$4.50 from \$3.99.

#### **TVB Offers Resources for Buying Local TV**

The Television Bureau of Advertising has launched a new resource on its Web site. The Advertiser/Agency Resource Channel includes information on the basics of spot TV buying, market profiles, media planning strategies and other research. Intended to aid junior media buyers and planners but also benefit senior media executives, the free information is available at www.tyb.org.

#### MSO in Promo Deal With P.R. Tourism

Puerto Rico Tourism Co. and Rums of Puerto Rico have developed a cross-media promotion with Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. The marketing venture, MSO's first with travel, centers around the "Perfect Wedding in Puerto Rico" sweepstakes winners, who will receive an all-expenses-paid wedding and honeymoon in Puerto Rico planned by MS Weddings and wedding gifts from MSLO advertisers. Portions of the wedding weekend, Jan. 31- Feb. 2, will be filmed for the Martha Stewart Living TV program and promoted across the magazine and Web site.

#### **Big City Radio Stations for Sale**

Financially strapped Big City Radio has retained Jorgenson Broadcast Brokerage to auction off the company's 12 stations in suburban New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Proceeds of the sale will be used to pay down debt. The New York-based company did not make its semiannual interest payment on a \$174 million note, which was due Sept. 15. The grace period ended Oct. 15, forcing the company to raise cash by selling off properties. Founded in 1994, the company acquired small, less-expensive station facilities in the suburbs of major markets. The programming strategy, to simulcast a single format on several suburban stations in order to cover the entire market, never caught on with audiences.

#### NextMedia Picks Up Mich. Stations

NextMedia Group, owner of 51 radio stations in 13 midsize markets, has agreed to purchase five stations in Saginaw-Bay City-Midland, Mich., the 118th-ranked radio market, from Wilks Broadcasting for \$55.5 million. It's the same deal that Cumulus Media walked away from without explanation in September. In the past 15 months, the company has spent more than \$160 million on radio and outdoor properties.

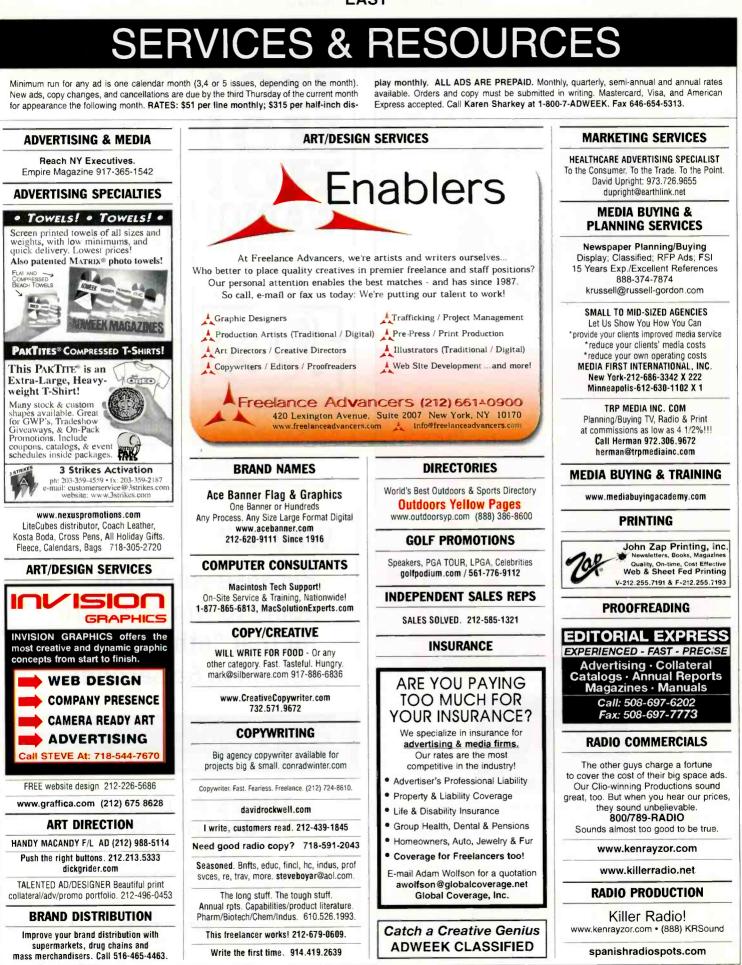
#### Premiere Radio Trims Portfolio

Premiere Radio Networks plans to cancel 15 programs and services from its vast portfolio by the end of 2002 and lay off about 100 people. Among the shows to be cancelled are *Jim Cramer's Real Money*, a one-hour daily Talk show that Premiere syndicated in summer 2001; *Rockline*, a weekly show that featured Classic Rock artists; and *American Top 40 Flashback: The '80s*, another weekly program. In February 2001, as the bottom fell out of the advertising market, the Los Angeles–based programming arm of Clear Channel cancelled 13 programs and services. It still syndicates about 100 shows.

