

H E A D L I N E S

**Empty space at United Video**

Executives at Tulsa, Okla.-based independent satellite carrier United Video say they have not decided what to do with transponder space that will open up when KTVT(TV) Fort Worth ceases to be available as a superstation at the end of year. Due to the FCC's network non-duplication rules, United Video no longer will be allowed to deliver KTVT when it changes from an independent to a CBS affiliate. United Video delivers the station to about 500,000 subscribers, primarily in Texas.

**Gutkowski replaced**

New Madison Square Garden owners Cablevision Systems Corp. and ITT have replaced president Robert Gutkowski with interim president David Checketts. Checketts, currently president of the Cablevision/ITT-owned Knicks basketball team, will continue to oversee the Knicks and will oversee the companies' hockey team, the Rangers, in his new position as

president, MSG Sports Group. Checketts also will oversee the MSG Network and the sports arena where the teams play.

**H&G launch set**

Scripps Howard has set a Dec. 30 launch date for its Home & Garden Television Network, the 24-hour cable network that so far has received commitments from cable system operators to debut the service in 6.5 million homes. The network also has signed a long-term agreement with IDB Communications Group to sublease a transponder on Hughes's Galaxy 1R.

**Comedy connection**

Comedy Central and Caroline's Comedy Club on Oct. 5 will unite 20 comedy clubs in the U.S. and Canada for "Laugh for a Cause," a night of live stand-up shows benefiting the Red Cross's Rwanda relief efforts. In other developments, the comedy network has just launched a viewer contest tied to its *Absolutely Fabulous* sitcom. —RB

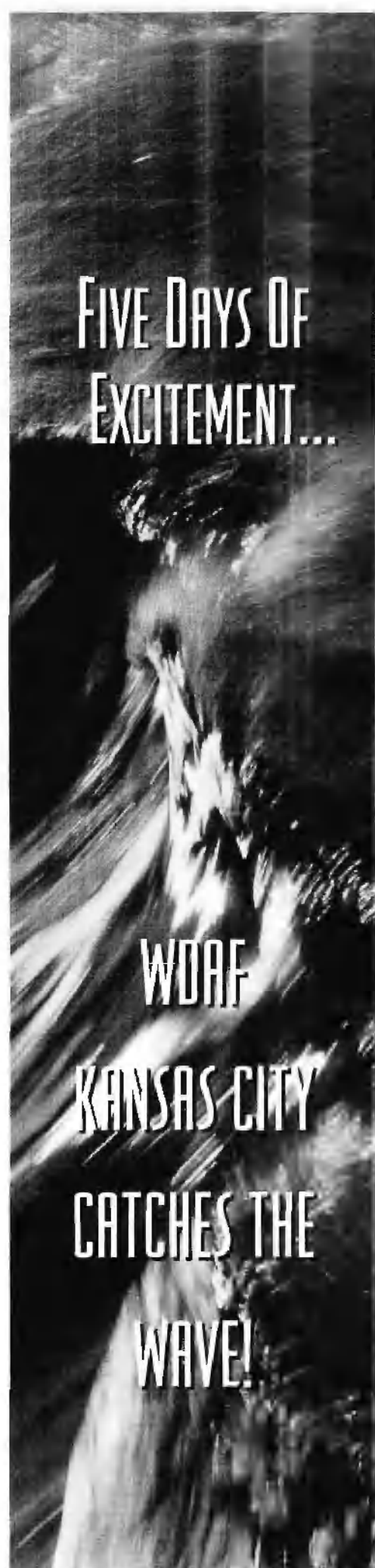
**Top cable shows**

Following are the top 15 basic cable programs for the week of Sept. 12-18, ranked by households tuning in. The cable-network ratings are percentages of the total households each network reaches. The U.S. ratings are percentages of the 94.2 million households with TV sets. Source: Nielsen Media Research.

Program	Network	Time (ET)	HHs. (000)	Rating Cable U.S.
1. NFL Football	TNT	Sun 8:00p	6,020	9.8 6.3
2. CFA Prime Time	ESPN	Sat 6:30p	3,220	5.1 3.4
3. Showdown in Haiti	CNN	Sun 9:00p	2,653	4.2 2.8
4. NFL Prime Time	ESPN	Sun 7:00p	2,562	4.1 2.7
5. CFA Prime Time	ESPN	Sat 9:40p	2,389	3.8 2.5
6. The Ren & Stimpy Show	NICK	Sun 11:00a	2,015	3.3 2.1
7. Rugrats	NICK	Sun 10:30a	1,981	3.3 2.1
8. Silk Stalkings	USA	Mon 10:00p	1,962	3.1 2.1
9. Clinton Speech Post-Analysis	CNN	Thu 9:20p	1,957	3.1 2.1
10. 75 Seasons: Story of the NFL	TNT	Tue 8:00p	1,917	3.1 2.0
11. Murder, She Wrote	USA	Tue 8:00p	1,762	2.8 1.8
11. WWF Monday Night Raw	USA	Mon 9:00p	1,747	2.8 1.8
13. Showdown in Haiti	CNN	Sun 10:00p	1,731	2.7 1.8
14. Larry King Live	CNN	Thu 9:34p	1,707	2.7 1.8
15. Showdown in Haiti	CNN	Sun 8:00p	1,704	2.7 1.8

The top five basic cable services for the week of Sept. 12-18 are listed at right; they are ranked by the number of households tuning in during prime time (8-11 p.m.). The cable-network ratings are percentages of the total households each network reaches; the shares are percentages of the total households each network reaches that have their sets on during prime time. Source: cable networks based on Nielsen Media Research.

Network	HHs. (000)	Rating/Share
1. TNT	1,750	2.9/4.7
2. USA	1,323	2.1/3.4
3. ESPN	1,071	1.7/2.8
4. TBS	959	1.5/2.6
5. NICK	795	1.3/2.1



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