

CableFAX Daily™

Monday — July 14, 2008

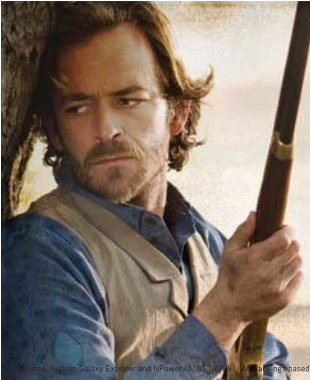
What the Industry Reads First

Volume 19 / No. 134

TCA Wrapup: Cable Tour Features Brits, Reality, Madness

Stocks are down. Oil is up. All the more reason to escape to L.A. where celebrities and well-bronzed TV executives tried this week to woo critics with phrases like “story arc” and “groundbreaking” at the cable portion of the **Television Critics Assn** tour. Some succeeded. Others didn't. A few themes: British influence continues to grow, with spin-offs, actors and producers increasingly involved in U.S. productions. And despite the continued dominance of reality TV, **AMC's** original drama “Mad Men” remained the toast of critics, with its panel drawing a huge crowd and sustained praise. Cable's content diversity was also on display. Reality fare ranged from rocker *Tommy Lee* and rapper *Ludacris* talking about their new **Planet Green** reality show “Battleground Earth” to the **National Geographic Channel** showcasing complete unknowns: a group of blue-collar “Sandhogs” who dynamite tunnels under the streets of NYC. On the fiction side, **Starz** brought out movie legend *Dennis Hopper* to talk about his starring role in new series “Crash.” **Lifetime** had *Shirley MacLaine* talk about documentary “Coco Channel.” **Hallmark** trotted out nearly 2 dozen stars appearing in various movies. **A&E** introduced its first original drama in 6 years, “The Cleaner,” starring *Benjamin Bratt*. And in an unusual twist, **Turner** screened an entire episode of **Cartoon Network's** new “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” animated series. **BBC America** lightened it up by introducing the writers and stars of “Gavin & Stacey” in which co-writer/actor *James Corden* had critics rolling in the aisles. Clips from **HBO's** “Little Britain USA” also brought down the house before the net previewed “Generation Kill” about the Iraq war and delved into vampires with “True Blood.” Meanwhile, the tour had a somewhat gloomy undercurrent, with critics from newspapers around the U.S. grumbling to each other about layoffs and the struggles of their industry. Good thing **fuse**, **GSN**, **IFC**, **Turner** and **Wetv** all sponsored parties to lift critics' spirits. And kudos to **CTAM's** staff for its usual deft handling of the tour.

Traffic Jam: **FCC** chmn *Kevin Martin* said Fri he won't seek to fine **Comcast** for “blocking” certain Internet traffic such as P2P file-sharing apps, but he does want the agency to rule that related network management practices by the MSO violate the FCC's net neutrality tenets. Martin seeks an Aug 1 commission vote on his recommendation to order Comcast to cease the practices “within a reasonable timeframe,” and to divulge the areas in which they have been implemented. Martin's comments to reporters came after he met earlier Fri with Comcast to address the issue, and followed months of complaints, hearings and inspections concerning the MSO's slowing of bandwidth-intensive Web content, which Comcast has said is sometimes necessary in order to maintain an efficient network for all of its broadband subs. “The carefully limited measures that Comcast takes to manage traffic...are used by many other ISPs around the world,” said a Comcast rep. “Comcast customers know that broadband capacity is not unlimited.” Questions remain regarding the FCC's power to enforce its net neutrality tenets. The Comcast rep said Comcast believes the commission “has never before provided any guidance on what it means by ‘reasonable network manage-



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ment.” In May, **House Telecom Subcmte** chmn *Ed Markey* (D-MA) proposed a bill that would develop guidelines covering germane network management issues such as file blocking and ensure that the FCC may police the online space. **Stifel Nicolaus** expects agreement of Comcast’s fault by the FCC majority, and foresees a “tricky” court challenge from the MSO. If Comcast “torpedoes the FCC’s basis under the law or its principles, that could spark net neutrality legislation or explicit rules,” wrote analyst *Blair Levin*.

