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New digital stations add 2 million households in markets 87 and higher PAGE 6

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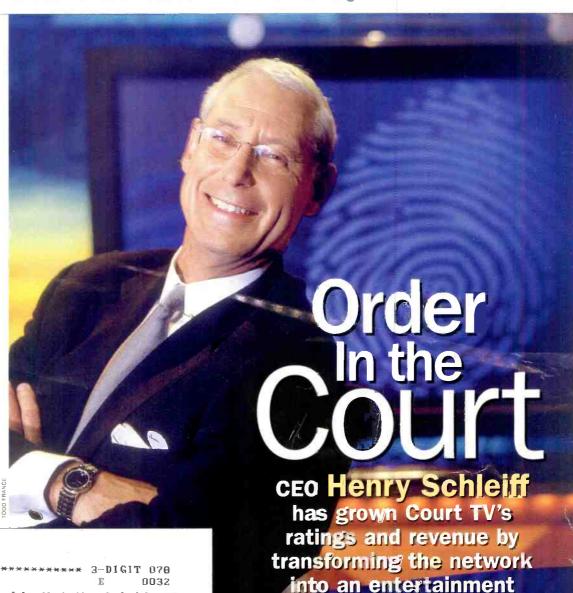
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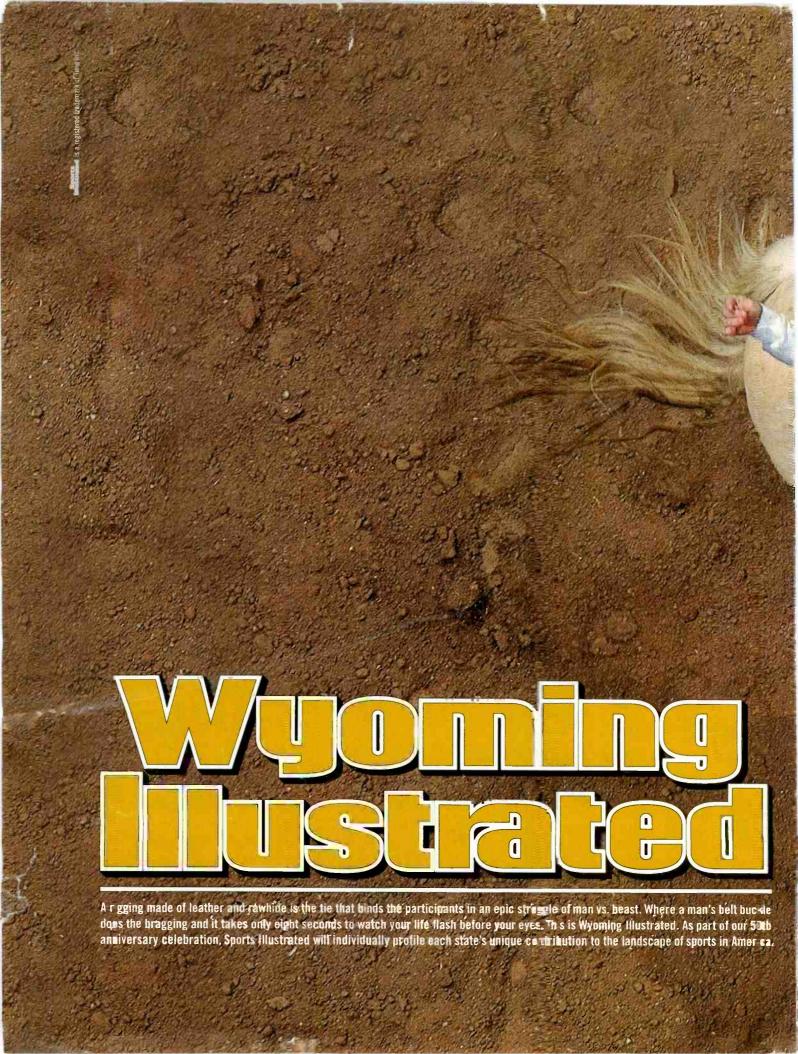


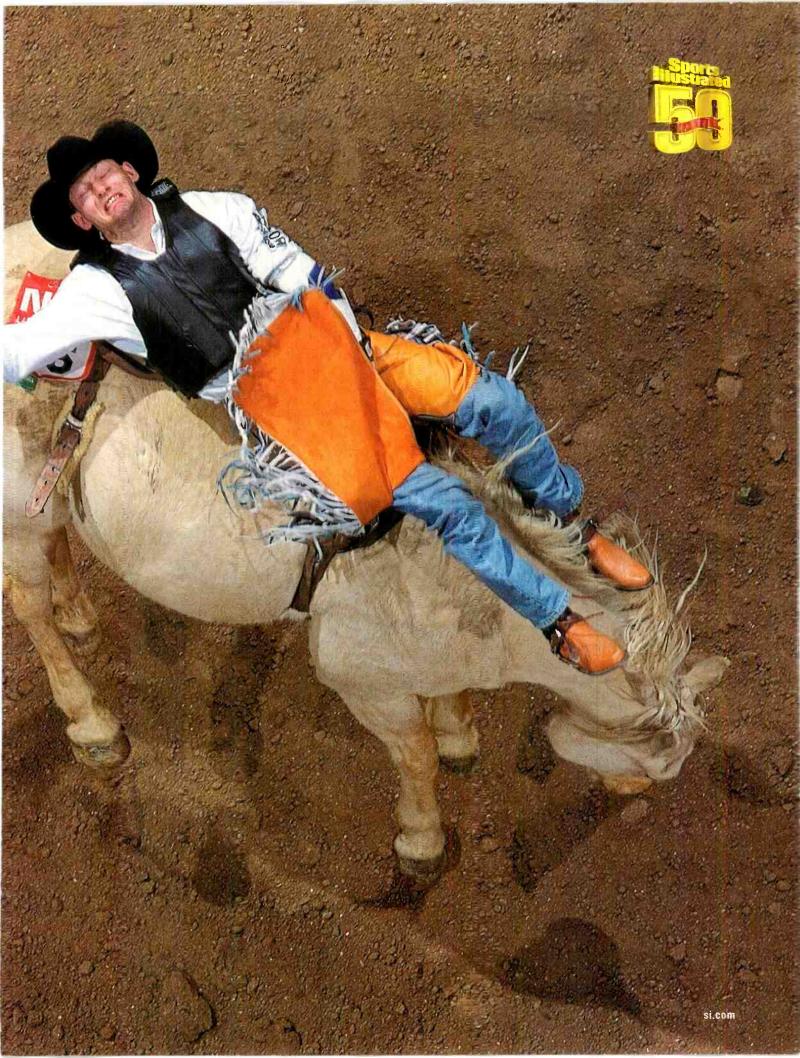
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# **At Deadline**

#### SCHWAB EXPANDS ROLE, OVERSEES THE TBS

Turner Broadcasting has reshuffled its executives yet again, naming Ken Schwab to the new position of senior vp, programming for TBS Superstation and TNT. Schwab. who was most recently senior vp, programming, acquisitions and new media for TNT, will oversee Bill Cox, senior vp of programming for TBS, and Phil Oppenheim, vp of programming for TNT. To further integrate TNT and TBS, Jennifer Dorian, vp of brand marketing for TNT, was named senior vp of branding/business development for TBS and TNT while Laura Dames, vp of marketing operations for TNT, will now be responsible for the marketing operations at both networks.

■ HOME DEPOT EXTENDS CBS DEAL

Home Depot has extended its title-sponsorship agreement for SEC College Football broadcasts on CBS through the 2005 season. Home Depot has sponsored the SEC games on CBS for the past four years. The official name of the weekly game telecasts will be The Home Depot SEC College Football on CBS. The agreement provides Home Depot with branded on-screen graphics throughout the broadcasts, commercial spots and on-air billboards. CBS Sports will air 18 SEC games this coming season, beginning Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. Last month, Home Depot also signed on to be the top sponsor of ESPN's college football pregame show, College Game Day, replacing Discover Card.

#### **CITADEL TAPS INFINITY EXECS**

As it preps for its initial public offering, Citadel Broadcasting has begun to assemble its management team. Bill Figenshu, one of three Infinity senior vps shown the door in December, has landed at Citadel as president of the company's western region, beginning July 23. Eric Logan, former vp of programming for Infinity, has been named president of programming for Citadel. Both positions

report to Judy Ellis, COO of Citadel. Exiting Citadel is Bob Proffitt, who was president of the company. Meanwhile, former Citadel CEO and founder Larry Wilson is leading a group of investors in a deal to buy Lamco Communications, owners of nine small-market TV stations in markets such as Chico, Calif., and Butte, Montana, for \$145 million.

#### ■ WIMBLEDON UP FOR ESPN, DOWN FOR NBC

NBC's coverage of the Wimbledon men's tennis finals featuring Roger Federer defeating Mark Philippoussis

on July 6 produced the lowest-rated finals ever, a 2.7/8 rating in the overnights, 13 percent lower than last year, according to Nielsen Media Research data. The women's finals a day earlier, in which Serena Williams defeated her sister Venus, was also down 13 percent to a 4 .0/11. ESPN's daytime match coverage for the entire tournament was up 80 percent to a 0.72. ESPN expanded its hours of on-air coverage this year.

#### ■ DEAL IS NEAR FOR PACE'S *ELEGANT BRIDE*

The 142,000-circ Elegant Bride, which has been for sale since early June, is currently undergoing "due diligence" by an undisclosed buyer. The sale is expected

> to be completed in the next two weeks. Current owner Pace Communications, based in North Carolina, let go the 15-person staff after publication of the fall issue, currently on newsstands.

#### MEDIAWEEK TAKES A BREAK

Mediaweek will not publish an issue on July 21. The next issue will be published on July 28. But mediaweek.com will offer news updates and analysis during the break.

ADDENDA: Salem Communications returned Michael Savage to the airwaves on July 10 in Los Angeles (KRLA-AM), Minneapolis (WWTC-AM) and Denver (KNUS-AM). Savage's show was pulled for three days following his anti-gay remarks on MSNBC, costing him his TV show on the cable network. (See Local Media, page 12)... Melissa Stark, most recently a sideline reporter on ABC's Monday Night Football, has been named a national correspondent for NBC's Today. She will also be involved with NBC's Olympic coverage next summer in Athens...CBS has ordered nine episodes of the futuristic legal drama Century City for midseason...Chuck Saftler was promoted to the new posi-

tion of general manager of Fox Movie Channel. Saftler will continue to oversee programming at sister network FX as senior vp of programming and acquisitions...The NFL Network will launch at 8 p.m. on Nov. 4 with its signature studio show, NFL Total Access, hosted by Rich Eisen...MTV signed the Osbourne clan to a third season of The Osbournes, with 20 more episodes of the reality series airing next year.

CORRECTION: On page 22 of this issue's Court TV feature, author Lisa Scottoline's name is misspelled.

# Market

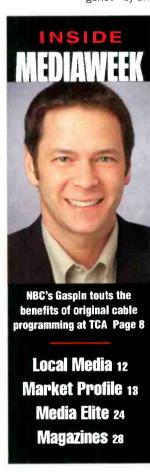
**NATIONAL TV: OUIET** With third quarter wrapped and fourth quarter still in cancellation-option limbo. the networks are happy that summer viewership is holding up well, meaning makegoods are at a minimum.

**NET CABLE: ROBUST** Following a solid upfront, third-quarter scatter continues to move. Ads for summer movie blockbusters are driving much of the activity. Cellular telephone companies, soft drinks and fast food are also spending.

**SPOT TV: STEADY** Auto remains strong in most markets due to campaigns from Ford, GM and Toyota. Other spending categories include health and pharmaceuticals, home improvement and financial services. Entertainment and telecom have cooled.

**RADIO: BUSY** Top markets such as L.A. and New York are active, but Chicago is still soft. Auto is picking up with GM and DaimlerChrysler campaigns. Retail is strong, especially the home improvement category.

**MAGAZINES: MIXED** Publishers say housewares and cosmetics categories continue to be strong. Books are also getting a boost from auto and pharmaceutical spending. Travel, insurance and financial services are weak categories.



#### **Media Wire**

#### Coty's Stetson, Viacom To Roll Cross-Platform Deal

Coty will launch its Stetson Untamed line extension this fall via a path rarely traveled by fragrance marketers: a cross-platform deal that includes Viacom's CBS, CMT country-music cable network, Web sites and the Westwood One radio network.

Estimated to be worth about \$10 million, the deal was crafted by Omnicom Group's OMD with Viacom unit Viacom Plus. The launch begins Sept. 1 with a party, at which CMT will film part of its weekly Top 20 countdown. The program is due to heat up in November with a sweepstakes to find the "ultimate Untamed daytime star," supported by buys on CBS' Country Music Awards on Nov. 5.

Arthur Sherwood, senior vp of marketing at New York–based Coty, said: "In the male-fragrance category, women are the purchasers. [The deal delivers] a lot of women consumers."

"Based on everything we knew about the brand... [the strategy] took us to Viacom naturally," said Joe Uva, OMD worldwide CEO. Coty's ads in September magazines feature a half-dressed, hunky cowboy. —Jack Feuer, special from 'Adweek'

#### NCTA: Quality Programming Justifies Cable Rate Hikes

Cable rates may be increasing faster than the rate of inflation, but it is all for the benefit of the consumer, according to the National Cable and Telecommunications Association.

The NCTA reacted to the release of a report from the Federal Communications Commission last week detailing an 8.2 percent rise in cable rates, from an average \$37.06 to \$40.11, for the 12 months ended July 2002—an increase that was more than five times the rate of inflation.

Consumer advocates were alarmed at the news. The NCTA was quick to defend cable operators, citing significant financial investments in system upgrades and increasing programming costs, especially for sports. License fees paid by cable operators to networks for programming grew by \$1.1 billion in 2002 to a total of \$10.9 billion, reports the NCTA; the (continued on page 8)

# **UPN Goes Digital In the Heartland**

Moves have added 2 million households in markets 87 and higher

**NETWORK TV** By John Consoli

PN is aggressively pursuing a strategy to expand the network's distribution by entering into agreements with owners of Big Three affiliates to start up digital over-the-air stations in smaller markets where UPN currently has no outlet. The network has 10 digital affiliates, most of which have gone on the air within the past year, with another five in the works to be completed by September. The most recent deal was with Granite Broadcasting in May, to launch a digital station in the Duluth, Minn./Superior, Wis., market, where Granite also owns NBC affiliate KBJR-TV.

Although Federal Communications Commission guidelines prevent a station from creating a duopoly in small markets with fewer than eight broadcast voices, the rules exempt digital outlets. Since few TV homes own sets with digital reception capability, each one of these stations has sought carriage on local cable systems for added distribution. And for those cable subscribers who do not have digital settop boxes, operators are also carrying the UPN signals on their basic lineups.

