

Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Hot Pod: A Communications Podcast Download

Sure, 2018 was full of merger and OTT news, but it also was the year of telecom podcasts, with everyone from **CTAM** to the **FCC** getting into the game. There are so many industry-related gems to download, we understand if you're a little behind. We've put together this cheat sheet to help you know what to listen to as you hopefully unwind a bit heading into the new year. **Broadband with Jessica Rosenworcel**: The FCC's lone Democratic commish has put out five episodes of her **podcast** that highlights women in media and tech. The most recent features writer/producer/actress *Justine Bateman* (yes, Mallory Keaton of "Family Ties"), who has a computer science degree and is a net neutrality activist. "Of all the utilities that we use... to not classify the internet as one of those, the logic escapes me," Bateman said. "It connects us to questions about our health, our connection with our insurance companies, all of our commerce, our banking, our social life, our entertainment, our education. It's the most far-reaching utility we have." It's not all policy talk... One of the fun things about this podcast is Rosenworcel always asks guests what's the first thing they can recall doing on the internet and what's the last thing they did on the internet. Notably, Bateman cited binging films on the now shuttered **Turner** service **Filmstruck.com**. Maybe **Criterion Collection** should hire her to promote its new standalone streaming service slated to launch in the spring. **Cable Talk: The Official ACA Podcast**: A prolific tweeter, it should come as no surprise that ACA chief *Matt Polka* has turned to the medium to cover all things **telecom**. Guests range from independent operators to regulators to even **Cablefax** publisher *Michael Grebb*. The latest ep offers insights from *Patty Boyers*, pres/CEO of **Boycom**. "Boycom is a little tiny Mom & Pop in southeast Missouri. I'm the mom. My husband's the pop. We flip [a coin] every morning to see who is in charge," quipped Boyers, who is the vice chmn of ACA and is a first generation cable operator. **Thinking Out Loud Podcast - CTAM**: One of the newest industry related podcasts is hosted by **CTAM** pres/CEO *Vicki Lins*, whose biweekly eps feature chats with media and entertainment leaders, including **TNT** original programming evp *Sarah Aubrey* and **A+E Studio** evp *Barry Jossen*. The most recent installment dives into the world of data science—and it sounds like there's a lot to learn. "\$800bln is spent on television content around the world... It's one of the largest industry's out there, and it's probably hands down the least data-driven industry," said guest *Wared Seger*, **Parrot Analytics** co-

CFX WHERE WE'LL BE IN 2019

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WHERE WE'LL BE

- 1/8/19 CES in Vegas (Jan. 8 - 11)
- 1/22/19 NAPTE in Miami (Jan. 22 - 24)
- 1/28/19 ReelScreen Summit in New Orleans (Jan. 28 - 31)
- 1/29/19 TCA in Los Angeles (Jan. 29 - Feb. 13)
- 2/25/19 NCTC Winter Conference in Atlanta (Feb. 25 - 26)
- 3/8/19 SXSW Interactive in Austin (March 8-12)
- 3/19/19 CFX Roundtable at ACA
- 3/19/19 ACA Summit in DC (March 19-21)

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founder and CEO. **More than Seven Dirty Words – Get to Know the FCC:** An FCC podcast may sound a bit dry, but the agency has tackled very human subjects such as communications during a hurricane to the heartbreaking story behind Kari's Law, which ensures no one need to dial 9 before calling 911. Hosted by commissioner Brendan Carr's policy adviser *Evan Swartrauber*, it's an eclectic mix that covers a lot of areas of general interest. One example is Ep 6's look at robocalls, where we learned that those informational calls from your child's school are OK to landlines, but require consent to come to the wireless phones.

FCC OKs Gray-Raycom: The FCC Media Bureau approved the \$3.6bn **Gray-Raycom** merger Thursday, dismissing arguments from **NCTA, ACA** and **DISH** that the combo would not serve the public interest. The Bureau said the three failed to raise material question of fact over serving the public, plus it found "the proposed establishment of the statewide news bureaus, as well as access to reporting from Gray's Washington, DC news bureau, provide transaction-specific, public interest benefits to Gray's and Raycom's viewers." After the deal is completed and required station divestitures are made, Gray will own 124 stations in 92 markets. It already agreed to resolve **DOJ** antitrust concerns by divesting stations in nine markets where the company would own two Big Four affiliates. The FCC order allows the combined company to own top-four combinations in Amarillo, TX, and Honolulu, saying there are unique facts at play. NCTA had raised objections to owning two Big 4 stations in Honolulu, but the Bureau said that the Honolulu stations have been commonly owned by Raycom for 19 years and have existed as a top-four duopoly for the past nine years. "The Honolulu Stations, being commonly owned today, already have the ability to negotiate jointly, consistent with existing rules and statutes, and no commenter has provided any evidence of public interest harm arising from such joint negotiations in Honolulu," the order said, concluding that the harms requiring a divestiture might outweigh any benefits.

