

CableFAX Daily™

Friday — January 12, 2007

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 18 / No. 9

Integration Ban: A Look at the Aftermath

While **Comcast**, **Cablevision** and **BendBroadband** know their fate, there's no word on when the **FCC** might rule on pending integration ban waiver requests from **NCTA**, **Charter** and others. Nothing chmn *Kevin Martin* said at **CES** Wed offers much hope that the Commission will delay the July 1 deadline for deploying set-tops with separable security. NCTA wants the ban delayed until ops deploy a new downloadable security system, or until 2010 (whichever comes first). In a statement, Martin said he would have "preferred to establish a timeframe for cable operators to develop and deploy downloadable security with adequate assurance that this timeframe would actually be met," but in the absence of "real progress" on that or 2-way plug & play discussions, "I think the Commission needs to move forward with its current rules." While the Media Bureau indicated it would grant waivers to small ops who commit to going all-digital before '09, those ops aren't exactly turning cartwheels. "We highly appreciate that Chairman Martin and the FCC are sensitive to the unique concerns of smaller operators in the Media Bureau's orders on set-top boxes. However, it is, unfortunately, unrealistic that most smaller cable companies will be able to upgrade to all-digital prior to the DTV deadline in February 2009," said **ACA** pres/CEO *Matt Polka*. Like Comcast, ACA thinks that low-cost digital boxes should be exempt from the ban. The July 1 deadline requires "ACA members to use their scarce resources to comply, making it even more difficult to move forward in the digital transition," Polka said. "ACA will work with Congress and the FCC to help them fully understand these grave concerns." Even reaction from one of the winners from Wed's Media Bureau wavier actions was tempered. **Beyond Broadband Technology** would have preferred to see the Commission eliminate the July 1 deadline altogether, but is glad its tech has been given the greenlight, said consultant *Steve Effros*. He added that BBT has seen a spike in inquiries from "major players" following the Media Bureau's declaration that operators can deploy downloadable conditional access security to comply with the integration ban. BBT, founded by cable vets *Ben Hooks*, *Bill Bauer* and *Tony Swain*, has developed an open standard, downloadable method (**Cfax**, 12/22) that was cited by the Bureau in its order. "While BBT's technology and business remain unproven, it could pose a new challenge to the dominance of **Cisco/Scientific-Atlanta** and **Motorola** in the market for cable set-top devices, which is already under attack from larger vendors," concluded investment firm **Stifel, Nicolaus**. To date, **R.L. Drake** is the only manufacturer BBT has signed on. Larger CE makers, such as **Panasonic**, are developing boxes based on **CableLabs'** OpenCable-based downloadable security specs known as DCAS, but those products aren't expected to be ready until mid-'08, at the earliest. CableLabs said DCAS is still underway but companies involved are under non disclosure agreements.

Sour Note: **MTVN** pres/COO *Michael Wolf* and pres, affil sales and mktg *Nicole Browning* made loud music Thurs, announcing they are leaving the company for undisclosed reasons. While chmn/CEO *Judy McGrath* wished them

A PERFECT MATCH



One of tennis' oldest traditions on the same team with one of its youngest players. The Tennis Channel is pleased to join forces with the **United States Tennis Association**, the nation's most powerful and prestigious tennis organization.

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both well in a release, Wolf and Browning's departures effect large voids in MTVN's hierarchy. Wolf led the company's business and technology operations, and also helped in developing and implementing the company's evolving multiplatform strategy. Browning oversaw all the distribution activities of the complete menu of MTV nets. MTVN will begin searching for replacements immediately.

Mediacom-Sinclair: Mediacom CFO Mark Stephan says the MSO doesn't have any MFNs with other broadcasters that would kick in if it agreed to pay Sinclair a higher per station rate. When asked about MFNs at Citigroup's confab late Wed, Stephan said, "We don't have that kind of situation. I know that people would probably suspect that because we're fighting it so hard there's something behind Door No. 1, but that's not the case." Stephan wouldn't provide details on sub defections after Sinclair yanked 22 stations from some 700K MCCC subs on Jan 6. "I don't want to suggest that we've lost very few, and I don't want to say that it's a big amount." Meanwhile, the Iowa Congressional Delegation has sent a letter to Mediacom and Sinclair urging them to enter into binding arbitration "to bring the parties to an agreement without further harming Iowa consumers." Mediacom has already offered to enter arbitration; Sinclair says it's considering the idea. The MSO has asked the full FCC to review a Media Bureau order that refused to intervene in the spat. "We've gotten a good amount of support all around except for in the chmn's office at the FCC unfortunately, where I think it would most count if we had his support," Stephan said Tues.