UPN has digital affiliates in Greenville-

New Bern, N.C.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Amarillo and Odessa-Midland, Texas; Baton Rouge, La.; Rockford, Ill.; South Bend, Ind.; Columbus-Tupelo, Miss.; Salisbury, Md.; in addition to Duluth-Superior. The markets range in size from 87 to 154, representing some 2 million cumulative

TV households, of which 1.4 million are cable homes. UPN currently reaches about 88 million homes through its primary affiliates.

Sandy Pastoor, senior vp, affiliate relations for UPN, acknowledged the network is just on the ground floor with its distribution expansion. "There are still a lot of voids to fill," said Pastoor. "Our goal is to eventually get a digital

affiliate in every market where UPN does not already have a primary analog affiliate."

The digital affiliate model differs from the WB's 100+ Station Group. While both distribution arrangements call for the network's programming to be delivered via a cable channel, the WB 100+ Station Group is a partnership between the WB, a local TV station and the cable operator. The WB provides 24-hour programming; the affiliate and operator sell local advertising, splitting the revenue with the WB and the costs between themselves.

The UPN agreement creates a traditional affiliate relationship between UPN and the local station, in which UPN provides only prime-time programming, leaving the local station to program the remainder of the time, sell local ads and keep all the revenue.

The first UPN digital affiliate was started in Greenville-New Bern in 1999 by Lamco Communications, which also owns the ABC affiliate WCTI-TV there. But Lamco was an early adapter of digital technology and ahead of most station groups in the digital transition. Most of the others have gone up within the past year, and Pastoor said the network is currently in negotiations over digital station startups in

"There are still lots of voids to fill. Our goal is to eventually get a digital affiliate in every market where UPN does not already have a primary analog affiliate." PASTOOR

about five other markets. Pastoor would not say with which companies she is negotiating, but other sources identified Young Broadcasting, which operates NBC affiliate KWQC-TV in Davenport, Iowa, and CBS affiliates in Lansing, Mich., and Sioux Falls, S.D., as well as Raycom Media, which operates seven CBS and NBC affiliates in 100-plus markets.

Marshall Noecker, president/CEO of Lamco, said significant startup equipment costs associated with the transition to multicasting in Greenville-New Bern prevented the company from getting into the black until last year. With the infrastructure paid for, profits should continue to grow, said Noecker. Helping grow the digital station was a cordial relationship with local cable operators Cox and Time Warner Cable, both of which placed the station on Channel 3 among the other analog networks, making it easier for viewers to find.

The UPN digital affiliate in Salisbury, Md., owned by Draper Communications, which also operates CBS affiliate WBOC-TV, is carried locally on channel 16 on the Comcast, Charter and Mediacom systems. "Since we have only been operating since February, it's a little early to tell about the revenue situation, but we are encouraged with the reception from the viewers and the ad community," said Rick Jordan, gm for WBOC and the UPN outlet.

One station executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity, believes the UPN digital affiliation agreement is a better model than the WB 100+ deals because local station owners can program the entire day-better targeting the needs of local audiences outside of prime time—and do not have to split the ad revenue with the network. "It's a more vibrant model for the local stations," the exec said. "If UPN can improve its prime-time programming a bit across more nights, it will make it even better."

Jed Petrick, president of the WB, defended the 100+ Station Group model, saying "it is the highest-rated cable station in every market that it is in. It is in more than 9 million homes, and the non-prime-time programming is as strong as any independent station can offer."

While Petrick said there are no plans to dismantle the 100+ Station Group model, he said the WB is also lining up digital affiliates. Like UPN, the WB entered into an early deal with Lamco in Tri-Cities, Tenn./Va., where Lamco also operates NBC affil WCYB-TV. The WB has since added two digital stations, in Little Rock, Ark., and Roanoke, Va., started by Grant Communications, which also operates Fox stations in those markets. "It's a creative way to get distribution in a market where you cannot get a full power station up," Petrick added.

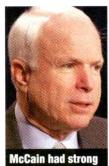
While UPN's digital stations outreach is helping line up more potential viewers, the network does face a potential disaster down the road if competing network Fox-which owns eight UPN stations reaching close to 22 million TV homes-refuses to renew its affiliations that expire at the end of next season. Fox filed a \$100 million breach-of-contract lawsuit against UPN in March, although negotiations are continuing on affiliation renewals.

# **180 Degrees of Separation**

NAB does an about-face on TV ownership caps; McCain blasts radio

#### WASHINGTON By Katy Bachman

ince the Federal Communications Commission voted June 2 to loosen most of the media ownership rules, it's been open season on broadcasters. Congressional leaders from both chambers—Republicans and Democrats—have proposed legislation to roll back the FCC rules and held hearings lambasting the effects of consolidation. But the challenges to the rules' re-



words for the NAB.

laxation have caused some parties to change positions, notably the National Association of Broadcasters, which abandoned its opposition to allowing TV broadcasters to reach 45 percent of the country with their station groups.

Last week's round of vitriol began on July

8 when the Senate Commerce Committee blasted the radio industry in a hearing that was supposed to be about the FCC's switch to using Arbitron market definitions to determine ownership limits. Several members scolded Lew Dickey, CEO of Cumulus Media, for his company's decision in March to ban country group The Dixie Chicks on 50 Country radio stations after singer Natalie Maines made negative political remarks about President Bush. Committee chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.) went so far as to call the NAB "a wholly owned subsidiary of Clear Channel [Communications]," the country's largest radio company.

But the bigger development was the NAB's about-face, which drew some cricitism from some station group members who want to keep fighting for a 35 percent cap. The NAB says it could no longer support the current Senate

Commerce bill aimed at reducing the cap, once all sorts of other additions were tacked on like ornaments on a Christmas tree. "In our heart of hearts, we'd like to have a clean bill that would codify the national TV ownership cap at 35 percent, but it's not in the cards," said Eddie Fritts, NAB president/CEO. "Never before has the broadcast industry had a list of challenges of this magnitude on the table at one time."

Of course, the powerful Washington lobbying organization only weeks ago lost the last of the broadcast networks as a member when Disney's ABC pulled out (all the broadcast networks favor the easing of ownership caps). The result is that the networks, which met with the NAB earlier in the week, will be fighting alongside the NAB to stop legislation that would undo much of the FCC's decision. The first test of the new union will be next week in the House, where the Appropriations Committee is expected to take up an FCC bill that is likely to contain provisions to roll back some or all of the June 2 rules.

Let the games begin, replied several congressional leaders. "My efforts, and those of my colleagues, to repeal the FCC's ill-advised decision...will not be deterred," said Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), ranking member on the House Commerce Committee.

On the Senate side, Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings (D-S.C.), who along with Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) introduced the bill to reinstate the 35 percent cap that turned into a combo bill before it was approved by the Senate Commerce Committee last month, remained confident he has a majority to get it through the Senate. "We will continue to...work to ensure that the public airwaves serve the public interest and not the economic interest of a few big media conglomerates," said Hollings.

# **Ratings Data Rhubarb**

Software companies fighting Nielsen's new restrictions on its TV numbers

RESEARCH By Katy Bachman

everal software firms that process Nielsen Media Research television ratings data for agencies and media companies are upset that Nielsen is seeking additional restrictions on how the data can be used. New Nielsen contracts, which in late June landed on the desks of about 35 third-party data processors including Donovan Data Systems, Telmar and Strata, include the new restrictions, higher fees and require the companies to provide Nielsen with

#### **Media Wire**

growth rate of licensing fees has doubled since 1998. —Megan Larson

# Classmates, Makeover Debut to Lukewarm Ratings

Twentieth Television last week kicked off limited launches of two first-run syndicated series—Classmates, based on a Web site of the same name, and Ambush Makeover, which surprises someone with a makeover. Both half-hour shows launched on July 7.

Based on four days' worth of metered market data, Classmates in 25 markets was the higher-rated of the two shows, with an average 2.0 household rating and 5 share, according to Nielsen Media Research. Classmates' early rating was off 20 percent from the same time-period average a year ago. Ambush Makeover, in 19 markets, averaged a 1.7/5, 26 percent below the year-ago average. Although four days of overnight data is inconclusive in determining the success or failure of any series, both shows were clearly not off and running last week. —Marc Berman

#### Lee Spikes Viacom Suit; Door Open to Development

After a month-long legal battle, The New TNN will finally be renamed Spike TV.

The Viacom-owned network was to become Spike TV on June 16 when it relaunched as the first men's cable network, but director Spike Lee won an injunction to stop the name change, arguing that it was a blatant attempt to capitalize on his persona. However, noting that a ruling in his favor could threaten future First Amendment arguments, Lee asked that the injunction be lifted. The door is now open for further programming discussions between Lee and Viacom's MTV Networks. Currently, Lee is filming the series pilot Sucker Free City for Viacom's Showtime.

A network representative said it would take a week for the name change to take effect. Viacom has said that it lost more than \$10 million in advertising.

Separately, the network must deal with a new lawsuit filed against Stripperella creator Stan Lee by a former stripper who said Lee stole her idea. —ML

copies of reports produced for agencies.

Nielsen senior vp of new business development Terrie Brennan has been in talks with the software companies to iron out the contract issues, according to Anne Elliot, a Nielsen representative. Nielsen and *Mediaweek* are both units of VNU.

The software companies say they anticipated the new fees but not the other changes. "These are very unusual requests. We do business all over the world, and never has anything like this happened anywhere. You can't have your suppliers tell you how you're going to run your business," said Stanley Federman, chairman and CEO of Telmar.

One new section of the contract states that software companies cannot, without Nielsen's permission, "combine, index, model or crosstabulate NMR information with data or software from any other source or with any other NMR information."

That particular restriction has raised a red flag with agencies, which rely extensively on third-party processors to perform complex analyses of TV ratings for their advertiser clients. "Most of what we do is custom. It's the agency's property, not mine," said one

software provider who requested anonymity. "I'm under a confidentiality agreement."

"We want to make sure we can do the kinds of analyses we need to do for our clients," said Susan Nathan, senior vp and director of media knowledge for Universal McCann.

"There was a lot of misinterpretation of our intent, and some of the language might have been more clearly stated," said Nielsen's Elliot, who added that Brennan is working with the providers to change the contract language.

The higher fees in the new contracts could adversely affect some of the smaller software firms, which say they will be forced to pass on the added costs to their agency clients.

Nielsen's position is that the fee increase is unavoidable. "We're not making money on this. Many [companies] have made their entire business off reusing our data," Elliot said. Nielsen itself owns a software division called IMS that competes with the affected firms.

Lyle Schwartz, managing partner of Mediaedge:cia, said agencies have asked the American Association of Advertising Agencies to help sort out the differences with Nielsen. "We have to kick this up to an industry organization," Schwartz said.

# **Programming to Get Ahead**

Broad range of originals unveiled for critics as nets spend on brand-building

CABLE TV By Megan Larson

B asic and premium cable networks have invested \$11 billion into original programming in the past year, according to the National Cable and Telecommunications Association, and several examples of that effort were unveiled last week at the Television Critics Association tour last week in Los Angeles.

From small digital channels Trio and Fine Living to fully-distributed networks Sci Fi Channel and A&E, basic cable pushed original



series and films as a way to further define themselves to the audience of TV writers. "That is what you have to do to distinguish yourself," said Jeff Gaspin, who oversees Bravo as executive vp of alternative series and long-form programming for NBC Entertainment. "You need to be in the acquisition business, but when 30 out of 40 cable networks do just that, original programming is the only way you can define a network and build a brand."

At TCA, Gaspin announced four projects in development, including the amateur filmmaker showdown *UnderExposed* and *Ready*, *Set*, *Van Gogh*, in which professional artists compete using a mix of artistic mediums. Gaspin also announced the documentary *All The President's Movies*, featuring the White House film log from 1953-1986, and the July 29th premiere of *Boy Meets Boy*, which is essentially *The Bachelor* for gay men.

The project genres announced last week ranged from relationship shows to documentary series and specials to lifestyle programming, including Fine Living's *Simply Wine* and Style Network's *The Brini Maxwell Show*. But

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it was the strength of the scripted drama that has separated this year's TCA from years past. For example, USA Network greenlit the drama series Touching Evil, directed by the Hughes Brothers (Menace II Society, From Hell), and sister network Sci Fi Channel announced a Martin Scorsese-produced miniseries, The Twelve, which is slated for 2005. Touching Evil features the criminal investigations by a fearless FBI agent. The Twelve chronicles the coming of the apocalypse at Christmas time.

Sci Fi president Bonnie Hammer said she has long recognized the importance of developing original product. "We are not a niche cabler anymore, but a strongly branded network," said Hammer. "To feed that you need to find the right projects, which are not available to buy.'

Buyers agree that original efforts are a key

indicator of a network's maturity. "Cable is a maturing business, and it's going to take programming to drive growth," said Peter Olsen, senior vp, manager of national broadcast for Mediacom. "I think you will see many more big projects like this because cable is looking to differentiate itself with real hits and they are looking at bigger and better names to do it."

Other original film projects include: USA's DC Sniper and Hidden in the Heartland: The Eric Rudolph Story; A&E's two new films. Hornblower and the Hotspur: Loyalty and Duty; and Court TV's Executing the Innocent: The Gary Graham Story.

"All in all, people seemed pretty jazzed about what the cable networks showcased this year," said Lifetime's executive vp of programming Barbara Fisher. "It was a really healthy mix of programming."

# **Nets' Grey Gap Narrows**

Magna: 6 years separate ages of CBS, NBC viewers, down from 10 in '98-99

#### **TELEVISION** By John Consoli

hile CBS remains the oldest-skewing network in prime-time median age of viewers, NBC over the past four seasons has narrowed the gap. And while NBC's audience has aged three years to 46.2 since the 1998-99 season, CBS' has declined by one year to 52.2, resulting in a gap of only six years, compared to 10 four seasons ago, according to research from Magna Global USA.

"While NBC tends to only talk about adults 18-49, 42 percent of its average audience is over

		Prime-Time	
NETWORK	1998-99	2001-02	2002-03
ABC	41.8	46.0	43.6
CBS	53.1	51.7	52.2
NBC	43.4	45.9	46.2
Fox	34.0	36.0	35.0
UPN	37.4	34.2	33 1
WB	26.8	31.2	31.1

50, compared to 37 percent five years ago," said Steve Sternberg, Magna's executive vp of audience analysis, who compiles the annual media age study based on Nielsen Media Research. Conversely, 54 percent of CBS' average audience is over 50, compared to 56 five years ago.

More significantly for CBS, Sternberg said, is that its average 65-plus audience has fallen to 26 percent from 31 over the past five years, while its 50-64 average audience has increased to 28 percent from 25. "This is very significant for CBS and has allowed the network to become more competitive in certain advertising categories," Sternberg said.