Still Producing: A day after **NBCU** CEO *Jeffrey Zucker*, in Idaho at the **Allen & Co** conference, dispelled through *AP* rumors of a **GE** plan to sell his unit, **GE** svp/CFO *Keith Sherin* applauded NBCU’s 2Q results, which included a 7th straight Q of positive earnings growth. The unit posted 7% growth in 2Q rev to \$3.88bln and 1% profit growth to \$909mln, led by 13% growth in cable operating profit, said *Sherin*. “The strength in NBC continues to be in cable,” he said. The cable group enjoyed an approx 25% surge in ’08 upfront business on “very strong pricing,” said *Sherin*, and prime ratings are up 52% YTD. NBCU has notched \$1bln in **Olympics**-related ad rev, including \$850mln for broadcast/cable combined.

TCA Notebook: In a week of same old-same old, **TNT** svp *Michael Wright* broke the slumber party by declaring the network will aim to have primetime originals 3 nights per week by ’10. “It’s an ambitious goal, but we’re on the way.” The trio of series could include “Raising the Bar” (Sept 1, 10pm), the legal drama from *Steven Bochco*, starring *Mark-Paul Gosselaar* (“Saved by the Bell”) as a passionate public defender and *Jane Kaczmarek* as an imperious judge. Another could be the *Eric McCormack* vehicle “Trust Me” or “Leverage” (December premiere), about a group of semi-reformed grifters led by *Timothy Hutton*. -- Also on the slate is TNT’s first non-scripted foray, “Wedding Day,” from reality king *Mark Burnett*. *Wright* also noted sitcom “10 Items or Less” will return next year, as will impressionist *Frank Caliendo*’s “Frank TV.” -- Another cosmic change from the Turner stable, **Cartoon** showed critics an entire 20-min ep from “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” (fall premiere) the *George Lucas*-created series that features an aged Yoda. Needless to say the animation and the attention to detail were tremendous. The series follows the *Lucas* theatrical release this summer. -- **Lifetime** has picked up a 3rd season of “Army Wives,” to return in ’09 with 18 eps. -- By now you probably know **HBO** said: *Sarah Jessica Parker* & co will have sex at least one more time in theaters; *Tony Soprano* might not be dead; “Deadwood” indeed is dead wood; and *Larry David* likely will return. Our biggest concern is “In Treatment,” which will return with the same docs (*Gabriel Byrne* and *Dianne Wiest*), but new patients. Have a heart, **HBO**, there’s no way season 1’s collection of nutbags was cured in 13 weeks. -- An early vote in favor of **Sundance**’s “Spectacle” (Dec 3), the *Elvis Costello*-hosted series where he’ll talk a little/play a little with musicians like *Tony Bennett*, *Elton John* and amateur horn players like *Bill Clinton*. Critics loved when *Costello* said the best interview technique might be “to know when I should shut up.” -- **Apocalypse Now:** **Fox Reality** chief *David Lyle* says 32 new reality shows will run on broadcast this year, 140 on cable.

People: **Time Warner Cable** appointed *Gary Matz* svp, govt relations.

Business/Finance: Not many stocks were spared during **Wall St**’s difficult Fri that saw the **NYSE** fall 128 points, but **Cablevision** was particularly bloodied. Shares of the MSO slipped 1.8% to close at \$19.88, their lowest level since early ’06. -- **Time Warner Cable** has agreed to sell **Windjammer Comm** a group of small systems serving approx 80K basic subs and 120K RGUs across more than 125 head-ends in 25 states. The MSO said the deal, expected to close in 4Q, won’t have a material impact on its ongoing financial results.

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- PBS KIDS Sprout
Television
- Bloomberg
- GSN

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For GSN support
please call:

(877) 426-3881

CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	7/11 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
BRITISH SKY:	BSY	34.14	(5.7%)	(26.7%)
DIRECTV:	DTV	25.47	1.90%	10.20%
DISNEY:	DIS	29.20	(5.5%)	(9.5%)
ECHOSTAR:	DISH	26.98	0.50%	(20.5%)
GE:	GE	27.66	2.80%	(20.4%)
HEARST-ARGYLE:	HTV	19.60	3.80%	(10.1%)
ION MEDIA:	ION	1.45		12.40%
NEWS CORP:	NWS	14.47	(2%)	(31.1%)
MSOS				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	19.88	(8.1%)	(18.9%)
CHARTER:	CHTR	1.03	(1%)	(12%)
COMCAST:	CMCSA	18.49	0.90%	1.90%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	18.34	0.60%	1.90%
GCI:	GNCMA	7.81	13.00%	(10.7%)
KNOLOGY:	KNOL	10.34	(3.3%)	(19.1%)
LIBERTY CAPITAL:	LCAPA	15.25	6.30%	(34.5%)
LIBERTY ENT:	LMEDIA	23.41	0.10%	(3.2%)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	29.45	(5%)	(24.9%)
LIBERTY INTERACTIVE:	LINTA	13.12	(5.6%)	(31.2%)
MEDIACOM:	MCCC	5.17	2.20%	12.60%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	21.17	2.50%	(6%)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	25.82	1.10%	(6.4%)
VIRGIN MEDIA:	VMED	11.67	(7.7%)	(28.1%)
WASH POST:	WPO	581.30	(1.1%)	(24.9%)