#### Radio's Movie Show Switches Reps

The Movie Show, a nationally syndicated weekend Talk show about movies and videos, will change national representation firms at the start of the new year from NBG Radio Networks to Canada-based The Da Silva Group, whose radio unit recently opened an office in Los Angeles. EAST

#### Page C1



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For consideration, please send resume to: Calvin Klein, Inc., Human Resources, Dept. CR, 205 W. 39th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018, Fax: 212-768-8922 or email: hrck@ck.com.

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## Magazines Edited by Lisa granatstein

## **Baby Boon**

## **Snapping up the American Baby Group, Meredith invests** \$115 million in its push to target young female readers

**BUILDING ON ITS LONG-TERM STRATEGY OF REACHING MORE YOUNG WOMEN, MEREDITH** Corp., publisher of *Ladies' Home Journal* and *Better Homes & Gardens*, last week agreed to acquire Primedia's American Baby Group for \$115 million. Along with a collection of six magazines on baby-rearing that









Family values: Lacy (right) says that under Meredith, American Baby Group will attract non-endemic ads that it could not get as a stand-alone unit at Primedia.

are primarily distributed free to doctors' offices and hospitals—including the 2 million-circulation monthly *American Baby*, the 3 million-circ annual *First Year of Life* and the 1 million-circ annual *Healthy Kids en Español*—Meredith's new properties include the TV shows *American Baby* and *Healthy Kids* (which air on the FX cable network), as well as an array of product expos and sampling programs.

DesMoines, Iowa-based Meredith, which also owns 11 network-affiliated TV stations and a database of 63 million names, is not known for aggressive media plays. The company's last magazine purchase was *Ladies' Home Journal* in 1986, and its recent launch record is spotty. Meredith has rolled out *Family Money* (1997, now defunct), the *LHJ* spinoff *More* (1998) and the current test of a young women's shelter title, *Living Room*. "We've been very careful in what we've done over the years, and with things we haven't done, like go crazy in the dot-com era," says Stephen Lacy, president of Merdith's publishing group.

Lacy says Meredith was simply waiting for the right property to come along. "We were looking for a beachhead" to reach younger women, he explains. "We're anxious to [attract readers] 8 to 10 years younger than we have traditionally served."

Meredith's titles largely reach women in their 40s. The median age of the *LHJ* reader is 48, according to Mediamark Research Inc. *BH&G* has a median age of 45. Meanwhile, *American Baby*'s average reader is 30.

Analysts see Meredith's acquisition of the American Baby Group as a potentially winning move. "Meredith could use a younger skew in its demographics," says Douglas Arthur, a publishing analyst at Morgan Stanley. "They have basically been a builder, not a buyer."

Lacy says Meredith will be on the lookout for more opportunities to get younger demos. Categories for possible acquisitions include home decoration, businesses focused on younger women and women's health issues, he says.

Weider Publications, publisher of the 528,000 paid-circ bimonthly *Fit Pregnancy*, as well as *Shape* and *Men's Fitness*, and currently on the market, could be another good fit. "We've always been interested in [Weider's] women's publications—we think they are really well run businesses," says Lacy, who won't discuss

whether Meredith will make a bid for Weider.

In the meantime Meredith will have its hands full with *American Baby*, which is in a highly competitive category. "We believe our existing portfolio of titles will help, especially with advertising and attracting non-endemic ads," says Lacy, who points to automotive as one possibility. "At Primedia, once [the] Modern Bride group was sold, the folks at *American Baby* didn't have anyone to groove with."

Still, *American Baby* remains the category leader. Through September, *AB*'s ad pages were up 23.4 percent this year to 524, according to Publishers Information Bureau. Time Inc.'s

Parenting Group, which publishes the 2 million-controlled circ *BabyTalk*, saw its ad pages rise 14.4 percent through September, to 336. G+J USA Publishing also publishes three controlled-circ titles, the largest of which is the 500,000-circ bimonthly *Ser Padres*.