While median age—the point at which half the audience is younger and half the audience is older—is not a primary buying tool, Sternberg said it "does help you evaluate the entire TV landscape by enabling agencies to get a better feel for time-period-by-time-period battles."

Andy Donchin, senior vp and director of national broadcast for Carat North America, said NBC has actually gotten older because of the success of several of its shows, specifically the Law & Order franchise, West Wing and ER. "The audiences watching some of these longer-running shows have actually gotten older along with the shows," Donchin said.

But both Sternberg and Donchin believe the Big Three networks are most successful when they deliver a balanced audience in the younger, middle and older aged demos so that they cover segments for all advertisers.

ABC is now seeing its median age drop due to younger-skewing reality hits The Bachelor and The Bachelorette, plus several newer sitcoms. UPN has a median age audience that is four years younger this season than the 37.4 it averaged for the 1998-99 season. The WB, which was flat over last season with a median age of 31, is up more than four years over the 1998-99 season but is still the youngest-skewing of all the broadcast networks.

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#### On Target, But Not Quite a Bull's-Eye

We read with great interest the Opinion column written by Larry Kelley ("Media Buying's Little Secret," June 23) and, generally speaking, we agree and commend Larry. He is quite correct in describing the myth of dollar-volume clout when it comes to network TV buying.

It has been a little publicized but well-known fact for a long time that the mega buying agencies cannot beat the marketplace. It is a mathematical impossibility, as Larry (and others) correctly point out, and it is also a practical business impossibility.

However, where Larry is on the target but missing the bull's-eye is with respect to the small buying shops, when he suggests that they are the ones who will beat the market.

In truth, there is a wide disparity in pricing that can be achieved across the smaller agencies. Sometimes they will do well, other times poorly. The reality is that the smaller

shops simply don't have enough information, nor are they significant enough to command the attention of senior executives at sales organizations. Sometimes they win, and sometimes they lose.

What has emerged is what I am calling the bell curve of TV-buying productivity, on

There is a wide disparity in pricing that can be achieved across the smaller agencies. Sometimes they do well, other times poorly.

which the mega shops occupy the right portion of the curve, under the headings of:

• Too big; unwieldy; not intimately in touch with their clients; *cannot beat the market*.

On the left side of the bell curve are the very small agencies, under the headings of:

• Less information; inability to invest in research resources; inconsistent possibilities

to beat and get beaten.

In the middle of the curve are several midsized companies that occupy what I call the "sweet spot" of TV buying. Their characteristics are:

• Big enough to be a factor; have good market intelligence; can invest in state-of-

the-art tools and research; are attractive to the best talent; are not so big that they are handcuffed in terms of negotiations.

Companies like MediaCom, Horizon, Zenith—and yes, Carat—occupy this prime real estate

Size, of course, is only one factor. But in this unusual market, where the phenomenon of "reverse clout" is a negotiating reality, smart clients are looking to hit the bull's eye.

> Charlie Rutman President Carat USA New York

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SAN FRANCISCO RADIO

# **KNEW Builds Talk Format With Savage, Despite Anti-Gay Jabs**

BY KATY BACHMAN

ichael Savage may be too controversial for MSNBC, but he's just what the talk radio doctor ordered for KNEW-AM in San Francisco, which premiered Savage in afternoon drive on July 7, the same day the host was fired from his weekly MSNBC show for making anti-gay remarks.

In fact, the Clear Channel station likes Savage and his ratings so much that he has instantly been made the programming cornerstone of the outlet, which last February switched its format from CNET Radio to Talk. KNEW is taking on San Francisco's two ABC Radio—owned Talk giants, KGO-AM and KSFO-AM. KSFO

should be able to demonstrate better judgment, even if he was off the air," said Elder.

Mike Lofrano, Talk Radio Network COO, said he's not worried about a dwindling of the affiliate base for Savage, whose show now airs on 320 stations, many of which are second- and third-tier AM Talk outlets, such as KRLA. The host's axing by MSNBC "certainly has raised the profile of the [radio] show," said Lofrano.

KNEW's Krampf also has no reservations: "Savage's comments were wrong. He's admitted that. He wants to move on. So do we."

But Savage's higher profile could backfire with advertisers. "When a personality goes from radio to TV, the spotlight shines on him one of the reasons ABC Radio could not come to terms in its contract renewal talks with Savage, despite the fact that Savage, on KSFO since '94, was the Talk station's best ratings performer. "We'd like to have kept him, but the price was too high and advertisers were skittish," said Jack Swanson, operations director of KGO and KSFO. WABC in New York didn't renew its contract with Savage earlier this month.

Even without Savage, Swanson isn't worried. KGO has sat atop the S.F. ratings for 99 consecutive books; it'll be 100 when the spring survey comes out this week. And KSFO, the No. 4 station in town, has slotted ABC Radio Networks' Sean Hannity to air against Savage.

#### **NEW YORK MAGAZINES**

#### **Primedia Taps Burstein**

Lawrence Burstein, who starts today as publisher of Primedia's *New York*, returns to the title where his publishing career began 20 years ago. However, the veteran publisher must contend with increased competition for local advertising, today's cinched budgets and swelling rumors that *New York* is for sale.

Burstein began at New York as an account executive in 1981 and worked up to associate publisher until his departure in 1991. Since then, he has held publisher positions at Wenner Media's Us Weekly, Hearst Magazines' Esquire and Condé Nast Publications' The New Yorker and Self. Burstein replaces Alan Katz, who left two months ago to direct Condé Nast's yet-to-be-named Lucky-like shopping title for men. "I was drawn to the breadth and scope of advertising [New York] carries," said Burstein. "My challenge is selling in the current marketplace." New York's ad pages through July 7 were down 13.6 percent to 1,159, according to the Mediaweek Magazine Monitor. With a rate base of 425,000, total paid circ for the last six months of 2002 was off 1.6 percent to 432,851, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Buyers say the title's circulation needs to grow in order to be more attractive to their clients. "[Buyers] are looking for publications that provide reach, especially with limited budgets right now," said James Schore, media supervisor at Horizon Media, whose clients include A&E and Foxwoods Resort Casino.

Burstein declined comment on how *New York's* ownership uncertainties affect sales. "The magazine is dominant in the New York marketplace. My job is to make sure its influence continues," he said. —*Aimee Deeken* 



'IN SAN FRANCISCO, SAVAGE'S SHOW LAUNCHED JULY 7 ON KNEW, #SHARE BELOW REPORTABLE LEVEL. SOURCE: ARBITRON WINTER SURVEY, PERSONS 12-PLUS



is Savage's former Bay Area affiliate.

Adding Savage "gets us off to a good start. We feel like [last Monday] was the official start of the station," said Ed Krampf, regional vp for CC and general manager of KNEW, which last week also rolled out Fox News Channel personality Bill O'Reilly (10 a.m. to noon).

Although Savage has apologized for the remarks he made on MSNBC, some radio stations have sought assurances from Talk Radio Network, his syndicator, that such comments will not be repeated. Salem Communications has temporarily suspended Savage's show on three AM outlets—KRLA in Los Angeles, WWTC in Minneapolis and KNUS in Denver.

Mike Elder, program director for WRKO-AM, Entercom Communications' Boston Talk outlet, pulled Savage for one night last week. "He's a multimillion-a-year Talk host who

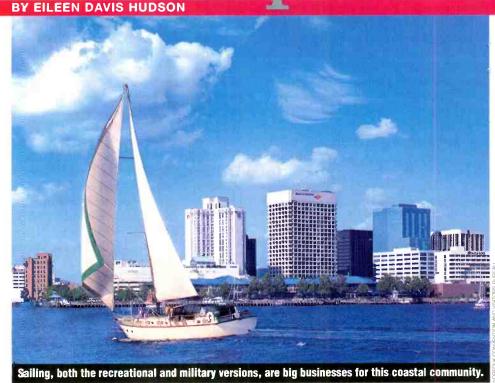
in a way that it didn't before. So clients that may have thought he was O.K. now aren't so sure," said Natalie Swed Stone, director of national radio services for OMD.

Although the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) carried out a successful campaign against Savage, convincing advertisers including Procter & Gamble and Dell to pull their ads from the MSNBC program, GLAAD's campaign is unlikely to carry over to radio. "Talk radio is in a world of its own. Our concern was when MSNBC hired him because it is a reputable news channel," said Cathy Renna, GLAAD news media director.

In San Francisco, local action groups the Media Alliance, Global Exchange and Code-Pink: Women for Peace were organizing protests for this week outside KNEW's studios.

Reluctance on the part of advertisers was

# tprofile



# Norfolk, Va.

KNOWN AS HAMPTON ROADS, THE NORFOLK-PORTSMOUTH-NEWPORT NEWS REGION of Virginia includes many culturally and economically diverse areas, including the historically significant communities of Williamsburg and Yorktown. The popular shoreline town of Virginia Beach continues to

be a major tourist attraction, providing a solid boost to the local economy.

In addition to tourism, the military is a major contributor in terms of employment and revenue, and its presence has a direct impact on the local media. Manufacturing is also a significant component of the market's economic vitality. Newport News is the largest shipbuilding city in the world. Every branch of the U.S. armed forces has a base in the area, including Naval Station Norfolk, the largest naval base in the country. Five of the six Navy aircraft carri-

ers based on the East Coast are located in the Norfolk DMA. And because members of the military tend to be younger, the average age of the market's residents is just 32.

Although area media outlets have grown accustomed to regular deployments of troops from the various bases here, the war in Iraq did hurt the market in the second quarter, even though fewer troops were deployed from the area than were sent to the Gulf War in 1991. When troops ship out, their families often pack up and leave the market as well. The loss of the troops and their families means fewer people consuming media in Norfolk, which leads advertisers to generally scale back their spending.

"In the past, when that happened, the local economy just crashed and burned," says Mario Hewitt, vp and general manager of WVEC-TV, Belo Corp.'s ABC affiliate. "This time return of many of the troops and their families has resulted in a solid rebound in the third quarter so far. In addition, the Navy recently granted 5 percent pay increases, giving sailors based in the area a little extra disposable income and again spurring spending in local media. The Norfolk-Portsmouth-Newport News television market ranks No. 41 in the nation, with 677,610 TV households. LIN Television's NBC affiliate WAVY-TV and WVEC are the

around, it held steady." While the second quarter felt the brunt of the pullback, local media executives say, the brevity of the war and speedy

top news outlets in the market. WAVY, however, has the edge in advertising revenue, according to BIA Financial Network, which estimates that WAVY generated \$32 million in 2002, compared to WVEC's \$20 million.

In last Fel ruary's sweeps, WVEC ranked No. 1 at 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., topping WAVY for the first time in the time period in households, says WVEC's Hewitt. The trend continued in the May sweeps, with WVEC also claiming the top spot in those news time periods. The victory is even more significant given that WVEC only launched its 5:30-6 p.m. newscast on Sept. 10, 2001, the day before the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. That newscast, which replaced Hollywood Squares, premiered at No. 2 when it launched, says Hewitt.

"Unfortunately, it was great timing. It really allowed us to maximize our news ratings and introduce [the newscast] to the market," says Hewitt. Prior to the launch of the 5:30 newscast, WVEC had run a close second at 5 p.m. and a distant second at 6 p.m., says Hewitt.

To promote its new newscast, WVEC made a "significant increase in our branding," says Hewitt. It also unveiled a brand new weather center last year. Among the station's key nonnews programming is The Oprah Winfrey Show, which is the No. 1 program at 4 p.m., along with perennial favorites Wheel of Fortune and Teopardy! from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., and newcomer Dr. Phil at 10 a.m. WVEC has had little turnover, with the exception of hiring new news

> director Michael Valentine, who joined the station in March 2002. Valentine was previously news director at WEHT, Gilmore Broadcastings' ABC affiliate in Evansville, Ind.

> Belo, in partnership with Cox Communications and The Virginian-Pilot newspaper, also owns the local 24-hour cable news network, Local

#### NIELSEN MONITOR-PLUS AD SPENDING BY MEDIA / NORFOLK, VA.

	JanDec. 2001	JanDec. 2002
Spot TV	\$105,778,993	\$109,046,574
Local Newspaper	\$78,613,760	\$78,856,900
Total	\$184,392,753	\$187,903,474
Source: Nielsen Monitor-Plus		

# market profile

ceeds Dennis Hartig, who became the paper's editorial page editor.

Tribune Co.'s Newport News-based The Daily Press had a daily circulation of 93,537 for the six months ended March 31, flat compared to the same period in 2002, and 116,494 Sunday, up 1.1 percent over the prior year. The Daily Press serves the Newport News-Hampton-Williamsburg area.

"We've been focused as a company more than ever on the area that we refer to as 'south of the James," says Ernie Gates, editor and vp. of The Daily Press. The area is an expanding suburban section to the south of Newport News. It includes the city of Suffolk and Isle of Wight County (in Virginia, the cities are independent jurisdictions outside of counties).

The James and York rivers and Hampton Roads Harbor act as natural dividers in the market. The Daily Press and the Virginian-Pilot vie for readers and advertisers in Isle of Wight County where the two markets overlap. In Jan-

uary, The Daily Press beefed up its news bureau in that area, adding two reporters, a copy editor and a photographer, with a goal of getting more local stories from the area in the paper. The daily also does more geographical zoning in order to reach new readers in this fast-growing segment of the market, Gates says. The Daily Press has four zoned editions: the area south of the James, Williamsburg, Gloucester and the final edition (Newport News). Gates says that in the past, the four zones were more of a goal than a regular practice, with only three editions being published more often than not. Hiring additional copy editors has helped make the fourth zone a regularity.

The Daily Press is also focusing much of its content toward younger readers. "Our feature sections, which we revamped a year ago, are skewed younger," says Gates, adding that the paper's former strongly themed and regimented feature pages were overhauled to be more flexible in both content and design.

Entercom Communications leads the field of radio broadcasters in the Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News radio market, which Arbitron ranks No. 40 in the country. The market is embargoed by Arbitron, which means its clients have requested that ratings information about individual stations be withheld from the media.

Entercom's four FM outlets garnered a combined 20.1 average-quarter-hour share among listeners 12-plus in the Winter 2003 Arbitron book. According to BIA Financial Network, the stations generated a collective \$20.7 million in revenue in 2002, giving the company a nearly 32 percent market share (see Radio Ownership chart on page 15).

Although Entercom is way out in front, the advertising race between the other players is much tighter. Barnstable Broadcasting, Saga Communications, Clear Channel Communications and Sinclair Telecable (not related to Sinclair Broadcasting) are also jousting for listeners and ad dollars.