Company	Ticker	7/11 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
PROGRAMMING				
CBS:	CBS	17.21	(7.5%)	(32.1%)
CROWN:	CRWN	4.22	(7.3%)	(35.1%)
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	20.64	(1.3%)	(17.9%)
EW SCRIPPS:	SSP	3.21	9.60%	(5.6%)
GRUPO TELEVISA:	TV	22.11	(1.1%)	(3.9%)
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	16.94	(6.3%)	(37.1%)
LIBERTY:	L	45.36	(1.3%)	(9.9%)
LODGENET:	LNET	3.40	(19.8%)	(80.5%)
NEW FRONTIER:	NOOF	3.69		(18.7%)
OUTDOOR:	OUTD	6.75	2.90%	(2.2%)
PLAYBOY:	PLA	4.89		(46.4%)
RHI:	RHIE	13.46	3.10%	6.60%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	40.18	(2.8%)	(1.5%)
TIME WARNER:	TWX	13.78	(6.2%)	(14.7%)
VALUEVISION:	VVTV	3.16	1.90%	(49.8%)
VIACOM:	VIA	28.20	(5.1%)	(35.9%)
WWE:	WWE	14.87	(2.8%)	13.80%

Company	Ticker	7/11 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TECHNOLOGY				
3COM:	COMS	2.01	4.10%	(55.5%)
ADC:	ADCT	13.91	(0.5%)	(10.6%)
ADVANTAGE:	AEY	2.74	1.90%	(55.6%)
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	5.38	(6.9%)	(26.5%)
AMDOCS:	DOX	29.48	4.80%	(14.5%)
AMPHENOL:	APH	45.21	0.60%	(2.2%)
APPLE:	AAPL	172.58	1.40%	(12.9%)
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	7.75	(10.5%)	(22.3%)
AVID TECH:	AVID	17.56	(7.3%)	(38%)
BIGBAND:	BBND	4.00	(11.5%)	(22.2%)
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	1.12	(2.6%)	(32.5%)

Company	Ticker	7/11 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCOM:	BRCM	27.71	5.70%	6.00%
C-COR:	CCBL	11.00		(19.4%)
CISCO:	CSCO	21.82	(5.6%)	(19.4%)
COMMSCOPE:	CTV	50.55	(2%)	2.70%
CONVERGYS:	CVG	14.41	(1.2%)	(12.5%)
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	11.50	1.00%	(21.9%)
ECHOSTAR HOLDING:	SATS	30.03	(0.8%)	(8.7%)
GOOGLE:	GOOG	533.80	(0.6%)	(22.8%)
HARMONIC:	HLIT	9.39	2.10%	(10.4%)
JDSU:	JDSU	10.55	(3.6%)	(20.5%)
LEVEL 3:	LVLIT	2.48	(5.7%)	(18.4%)
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	25.25	(2.8%)	(27.5%)
MOTOROLA:	MOT	6.99	0.40%	(53.9%)
NDS:	NNDS	58.26	1.50%	(1.7%)
NORTEL:	NT	6.56	(11.5%)	(56.6%)
OPENTV:	OPTV	1.51	11.00%	14.40%
PHILIPS:	PHG	31.13	(4.1%)	(20%)
RENTRAK:	RENT	13.99	0.10%	(3%)
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	6.64	(1.6%)	(8.2%)
SONY:	SNE	40.46	(5.8%)	(25.5%)
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	8.43	(0.9%)	(35.8%)
THOMAS & BETTS:	TNB	34.05	(3.5%)	(30.6%)
TIVO:	TIVO	7.00	14.40%	(16.1%)
TOLLGRADE:	TLGD	4.48	(4.9%)	(44.1%)
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	20.14	1.60%	(39.8%)
VONAGE:	VG	1.60	(3%)	(30.4%)
WORLDGATE:	WGAT	0.30		
YAHOO:	YHOO	23.57	10.40%	1.30%