Deals: RBC Capital Markets completed its acquisition of Daniels & Assoc. The new business unit will now be called RBC Daniels. Daniels ranked #1 in the number of US, cable, telecom, broadcast and Internet services M&A transactions completed last year (27), according to Thomson Financial data.

Competition: AT&T inked a distribution pact with New England Sports Net for its U-verse video service in New Haven and Hartford, CT.

In the Courts: Cisco filed Wed in CA a trademark infringement suit against Apple for use of the "iPhone" name, which Apple is using for the hybrid iPod, cell phone and Internet browser product it unveiled this week. Cisco and Apple have been in discussion over the name for some time. Apple argues it's entitled to use the name iPhone because the products are materially different.

Nah-Nah: As Verizon announced Thurs that its FiOS TV service is now available in 106 NJ communities and reaches 250K state HHs, Cablevision couldn't resist retorting. "The phone company's me-too service costs more after a nearly 8% rate increase this month, and lacks both the award-winning News 12 and Optimum's outstanding customer service," the MSO said in a release.

Ratings: Apparently Tony Soprano doesn't need a foul mouth to wield clout. The Wed premiere of a cleaner "The Sopranos" on A&E earned a 3.6 HH coverage rating and garnered 4.3mln total viewers, making it the most watched off-net series in cable history, the net said.

Programming: Starz Ent acquired the rights to 5 films from prod Bob Yari, including "The Illusionist" and "Winter Passing." The films will be shown in '07/'08 on the Starz linear channels, Starz On Demand and Vongo.

Commentary: It makes you wonder. Thurs' WSJ quotes the Federal Anti-Cable Commission chairman as say-

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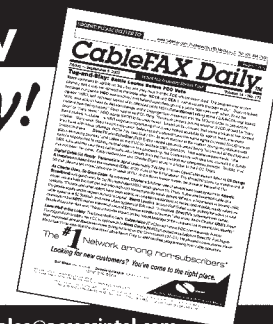
ing, "It's important to find a way for consumers to go into Best Buy, buy a TV, hang it on the wall and plug it in and it works." Do you suppose *Kevin Martin*(et) knows that you can actually do that? And get FREE over-the-air regular and hi-def signals in most American population centers? Why does his mother let him go out alone? – PSM

Oh, the TCA Reality: Comcast's nets continue to amp up the reality genre, with a raft of new shows that push the envelope. *Ryan Seacrest's* "Paradise City" on E! throws together sexy young go-getters trying to make it in the Las Vegas entertainment scene. The shooting style almost makes it look like a scripted drama, although creators assure us it's all real. G4 brings us "The Block" about partying snowboarders running a Lake Tahoe hotel (the whole inmates running the asylum thing). E!'s "High Maintenance 90210" takes us into the world of Beverly Hills butlers, dogwalkers and other "help" for the spoiled rich. "My ultimate goal is to work in the White House," said *Brian Armstrong*, who acts as butler to eccentric recording artist *Norwood Young*. Not sure getting yourself on an E! reality show helps penetrate DC butler circles (do those exist?), but we'll see. We caught up with **Comcast Entertainment Group** pres/CEO *Ted Harbert* after the panel, and he said the reality genre isn't going away. It's hard to make money syndicating scripted shows with actors anymore. One interesting non-reality show, however, is G4's animated "Code Monkeys" about video-game programmers in the '80s in which characters look to be trapped in, well... a video game in the '80s. The pixilated animation takes a while to get used to... but, then again, low-fi animation certainly hasn't hurt mega-hit "South Park." One encouraging sign: Creator *Adam DelaPena* was hilarious during the Q&A session—hopefully, that bodes well for the show's content.