"What Meredith, Hearst and Condé Nast realize is the world is moving toward bigger deals with major media companies, so you need more pieces to play," notes Peter Gardiner, chief media officer at Deutsch. "If we were to talk to Meredith about an integrated deal, [American Baby Group] becomes one more piece to an already big puzzle." —LG

## Moving Out Playboy, TVG lose key players

Aging icons *Playboy* and *TV Guide* each lost top executives last week just as both titles were preparing to undergo major changes. Michael Carr, executive vp of Playboy Enterprises and publishing group president for the past two years, and Steven Reddicliffe, editor in chief of *TV Guide* for more than seven years, announced their resignations. Replacements have not been named.

The departures come at a critical time for both titles. In the case of *Playboy*, Carr is leaving just one month after he helped recruit new editorial director James Kaminsky to re-energize the magazine. "My desire was to [help make editorial changes at *Playboy*], stabilize circulation, and hopefully put it on a path to ad recovery. Most of these things have been accomplished," says Carr.

Though still the largest-circ men's monthly, *Playboy* in recent years has lost ground to the tsunami of laddie magazines, including Dennis



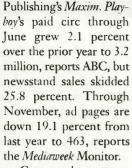


Carr (top) and

as their titles

make changes.

**Reddicliffe exit** 



Carr says he wants to return to his home in Las Vegas. A *Playboy* executive in the late '80s and later CEO of Weider, he had come out of semiretirement to rejoin Playboy.

While *TV Guide*, published by Gemstar-TV Guide International, is still one of the largest U.S. titles, its total circ has dropped 30 percent

over the past five years, to 9 million. Ad pages through the Nov. 9 issue were down 14.7 percent to 2,087. *TV Guide* has faced major circulation challenges in recent years due to the rapidly changing media landscape. The television coverage and reviews that were once unique to *TV Guide* are now found in many magazines, such as Time Inc.'s *Entertainment Weekly*. Also, the explosion of channels offered by cable and satellite distributors has made it increasingly difficult for the weekly guide to keep up, and expansive listings are readily available in newspapers and via onscreen programming guides.

John Loughlin, TV Guide's recently named

## Mediaweek Magazine Monitor

	ISSUE DATE	CURRENT	ISSUE DATE LAST YEAR	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT	YTD PAGES	YTD LAST YEAR	PERCENT
NEWS/BUSINESS								
BusinessWeekX	11-Nov	93.72	12-Nov	96.34	-2.72%	2,800.81	3,293.97	-14.97%
The Economist	2-Nov	45.00	3-Nov	51.00	-11.76%	1,951.00	2,259.50	-13.65%
NewsweekE/X	11-Nov	69.72	12-Nov	43.19	61.43%	1,596.28	1,552.33	2.83%
The New Republic <sup>4</sup>	11-Nov	5.99	12-Nov	13.53	-55.73%	320.97	403.95	-20.54%
TimeE/X	11-Nov	69.02	12-Nov	61.33	12.54%	1,937.64	2,011.51	-3.67%
J.S. News & World Report	11-Nov	48.17	12-Nov	34.61	39.18%	1,238.48	1,220.69	1.46%
The Weekly Standard	18-Nov	9.16	19-Nov	8.32	10.10%	393.98	396.33	-0.59%
Category Total		340.78		308.32	10.53%	10,239.16	11,138.28	-8.07%
SPORTS/ENTERT		T/LEISU	RE					
AutoWeek	11-Nov	24.09	12-Nov	22.41	7.50%	1,030.16	1.225.35	-15.93%
Entertainment Weekly*	8-Nov	47.65	9-Nov	47.00	1.38%	1.561.20	1.531.80	1.92%
Golf World	8-Nov	19.33	9-Nov	29.50	-34.47%	1.216.54	1.068.67	13.84%
Vew York <sup>4/S</sup>	11-Nov	81.80	12-Nov	87.60	-6.62%	2,163.60	2.357.80	-8.24%
PeopleX/2	11-Nov	95.05	12-Nov	77.18	23.15%	3,071.53	3,093.36	-0.71%
The Sporting News	11-Nov	23.41	12-Nov	13.67	71.25%	659.60	525.10	25.61%
Sports Illustrated	11-Nov	49.61	12-Nov	47.44	4.57%	2,128.23	2,054.46	3.59%
The New Yorker <sup>C</sup>	11-Nov	127.40	12-Nov	65.70	93.91%	1,900.55	1,862.64	2.04%
Time Out New York+	6-Nov	86.63	7-Nov	67.75	27.86%	3,077.41	3,007.29	2.33%
TV Guide	9-Nov	64.58	10-Nov	75.51	-14.47%	2,087.02	2,445,54	-14.66%
Us Weekly <sup>3</sup>	11-Nov	23.00	12-Nov	19.43	18.37%	884.17	811.25	8,99%
Category Total		642.55		553.19	16.15%	19,780.01	19,983.26	-1.02%
SUNDAY MAGAZI	NES							
American Profile	10-Nov	7.90	11-Nov	8.60	-8.14%	393.96	377.54	4,35%
Parade	10-Nov	13.83	11-Nov	20.24	-31.67%	561.36	532.91	5.34%
USA Weekend	10-Nov	16.51	11-Nov	11.84	39.44%	528.84	499.44	5.89%
Category Total		38.24		40.68	-6.00%	1,484.16	1,409.89	5.27%
TOTALS		1.021.57		902.19	13.23%	31.503.33	32.531.43	-3.16%