Given that a third of the market is African American and that 36 percent of the market falls into the 18-34 demographic (see Scarborough Research chart on page 14), it's no wonder there are four Urban-formatted stations in the market. Clear Channel owns three of the four, including WOWI-FM, the leader in the format. Entercom owns the fourth Urban station. Although WOWI leads in share (12plus), it is not the market's top biller. That claim belongs to Entercom's WWDE-FM, an Adult Contemporary station.

WCMS-FM, Barnstable's heritage Country station, flipped to Classic Country this past spring. The change helped create a greater distinction between WCMS and its sister Country outlet, WGH-FM. (Barnstable groups all six of its stations in the market under the umbrella name Hampton Roads Radio Group). Barnstable's Oldies outlet WWSO-FM tweaked its programming earlier this year to add more Urban Oldies tunes to its playlist.

Adams Outdoor Advertising is the dominant outdoor advertising player in the Hampton Roads market, controlling 95 percent of the market, says Adams sales manager Kevin Madrzykowski. Adams offers about 235 14foot-by-48-foot bulletins and 10-foot-by-36foot bulletins, and about 565 30-sheet posters, for a total of 800 faces in the DMA. The bulletins are located primarily on the main arterials and interstates in the area, including I-64, I-264, I-464 and Route 13. Lamar Advertising controls the remainder of the market, with about 40 bulletins.

#### **NIELSEN RATINGS / NORFOLK, VA.**

EVENING AND LATE-NEWS DAYPARTS, WEEKDAYS

Time	Network	Station	Rating	Share
5-5:30 p.m.	ABC	WVEC	8.3	17
	NBC	WAVY	7.0	14
	UPN	WGNT*	4.2	8
	CBS	WTKR	4.1	8
	WB	WTVZ*	2.2	4
	Fox	WVBT*	1.5	3
	Pax	WPXV*	0.8	2
5:30-6 p.m.	ABC	WVEC	8.3	16
	NBC	WAVY	7.7	15
	UPN	WGNT*	4.2	8
	CBS	WTKR	4.1	8
	WB	WTVZ*	3.2	6
	Fox	WVBT*	1.0	2
	Pax	WPXV*	0.8	2
6-6:30 p.m.	NBC	WAVY	8.9	16
	ABC	WVEC	8.4	15
	UPN	WGNT*	5.3	9
	CBS	WTKR	5.0	9
	WB	WTVZ*	3.2	6
	Fox	WVBT*	1.7	3
	Pax	WPXV*	0.9	2
ate News				
0-10:45 p.m.	Fox	WVBT	3.8	6
1-11:30 p.m.	NBC	WAVY	11.0	19
	ABC	WVEC	7.8	14
	CBS	WTKR	6.5	11
	UPN	WGNT*	4.0	7
	WB	WTVZ*	2.1	4
	Fox	WVBT*	1.3	2
	Pax	WPXV*	0.3	1

Non-news programming. Source: Nielsen Media Research, May 2003

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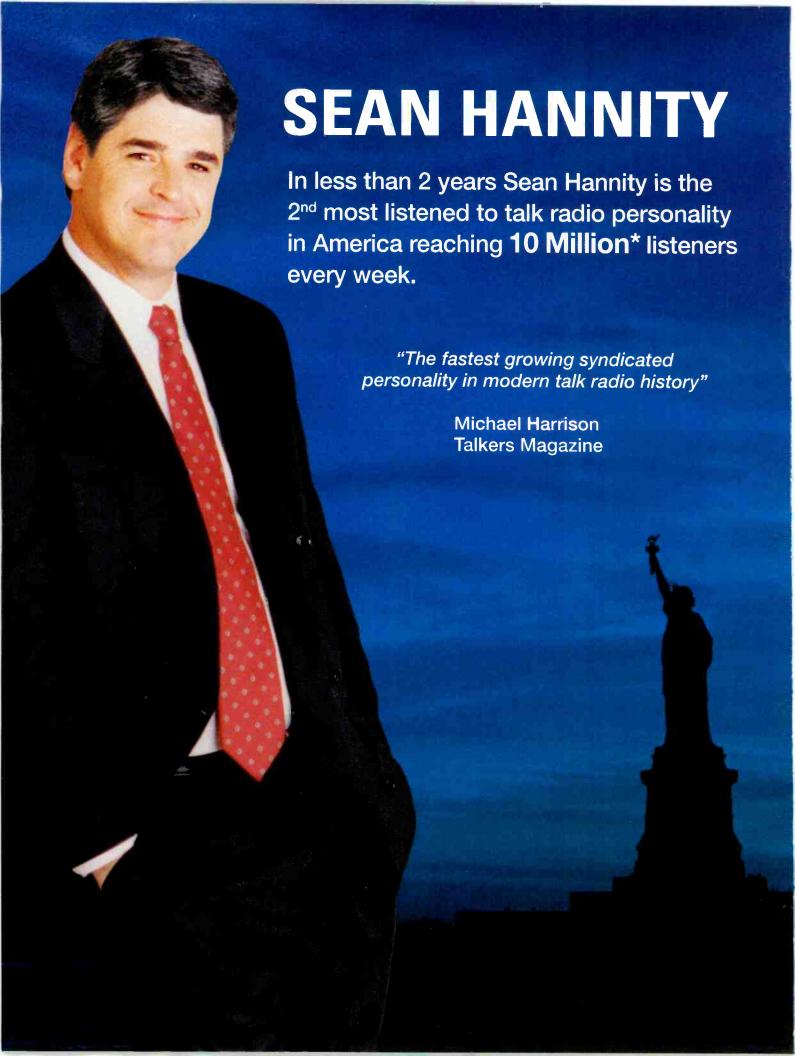
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WABC New York	2.8	4.7	+68%	1.6	3.9	+144%
KABC Los Angeles	1.9	3.2	+68%	1.0	2.6	+160%
WLS Chicago	2.3	3.7	+61%	1.8	3.5	+94%
WMAL Washington	3.2	5.8	+81%	1.9	5.0	+163%
KFMB-AM San Diego	2.1	4.3	+105%	1.1	3.4	+209%
WKRC Cincinnati	2.8	7.5	+168%	1.8	5.3	+194%
KSL Salt Lake City	5.1	10.5	+106%	4.9	10.6	+116%
WDBO Orlando	5.0	9.0	+80%	2.8	8.0	+186%
KXNT Las Vegas	2.9	3.9	+34%	2.5	3.9	+56%
KTOK Oklahoma City	3.0	5.5	+83%	1.9	5.2	+174%
WHIO Dayton	2.7	4.7	+74%	2.0	3.3	+65%
KRMG Tulsa	7.2	9.0	+25%	6.5	8.1	+25%
WOOD-AM Grand Rapids	4.7	7.9	+68%	5.2	7.7	+48%

#### Win BIG with The Sean Hannity Show

Call ABC Radio Networks: (212) 735-1700





Source:

<sup>\*</sup> Arbitron Nationwide, Fall 2002, Persons 12+, Mon-Fri 12p-12mid, Weekly Reach Arbitron, Winter 2003, Metro, Program Exact Times, Persons 12+, Adults 25-54, Average Quarter-Hour Share compared to Arbitron survey before adding The Sean Hannity Show.

Watching the Detective

Under the leadership of CEO Henry Schleiff, Court TV has deftly evolved from gavel-to-gavel trial coverage to an entertainment service that explores the science of crime investigation BY ALEC FOEGE

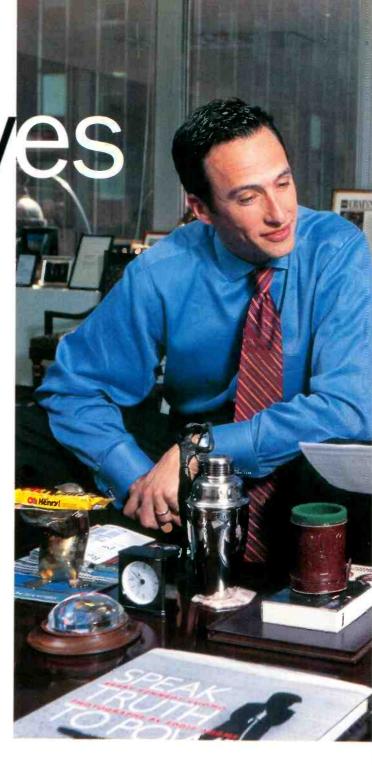
Henry Schleiff isn't a practicing lawyer, but he plays one in the TV world. His expansive corner office overlooking Manhattan's Third Avenue resembles that of a partner in a white-shoe firm, complete with overstuffed furniture, putting green and hundreds of framed photos of business colleagues and family members. The closely cropped silvery hair, frameless eyeglasses and gray pinstripes all telegraph the image of high-powered attorney. Schleiff even has a law degree and briefly worked at Davis Polk & Wardwell, a top New York law firm.

Don't be fooled, though. Schleiff, chairman and CEO of Court TV, is no legal eagle. And no longer, according to him, is the burgeoning cable network he commands, though it remains a distinctive cable property.

"The split between the foundation," says Schleiff, "which was in place quite solidly when I walked in the door in 1998-trials, expert commentary, analysis-along with what we have added to it in the last four or five years, makes us unique."

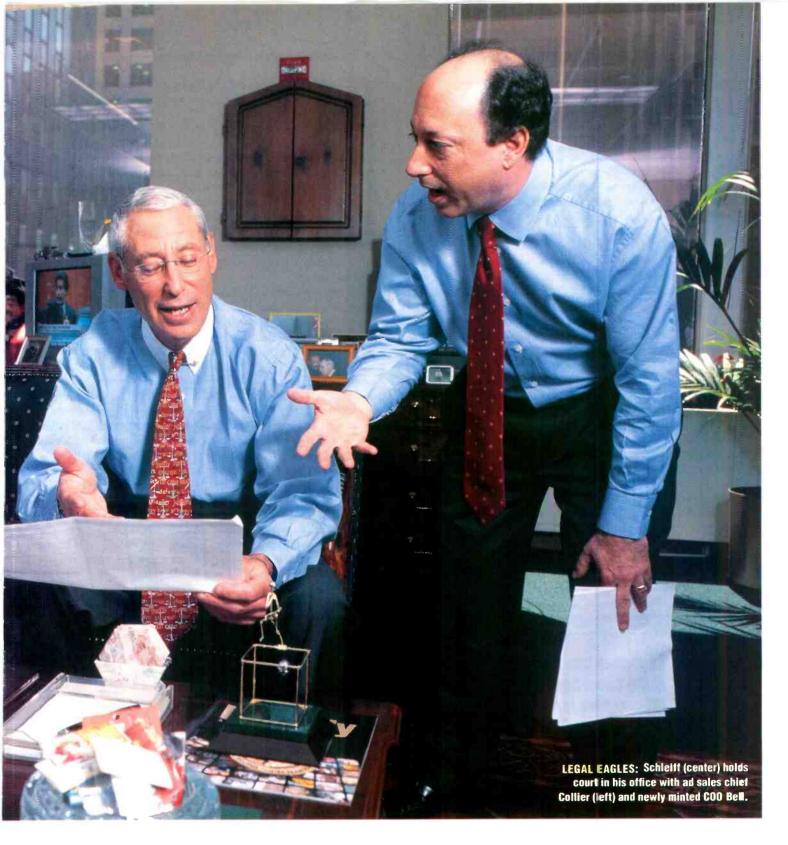
Equally remarkable is Court TV's swift turnaround over the last five years. When Schleiff, a veteran of HBO and Viacom who once freelanced jokes for Saturday Night Live, took the helm in October 1998, Court TV, he recalls, was ranked last out of the 44 cable channels then tracked by Nielsen Media Research. This year, the niche network—currently owned by AOL Time Warner and Liberty Media, which each have a 50 percent stake—finished June with a 0.9 prime-time household rating, a 29 percent increase from June 2002. It also achieved its highest-rated and most-watched Monday night ever on May 12, a 1.3 rating (on the strength of two signature series, Forensic Files and Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege and Justice, and a documentary). Simultaneously it has grown its subscriber base from 30 million to 75.5 million households during the same time period.

Once best known for its gavel-to-gavel coverage of the O.J. Simpson murder trial, Court TV under Schleiff has successfully broadened its niche to include entertainment and documentary programming that capitalizes on a widespread interest in criminal investigations. Using A&E Networks and The Discovery Channel as models, the current



team has built upon a few core strengths—and a handful of reliable offnetwork dramas like Homicide, Cops and NYPD Blue-by gradually adding original programming and honing its brand.

"A clever combination of continual courtroom coverage and appropriate off-network jurisprudence drama has unified the look of the network to audiences and advertisers alike," says John Rash, director of broadcast negotiations at Minneapolis agency Campbell Mithun.



In its early days, Court TV was practically an ad-driven version of C-SPAN, the no-frills, public access window into the U.S. political process. "You park a camera in a courtroom and watch reverently as the judicial system unfolds before you," is how Art Bell, recently promoted to president/COO from executive vp of programming and marketing, describes Court TVs original approach. "That certainly was the vision for the network. Unfortunately it really wasn't enough for a whole net-

work with a business model that was sustaining."

While the daytime court coverage remains, Court TV's prime time has been transformed by its original documentary-style programming including Forensic Files and Power, Privilege and Justice, as well as Hollywood at Large starring Karen Duffy, a.k.a. "Duff." New fall series such as Fake Out, a game show-style investigative show, Mind Games, a tour through the human psyche, and Smoking Gun TV, a spinoff of the popular Web site,

starring comic personality Mo Rocca, promise to deliver an even bigger and more mainstream audience than its founders probably envisioned.

Capitalizing on the success of broadcast network stalwarts like NBC's Law and Order and CBS' CSI franchise—never mind the popularity of crime movies and blockbuster mystery authors like John Grisham and Linda Scottolini—Court TV aims to be kind of a Comedy Central for the crime-solving set.

"I view those offerings as hors d'oeuvres," says Schleiff of the investigative genre. "And Court TV is the 24-hour, 7-day-a-week diner where you know you can reliably go and get a meal of something you want."

The Courtroom Television Network launched in July 1991 as the brainchild of Steven Brill—at the time, the brash editor and publisher of American Lawyer magazine. Then backed by Time Warner, American Lawyer Media, NBC and Cablevision, Brill planned to do to the court system in the United States what American Lawyer Media did for the legal profession: Knock it off its pedestal; give it a brisk, articulate journalistic treatment; and in the process create a lively, commercially viable public forum.

Brill envisioned Court TV "as a very focused news channel," he says today, "and as a place where you always knew where you were when you were there." Brill claims his business models were the most profitable and highly branded cable channels of the era, such as MTV, Nickelodeon and ESPN.

Certainly courtroom dramas were a hot genre at the time. Still, Brill encountered plenty of skeptics. Many agencies were concerned that national advertisers would be driven away by real-life trial subjects they deemed inappropriate. Brill countered by introducing flashy TV news techniques such as live "remotes" from the courthouse, cross-talking anchors, studio analysis and computer-generated graphics. He also relied on American Lawyer's 12 regional legal newspapers to lead his programmers to appropriate local trials worthy of broadcast.