TCA Notebook: Lifetime's panel was supposed to be about the quartet of *Nora Roberts* novels that the channel has translated for the small screen (premieres Jan 29), but *Heather Locklear* dominated. The woman couldn't get out of the way of her mouth, starting when *John Corbett* ("Sex and the City") told critics of his rock career. "I didn't know you were a rock star, I love rock stars," Locklear said innocently, but received the longest and loudest laughter of the TCA tour. It went downhill after that. Badly. But give her credit, she went with it and enjoyed lampooning herself and her failed marriage, at one point pleading: "Yes, I'm single and any man will do." -- Although the Roberts titles don't indicate it, Lifetime says it is broadening its appeal, eschewing its all-men-are-evil formula in its originals. While women will remain the priority, "we don't want to be exclusive [to women]," pres *Susanne Daniels* said. Evidence is found in large ensemble drama series "Army Wives" (Apr), whose military spouses include a good-natured man (*Sterling K. Brown*) whose wife (*Wendy Davis*) is a lieutenant colonel. -- Other Lifetime goodies in the pipeline include reality show "How to Look Good Naked," which will teach women how to, without surgery and extensive makeovers; and "State of Mind," with *Lily Taylor* ("6 Ft Under") as a marriage therapist who catches her husband sleeping with the couple's therapist. -- ESPN svp *Jed Drake* made his point clearly—the network will put the same full-court press behind its new NASCAR property as it did for "Monday Night Football," including coverage on all its platforms and putting HD cameras in NASCAR and Busch cars for the first time. "Watch out when ESPN gets behind a project... nobody moves the ball like that," said veteran sports voice *Brent Musberger*, who'll anchor the network's studio show for NASCAR. -- ESPN's movie unit will deliver a film about the horse Ruffian (it will premiere on ABC first, the week before the Belmont Stakes in June) and has embarked on a miniseries about the '77 Yankees that the team has cooperated on. *Reggie Jackson*, *Billy Martin* and *George Steinbrenner* (played by *Oliver Platt*) will be the main characters. -- ESPN still wants to make a movie about *Vince Lombardi*, a project it's been developing for several years, svp *Ron Semiao* said. -- Starz is heading into the original series format. A potential winner is "Head Case," an unscripted show where an inappropriate therapist (played by *Alexandra Wentworth*) is visited by stars playing themselves, including *Jason Priestly* and *Alanis Morissette*. Starz tried to have fun, letting Wentworth remain in character for critics; the prickly scribes didn't like it, and she dropped the psychiatrist schtick.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

People: Turner appointed former Universal exec *Beth Goss* evp, Cartoon's ad sales, marketing and enterprises group, effective Jan 29. -- **SportsTime Ohio** promoted *Pat Kilkenney* to vp, program acquisition/exec prod; *Ed Niemi* to vp, affil relations and distribution; *Dave Pincura* to CFO and vp, finance; and *Mike Roche* to vp, mktg and new media.

Earnings: C-COR said it expects 2Q revenue and net earnings to exceed its Oct guidance of \$68.5-\$72.5mln in rev and earnings of 3-7 cents/share. Announcement of actual results are scheduled for Jan 25.

Business/Finance: It may be a few more weeks before **Time Warner Cable** starts trading on the NYSE, but those who just can't wait to plunk some money down can head to the over-the-counter Pink Sheets, where it started quietly trading on Fri as TWCAV. It was trading at \$41 Thurs. -- **Scripps'** newspaper segment is dragging down its overall portfolio, and some pubs may be sold to allow the conglomerate's share price to receive a positive injection from its sizzling cable nets, CFO *Joe Necastro* said Wed in Las Vegas. As newspaper revenue has shrunk to less than 25% of total rev, down from more than 50% in '00, the co's '07 guidance predicts 10-13% revenue growth for the cable division, which posted solid number throughout '06.

CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	01/11 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	01/11 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
AVID TECH:	37.39	0.16	BLNDER TONGUE:	1.80	0.00
BRITISH SKY:	43.58	0.33	BROADCOM:	32.85	(0.34)
DIRECTV:	24.15	0.15	C-COR:	12.56	0.77
DISNEY:	34.99	0.50	CISCO:	28.69	0.01
ECHOSTAR:	39.86	0.33	COMMSCOPE:	31.09	1.28
GE:	37.92	0.36	CONCURRENT:	1.84	0.00
HEARST-ARGYLE:	26.05	0.03	CONVERGYS:	25.40	0.38
ION MEDIA:	0.55	0.00	CSG SYSTEMS:	26.06	0.02
NEWS CORP:	23.66	0.14	GEMSTAR TVG:	3.74	(0.04)
TRIBUNE:	30.55	(0.23)	GOOGLE:	499.72	10.26
MSOS					
CABLEVISION:	29.60	(0.19)	HARMONIC:	8.16	0.81
CHARTER:	3.48	0.08	JDSU:	16.72	(0.04)
COMCAST:	42.95	0.04	LEVEL 3:	6.48	0.45
COMCAST SPCL:	42.22	(0.02)	LUCENT:	2.55	(0.02)
GCI:	15.71	0.06	MICROSOFT:	30.70	1.04
KNOLOGY:	11.38	0.34	MOTOROLA:	18.20	0.04
LIBERTY CAPITAL:	102.38	1.62	NDS:	46.75	1.23
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	30.66	0.37	NORTEL:	26.29	0.42
LIBERTY INTERACTIVE:	23.50	0.89	OPENTV:	2.43	(0.03)
MEDIACOM:	7.91	0.05	PHILIPS:	36.83	0.07
NTL:	24.74	(0.2)	RENTRAK:	14.64	(0.11)
ROGERS COMM:	32.29	2.04	SEACHANGE:	10.56	0.18
SHAW COMM:	36.10	2.59	SONY:	45.65	(0.13)
TIME WARNER:	22.62	0.33	SPRINT NEXTEL:	17.44	(0.41)
WASH POST:	765.75	3.75	THOMAS & BETTS:	46.00	0.15
PROGRAMMING					
CBS:	31.20	0.04	TIVO:	5.98	0.32
CROWN:	3.85	(0.15)	TOLLGRADE:	10.30	(0.03)
DISCOVERY:	16.77	0.14	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	20.29	0.62
EW SCRIPPS:	52.11	0.19	VONAGE:	6.48	(0.03)
GRUPO TELEVISA:	27.60	0.30	VYYO:	4.44	0.08
INTERACTIVE CORP:	37.84	(0.48)	WEBB SYS:	0.03	0.00
LODGENET:	25.27	(0.48)	WORLDGATE:	1.36	0.01
NEW FRONTIER:	10.05	0.25	YAHOO:	29.20	0.50
OUTDOOR:	12.40	0.32	TELCOS		
PLAYBOY:	11.65	0.22	AT&T:	34.49	0.46
UNIVISION:	35.74	0.02	BELLSOUTH:	47.11	0.00
VALUEVISION:	12.78	0.09	QWEST:	8.38	0.09
VIACOM:	42.41	(0.12)	VERIZON:	37.11	0.36
WWE:	16.36	0.37	MARKET INDICES		
TECHNOLOGY					
3COM:	4.04	(0.07)	DOW:	12514.98	72.82
ADC:	14.95	(0.07)	NASDAQ:	2484.85	25.52
ADDVANTAGE:	2.86	0.09			
AMDOCS:	35.70	(3.63)			
AMPHENOL:	63.45	1.86			
ARRIS GROUP:	13.28	0.55			



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PROGRAMMER'S PAGE with Chad Heiges and Seth Arenstein

Pruning and Primping

HGTV cultivated a showy '06, what with a summer eclipse of the 90mIn HH penetration plateau and the delivery of double-digit revenue growth in each of the year's first 3 quarters. Now the **Scripps** net is hitting '07 with a confidence derived largely from programming content that it believes has become more beguiling to occasional viewers and, yes, even to an unexpected demo. "Our goal is to develop programming which appeals to adults, not just women," said svp, programming *Michael Dingley*, who said an emphasis on story-driven shows that feature entertaining hosts has started to level the gender scales. Also helping is shrewd trend-spotting and the provision of genuine, real-life content. "It's all about keeping it real; we don't do contrived here," said Dingley. Content themes to watch for this year include outdoor home environments, green living and real estate, he said. Addressing the 1st will be "Get Out Way Out" (Mar), featuring professional landscape designers who will "trick out" backyards with waterfalls, lagoons, rock-climbing walls and outdoor kitchens. Docusoap "Bought & Sold" (Apr) and series "Secrets That Sell" (June) will cater to viewers' increased interest in real estate amid a flagging market. "We look for long-term trends, not fads," said Dingley. Also in the mix is "Color Splash" (Mar), a show in which homeowners create their own vibrant palettes and unique art for room redesigns – and for which Dingley holds "very high hopes." Hosting will be *David Bromstad*, winner of last year's "HGTV Design Star," the net's initial foray into reality TV. Design Star will return in July with a "major twist," Dingley said. CH

