

CableFAX Daily™

Monday — May 23, 2011

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 22 / No. 098

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Buy the Book: Liberty Looks to Add Book Nook to Empire

Liberty Media continues its apparent effort to get a little piece of everything, announcing late Thurs that it has made a \$1bln offer (\$17/share) for bookseller **Barnes & Noble**. Early reaction is that the price is probably too low, with B&N stock spiking on anticipation of a higher offer. If accepted, Liberty would have about 70% equity ownership in B&N. What does this mean for Liberty Starz? Not much (although a Book TV on Steroids network would be pretty cool to bibliophiles). **Collins Stewart's Thomas Eagan** expects the bid to have no financial impact on **Liberty Starz**—nor does he see it delaying the **Liberty Interactive** spin to an asset-based stock (targeted for June). A shareholder meeting is scheduled for Mon on splitting off the businesses currently attributed to **Liberty Capital** and **Liberty Starz** tracking stock groups. B&N said that a special committee of the board will evaluate the offer. While **John Malone's** offer for a challenged brick and mortar brand are sure to draw comparisons to **DISH's Blockbuster** purchase, B&N is on surer footing as it has been working to make itself more than just paper books, embracing the ebook and launching a recent update to its Nook Color that turned the ereader into a quasi-tablet. Liberty's proposal contemplates that the acquisition will be structured as a merger and would require that B&N foundation chmn **Leonard Riggio** keep his approx 30% stake and maintain his management role. Liberty's equity ownership would be attributed to the Liberty Capital group.

Retrans: Could **LIN** and **Time Warner Cable** be headed toward a retrans showdown? The 2 have had multiple extensions over the past few months. A **Google** search showed a contract expiration notice Fri on the Website of **WLUK**, LIN's Fox affil in Green Bay, WI, but the link was broken. It told viewers that TWC's contract to carry the station is set to expire on June 1 at 5pm and identified price as one of the main issues why an agreement had not been reached. Given the broken link, it may have been an error or a test post by WLUK. Calls to LIN and WLUK weren't returned by deadline. A TWC spokesperson confirmed the June 1 deadline, but declined further comment.

At Our Deadline: The **FCC** late Fri released details of its latest Broadband Progress Report to Congress, finding that some 26mln mostly rural Americans are denied access to jobs and economic opportunity because they can't get broadband. But even in areas with broadband access, the FCC found that approx one-third who could access it don't subscribe, prompting the agency to conclude that high costs, low digital literacy and privacy concerns remain barriers to wider broadband adoption. The FCC cited "significant progress" but called for more federal involvement. "Without action by the FCC in partnership with the states and the private sector, prospects for broadband service in many of the areas cited in the Report will remain unacceptably low," the FCC said in announcing the report. It's the first report using the National Broadband Map created by **NTIA** and mandated by Congress.

In the States: NC Gov **Bev Perdue** (D) said she would neither sign nor veto a bill that would impose new limits on local



JAWS

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The facts behind the fiction

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govts seeking to build their own high-speed networks. Doing nothing means the bill will become law without her signature. Perdue cited a need to establish rules to prevent municipalities from having an unfair advantage over private-sector providers but said she worried the bill's restrictions could limit choices available to citizens. She called on the General Assembly to revisit the issue "and adopt rules that not only promote fairness but also allow for the greatest number of high quality and affordable broadband options for consumers." Cable ops have supported the legislation, which prevents cities and towns from borrowing money for the project without voter approval. It also bars them from offering broadband at prices below cost.

Research: Cable performed well in a recent study of business services. **Cox** received the highest score in the home-based business segment of **J.D. Power's** Major Provider Business Telecom Study – Data Services. But its score of 632 was followed closely by **Cablevision's** Optimum Business (631). **Verizon** notched a 624. In the small-medium business segment, Cablevision was #1 (681), followed by Cox (656) and **Comcast** (621). The large enterprise business segment still belongs to the telcos (Verizon beat **AT&T** 698 to 653). Worth noting: J.D. Power found that performance issues weren't a top reason for customers to consider switching providers. Instead, the study found that the empathy and responsiveness of account executives and customer service representatives was the biggest factor.

