

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Washout: Cable's Flying Colors Muted by Altered Globes

Although inarguably a dominant winner during Sun night's diluted **Golden Globe** award festivities, cable had to also count losses from the absence of the traditionally televised awards show. Originals from **HBO, AMC, FX** and **Showtime**—which collectively earned 10 of the 11 TV-related honors, leaving a single award for broadcast nets—missed out on exposure to millions of viewers, many of whom would've also been apprised of the burgeoning breadth and quality of original cable content. "It was a big disappointment not to have that showcase," said Showtime chmn/CEO *Matt Blank* of the glitzy telecast. *David Duchovny* won the best actor in a comedy or musical series award for the net's "Californication." FX pres/GM *John Landgraf*, though pleased by *Glenn Close's* best actress in a drama series win for "Damages," echoed Blank's feelings. Usually featured on **NBC** but relegated this year to a 30min press conference, the awards event "provides a lot of value for shows themselves... the kind of publicity you can't buy," said Landgraf. But Showtime and FX are veterans on the honors circuit, unlike AMC, which may have benefited most from a pair of acceptance speeches for "Mad Men." Still, the recognition "feels like a win to us," said net GM *Charlie Collier*. "We'll take this kind of miss every day." All 3 execs lament the strike and hope for a speedy conclusion, even if cable has so far avoided any real damage. The work stoppage has, however, produced "feelings of discomfort" for every net looking ahead to scheduling and production of original content, said Collier, who nonetheless likes his net's current positioning and is still teeing up season 2 of "Mad Men." New original "Breaking Bad" debuts Sun. Showtime is in "good shape through the summer," said Blank, noting his excitement about next month's feature of "Dexter" on **CBS**. FX is set for the calendar year, said Landgraf, although the net may have to make do, barring a near-term strike resolution, with half seasons of "Dirt" and "The Riches," slated to return before summer and Mar 2, respectively. For a complete list of Golden Globe winners, see Cable360.net. -- **TV Guide Net**, which saw its popular red carpet programming rolled up for possible unfurling next year, still managed to salvage the night. The net's uninterrupted coverage of the 9pm ET press conference delivered a 0.3 local market rating, up 50% over the same time period last year. "While we wish the night had played out differently for all constituents, we are proud of our scrappiness to make the night a success for TVGN and our viewers," said net pres *Ryan O'Hara*. Meanwhile, **E!** earned a 0.50 metered market average during the press conference.

In the Courts: Late Fri, Michigan's city of Dearborn and Meridian Township sued **Comcast** over its plan to require subs to obtain a set-top to view PEG channels. A federal judge said she would decide by midnight Mon (1/14) whether to halt the MSO's plans, which are scheduled to take effect Tues. As of press time, there was no word of a decision. The issue drew the attention last month of House Commerce chmn *John Dingell* (**Cfax**, 12/26), with the House Commerce Telecom Subcommittee slated to hold a hearing on the issue Jan 29 at 1pm. Other cable ops

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have implemented similar plans, with **Bright House** moving Tampa's PEG channels to 100+ spots last year and requiring subs to pay \$1/month for a box to view them. "Your intent to charge consumers as much as an additional \$4.20 a month per television set to receive PEG channels is plainly inconsistent with Congressional intent that PEG channels be made available 'at the lowest reasonable rate'," Dingell wrote in a letter to Comcast CEO *Brian Roberts* late last month. Comcast plans to offer the boxes free for 1 year for 1 TV, but additional TVs would need to lease a box. Comcast responded to Dingell last week, saying that more than half of its MI subs already have digital service. The MSO also noted that the channels will remain on the basic service tier, thus customers won't have to take a higher level of service. "To compete effectively with DBS and with phone companies entering the business in MI, it is only fair that we have somewhat of a level playing field," Comcast wrote, noting that DBS has no PEG programming obligations and that **AT&T** "in most instances" provides no PEG programming. "We are proud of our PEG commitments and have no desire to cut back on them. But we must expedite the return of analog spectrum..."

Macworld: With **Comcast** and **Time Warner Cable** trialing day-and-date VOD releases for more than a year, could **Apple** be about to beat them to the punch? All bets are that *Steve Jobs* will announce at Tues' Macworld that several studios have agreed to offer their movies for rent via Apple's video iPod and Apple TV products. **Twentieth Century Fox**, **Paramount**, **Warner Bros** and **Disney** are rumored to be on board. The iTunes store will offer 30-day rentals for \$2.99-\$5/movie (HD movies on the higher end), the *LA Times* reported citing people familiar with the plans. Viewers will have 24 hours to watch the film once it has been started.