Mr Chairman: No surprise here... NJ Dem *Frank Pallone* was unanimously elected **House Commerce** chair for the 116th Congress. Pallone's agenda for the new Congress includes privacy, consumer protections and combating climate change. He succeeds Rep *Greg Walden* (R-OR), who is out with Republicans losing majority control.

Future Thinking: **CableLabs** held its first CableLabs Point-to-Point Coherent Optics Interoperability Event earlier this month. Held at its offices in Louisville, CO, from Dec 4-6, the event brought together nine manufacturers to test interoperability between coherent optics transceivers designed to be compliant with the CableLabs P2P Coherent Optics PHYv1.0 specification. The spec defines requirements for interoperable devices operating at 100Gbps on a single wavelength. By the end of the event, all nine manufacturers reported successful interoperability running at

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100Gbps, less than six months after the specs were issued by CableLabs.

En Espanol: DISH's voice remote now supports Spanish commands. Spanish speakers can use all new and existing DISH voice remotes to navigate, control content and search live and on-demand content. The voice remote is compatible with all connected generations of DISH's Hopper DVR, Joey, Wireless Joey, 4K Joey and Super Joey. New DISH customers receive the remote with a Hopper at no cost while existing customers can upgrade for \$20.

Ready for Kickoff: ESPN is bringing 12 presentations to its MegaCast production for the College Football Playoff Semifinals at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic (4pm) and the Capital One Orange Bowl (8pm) on Dec 29. The telecast will air on ESPN with up to a dozen alternate presentations featuring real-time stats, analysis, discussion with coaches and hometown radio calls. For the Rose Bowl (5pm) and the Allstate Sugar Bowl (8:45pm) on Jan 1, ESPN2 has been added as a viewing option along with multiple ESPN3 streams. The Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (12pm) on Dec 29 and the PlayStation Fiesta Bowl (1pm) on Jan 1 will also have alternate camera angles on ESPN3. All MegaCast and alternate viewing options will be available on the ESPN app.

A Little Help From A Friend: Inter Mountain Cable is working with Espial to launch a number of advanced TV services across its IPTV and cable networks. IMC will utilize Espial's Elevate TVaaS video platform and tap into its cloud tools for analytics, promotions, segmentation and diagnostics.

Teeing Up: Discovery is teaming up with the Ladies European Tour to bring its events to GOLFTV. The agreement includes multiplatform live rights to all Ladies European Tour events as well as the next two Solheim Cups in 25 countries in Europe. GOLFTV will also have Ladies European Tour content and programming on demand. The deal gives Discovery the ability to sublicense the Ladies European Tour TV and digital coverage. GOLFTV will launch in January.

Pick 'Em: NBC Sports launched a free-to-play NBC Sports Predictor games app in partnership with Boom Fantasy. The app gives fans the chance to win hundreds of thousands of dollars in prizes through free contests. "Premiere League Pick 'Em" is the first game, debuting Dec 26 alongside the Premiere League's slate of Boxing Day matches. Each match week, the game will feature at least 5K in weekly prizes and a 50K grand prize for a "perfect week." Additional games will be announced in the future.

Going for the Gold: Olympic Channel is available on connected TV devices for Android TV and Apple TV. Initially, content will include a 24/7 live stream as well as a library of original content from more than 50 series. The network is also going to come to Roku in January while additional devices will be announced in the coming months.

Joining the League: SNY has expanded its coverage to become the home of NYC's first professional rugby franchise. SNY will air nine games of Rugby United New York's inaugural season, with the premiere game airing live on Jan 27 at 5pm. RUNY is joining Major League Rugby after its 2018 launch with seven teams. SNY is also the home of the New York Mets and the New York Jets.

Public Affairs: Mediacom will offer \$55K in scholarships for high school seniors pursuing further education. The program is in its 18th year, with Mediacom offering \$1K in assistance to 55 high school seniors. Applications are currently available online, and all high schools in Mediacom-served communities were sent information asking school officials to inform students of the scholarship and Feb 15 application deadline.

Programming: Fuse acquired the rights to "WTF Baron Davis," starring the NBA All-Star as well as NBA impersonator Brandon Armstrong. The eight-episode comedy will be the first scripted sitcom to have its first-run TV premiere on the net. -- Comedy Central acquired all seven seasons of "Parks and Recreation" from NBCU. The series will make its Comedy Central debut on Jan 21 with an all-day marathon. Certain episodes will be available on Comedy Central's website and the CC app. -- Showtime ordered a seventh season of "Ray Donovan." Production on the drama series will begin in spring 2019. The current season will conclude with its season finale on Jan 13. -- Netflix ordered a sequel of teen romance "To All the Boys I've Loved Before." It is currently in development and will see both stars Lana Condor and Noah Centineo return. -- Freeform released its Jan 2019 lineup, kicking off the year with Season 2 of "grown-ish" on Jan 2 at 8pm. "Siren" Season 2 premieres Jan 24 at 8pm, and "The Fosters" spin-off "Good Trouble" premieres on Jan 8 at 8pm.