Some law scholars and others in the legal fraternity worried out loud that Court TV would destroy the sanctity of the judicial system. They fretted that sports-like play-by-play commentary and second-guessing by "experts" interjected into live coverage could in some cases be



"A clever combination of courtroom coverage and appropriate off-network jurisprudence drama has unified the look of the network to audiences and advertisers alike." RASH

grounds for a mistrial. But the genie was out of the bottle.

Blessed by the high-profile trials of William Kennedy Smith and the Menendez brothers, Court TV's ratings most memorably surged during the O.J. Simpson trial in 1995, when it once got a 2.92 rating. Otherwise, the fledgling network had serious trouble reaching the 30 million subscribers needed to appear on the radars of national advertisers.

Even worse, by 1996, Brill had run victim to corporate infighting. When Court TV wanted to start local cable services, it hoped to link with local NBC affiliates, an idea NBC liked. But Time Warner's CNN disapproved. Brill says it was Ted Turner, then a Time Warner

vice chairman, who convinced Gerald Levin to retain its stake in the cable property. Brill was ousted in February 1997, making at least \$20 million from the sale of his stake.

By the time Henry Schleiff arrived, NBC had sold its stake and Court TV was floundering. "We had drop notices [from cable operators] in the office the first day I came in," Schleiff recalls, "and for legitimate reasons." The embattled executive spent the early weeks of his tenure visiting operators like Jim Robbins, CEO of Cox Communications, and begging them to give Court TV another chance.

Schleiff, who once produced the syndicated *Maury* show, was convinced that suitable mainstream fare could revive the expiring channel. "The prior management had one vision, that this was, in my judgment, vegetables for vegetarians," he says. "It was law for lawyers and the Mensa group."

Within a year, Court TV purchased rights to the critically acclaimed off-network crime drama *Homicide* and surprised a lot of disbelievers. Even so, some affiliates withdrew, perplexed by the new tack toward entertainment programming. But Court TV stuck to its guns. "By putting that in our prime-time lineup," says Bell, "it gave us a chance to build an audience."

And focus-group research turned up some fascinating data about that audience. One day Bell walked into Schleiff's office and uttered one word: "Forensics." Audience research had demonstrated Court TV viewers were more caught up in the scientific process of finding and convicting criminals than in courtroom drama. The channel was packaging one-hour "digests" of trials when Bell suggested they instead try developing one-hour crime-solving documentaries. Bell also came up with a new tagline for the network, "Join the Investigation."

"We understand that this ultimately comes down to storytelling," says Schleiff. "I don't want to get caught up in the technology of forensics. It's basically a story of human emotion, all of these."

Despite Court TV's uniqueness, Schleiff says the appeal is a familiar one. "I don't think there's any genius to it," he says. "I just think it's to sit back and recognize what you and I are interested in, pure and simple. I actually think that's the untold story of our daytime coverage, because at the end of the day it's not this 'esoteric' trial. It's a soap opera with a beginning, middle and an end."

From now on, each Court TV documentary would have a clearly defined arc, beginning with a high-stakes crime puzzle and slowly unraveling the solution. The channel would also have its own perspective. "When we're telling these stories, we're not looking at the suspects, we're not looking at the victims," says Bell. "We're looking over the shoulder of the investigators when we're telling these stories."

**The real secret, however,** to Court TV's programming approach is that it has a dual purpose, its executives admit. Turns out the same storytelling logic that draws viewers into a crime story is tailor-made for advertisers interested in retaining viewers through the commercial breaks. "Art builds these programs not only to get people to come but to get them to stick around," explains Charlie Collier, executive vp of advertising sales.

Collier, who arrived from Oxygen Media in 2001, points out that Court TV's length of tune-in, the length of time viewers stay with a given program, is the second highest in the cable universe. "We're about 50 percent greater than the cable average in terms of how long people stay tuned," he says. "Ninety-five percent of our audience stays through the breaks—and all of this is not by chance."

Indeed, nearly all programs on Court TV establish the stakes immediately and approach the crime through an unabashedly intellectual



angle, establishing points of entry to the story early and teasing out the conclusion. "There are some neat aspects of this product," says Collier. "that by definition just happen to be good for advertisers."

The network's extensive research highlighted the fact that viewers watch Court TV's investigative-centered shows slightly differently than other programming. "The genre of investigation," says Debbie Reichig, Court's senior vp of sales strategy, "is one that people inherently pay more attention to as the program develops because they want to find out who did it."

In response, Court TV's research and programming departments work closely to coordinate and control the elements of mystery and suspense, so that the clues and evidence unfold at a leisurely pace that is optimal for advertisers. The end result is a sophisticated, high-tech version of the old Saturday matinee cliffhangers. "This specifically is designed to draw viewers in and to keep their attention and to keep that growing throughout the program," says Reichig.

More than most cable networks, perhaps, Court TV has attempted to demonstrate that stickiness-a word all Court TV executives love to bandy about—through follow-up research for their advertisers. In an era when attentiveness has become something of an obsession for media buyers and planners, Court TV's brand of focused qualitative analysis clearly has struck a chord."There is a consistency in expectation and experience by audiences, and advertising investment is following," says Campbell Mithun's Rash.

The strategy is paying financial dividends. Collier says Court TV more than doubled its upfront revenue this year over last—though he wouldn't reveal the actual dollar amount—and it's not even done writing upfront business. Other sources sav Court TV will generate some \$150 million in ad revenue for calendar year 2003, nearly double 2002's total take.

Still, some critics claim that Court TV has marginalized its impact by remaking itself too much in the image of its cable competitors. Rumors of an imminent sale routinely surface, though Schleiff denies the network is on the block.

And at least one prominent observer is not happy with the direction that Court TV has takenfounder Steve Brill. "I think you mix news and entertainment programming at your peril," says Brill, "because it confuses the viewer about the brand and confuses the advertiser and gets you into a different competitive arena in terms of the cost of the programming."

Brill suggests that Court TV was better off when it was smaller. "They're basically pursuing a different economic model of a larger business with larger costs, higher risks and potentially higher profits," he says.

These days, however, Schleiff is too busy to be looking over his shoulder. His current mission is to expand the Court TV brand into new arenas. So

far the network has produced two original feature-length movies, 2002's Guilt by Association, starring Academy Award-winner Mercedes Ruehl, and The Interrogation of Michael Crowe, based on a Court TV-produced documentary about a mother who fought for her son's innocence after he was accused of murdering his sister. Several others were announced last week, including The Perfect Witness: The Debbie Smith Story with Ally Sheedy and Political Asylum with Juliette Lewis. Earlier this month, Court TV made a deal with Infinity Broadcasting to produce two-minute spots based on content from the

Smoking Gun Web site to air on Infinity stations nationwide.

Forensic Files and

er, Privilege and

Michael Crowe.

Dominick Dunne's Pow-

Justice, and the telefilm

The Interrogation of

Schleiff has also extended Court TV's public service effort, a natural fit for a network fascinated with the judicial process. Choices and Consequences, a half-hour Court TV production made for school civics and social studies classes, is now under the "Keep America Safe" rubric the channel has developed as an ever-widening umbrella for its ongoing projects with law-enforcement agencies, youth groups and community organizations.

Now Schleiff says he has a high-class problem: Court TV's audience is expanding so rapidly that its name no longer seems to encompass its breadth of offerings. "Court TV to many people still signals trials," he says. "So we may be the first channel in the history of the medium to change names for all sorts of good reasons."

While Schleiff promises a name-change a la Spike TV is not in the immediate future, changing the perceptions of new viewers and advertisers remains a primary goal. One recent improvement is the network's state-of-the-art, computerized control center, housed on an upper floor of Court TV headquarters, that enabled, among other things, the network to go live nationally with the arraignment of Scott Peterson while preserving ad schedules on both coasts. Straightening his bald-eagle cufflinks. Schleiff starts behaving lawyerly again as he talks of the little channel that could. "I'm not this bleeding-heart liberal," he says, "but I think we can do important programming—and, well-executed, we can get good numbers with it."

#### Vinvers

#### MAGAZINES

Chris Stone has been named editor of Sports Illustrated on Campus, a weekly sports magazine for college students set to launch in September. Stone was previously a senior editor at SI....Meredith Corp. has named Lauren Wiener managing director of sales and marketing for Meredith Interactive Media. She had been vp and general manager of the Seventeen Internet Group for Primedia... Rainer Jenss was promoted to publisher for National Geographic Kids, from associate publisher...Reader's Digest has named Lauren Bogad Jay associate publisher/group marketing. Jay rejoins RD after serving as marketing director and creative marketing manager in the 1990s. She was most recently associate publisher/marketing for YM.

#### **NETWORK TV**

Olivia Cohen-Cutler was promoted to senior vp, broadcast standards and practices at ABC Inc. Cohen-Cutler, a lawyer and a 16-year veteran at ABC, has served in several positions there, including vp, labor relations, West Coast, before becoming vp of broadcast standards and practices in 1997...NBC's West Coast financial officer, Kimberly Williams, was appointed senior vp of finance for the NFL's media division. which includes the new NFL Network.

D. Charles Haugabrook was named vp of sales channel development for Time Warner Cable. He was previously president and managing partner of Orlando, Fla.-based consultancy Rainmaker Partners International. At TWC. Haugabrook will drive sales of digital video and high-speed services.

#### **AGENCIES**

Leslie Poliak has been named senior vp, director of marketing, West Coast, at KSL Media. Poliak was previously president of KSL's San Francisco office. Prior to that, she was media supervisor at Lois/Pitts/Gershon...At Kansas City, Mo.-based NKH&W, Sonja Youngwith has joined as an associate media director. She had been a media manager for several packaged-goods brands at Starcom MediaVest Group in Chicago.

# liaelite

**EDITED BY ANNE TORPEY-KEMPH** 

# Quicktakes

#### ORGANIC STYLE LIFESTYLE GURU DANNY

Seo was on eco-chic trend-spotting duty during L.A.'s recent Fashion Week, first making the scene at an anti-fur party at The Ultimate

Crib. where he hobnobbed with the likes of actresses Rachel Leigh Cook, starring on the WB's Fearless this fall; Joely Fisher, wearing an eco-friendly skirt made of recycled handkerchiefs; and Eliza Dushku (Bring It On), who'd been gleaning sex tips from the "You Can Get More...Satisfaction"





team left the links with the best score in the recent Bob Goen Toyota Invitational golf tourney, thanks in part to the off-Broadway talents of Judy Kave. Kave, star of Great

> White Way hits Phantom of the Opera and Mamma Mia, was the celebrity member of the team consisting of Paramount Advertiser Sales' Marc Hirsch and Paul Montoya and Paramount Domestic TV's Dennis Emerson and Richard Golden. They faced formidable competition at the Eisenhower Golf

Course in Colorado Springs from the teams with actor Kevin "Hercules" Sorbo and Olympic ice skater Scott Hamilton, but it's



no wonder Kave helped lead them to the win: Her nephew Jonathan is the Kaye who won the PGA Tour's Buick Classic at the Westchester Country Club in New York the same day the Goen tourney began. The annual charity event hosted by Bob Goen, of Paramount TV's syndicated

Entertainment Tonight, has raised nearly \$200,000 for the Colorado chapter of the Make-a-Wish foundation in eight vears...After several guest appearances on Fox News Channel's weekend business program Cashin' In, Wayne Rogers now has his own seat on the set. The former  $M^*A^*S^*H$ star, a successful entrepreneur and financier involved in retail (Stop-N-Save convenience stores and Kleinfeld bridal shops), production and consulting businesses, has signed on as a regular contributor to Cashin' In. He'll also offer analysis on other FNC signature business shows Your World With Neil Cavuto and Bulls and Bears, focusing primarily on personal investment strategies and stock market fluctuations.

# DIST Special

#### **Successful Plans Saluted**

About 200 agency and client executives gathered at the W Hotel in New York recently to fete the best and brightest in media planning at the Media Plan of the Year reception and luncheon. Sponsored by Rainbow Media Holdings with the Magazine Publishers of America and presented by Mediaweek, the event was headlined by Ali Landry, host of WE network's Full Frontal Fashion. Highlights included a double victory for Crispin Porter + Bogusky, whose campaign for the BMW Mini won for best use of magazines and best campaign spending between \$10 million and \$25 million.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATE RYAN



Showing off her team's award for best use of newspapers, Horizon Media's Ruby Gottlieb (I.), with event host Ali Landry and Horizon teammate James Schore



USA Today executives Jeannie Morton (I.), Lor Erdos (second from left) and Melissa Saydor (r.) with members of the Crispin Porter + Bogusky team that took home double honors—Reed Carlson, Steve Sapka and John Herman



On hand to represent event sponsor Rainbow Media Holdings were (I. to r.) Arlene Manos, David Kline and Helen Karas.

Universal McCann's
Alfa O'Neill (I.) celebrated with colleagues
Sande Bovis and Nancy
Dunn after receiving
the POY award with her
team for best campaign spending more
than \$25 million, for
the launch of Columbia
TriStar's Spider-Man
movie last year.





Mediaweek publisher
Linda D'Adamo (c.)
congratulates Amy
Hume and Jack
Sullivan of Starcom
Worldwide, part of the
winning team for best
campaign spending
less than \$1 million,
for Kellogg's Special K
KickStart diet.



Rosemary
O'Connell (I.) and
Kelly Hundt are all
smiles as honorees from
Hadrian's Wall,
whose plan for the
Illinois Department
of Public Health
took top honors in
the best use of
local television
category.

# inside media

#### NEWS OF THE MARKET

#### El Diario Sold to Investor Group

Spanish-language broadcaster Entravision Communications has agreed to sell El Diario/La Prensa to CPK NYC, LLC, a private investment group led by Clarity Partners LP, BMO Halyard Partners, ACON Investments and Knight Paton Media, for \$19.9 million. The New York paper, the nation's oldest Spanish-language daily, this year is marking its 90th anniversary. Entravision, which owns radio, TV and outdoor properties, acquired the paper in 2000 with its \$252 million purchase of Latin Communications Group. Entravision CEO Walter Ulloa said the sale supports the company's strategy to focus on core operations in TV, radio and outdoor.

#### NBC's Restaurant Signs Sponsors

Magna Global clients American Express, Coors Brewing Co. and Mitsubishi Motors are sponsors of the unscripted drama/reality show *The Restaurant*, which premiered on NBC last night at 10 p.m. The series will run over six episodes and is executive produced by Magna Global Entertainment with Mark Burnett Productions and Reveille. In addition to airing commercial spots, each of the three advertisers will have a presence in the show, which focuses on restaurateur Rocco DiSpirito as he opens a New York eatery and follows the wait staff as they serve customers.