C=Carloon special issue; E=estimated page counts; S=holiday entertaining special; X=Y1D 2001 includes an out-of-cycle issue; 2=two fewer issues in 2002 than in 2001; 3=three fewer Issues in 2002; 4=four fewer issues in 2002; +=one more issue in 2002 CHART COMPILED BY AIMEE DEEXEN

publishing group president, says that the magazine will soon begin to complement its listings with more recommendations. "There's no question that my challenge is to lead the reinvigoration of *TV Guide*," Loughlin says. "And as Steve thought about the demands of producing a weekly magazine coupled with all the things that will need revisiting and redefinition, he came to a fundamental lifestyle decision more than anything else."

Reddicliffe says his plans include looking at

"other media and entertainment-related projects." He says *TV Guide* is in "great shape" for the future. "In a 500-channel universe, people are going to want guidance and the best of what's available to them," he says.

The search for Reddicliffe's replacement is expected to take two months, though Loughlin says he already has six candidates. The search for a new publisher (the post has been vacant for 18 months) may wrap up before Thanksgiving. -LG



#### Sabrina Weill Editor in Chief, Seventeen

**Q.** What's the biggest difference between 'Seventeen' and your most recent stop, 'CosmoGirl!'? **A.** The biggest change is that Seventeen is the [teen] category leader. It's really about graduating to a bigger ship. Also, the personality and mission of Seventeen is completely different. It's the ultimate guidebook for teenage girls, with the best and freshest service to cover all aspects of their lives. CosmoGirl! is more aspirational and deals a lot with how girls are going to live their lives in the future. Seventeen is about how girls are going to live their lives right now, today. **Q.** What are your plans for the magazine? **A.** I plan on making sure the book always has the

best advice—hair, makeup, fashion and life issues. We'll also be reformatting the magazine so the advice is as clear and as current as possible. We'll change some columns and evolve the design. **Q.** Some teen magazine editors play major roles in their titles' identities. Will you have a big presence? **A.** The thing about teenagers is that they have a voice, and they're just discovering their voice and they're very eager to use it. And so the important thing in creating a magazine for them is to really listen to what they have to say, and really deliver the information they need...If they ask for me, we'll give it to 'em! **Q.** You began your career at 'Seventeen' as an editorial assistant. You must feel like you've come full circle. **A.** I loved Seventeen as a teenager. It was with great joy that I got my first publishing job at the magazine. I remember Caroline Miller [now editor in chief of New York] coming in and making her [first] speech, and I thought 'Oh yeah, that's going to be me someday!'...Then I left to pick up some dry cleaning and coffee.

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# Media Person



## **St. Nick Flick Picks**

ies—until the holiday season. Then, in a fit of guilt and repentance, the moguls toss us a few good ones, hoping we will find it in our hearts to forgive. Well, Media Person doesn't forgive that easily. So

this year's Holiday Movie Guide, when read backwards and translated from Lithuanian, contains obscene jokes about the major studio heads. That'll teach 'em.