Highlights: "Soundproof," Mon, 9pm ET, **BBC America**. The 3rd in BBC A's "Mystery Monday" is another top-notch crime of passion story. This one's especially complex because it involves the hearing impaired; the acting is tremendous. -- "Jonestown: Paradise Lost," Mon, 9pm, **History**. Purists will balk at the mix of reenactment and interviews, but it tells the story of Rev *Jim Jones'* tragedy well. -- "In the Womb: Multiples," Sun, 9pm, **Nat Geo**. Amazing view of biology; and don't call them identical twins, they're monozygotic twins. SA

Worth a Look: "Naked Happy Girls," Sat, 9pm, **Playboy TV**. It's good to be the king, but it's not bad being *Andrew Einhorn*, a 30-something who finds pretty women on the street and convinces them to let him photograph them naked for his books. This is art, not porn, he insists. Right. -- "Cory in the House," 9:30pm, **Disney**. Cory's dad gets a gig in the White House, but why does the president act like a fool? -- "Louis C.K.," Sat, 10pm, **HBO**. *Louis C.K.* proves to be a good if foul-mouthed observer of the humor of daily life. -- "Jump In!" Fri, 8pm, **Disney**. Decently done vehicle for talented "HS Musical" alum *Corbin Bleu*. -- "Journey to Darfur," Mon, 8pm, **AmericanLife**. *Nick* and son *George Clooney* do an admirable job introducing the basics of Darfur. -- "Rome," season II premiere, Sun, 9pm, **HBO**. "Rome" begins its final season with Caesar's death in an ep that sizzles with terrific acting and plenty of blood. SA

Basic Cable Rankings
(1/1/07-1/7/07)
Mon-Sun Prime

1	DSNY	2.3	2056
2	USA	2.1	1914
3	TNT	1.7	1523
4	LIFE	1.5	1377
4	TBSC	1.5	1332
6	A&E	1.4	1253
7	NAN	1.3	1211
7	FX	1.3	1187
7	HALL	1.3	959
10	FOXN	1.2	1055
11	TOON	1.1	990
11	HGTV	1.1	986
11	SPK	1.1	979
11	CORT	1.1	969
11	TVLD	1.1	969
11	AMC	1.1	946
17	DISC	1	916
17	SCIF	1	888
17	VH1	1	878
20	MTV	0.9	837
20	FAM	0.9	828
20	HIST	0.9	825
20	ESPN	0.9	820
24	TLC	0.8	738
25	CMDY	0.7	661
25	CNN	0.7	619
25	FOOD	0.7	597
25	LMN	0.7	385
29	BET	0.6	503
29	BRAV	0.6	480
29	SOAP	0.6	330
32	APL	0.5	461
32	MSNB	0.5	445
32	EN	0.5	441
32	CMT	0.5	383
32	WGNC	0.5	324
32	NGC	0.5	304
32	GSN	0.5	283
32	BIO	0.5	215
40	ESP2	0.4	383
40	TTC	0.4	365
40	OXYG	0.4	263
40	TV1	0.4	138
44	HLN	0.3	271
44	TWC	0.3	242
44	TVGC	0.3	238

*Nielsen data supplied by ABC/Disney

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ELIGIBILITY

Programs must have run on a cable channel or a regional cable channel during the 2006 calendar year.

CATEGORIES

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- ❷ Documentaries
- ❸ Specials
- ❹ An episode(s) of a recurring series that highlights public affairs issues.

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- Does the entry raise awareness of an issue and/or improve the public's understanding of an important public affairs issue?
- Do the program's production values enhance the value of the issue being presented?
- Does the program or PSA make its argument in a clear and thought-provoking manner?

REQUIREMENTS

- Please submit 3 copies of each entry on VHS or DVD
- Each entry must be accompanied by a press kit or a short statement explaining the entry (show date, plot synopsis etc.)
- A \$75 entry fee per nomination via company or personal check or money order must accompany each entry. In the case of a series of PSAs, 1 check for \$75 per series will be required. Under difficult circumstances late payment of fees will be permitted. Make checks payable to: CableWorld Magazine.
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Seth Arenstein

CableWorld Public Affairs Programming Award

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