#### **ESPN Radio to Sell 10-Second Spots**

ABC Radio Networks is planning a 2004 launch of a 10-second spot network on ESPN Radio. Popular with advertisers because the inventory is usually locally voiced within must-hear programming such as news and weather, ABC's move follows Premiere Radio Networks and Westwood One, which have offered 10-second networks to advertisers for more than two years.

#### **Infinity Forms New Sales Group**

Infinity Broadcasting, the second-largest radio group, last week launched a new sales and marketing group called Infinity Solutions & Beyond. Formerly known as Infinity Promotions Group, ISB's broadened mission is to create advertising packages that use Infinity's 183 radio stations as the core of multiplatform campaigns that include promotions such as live events, in-store programs and outdoor. The group will also work with Viacom Plus, Viacom's cross-platform

division, when other Viacom properties are involved. Richard Lobel, who joined Infinity in February as executive vp of Infinity Promotions Group, will head up ISB as executive vp. He reports to David Goodman, executive vp of marketing for Infinity. ISB has already created multimillion—dollar campaigns for companies including American Express, DaimlerChrysler and AOL Broadband.

#### 4 Shops Vie for Brown & Williamson Biz

Brown & Williamson Corp. has selected four agencies to compete for its \$50 million media buying account. The finalists are: MindShare, Media First International, Media Kitchen, and incumbent MediaCom. A decision is expected later this month. ADvice & ADvisors in New York is managing the review. B&W markets Kool and Lucky Strike cigarettes, among others.

#### **Public TV Launches New Rep Group**

WGBH, the flagship TV station for the Public Broadcasting System that provides nearly one-third of PBS' prime-time lineup, has launched the Sponsorship Group for Public Television, replacing the station's participation in PBS Sponsorship Group, the national sales team that represented a consortium of stations. The full-service sales and marketing group will seek advertising sponsors for popular series including American Experience, Antiques Roadshow, Frontline, Masterpiece Theatre and Nova.

#### **Clear Channel Launches Free Magazine**

Clear Channel, owner of the largest group of radio stations and live entertainment venues, has launched a free magazine called Music Guide Live! co-branding the company's local radio stations with its entertainment assets. Published twice in the summer, in June and August, and distributed at concerts in 30 markets including Philadelphia, Boston and Phoenix, the magazine showcases artists, music news, touring information and local market information. Local stations are selling local advertising in the magazine, and national sales are handled by Professional Sports Publications. CC also has created a Web site, www.musicguidelive.com, containing more information on tickets, national contests, artists and national sponsors, including American Express, XM Radio, Heineken, Panasonic, U.S. Army, Tommy Hilfiger, Smirnoff and Dunkin' Donuts.

#### Calendar

The National Association of Broadcasters is presenting a management development seminar for television executives July 13-18 at Northwestern University's Media Management Center in Evanston, Ill. Contact: 202-429-5368.

The Television Critics Association's summer press tour, focusing on new cable and broadcast network TV programming for the upcoming season, is under way at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles, with upcoming presentations by ABC, July 14-15; TCA Day, July 16; Fox, July 17-18; TCA Awards, July 19; CBS, July 20-21; UPN, July 22; TCA Day, July 23; NBC, July 24-25. Contact: www.tvcritics.org.

Radio and Television News Directors Foundation and several other sponsoring groups will present a **National News Leadership Workshop for Broadcast, Online and Print Journalists** July 19 at the Hyatt Regency in Austin, Texas. Contact: Jacquelene Robinson at 202-467-5202 or www.rtnda.org.

Cable Telecommunications Association for Marketing will present the **CTAM Summit,** this year titled "The Art and Science of Marketing. Strategy. Creative. Results.," July 20-23 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle. Contact: 703-549-4200 or visit www.ctam.com.

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council will present a conference titled "Building and Financing Minority Broadcast Companies"

July 21-22 at the Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington. The event aims to provide strategies for new market entrants and existing broadcasters to survive under the new FCC regulations. Contact: 202-332-0500 or visit www.mmtconline.org.

The Association of National Advertisers will present marketing-training programs on creative advertising, media strategy and direct marketing Aug. 4-6 at the Westin Times Square in New York. Contact: 212-697-5950 or visit www.ana.net.

#### **EAST**

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# **Shop Till You Drop**

#### With shopping editorial flying off the shelves, Marie Claire moves to reclaim its stake as a fashion reader's hest het

THE ECONOMY MAY BE AT A STANDSTILL AND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE STILL LOW, BUT one would be hard-pressed to believe it given the popularity of shoppingthemed editorial in fashion magazines. Condé Nast's Lucky, launched just three years ago, boasts an 850,000 circulation rate base that will

jump to 900,000 in January. In the men's field, Fairchild Publications' Details this September will roll out a shopping insert called Vital File, and sometime next year Condé Nast will launch a version of Lucky for men.

Hoping to take advantage of this momentum is Hearst Magazines' Marie Claire, which pioneered the shopping genre nearly a decade ago with franchises like Splurge vs. Steal, Runway to Realway and Fashion at Every Price. This summer, Marie Claire is returning to its roots, re-emphasizing what had once set it apart from the more traditional fashion titles.

In the July issue, the front-of-book Marie Claire Style section was renamed Marie Claire Shopping (as it had been four years ago), and a new service twist was added to the mix. While editor in chief Lesley Jane Seymour relies on her in-house fashion team, as well as industry insiders, for advice and expertise, for the first time their tips are being added to the pages of the magazine.

"We've never given that to readers," Sevmour says. "It's not service in the usual wayit's insider service."

In the August issue, for example, Marie Claire gets help from Gap style director Rachel DiCarlo, who models a pair of jeans worn three ways-for work, drinks and dinner. And in September, Anna Garner, fashion director at Henri Bendel, will show readers how accessories can snazz up a fall wardrobe.

August will also introduce What's Hot Now, a section of fashion news and service.

"It's [like] black skirts being back in [style]—we've always had them, but we just need to take the hem up," Seymour says of the changes. "We're shining a light on what we already have and adding a service element. Lucky is great at showing stuff, but what's happened

is everybody has copied the stuff idea, [and] you have to go a level beyond that."

Of course, Lucky has its own take on all this. "What it says to me is that Marie Claire has observed the tremendous amount of success Lucky has enjoyed in a very short amount of time," says Lucky vp/publisher Sandy Golinkin.



Back to the future: Seymour has re-emphasized shopping, renaming the style pages MC Shopping.

"And while they have always covered shopping, it's a fraction of their editorial. They clearly feel this is a strong area of interest."

Soon, Marie Claire's longtime tagline "for women of the world"

will be changed to reflect the magazine's "authority in fashion and beauty," says vp/ publisher Katherine Rizzuto. And next year, the Hearst monthly will run 35-plus-page Marie Claire Shopping Guide inserts in both the May and November issues. Reprints will also be sent to select malls, including the Glendale Galleria near Los Angeles and Tyson's Galleria outside Washington.

Media buyers say Marie Claire's changes are a smart move. "It's both an effort to cash in and regain some of the territory they've had previously," says Brett Stewart, senior vp/director of strategic print services at Universal McCann. "Every magazine has to evolve with the times, and it appears that the Lucky-style publication is the flavor of the year."

While shopping is "core to the DNA of Marie Claire," Rizzuto asserts there is much more to the magazine, including its continued coverage of women's issues. In September, for example, Seymour will add a new back page called Woman Warrior, a Q&A with extraor-

### Mediaweek Magazine Monitor

BIWEEKLIES July 14, 2003										
	ISSUE DATE	CURRENT PAGES	ISSUE DATE LAST YEAR	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT CHANGE	YTD PAGES	YTD LAST YEAR	PERCEN' CHANGE		
BUSINESS/ENT	ERTAINM	ENT								
ESPN The Magazine	21-Jul	52.15	22-Jul	50.96	2.34%	783.98	743.52	5.44%		
Forbes	21-Jul	90,14	22-Jul	136.50	-33.96%	1,522.91	1,602.01	-4.94%		
Fortune	21-Jul	122.25	22-Jul	138.55	-11.76%	1,604.71	1,819.11	-11.79%		
National Review	28-Jul	8.17	29-Jul	14.50	-43.67%	199.31	196.88	1.23%		
Rolling Stone	24-Jul	63.27	25-Jul	42.50	48.87%	728.35	750.76	-2.98%		
CATEGORY TOTAL		335.98		383.01	-12.28%	4,839.26	5,112.28	-5.34%		

dinary women around the world.

Meanwhile, Marie Claire continues to grow its rate base. In January, the monthly will rise from 875,000 to 935,000, keeping it a step ahead of Lucky's 900,000 January circulation. MC's Rizzuto and Lucky's Golinkin both project their titles will hit 1 million in early '05.

On the ad front, Marie Claire this year through August is flat at 908 ad pages, reports the Mediaweek Monitor. Lucky is up 68.8 percent, to 848 pages. -Lisa Granatstein

## Pop Up

#### Barnett revamps *Teen People*

Since joining Time Inc.'s Teen People in May from Vanguarde Media's Honey, Amy Barnett's top priority as managing editor has been to boost the monthly's cool quotient, and in turn its circulation. While Barnett's comprehensive redesign will be seen in TP's October issue, changes in style and tone are already evident in the August edition.

"It's not so much a structural change as a complete visual change," Barnett explains.

"We're trying to make sure the aesthetic reflects what teens are surrounded by-urban culture, MTV, the Web and video games." Barnett describes her cover strategy as

New m.e. Barnett (below) has re-energized the cover and added a hipper tone.



a need for colors to pop, along with far more cover lines and images. "I just want to make sure the issue pops on newsstand," she says, referring to August's Reese Witherspoon cover. "Teens are really able to tell what hits and what misses. There is an immediate visceral reaction that they

a "sea change," citing

want to pick this up. It's the color, it's the font sizes, it's the sexy energy of the cover photography."

Inside, readers will also sense a change in the magazine's tone. Since its launch in 1998,

	ISSUE DATE	CURRENT	ISSUE DATE	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT	YTD PAGES	LAST YEAR	PERCEN'
NEWS/BUSINESS		FAGES	LAST TEAR	LAST TEAR	UIANUL	TAGES	CAST TEAM	Ulimital
BusinessWeek	14-Jul	63.42	15-Jul	68.00	-6.74%	1,455,61	1.667.83	-12.72%
The Economist	5-Jul	30.00	6-Jul	41.00	-26.83%	1.083.00	1,315.00	-17.649
Newsweek <sup>E</sup>	14-Jul	31.73	15-Jul	27.95	13.52%	1,025.32	1.005.48	1.979
The New Republic+		• •	NO ISSUE			186.35	214.71	-13.219
TimeE	14-Jul	60.77	15-Jul	37.24	63.18%	1,215,79	1,191.32	2.059
J.S. News & World Report	14-Jul	15.34	NO ISSUE		N.A.	659.35	657.17	0.339
	O ISSUE		15-Jul	7.80	N.A.	222.50	234,70	-5.209
Category Total		201.26		181.99	10.59%	5,847.92	6,286.21	-6.97
SPORTS/ENTERTAINME	NT/LEISU	BE						
AutoWeek	14-Jul	28.37	15-Jul	22.06	28.60%	630.05	650.53	-3.15
Entertainment Weekly	11-Jul	40.84	12-Jul	34.26	19.21%	951.25	936.59	1.57
Golf World	11-Jul	21.68	12-Jul	33.50	-35.28%	628,44	853.67	-26.38
New York	14-Jul	42.70	15-Jul	42,70	0.00%	1,201.80	1,383.80	-13.15
People	14-Jul	62.40	15-Jul	48.40	28.93%	1,930.24	1,882.07	2.56
Sporting News	14-Jนไ	9.17	15-Jul	10.16	-9.74%	367.23	389.45	-5.71
Sports Illustrated1	14-Jul	58.51	15-Jul	63.68	-8.12%	1,227.57	1,326.66	-7.47
The New Yorker <sup>D</sup>	14-Jul	29.07	15-Jul	25.58	13.64%	1,085.73	1,048.80	3.52
Time Out New York	9-Jul	51.88	10-Jul	51.44	0.85%	1,877.93	1,810.65	3.72
TV Guide	12-Jul	35.06	13-Jul	31.84	10.11%	1,245.18	1,239.98	0.429
Us Weekly+			NO ISSUE			663.74	528.67	25.55
Category <b>To</b> tal		379.68		363.87	4.34%	11,809.16	12,052.87	-2.02
SUNDAY MAGAZINES								
American Profile	13-Jul	8.20	14-Jul	8.10	1.23%	242.95	236.38	2.78
Parade	13-Jul	10.24	14-Jul	11.51	-11.03%	361.56	346.30	4.419
USA Weekend	13-Jul	11.78	14-Jul	7.67	53.52%	340.22	339.69	0.16
Category Total		30.22		27.28	10.78%	944.73	922.37	2.42
TOTALS		611.16		573.14	6.63%	18,601.81	19,261.45	-3.42

	ISSUE DATE	CURRENT PAGES	ISSUE DATE LAST YEAR	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT CHANGE	YTD PAGES	YTD LAST YEAR	PERCEN
<b>NEWS/BUSINES</b>	S							
BusinessWeek	7-Jul	40.41	8-Jul	48.45	-16.5£%	1,392.19	1,599.83	-12.98%
The Economist	28-Jun	48.00	29-Jun	55.00	-12.72%	1,053.00	1,274.00	-17.35%
Vewsweek <sup>E</sup>	7-Jul	18.63	8-Jul	27.17	-31.42%	993.84	977.53	1.67%
The New Republic+/D	7-Jul	6.78	8-Jul	9.48	-28.48%	186.35	214.71	-13.219
Time <sup>E</sup>	7-Jul	34.13	8-Jul	32,00	6.6€%	1,150.96	1,154.08	-0.279
J.S. News & World Repor	rtDD	NO ISSUE	8-Jul	22.17	NA.	641.55	657.17	-2.38%
The Weekly StandardD	7-Jul	10.00		NO ISSUE	NA.	222.50	226.90	-1.949
Category Total		157.95		194.27	-18.70%	5,640.39	6,104.22	-7.60%
SPORTS/ENTER	TAINME	NT/LEISU	RE					
AutoWeek	7-Jul	27.58	8-Jul	22.64	21.82%	601.68	628.47	-4.269
Entertainment Weekly			NO ISSUE			911.19	902.33	0.989
Golf World	4-Jul	16,00	5-Jul	14.33	11.65%	606.76	820.17	-26.02°
New York		NO ISSUE	8-Jul	28.80	N A.	1,159.10	1,341.10	-13.57
People	7-Jul	62.20	8-Jul	52.58	18.30%	1,867.84	1,833.67	1.869
Sporting News	7-Jul	7.83	8-Jul	13.33	-41.2€%	358.06	379.29	-5.609
Sports Illustrated1	7-Jul	29.07	8-Jul	41.47	-29.90%	1,163.83	1,262.99	-7.859
The New Yorker	7-Jul	17.03	8-Jul	16.62	2.47%	1,056.66	1,023.22	3.279
Time Out New York	2-Jul	56.25	3-Jul	65.81	-14.55%	1,826.06	1,759.22	3.809
TV Guide	5-Jul	21.59	6-Jul	17.32	24.65%	1,210.12	1,208.14	0.169
Us Weekly+/D	7-Jul	48.83	8-Jul	30.33	61.00%	663.74	528.67	25.559
Category Total		286.38		303.23	-5.5€%	11,425.04	11,687,27	-2.249
SUNDAY MAGA	ZINES							
American Profile	6-Jul	5.60	7-Jul	8.45	-33.73%	234.75	228.28	2.839
Parade	6-Jul	7.18	7-Jul	6.69	7.32%	351.09	334.79	4.879
USA Weekend	6-Jul	7.94	7-Jul	8.89	-10.65%	328.44	332.02	-1.089
Category Total		20.72		24.03	-13.77%	914.28	895.09	2.149
TOTALS		465.05		521.53	-10.83%	17,979.71	18,686.58	-3.789

Teen People largely has avoided using colloquialisms, opting to tell it straight. Now, the magazine will try to reflect the way teens talk to each other. "The way kids use language has changed. 'Bling' is in the dictionary," says Barnett. "To not use colloquialisms makes us look staid."