Company	Ticker	7/11 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	32.58		(15.8%)
QWEST:	Q	3.77	0.30%	(40.5%)
VERIZON:	VZ	34.92	(2.3%)	(14.7%)

Company	Ticker	7/11 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	INDU	11100.54	(1.7%)	(16.3%)
NASDAQ:	COMPX	2239.08	(0.3%)	(15.6%)

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. CONCURRENT:	6.30	884.40%
2. TIVO:	7.00	14.40%
3. GCI:	7.81	13.00%
4. OPENTV:	1.51	11.00%
5. YAHOO:	23.57	10.40%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. LODGENET:	3.40	(19.8%)
2. BIGBAND:	4.00	(11.5%)
3. NORTEL:	6.56	(11.5%)
4. ARRIS GROUP:	7.75	(10.5%)
5. CABLEVISION:	19.88	(8.1%)

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MaxFAX...

Olympic Dreams

Been watching the trials on **NBC**?
Or the **Tour de France** on **Versus**?
I've been doing both. In hi-def.
And I've been cheering on the **Garmin/Chipotle Slipstream** "let's-don't-dope" team that's based in Boulder. Even ordered the argyle stuff to flout when I hit the cycling road along Eire's Connemara coast later this month. (Yep, even the socks.) Argyle fits my heritage, anyway.



Paul S. Maxwell

Old folks like me on bicycles trying to keep up with the much younger and thinner Lance Armstrong wannabes is fun—and a strain on the old heart up here in the very high country (my home is at 9,600 feet and surrounded by bicycle trails; so I train and train and train on my way to and from nice lunches).

I'll even be wearing my "Beijing 2008" bicycle shirt in Eire ... and even bicycling around Dublin (from pub to pub) before we do the castle-to-castle bit north and west of Galway along the coast (and out to one of the islands for a day).

Hope you're ready to take advantage of all the hype and coverage ... stories like that of *Dana Torres* are

hard to beat.

I'll let you know what the smog and heat and humidity are like when I get there.

Meanwhile, 3,600 hours of coverage on seven **NBCU** nets!

Random Notes:

- HD Summit: Speaking of sports on TV, an interesting 24-hour immersion in hi-def will be put on by our friends at Reed next week in Burbank. Should be interesting. Focus is more on production than anything else, but distribution is on the agenda as well. Speakers include **Fox Sports'** *Randy Freer*, **Time Warner Cable's** *Melinda Witner* and **Sony Pix'** *Edward Lammi*. Going to show them a little bit about www.whereishd.com.

- Outside! Check out the August issue of *Outside* for "The 15 Things You Must Know About These Games—as the Chinese say, allow us to educate you." Must know fact #1: vast China has only one time zone ... 12 hours ahead of New York. #14: Watch for Boulder's *Taylor Phinney* in cycling (his dad, *Davis*, won a bronze in '84 and was the first American to win a stage of the that famous French tour.

- Wish You Were in Sun Valley? Play voyeur and check out the photo coverage on *Huffington Post* (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/09/sun-valley-photos-media-b_n_111700.html). Sloppy

dressers all.

- Cable360.net polls: Voted? Checked out the results? Latest poll (bottom right, kind of hard to find sometimes – and after voting, jumps back to top of page instead of highlighting the vote) asks about **Mark Cuban's** idea of forcing a "shot clock" on the **Federal Confusion Commission**...with 4 to 1 in favor (why it isn't a 100% is beyond me).
- Immunity for Eavesdropping! Ummm. Hope they enjoyed listening. The federal wiretapping without warrants was clearly wrong. But, after really thinking about it, I don't really blame the telephone companies ... they acted after getting a letter from the **White House** saying they were acting legally. (Oddly, only **Qwest's** *Joe Nacchio* objected! And look what that got him.) So, despite the tendency of the political campaigns to degenerate into sound bites and "gotcha" gibes, the new bill makes sense (it tightened the restrictions and clearly makes what happened before wrong). The most interesting thing about these kinds of things—you know, like torture and stuff—is how no one has ever really been responsible.

Paul Maxwell

T: 303/271-9960

F: 303/271-9965

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- Opening General Sessions (includes unveiling of NAMIC's 2008 employment research findings)
- Luncheon celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the L. Patrick Mellon Mentorship Program
- Presentation of the Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award
- Educational Tracks: Ad Sales, Corporate Diversity & Inclusion, Digital Media and Leadership Development
- Presentation of the Excellence in Multicultural Marketing Awards (EMMAs)
- Diversity in Communications Career Expo

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