Happy Trails: After four decades working on major communications issues, well-known attorney Paul Glist is stepping down as partner at Davis Wright Tremaine. He's embarking on a new chapter as general counsel to The Tahiri Justice Center, a national nonprofit human rights organization focused on ending gender-based violence. Glist has long been associated with Tahiri, having served previously as board chair.

PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

Yippee-Ki-Yay! 'Die Hard's ' a Christmas Movie

Ah, the holiday season. Snow is in the air, Christmas carolers out and about, twinkling lights everywhere. And of course, the annual debate about "Die Hard." Folks, it's been settled. The *Bruce Willis* flick is officially a Christmas movie. **IFC** is hosting an all-day Die Hard Christmas marathon for the film's 30th anniversary, beginning at 3pm on Dec 25. The programming will be hosted by *Reginald VelJohnson*, who played LAPD Sgt Al Powell in the film and its sequel. The 1988 action thriller follows off-duty NYC police officer John McClane (Willis) who becomes trapped in an LA skyscraper on Christmas Eve as Hans Gruber (*Alan Rickman*) leads a heist. All McClane wants to do is reconcile with his estranged wife at her company Christmas party. Shortly after his arrival, Gruber takes the guests hostage, with the exception of McClane. What follows is McClane's action-packed takedown of the German terrorists. Willis insisted at the end of his **Comedy Central** roast in July that the film isn't a Christmas movie, but the studio disagreed. **20th Century Fox** released a recut holiday trailer, framing the R-rated flick as a Christmas movie. "This is John... he just wants to spend Christmas with the family," said the voiceover. "But when he gets stuck at the office party, it'll be a holiday he'll never forget." 20CF even overlaid the scenes with Christmas music. The IFC marathon kicks off on Christmas day with "Die Hard with a Vengeance" at 6:30am. The first showing of the original film is at 3pm, and it'll screen a total of four times. The net will also show "Live Free or Die Hard" twice. – *Mollie Cahillane*

Reviews: "Maigret," premiere, Wednesday, **BritBox**. The streaming service from **BBC Studios** and **ITV**, offers viewers a wonderful holiday gift: the fictional French police series "Maigret." *Rowan Atkinson* stars as Jules Maigret, one of fiction's greatest detectives. Based on the novels of *Georges Simenon*, the series, filmed in Hungary, is gorgeously shot and the production values are excellent. Though it might take time for viewers who know Atkinson as "Mr. Bean" to accept him in a serious role, it's worth the investment. His Maigret never cracks a smile, though viewers may keep waiting for one. He's a sad, cerebral, yet considerate soul. The performance works perfectly. Set not long after WWII, the first story, "Night at Cross Roads," begins with a compelling scene about a diamond merchant and a murder. The location of the victim's body puts Maigret onto the path of a strange, Danish duo who appear to be siblings, but are they? -- "My Brilliant Friend," **HBO Go**. Based on *Elena Ferrante's* novel, this Italian series (with English subtitles) is a terrific look at friendship and class in post-war Italy. Set in a rough Naples neighborhood, its main characters are Elena and Lila, the smartest girls in their class, though polar opposites. Elena eventually becomes an author and writes about Lila, who decides to drop out of school. – *Seth Arenstein*

Basic Cable P2+ Prime Rankings* (12/10/18-12/16/18)		
Mon-Sun	MC US	MC US AA (000)
ESPN	0.819	2,503
FNC	0.667	2,037
HALL	0.627	1,915
MSNBC	0.626	1,913
NFL	0.552	1,685
USA	0.428	1,308
HMM	0.351	1,073
CNN	0.346	1,057
HGTV	0.344	1,052
TBSC	0.343	1,049
ID	0.337	1,028
HIST	0.335	1,022
A&E	0.332	1,014
FOOD	0.306	935
AMC	0.290	885
DISC	0.285	872
TLC	0.272	830
FRFM	0.259	791
TNT	0.254	776
NICK	0.252	771
LIFE	0.248	759
BRAVO	0.229	700
ADSM	0.225	686
NAN	0.209	640
DSNY	0.195	595
TVLAND	0.190	579
FX	0.170	518
CRN	0.167	509
DSJR	0.160	490
INSP	0.160	489
MTV	0.158	484
VH1	0.145	444
NATGEO	0.135	412
NKJR	0.134	410
TRAVEL	0.133	405
GSN	0.128	392
APL	0.125	382
WETV	0.125	381
ESPN2	0.124	378
PARA	0.117	356
BET	0.108	329

*P2+ L+SD rankers are based on national Nielsen numbers, not coverage.

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