Carriage: **ION** snagged a big fish, with **Comcast** agreeing to carry diginets **qubo** and **ION Life** as well as continuing to carry flagship **ION**. Qubo is a multi-lingual kids net, while **ION Life** features fitness and wellness programming. -- **Si TV** has been launched by **Comcast** in the Pittsburgh area, by **Time Warner Cable** in Corpus Christi, Beaumont/Port Arthur and Rio Grande Valley, TX, and by **TVMAX** in Houston.

Deals: **Macrovison** and **Gemstar** announced that the **FTC** and **DOJ** have granted early termination of the waiting period for their proposed merger, ending the antitrust review of the transaction. Stockholders still must approve the deal.

HD: **WWE** always does things in a big way, sending reporters more than 1 million pizzas to tout *Wrestlemania*. But *Vince McMahon* & Co topped themselves Mon. To push the **WWE HD** feed that begins on **USA** Jan 21 and later extends to **Sci Fi** and **The CW**, **WWE** sent us (and many others) a 113-lb refrigerator stuffed with liquid ice, noting that with **WWE** in HD, "it's so real, it hurts." Of all days for our office elevator to break. Our *Seth Arenstein* helped a FedEx driver lug the overweight tchotchkey two flights up the stairs. Does anyone have the number of a good hernia doctor? **PPV** broadcasts will launch in high-def starting Jan 27 with the "Royal Rumble." -- **Travel Channel** launched nationwide a high-def simulcast of the net, along with a marketing campaign via TV and consumer and trade pubs.

Breeding Net: **Animal Planet** plans to relaunch during the 1st week of Feb with new graphics, a fresh logo and programming that presents animals more as characters than creatures. Planned to tap into viewers' instincts such as fear and pleasure, 8 new series and specials will debut next month, including docu-soap "Escape to Chimp Eden," pet entertainment show "Clinically Wild" and unscripted drama "A Year with Lions." A branding campaign highlights the net's changing content using the tagline, "Same Planet. Different World."

EXCLUSIVE NEWS

DAN RATHER The South Carolina
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

On the Circuit: Cable Positive's annual benefit dinner, scheduled this year for Mar 4 at the Marriott Marquis in NYC, has been renamed as the "Power Awards." The inaugural honors will recognize **MTVN** vice chmn *Bill Roedy*, **Insight** CEO/vice chmn *Michael Willner* and **CARE** pres/CEO *Helene Gayle*. -- **CTAM's** '08 officers include: **Cox** CMO *Joe Rooney*, chair; **ESPN** evp, sales and marketing *Sean Bratches*, vice chair; **HBO** co-pres *Eric Kessler*, secretary; and **Time Warner Cable** evp/CMO *Sam Howe*, treasurer.

Awards: Operators, programmers and educators have until Wed (noon PT) to submit apps for **Cable in the Classroom's** "Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards." Visit www.LeadersinLearningAwards.org. Awards are set for June 18, DC. Meanwhile, the **MO Cable Telecom Assoc** recognized 4 educators in its "Teaching with Cable Awards." Winners used programming from **CNN**, **Natl Geographic**, **Discovery** and others.

Business/Finance: **ESPN** has joined 4 other entities including **Bank of China Group Investment** to acquire for \$253mln an 11% stake in **NBA China**, which will conduct all of the basketball league's businesses in the country. -- **Liberty Media** has purchased 14mln of **IAC** common stock from an unnamed shareholder at a price of \$24.25/share, and entered into a standstill agreement with **IAC** that will expire on or before Apr '09.

CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	01/14 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	01/14 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
BRITISH SKY:	43.15	0.86	APPLE:	178.78	6.09
DIRECTV:	21.29	(0.43)	ARRIS GROUP:	8.26	0.06
DISNEY:	30.31	(0.01)	AVID TECH:	24.62	0.26
ECHOSTAR:	29.62	(0.78)	BIGBAND:	4.51	0.11
GE:	35.46	0.29	BLNDER TONGUE:	1.65	(0.04)
HEARST-ARGYLE:	19.89	(0.01)	BROADCOM:	23.99	1.02
ION MEDIA:	1.33	(0.01)	CISCO:	26.29	0.42
NEWS CORP:	20.16	0.43	COMMSCOPE:	44.51	0.96
MSOS					
CABLEVISION:	23.98	0.37	CONCURRENT:	0.75	0.02
CHARTER:	1.17	0.07	CONVERGYS:	14.90	(0.07)
COMCAST:	17.67	0.55	CSG SYSTEMS:	12.91	0.01
COMCAST SPCL:	17.57	0.57	ECHOSTAR HOLDING:	30.20	(1.2)
GCI:	7.84	0.05	GEMSTAR TVG:	4.67	0.01
KNOLOGY:	10.54	(0.05)	GOOGLE:	653.82	15.57
LIBERTY CAPITAL:	109.04	(0.65)	HARMONIC:	9.67	0.45
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	38.78	0.57	JDSU:	11.61	0.20
LIBERTY INTERACTIVE:	15.70	0.07	LEVEL 3:	2.97	0.06
MEDIACOM:	5.10	0.19	MICROSOFT:	34.39	0.48
NTL:	28.22	0.00	MOTOROLA:	14.61	(0.03)
ROGERS COMM:	42.97	0.00	NDS:	51.87	(0.11)
SHAW COMM:	21.05	(0.53)	NORTEL:	12.66	0.27
TIME WARNER CABLE:	24.91	0.75	OPENTV:	1.34	0.08
WASH POST:	799.50	5.48	PHILIPS:	41.53	1.48
PROGRAMMING					
CBS:	24.27	0.17	RENTRAK:	12.78	0.60
CROWN:	5.71	0.38	SEACHANGE:	6.90	0.04
DISCOVERY:	24.70	0.68	SONY:	55.75	0.45
EW SCRIPPS:	42.08	0.63	SPRINT NEXTEL:	12.36	0.11
GRUPO TELEVISA:	23.05	0.43	THOMAS & BETTS:	46.00	0.00
INTERACTIVE CORP:	24.40	0.81	TIVO:	7.26	0.07
LODGENET:	14.89	(0.08)	TOLLGRADE:	7.49	(0.02)
NEW FRONTIER:	4.94	(0.04)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	25.39	1.38
OUTDOOR:	6.50	0.03	VONAGE:	2.00	0.03
PLAYBOY:	8.01	(0.24)	VYYO:	2.58	(0.13)
TIME WARNER:	16.22	0.21	WEBB SYS:	0.06	0.00
UNIVISION:	36.23	0.00	YAHOO:	23.70	0.34
VALUEVISION:	4.88	(0.08)	TELCOS		
VIACOM:	40.20	(0.02)	AT&T:	38.51	0.31
WWE:	13.80	(0.12)	QWEST:	5.80	0.06
TECHNOLOGY					
3COM:	4.29	0.09	VERIZON:	42.99	0.49
ADC:	13.70	0.81	MARKET INDICES		
ADDVANTAGE:	5.00	(0.12)	DOW:	12778.15	171.85
ALCATEL LUCENT:	6.93	0.27	NASDAQ:	2478.30	38.36
AMDOCS:	32.92	(0.12)			
AMPHENOL:	40.75	1.63			

AMC Lands Two Golden Globes!

MAD MEN



Best Television Series - Drama

Jon Hamm - Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series - Drama

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BEST ACTOR IN A TV SERIES: JEREMY PIVEN, ENTOURAGE (HBO)	BEST ACTOR IN A TV MOVIE JIM BROADBENT, LONGFORD (HBO)
BEST ACTRESS IN A TV SERIES, DRAMA GLENN CLOSE, DAMAGES (FX)	BEST ACTRESS IN A TV MOVIE QUEEN LATIFAH, AFFLICTION (HBO)
BEST ACTOR IN A TV SERIES, DRAMA JON HAMM, MAD MEN (AMC)	BEST ACTOR IN A TV SERIES, COMEDY DAVID DUCHOVNY, CALIFORNICATION (SHOWTIME)
BEST TV MOVIE LONGFORD (HBO)	BEST TV SERIES, COMEDY EXTRAS (HBO)
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A TV MOVIE SAMANTHA MORTON, LONGFORD (HBO)	BEST TV SERIES, DRAMA MAD MEN (AMC)

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CABLE WINNERS, FROM THE STAFF AND PUBLISHER OF CABLEFAX DAILY, CABLEFAX MAGAZINE AND CABLE360.NET

Sincerely,

Dina Schwartz

Debbie Vodeno

Seth Arestein

Mike

Amy Maclean

Chad Heiges

Joann M. Fata

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Drew Price