At the Portals: The **FCC** voted 3-1 to deny the **National Legal and Policy Center's** application for review of a decision by the Office of General Counsel that denied its request for a waiver of fees for processing 2 Freedom of Information Act requests. Last year, the govt watchdog filed FOIAs seeking all records pertaining to the FCC's Website www.openinternet.gov, as well as records of contact between several FCC officials and employees of **Free Press, Amazon.com, Google, Democracy Alliance** and others. NLPC argued that the fees should be waived because the docs request would contribute to the public's understanding of the influence of special interest organizations on federal policy. NLPC told the FCC it has "reason to believe that the very same special interest groups whose representatives have been meeting with public officials at the FCC... also played a role in the development of the openinternet.gov website." OGC denied the request to have the \$1641 fees (plus copying expenses) waived, saying that it was unable to discern how records about the Website will shed any light on the stated subject matter. The majority of Commissioners agreed, saying NLPC has offered no evidence that special interest organizations actually had any input into the Website. Republican commish **Robert McDowell** dissented, calling the result troubling. He said it seems inconsistent for the FCC to grant practically automatic fee waivers to FOIA news media requestors, but not to other requestors who fulfill the same information-dissemination function but don't fit within "the traditional rubric." Outgoing commish **Meredith Attwell Baker** did not participate in the issue, having recused herself from FCC business as she prepares to join **Comcast**.

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PRE-SHOW: JUNE 6 PLUS 3 DAYS: JUNE 14, 15, 16

Before the industry converges in Chicago for The Cable Show, CableFAX will give readers a comprehensive overview of all the hot issues, panels, speakers and parties that will dominate discussion for the much-anticipated event.

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CABLEFAX DAILY: THE CABLE SHOW DAILY ISSUES

Publication Dates: June 14, 15 & 16

With our unique national electronic distribution, CableFAX Daily, is read first everyday by our subscribers. CableFAX will be available for pick up in the pub bins, in addition to hotel room drops. With our many association partners, the Daily will be on hand, at various Convention Center locations during the day!

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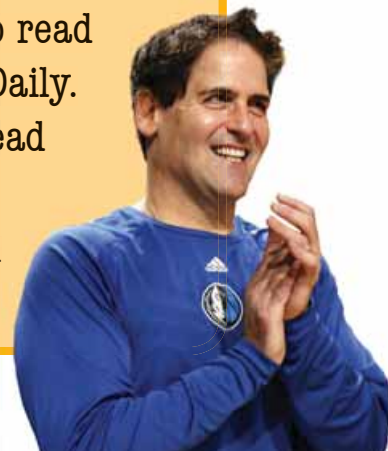
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If you want to follow the cable industry, you have to read CableFAX Daily. My must read every day.

— Mark Cuban
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CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	5/20 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
DIRECTV:	DTV	50.06	0.66%	50.10%
DISH:	DISH	29.48	2.33%	41.94%
DISNEY:	DIS	41.50	(3.62%)	28.68%
GE:	GE	19.62	(1.36%)	29.68%
NEWS CORP:	NWS	18.42	1.77%	15.70%
MSOS				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	34.50	(1.15%)	33.62%
CHARTER:	CHTR	57.00	(1.49%)	0.00%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	25.12	(0.04%)	48.99%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	23.71	0.21%	48.09%
GCI:	GNCMA	11.35	(2.24%)	77.90%
KNOLGY:	KNOL	15.06	(0.33%)	37.91%
LIBERTY CAPITAL:	LCAPA	87.50	2.06%	266.42%
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	44.82	(1.54%)	104.75%
LIBERTY INT:	LINTA	17.70	(1.25%)	63.33%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	21.17	0.05%	2.92%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	77.99	0.94%	88.43%
VIRGIN MEDIA:	VMED	32.29	1.51%	91.86%
WASH POST:	WPO	416.67	0.04%	(5.22%)