Gangs of New York: Martin Scorsese's long-awaited epic of pre-Mafia urban riffraff answers the question: What would have happened if it had been Kate Winslet who died when the *Titanic* went down and Leonardo DiCaprio had made it to New York and met Cameron Diaz? Would Bloomberg be mayor today? Would the Dodgers still be in Brooklyn? Would Media Person be writing this sentence?

8 Mile: Bad-boy rap star Eminem gives a surprisingly sensitive, nuanced performance in his film debut, playing a young man who, though appearing alienated, angry and violent on the surface, is actually concerned with attaining vast wealth and power by any means possible. After killing, raping and burning his annoying suburban parents, he heads for the ghetto and challenges the best young blacks to an all-night rap-a-thon that will leave only one man standing and the rest deaf. The haunting fade-out finds Eminem with a major recording contract but a nagging uncertainty as to whether he should betray his hard-core street values and release his girlfriend from the trunk of his car.

*Eight Crazy Nights*: Is the world really ready for an animated musical comedy about Chanukah? Well, if anyone can pull it off it's Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand and Dustin Hoffman, but unfortunately they have nothing to do with *Eight Crazy Nights*, so you'll have to settle for Adam Sandler.

Harry Potter and the Secret Chamber of Congress: Elected Britain's prime minister by acclaim, the popular boy wizard discovers on a visit to Washington that Congress has been enchanted by an evil sorcerer and is rubber-stamping the right-wing policies of a former oil executive, which threaten to bankrupt the economy. Harry not only saves the free world, but also loses his virginity in a steamy hot-tub scene with Helena Bonham Carter.

Trotsky in Love: Inspired by the hot love scene between Geoffrey Rush and Salma Hayek in Frida comes this story of the littleknown romantic exploits of communism's great exile. The goateed theorist beds Garbo, Dietrich, Mae West and Eleanor Roosevelt, all the while dashing off witty and perceptive op-ed pieces to the Daily Worker.

Far From Heaven: Lots of Oscar buzz surrounds this Gold Fig winner at the Beirut Film Festival about a man named Oscar Buzzworthy (Dennis Quaid) and his wife Goldie Figghart (Julianne Moore), who set tongues wagging in staid 1950s Contime, Crystal is hilariously bludgeoned to death with his own bust of Freud when he suggests that DeNiro has latent homosexual tendencies.

Two Weeks Notice: When corporate attorney Sandra Bullock tells her boss, tycoon Hugh Grant, that she's quitting, he becomes very upset and realizes that he's in love with her, so he blurts a proposal. She accepts, and they get married. More textured and complex than its seven-and-a-half-minute running time might suggest.

Maid in Manhattan: When a U.S. senator (Ralph "Rafe Fines" Fiennes) checks into the Waldorf-Astoria, the cleaning woman turns out to be J. Lo! They quickly take off their clothes and have hot, steamy sex. But then things get complicated when Roy Orbison starts singing "Pretty Woman" and Julia Roberts arrives as the hooker Ralph has ordered up from room service.

*Pinocchio*: Roberto Benigni stars in this update of the classic story about a puppet who desperately wants to be a boy but then, when he finally gets his wish, finds that what he really wanted was to be a girl.

## James Bond still manages to satisfy Halle Berry, but only with the aid of Viagra and a stunt double.

necticut by wearing pierced-tongue jewelry and tattoos and using cell phones.

Die Another Day: Nearing retirement age, James Bond still manages to satisfy Halle Berry, but only with the aid of Viagra and a stunt double. But then his back goes out when he tries a ninja move against yet another annoying evil genius bent on world conquest, and Bond finds that to save the day he must swallow his embarrassment and enlist the aid of the guys from Jackass.

Analyze That: In a much-needed sequel to the hit comedy Analyze This, Robert DeNiro and Billy Crystal resume their roles of a mob boss and his psychiatrist. This *Chicago*: Lots of singing and dancing by people who can't sing or dance promises to enliven this in-depth exploration of the criminal-justice system of the 1920s.

Grudging Correction: Last week, Media Person led with this fine sentence: "Us magazine was founded in 1977 by Jann Wenner, the Charles Foster Kane of the Baby Boomers." The sentence was true in every sense except that of accuracy. The fact is that Jann Wenner acquired Us in 1985 in partnership with Lorimar, assuming sole ownership in 1989. But who would ever believe anything so unlikely? MP's original version was better.

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