Teen People in recent years has faced stiff

competition from a growing number of teen titles, including Hearst's 1 million-circ Cosmo-Girl!. Teen People's paid circulation in last year's second half fell 2.2 percent to 1.6 million, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations. Newsstand sales slid 8.3 percent.

As a result of its falling circ, Teen People is among several titles in the teen category that

are trimming their circulation rate bases. In February, TP's will dip to 1.45 million from 1.6 million. At the same time, the monthly's cover price will rise from \$2.99 to \$3.49, making it one of the most pricey books in the category.

Other teen books lowering their rate bases include G+J USA Publishing's YM, which in October will fall to 2 million from 2.2 million. Hearst, which last month acquired Seventeen, is said to be close to trimming the title's 2.35 million guaranteed circ to 2.1 million. A Hearst representative, however, says the company is still exploring its options.

Media buyers applaud Teen People's rate base reduction. "I would much rather have a realistic number," says Carol McDonald, group director, print at OMD/USA. "There are just so many teens and a finite amount of allowance money."

TP's ad pages through August are flat at 573, reports the Mediaweek Monitor. —LG

## **Trying Times**

#### Ad pages hit June slowdown

The magazine industry lost some momentum in June, as total ad pages declined 2.3 percent over June 2002, according to the Publishers Information Bureau. The falloff curbed the total gain for the first half of the year, which closed out at 1.8 percent, compared to a 2.9 percent bump for the first five months. The business does not appear to be out of the woods just yet.

"The softening in ad pages reflects the uncertain economic environment," says Ellen Oppenheim, executive vp/chief marketing officer of the Magazine Publishers of America, pointing to categories sensitive to economic swings. Among those affected include Public Transportation, Hotels & Resorts, which through June was down 16.9 percent to \$51.1 million; Retail, down 23.9 percent to \$65.6 million; and Technology, off 7.4 percent to \$79 million.

Still, there are glimmers of hope. Total magazine revenue (which does not take into account publishers' rate-card discounts) through June rose 9.9 percent to \$8.6 billion; the June increase was 8.5 percent, to \$1.6 billion.

Automotive, the largest and best-performing magazine ad category, continues to do well, with spending up 25.2 percent to \$221.4 million in the first half. Oppenheim notes that carmakers—both domestic and leading imports have been spending strongly for the past 12 months. Other categories seeing solid increases include Drugs & Remedies, up 7.6 percent

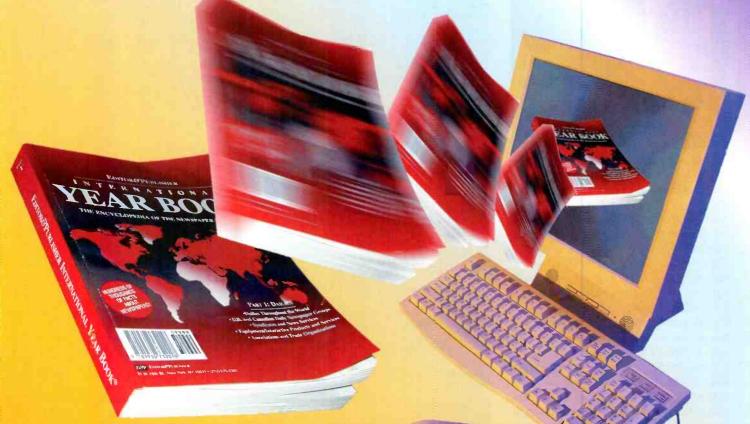
#### Mediaweek Magazine Monitor

	RATE BASE	CIRC.	CURRENT	PAGES		YEAR	YTO	
THEINESS TO THE		) (2ND HALF '02	PAGES	LAST YR.	% CHANGE	TO DATE	LAST YEAR	% CHANGI
SUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY lusiness 2.0 ntrepreneurP ast Company ortune Small Business <sup>10</sup> nc echnology Review <sup>10</sup> Vired	550,000 540,000 725,000 1,000,000 665,000 310,000 500,000	567,075 547,421 734,449 1,000,100 <sup>8</sup> 680,719 316,588 531,491	66.15 90.89 47.45 56.61 60.83	45.00 82.50 46.19 NO ISSUE 51.36 NO ISSUE 43.82	47.00% 10.17% 2.73% 10.22% 38.82%	406.32 889.97 465.72 265.82 486.69 176.75 609.44	393.02 863.58 461.93 232.27 476.11 140.03 449.23	3.38% 3.06% 0.82% 14.44% 2.22% 26.22% 35.66%
ategory Total	000,000	001,101	321.93	268.87	19.74%	3,300.71	3,016.17	9.43%
INTERTAINMENT lender <sup>W</sup> lovdeline's Hollywood Life <sup>9/1</sup> remiere <sup>1</sup> he Source pin libe <sup>10</sup> ategory Total	410,000 250,000 600,000 475,000 525,000 800,000	N.A.C 251,986 607,140 487,425 537,096 818,169	64.34 36.83 <b>NO ISSUE</b> 106.43 60.65 85.58 <b>353.83</b>	54.12 32.00 26.74 103.16 57.12 96.39 369_53	18.88% 15.09% N.A. 3.17% 6.18% -11.21% -4.25%	379.46 131.32 235.33 737.80 425.57 716.73 2,626.21	195.53 159.14 236.05 699.44 479.10 676.44 2,445.70	94.07% -17.48% -0.31% 5.48% -11.17% 5.96% 7.38%
NTHUSIAST							2,110.70	7.00 /0
utomobile ackpacker <sup>9</sup> lcycling <sup>11</sup> oating ar and Driver ruising World ycle World ying off Digest olf Magazine lotor Boating lotor Trend opular Mechanics opular Photography opular Science ower & Motoryacht oad & Track alling World <sup>10</sup> ernes Mogazine <sup>10</sup>	700,000	644,281 298,376 286,090 206,574 1,387,113 156,212 302,218 1,564,475 1,410,001 134,126 1,283,280 1,220,205 453,087 1,485,911 156,6598 784,978 55,103 453,022 214,316	63.11 NO ISSUE 36.52 73.66 93.01 81.54 79.08 78.33 104.03 110.28 78.32 89.22 56.72 127.11 52.70 182.16 96.83 NO ISSUE NO ISSUE NO ISSUE	76.10 43.91 80.67 88.75 78.92 91.97 91.15 108.38 109.67 82.47 70.00 58.88 127.33 52.30 194.18 107.20	-17.07% -16.82% -8.69% 4.80% 3.33% -14.02% -14.06% -4.01% 0.56% -5.03% -27.46% -3.67% 0.76% -6.19% -9.67%	543.36 320.05 346.90 831.03 751.64 720.61 650.98 498.41 1,052.40 983.39 762.35 762.35 762.35 769.48 573.17 1,031.99 451.20 1,539.54 276.73 327.47 257.86	519.08 298.59 270.59 896.83 677.16 746.11 725.30 531.98 941.40 905.18 836.88 556.50 512.36 1,132.10 364.81 1,578.69 745.45 265.50 351.89	4.68% 7.19% 28.20% -7.34% 11.00% -3.42% -6.31% 11.79% 8.64% 27.49% 11.87% 23.68% -2.48% 4.23% -6.94% -6.94%
achting ategory Total	132,000	137,444	136.57 1,539.19	132.07 1,593.95	3.41% -3.44%	1,284.77 14,712.52	1,305.32 14,497.48	-1.57% 1.48%
ASHION/BEAUTY   ure    osmopolitan  e    ssence   lamour   arper's Bazaar   oney10   StyleYY   ane 10   attina11   ucky   arrie Claire   ogue   attegory Total	900,000 2,700,000 950,000 1,050,000 2,200,000 350,000 1,500,000 650,000 250,000 750,000 850,000 1,100,000 450,000	949,669 3,021,720 1,000,638 1,061,681 742,079 352,327 1,670,792 678,979 254,833 818,250 943,100 1,257,787 464,169	91.38 136.73 79.19 93.41 110.40 52.53 52.57 150.70 82.21 73.25 94.34 94.13 179.49 88.04 1,378.37	88.10 137.69 81.91 77.23 110.32 80.60 67.73 173.74 85.30 52.36 67.76 113.97 171.66 115.54 1,423.91	3.72% -0.70% -3.32% 20.95% 0.07% -34.83% -22.38% -13.26% -3.62% 39.90% -17.41% 4.56% -23.80% -3.20%	781.59 1,131.51 872.05 756.58 975.18 658.24 301.70 1,814.46 523.76 525.32 847.78 908.44 1,553.59 956.76 12,606.96	704.36 1,121.10 799.48 646.75 874.98 738.93 315.66 1,675.65 466.54 375.65 505.17 900.76 1,481.81 899.25 11,506.09	10.96% 0.93% 9.08% 16.98% 11.45% -10.92% 4.42% 8.28% 12.26% 39.84% 67.82% 0.85% 4.84% 6.40% 9.57%
on Appétit boking Light <sup>11</sup> bod & Wine burmet ategory Total	1,250,000 1,550,000 900,000 950,000 <sup>Q</sup>	1,322,577 1,574,194 951,751 958,974	42.38 100.06 68.84 53.80 <b>265.08</b>	49.28 80.21 63.64 47.14 240.27	-14,00% 24,75% 8,17% 14,13% 10,33%	667.97 881.08 809.89 676.03 <b>3,034.97</b>	628.51 750.95 719.77 662.44 <b>2,761.67</b>	6.28% 17.33% 12.52% 2.05% <b>9.90%</b>
ENERAL INTEREST ography uideposts arper's Magazine ational Geographic eopie en Español 11 eader's Digest avoy10 mithsonian e Atlantic Monthly 11 sategory Total	700,000 2,600,000 205,000 6,600,000 400,000 12,000,000 2,000,000 450,000 1,000,000	705,597 2,656,622 229,434 6,657,424 413,545 11,944,898 323,548 2,045,430 529,834 1,131,144	25.67 27.15 21.00 30.94 63.39 89.73 50.49 39.70 NO ISSUE 95.13 443.20	21.96 21.00 15.00 30.82 65.83 85.48 68.78 38.30 88.50 435.67	16.89% 29.29% 40.00% 0.39% -3.71% 4.97% -26.59% 3.66% 7.49% 1.73%	222.37 222.91 151.80 245.88 460.63 606.59 301.36 358.37 343.22 1,077.67 3,990.80	197.54 123.20 131.06 252.43 354.55 654.15 297.81 373.50 280.84 945.48 3,610.56	12.57% 80.93% 15.82% -2.59% 29.92% -7.27% 1.19% -4.05% 22.21% 13.98% 10.53%
EALTH/FITNESS (MEN) ex uscle & Fitness unner's World ategory Total	None None 510,000	150,412 410,430 530,511	149.79 129.51 45.78 <b>325.08</b>	195,17 154,16 34,78 <b>384,11</b>	-23.25% -15.99% 31.63% -15.37%	1,247.35 966.50 323.00 2,536.85	1,509.52 1,175.19 284.84 2,969.55	-17.37% -17.76% 13.40% -14.57%
EALTH/FITNESS (WOMEN) ness alth <sup>10</sup> evention If	1,200,000 1,350,000 3,100,000 1,250,000 1,600,000 <sup>Q</sup>	1,253,392 1,360,525 3,150,017 1,332,782 1,643,816	71.94 NO ISSUE 75.85 87.25 95.64 330.68	76.41 57.60 82.74 102.63 319.38	-5.85% 31.68% 5.45% -6.81% 3.54%	620.45 612. <b>81</b> 664.00 747.68 741.21 <b>3,386.15</b>	599.75 581.74 657.11 690.07 641.30 <b>3,169.97</b>	3.45% 5.34% 1.05% 8.35% 15.58% 6.82%
DS pys' Life sney Adventures 10/+	1,300,000 1,100,000	1,237,157 1,139,167 <sup>B</sup>	8.00 23.23	10.85 5.63	-26.27% 312.61%	87.94 122.99	75.03 146.22	17. <b>21</b> % -15.89%

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# nagazines

to \$174.5 million; Toiletries & Cosmetics, up 20.8 percent to \$156.6 million; and Apparel & Accessories, which rose 21.1 percent in the first half to \$107.6 million. —LG



Q. How will 'Vibe' celebrate its 10th anniversary in the September issue? A. We have 10 different covers to celebrate 10 years of urban music and culture. We chose 10 people or groups of people that helped cement hip-hop over the past decade and have remained consistent, like Puffy and Mary J. Blige. Two of the 10 [cover versions] will be sent to subscribers, and the others will appear randomly on newsstands, 0, 10 different covers—won't you be burning off a lot of cover subjects all at once? A. A couple of the people will have two Vibe covers this year. But this is such a special moment readers won't be upset. Q. Your first-half newsstand sales are projected to be up. Is that a function of good covers, or the continuing rise of hip-hop? A. The beginning of the year was down, but it picked up again in May with 50 Cent on the cover, selling about 235,000 copies. The covers have been selling because hip-hop is pop culture right now. It's the hottest thing. And the covers we're doing are more timely. Q. You've been at the magazine since the beginning. In your opinion, what has been 'Vibe''s best cover ever, and the worst? A. One of my favorites is my first cover as editor in chief-December/January 2000's Puff Daddy. It was very powerful and simple. We took him to task about his bad behavior at the time. The worst was LL Cool J and his family in March 1997. They had on matching red outfits. It looked like a Sears family portrait. Q. Did LL take a baseball bat to your desk? A. No. Nobody does that to me. All the violence stopped when I became editor in chief. I'm all about honesty and respect. And my parents are lawyers, so I'll sue!