Company	Ticker	5/20 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
PROGRAMMING				
CBS:	CBS	26.99	4.05%	92.10%
CROWN:	CRWN	1.89	(12.5%)	30.34%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	44.73	1.04%	45.84%
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	TV	23.56	2.84%	13.49%
HSN:	HSNI	32.37	(2.15%)	60.33%
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	35.96	3.87%	75.59%
LIBERTY:	L	41.74	0.22%	14.83%
LIBERTY STARZ:	LSTZA	74.98	(1.67%)	62.47%
LIONSGATE:	LGF	5.97	(2.61%)	2.75%
LODGENET:	LNET	3.19	(9.89%)	(42.31%)
NEW FRONTIER:	NOOF	1.61	(3.59%)	(14.81%)
OUTDOOR:	OUTD	6.10	(8.55%)	5.17%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	49.98	(1.56%)	20.43%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	36.79	2.22%	26.25%
VALUEVISION:	VVTV	6.63	6.59%	38.13%
VIACOM:	VIA	60.48	3.37%	92.00%
WWE:	WWE	10.32	0.19%	(32.68%)

Company	Ticker	5/20 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TECHNOLOGY				
ADVANTAGE:	AEY	2.71	2.65%	37.56%
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	5.80	(4.92%)	74.70%
AMDOCS:	DOX	30.10	1.35%	5.50%
AMPHENOL:	APH	54.65	(0.71%)	18.34%
AOL:	AOL	19.52	1.61%	(16.15%)
APPLE:	AAPL	335.22	(1.55%)	59.08%
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	10.73	(4.54%)	(6.12%)
AVID TECH:	AVID	17.02	(8.4%)	33.39%
BIGBAND:	BBND	2.27	(1.73%)	(34.01%)
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	1.84	(3.66%)	61.41%
BROADCOM:	BRCM	33.51	(2.73%)	6.48%
CISCO:	CSCO	16.53	(2.07%)	(30.95%)
CLEARWIRE:	CLWR	4.52	13.00%	(33.14%)
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	6.06	0.33%	53.03%
CONVERGYS:	CVG	13.27	(1.85%)	23.44%
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	19.18	(2.04%)	0.47%

Company	Ticker	5/20 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	33.44	(0.12%)	66.04%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	524.03	(1.04%)	(15.48%)
HARMONIC:	HLIT	7.56	(1.69%)	19.62%
INTEL:	INTC	23.22	(0.81%)	13.82%
JDSU:	JDSU	20.32	(3.97%)	146.30%
LEVEL 3:	LVLT	1.96	3.70%	28.10%
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	24.49	(2.16%)	(19.65%)
RENTRAK:	RENT	20.42	(7.1%)	15.56%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	9.78	(4.86%)	49.09%
SONY:	SNE	27.05	(1.92%)	(6.72%)
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	5.47	7.25%	49.45%
THOMAS & BETTS:	TNB	54.91	(4.19%)	53.42%
TIVO:	TIVO	9.47	0.64%	(6.97%)
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	25.83	(1.86%)	11.24%
VONAGE:	VG	4.69	0.64%	235.00%
YAHOO:	YHOO	16.30	(12.6%)	(2.86%)

Company	Ticker	5/20 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	31.32	(0.29%)	11.74%
VERIZON:	VZ	37.15	(0.3%)	12.13%

Company	Ticker	5/20 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	DJI	12512.04	(0.66%)	19.98%
NASDAQ:	IXIC	2803.32	(0.89%)	23.54%
S&P 500:	GSPC	1333.27	(0.34%)	16.47%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. CLEARWIRE:	4.52	13.00%
2. SPRINT NEXTEL:	5.47	7.25%
3. VALUEVISION:	6.63	6.59%
4. CBS:	26.99	4.05%
5. INTERACTIVE CORP:	35.96	3.87%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. YAHOO:	16.30	(12.6%)
2. CROWN:	1.89	(12.5%)
3. LODGENET:	3.19	(9.89%)
4. OUTDOOR:	6.10	(8.55%)
5. AVID TECH:	17.02	(8.4%)

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