MONTHLIES AL	igust 20	03						ALC: N
	RATE BASE (2ND HALF '02)	CIRC. (2ND HALF '02)	CURRENT PAGES	PAGES LAST YR.	% CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE	YTD LAST YEAR	% CHANGE
Nickelodeon Magazine <sup>10</sup> Sports Hustrated for Kids Category Total	950,000 950,000	999,369 <sup>B</sup> 987,432 <sup>B</sup>	37.14 19.68 88.05	27.83 29.07 <b>73.38</b>	33.45% -32.30% 19.99%	223.73 192.21 <b>626.87</b>	195.33 199.14 <b>615.72</b>	14.54% -3.48% 1.81%
MEN'S LIFESTYLE Details 10 Esquire FHM11 Gentlemen's Quarterly Maxim Men's Fitness Men's Health 10 Men's Journal Penthouse Playboy Stuff Category Total	400,000 700,000 1,000,000 750,000 2,500,000 1,625,000 600,000 None 3,150,000 1,100,000	414,649 740,204 1,061,122 803,652 2,512,090 677,147 1,695,554 602,092 530,091 3,213,638 1,130,466	65.79 37.60 71.33 65.83 95.35 68.21 NO ISSUE 59.37 37.58 30.30 63.66 595.02	51.44 53.14 48.67 79.05 96.19 72.39 58.17 38.01 32.67 61.81 <b>591.54</b>	27.90% -29.24% 46.56% -16.72% -0.87% -5.77% 2.06% -1.13% -7.25% 2.99% 0.59%	537.03 479.64 501.41 824.16 725.92 491.34 567.41 535.76 275.05 309.08 480.73 5,727.53	395.28 459.33 464.17 819.91 702.66 530.30 440.94 527.47 310.70 332.51 459.30 <b>5,442.57</b>	35.86% 4.42% 8.02% 0.52% 3.31% -7.35% 28.68% 1.57% -11.47% -7.05% 5.24%
OUTDOORS Field & Stream11/1 National Geographic Adventure <sup>1(</sup> Outdoor Life <sup>3(1)</sup> Outside Category Total	1,500,000 375,000 900,000 625,000	1,544,039 376,043 1,021,595 645,933	44.62 46.16 52.93 48.10 191.81	44.48 48.52 36.09 48.53 177.62	0.31% -4.86% 46.66% -0.89% 7.99%	355.99 289.82 260.12 531.93 1,437.86	334.68 293.25 211.22 529.26 1,368.41	6.37% -1.17% 23.15% 0.50% 5.08%
PARENTING/FAMILY American Baby Baby Talk <sup>10</sup> Child <sup>10</sup> FamilyFun <sup>10</sup> Parenting <sup>10</sup> Parents Category Total	2,000,000 2,000,000 1,020,000 1,550,000 2,150,000 2,200,000	2,002,011 <sup>8</sup> 2,001,113 <sup>8</sup> 936,970 1,534,849 2,136,283 2,091,782	47.70 55.61 104.06 60.34 132.24 131.07 531.02	64.02 61.40 76.57 46.41 121.46 110.61 480.47	-25.49% -9.43% 35.90% 30.02% 8.88% 18.50% 10.52%	401.50 288.17 562.31 388.73 758.19 949.13 3,348.03	454.79 286.34 434.49 379.84 623.33 873.53 <b>3,052.32</b>	-11.72% 0.64% 29.42% 2.34% 21.64% 8.65% <b>9.69%</b>
PERSONAL FINANCE Kiplinger's Personal Finance Money Smart Money Category Total	1,000,000 1,900,000 800,000	1,024,868 1,992,438 808,752	36.93 74.21 51.43 162.57	40.24 67.31 48.92 156.47	-8.23% 10.25% 5.13% <b>3.90%</b>	323.50 564.52 472.38 1,360.40	366.83 500.87 430.58 1,298.28	-11.81% 12.71% 9.71% 4.78%
SCIENCE Discover Natural History <sup>10</sup> Scientific American Spectrum, IEEE Category Total	1,000,000 225,000 665,000 None	1,048,079 247,779 688,850 335,638	22.82 NO ISSUE 17.84 16.72 57.38	21.33 19.34 31.46 72.13	6.99% -7.76% -46.85% -20.45%	174.17 186.37 202.85 249.73 813.12	174.89 193.39 173.83 272.46 814.57	-0.41% -3.63% 16.69% -8.34% -0.18%
SHELTER Architectural Digest Country Home <sup>10</sup> Country Living The Family Handyman <sup>10</sup> House Beautiful House & Garden Southern Living <sup>13</sup> Sunset This Old House <sup>10</sup> Category Total	800,000 1,100,000 1,700,000 1,100,000 1,000,000 850,000 775,000 2,500,000 1,425,000 925,000	832,196 1,104,559 1,758,891 1,156,914 1,027,945 901,880 860,988 2,563,757 1,476,930 940,628	76.91 91.98 81.03 NO ISSUE NO ISSUE 56.57 38.90 118.74 7NO ISSUE 537.90	65.17 85.51 84.02 58.41 41.34 126.00 87.23	18.01% 7.57% -3.56% -3.15% -5.90% -5.76% -15.43% -1.79%	1,018.55 551,44 709.21 382.17 445.50 590.33 521.30 1,012.43 749.04 534.98 <b>6,514.95</b>	938.91 494.14 657.98 361.67 386.51 593.31 544.18 941.41 703.34 512.55 <b>6,134.00</b>	8.48% 11.60% 7.79% 5.67% 15.26% -0.50% -4.20% 7.54% 6.50% 4.38% 6.21%
TEEN CosmoGir!!10 Seventeen Teen People:10 YM;+/Y Category Total	1,000,000 2,350,000 1,600,000 2,200,000	1,069,904 2,459,135 1,603,1 <b>3</b> 8 2,206,067	71.52 125.07 125.81 93.98 416.38	72.44 148.83 124.13 110.30 455.70	-1.27% -15.96% 1.35% -14.80% -8.63%	400.31 721.22 573.26 657.95 2,352.74	337.75 818.29 572.59 586.88 <b>2,315.51</b>	18.52% -11.86% 0.12% 12.11% 1.61%
TRAVEL A. F.'s Budget Travel <sup>10/M</sup> Condé Nast Traveler Travel + Leisure Category Total	450,000 750,000 950,000 <sup>0</sup>	517,567 <sup>8</sup> 771,481 962,768	NO ISSUE 61.02 108.62 169.64	49.80 90.04 <b>139.84</b>	22.53% 20.64% 21.31%	427.81 818.21 993.58 <b>2,239.60</b>	323.79 732.84 816.84 1,873.47	32.13% 11.65% 21.64% 19.54%
WEALTH Robb Report Town & Country Category Total	None 425,000	106,569 431,122	64.00 66.48 130.48	55.00 70.46 <b>125.46</b>	16.36% -5.65% 4.00%	663.42 788.14 1,451.56	607.80 779.34 1,387.14	9.15% 1.13% 4.64%
WOMEN'S LIFESTYLE Heart & Soul 10 Martha Stewart Living More <sup>10</sup> O, The Oprah Magazine Real Simple <sup>10</sup> Category Total	350,000 2,270,000 750,000 <sup>Q</sup> 2,000,000 900,000	365,824 2,359,328 798,626 2,261,570 1,140,500	48.57 90.91 <b>NO ISSUE</b> 86.06 90.20 <b>315.74</b>	62.42 121.37 91.43 65.90 341.12	-22.19% -25.10% -5.87% 36.87% -7.44%	267.82 782.09 438.30 819.09 651.20 <b>2,958.50</b>	262.49 1,117.51 315.44 821.82 412.20 2,929.46	2.03% -30.01% 38.95% -0.33% 57.98% <b>0.99%</b>
WOMEN'S SERVICE Better Homes and Gardens Family Circle <sup>15</sup> Good Housekeeping Ladies' Home Journal Redbook Woman's Day <sup>17</sup> Category Total	7,600,000 4,600,000 4,600,000 4,100,000 2,350,000 4,350,000 <sup>Q</sup>	7,607,832 4,601,708 4,690,508 4,101,414 2,394,184 4,246,805	136.50 87.92 104.88 87.39 97.76 89.45	127,20 83.36 88.61 83.17 88.33 88.01	7.31% 5.47% 18.37% 5.07% 10.68%	1,319.80 904.99 1,070.64 978.64 920.22 1,023.88	1,196.40 798.99 923.82 758.64 714.41 916.75	10.31% 13.27% 15.89% 29.00% 28.81% 11.69%
Redbook	2,350,000 4,350,000 <sup>Q</sup> res accordin	2,394,184 4,246,805 g to the Auc	97.76 89.45 <b>603.90</b> <b>8,757.26</b> dit Bureau o	88.33 88.01 558.68 8,755.78 f Circulation	10.68% 1.64% 8.09% 0.02% as for the sec	920,22 1,023.88 <b>6,218.17</b> <b>81,244.50</b> cond half of 2	758.64 714.41 916.75 5,309.01 76,517.64 002, except:	29.00% 28.81% 11.69% 17.12% 6.18% B=audited

non-audited title and X=did not file audit by deadline; M=changed frequency from bimonthly to monthly in BPA International, C=non-audited title and X=did not the audit by deadline; M=changed frequency from binorinity to mortally #1-Sept. 2002; P=YTD 2003 includes two specials; YTD 2002 includes one special; Q=raised rate base during period; W=YTD 2002 includes only four Issues, published bimonthly Feb.-Aug. 2002; Y=YTDs include one special; YY=YTDs include two spe-cials; YYY=YTDs include three specials; 9=published 9 times; 10=published 10 times; 11=published 11 times, 13=published 15 times; 15=published 15 times; 17=published 17 times; +=will publish one more issue in 2003 than in 2002; 1=will publish one fewer issue in 2003

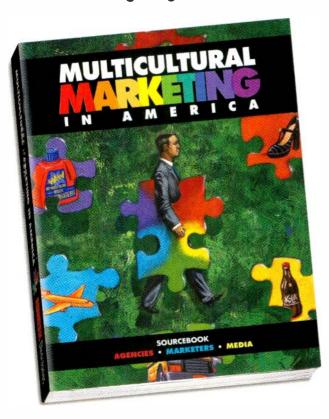
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# **Numinous Doings**

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN SCIENTIFIC FACT THAT WHEN A PERSON GOES AWAY ON VACATION, the news dramatically diminishes in importance. Furthermore, for each week one remains on holiday, its significance continues to wane by at least 23 percent until, after a month in the country, even a headline

reading "Killer Meteor to Destroy Earth Today" is met with a shrug and a stroll to the fridge for another banana-chocolate-rum smoothie, followed by a roll in the hammock with a not-too-demanding novel.

Perhaps this is why Media Person has been unable to get excited about the Cuomo-Kennedy marriage scandal, the crisis in Liberia, President Bush's discovery that slavery was bad or even the death of Barry White.

Media Person is out of town.

He forsook his squalid Manhattan digs and repaired to a tiny burg upstate where, despite the presence of such ferocious fauna as the bloodthirsty tick, the garbage-raiding raccoon and the dead skunk in the middle of the road, he felt a sense of calm so great it eventually made him feel anxious. Can it be healthy to feel this serene?

Not that Media Person could or would avoid the media entirely. After all, he is Media Person.

But he's trying. It helps that the TV in the house he rented receives only one channel and that that channel is C-SPAN2. This is a station with an endless supply of authors in bad sports jackets who have been trained to describe their books in the most boring drone attainable to small gatherings of people sitting on folding chairs whose questions can never be picked up by the one microphone in the room.

Although, to be fair, Media Person must report that 2 also broadcast the extremely funny funeral of Strom Thurmond, conducted with a totally straight face and with the deceased elegized as an exemplar of virtue rather than the loathsome excrescence on the body politic that in fact he was.

Fortunately, there's a VCR on the premises and a video-rental place down the road so Media Person has also done some catching up on missed movies. He scored *About Schmidt*, which tackles the question: Can you make an interesting movie about a completely uninteresting person?; *Death to Smoochy*, which was amusing for about 40 minutes until it became apparent that the filmmakers had no

idea how to end it (or even middle it); and finally some nonsense MP forgets the name of in which Al Pacino teaches Colin Farrell to be a CIA agent, while constantly shouting, "Nothing is what it seems!"

Media Person also visited the big screens. A nearby art theater was showing *Capturing the Friedmans* ("Oy, they had to be Jewish?" MP's grandmother could be heard whispering from heaven), and a multiplex not far off had all the stupid action sequels. It is

MP's belief that of these stupid action sequels, *T3* sucks the least. (Attention Arnold: Feel free to use that ringing endorsement.)

MP is greatly looking forward to the mindless pirate thing. Johnny Depp, do not disappoint him.

Sad to say, the one medium Media Person

has totally, utterly abandoned is the magazine. Hasn't bought a single mag all month. (The ones he sees at the Super Stop'n'Shop all seem to have Reese Witherspoon on the cover. Nice girl, but who cares?) Of course, when MP goes home, he'll have 3,000 of them waiting for him.

MP has a laptop but doesn't go online much except to check e-mail and send in the column. He hasn't even read Romenesko in weeks. Jayson Blair could've been hired to edit the *National Enquirer*, for all MP knows.

MP keeps buying the papers, though: The three NYC dailies, which he mostly skims, and the local rags, too. When in Rome, read what the Romans read. Favorite local story: Con artist came to town and successfully posed as a shrink, joining a local doctor's practice, counseling a number of patients. When finally challenged by suspicious people, he told them he was really an undercover AMA agent here to investigate the doctor he'd duped into hiring him. The grifter then disappeared.

So what about that Iraq business? Are we quagmired, or are those ambushers just hard-

core Baathists who don't really have the sympathy of the populaace? MP doesn't know, and this month he doesn't care. He's on vacation. Anyway, nothing is what it seems.

Books, that's the thing. Media Person brought along a bunch. Finished *Property*, by Valerie Martin, good novel about a plantation wife whose husband is carrying on with her female slave. Then another of Bernard Cornwell's Napoleonic-war novels, to which MP is addicted. Not the new Harry Potter,

though, because in a *New York Times* op-ed piece, English lit heavyweight A.S. Byatt ruled it's out of bounds for adults. Not numinous enough, she said. Had to look up "numinous."

And that's what Media Person did on his summer vacation.

Media Person felt a sense of calm so great it eventually made him feel anxious. Can it be healthy to feel this serene?

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