

MAY 24, 2004 \$3.95 VOL.14 NO. 21

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE MEDIA

Buyers Leveraging Cable Option

Spend as much as \$1 bil on top-tier nets to foil broadcast's bullish upfront position PAGE 6

TV PROGRAMMING Buyers Applaud New Scheduling

More buzz for lack of repeats than new shows page 7

HISPANIC TV Rival Nets Spar As Ad Pie Grows

Univision, Telemundo execs key up novela drama page 8

NETWORK TV Comedy Gets the Hook From Nets

Replaced by both drama and nonscripted fare page 12



Al Franken heads a lineup of liberal Talkers on Air America.

Air America Radi

struggles to find more distribution across the country

BY KATY BACHMAN PAGE 14

ANE MORK FOR ALL SEASONS



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At Deadline

DENNIS SHOPPING FOR NEW MAXIM EDITOR

Dennis Publishing, publisher of *Stuff* and *Blender*, is in the market for a new editor in chief to replace Keith Blanchard at *Maxim*, its flagship men's monthly, according to sources in the know. When asked about the search, a Dennis spokesman refused to comment, except to say: "We are always being approached by individuals looking for opportunities at Dennis Publishing, which is fair because we have a lot going on which you'll be reading about within a few weeks." Blanchard has been *Maxim*'s top editor since 2000. *Maxim*'s paid circulation in last year's second half was flat at 2.5 million compared to the year prior, according to the Audit

Bureau of Circulations. Newsstand sales fell 14.6 percent, to 724,179.

DISCOVERY CREATES NEW GROUP

In an effort to curry better relationships with existing advertisers and attract new ones, Discovery Networks has created a New Business Development Group, which will explore strategic partnerships across several advertising categories, including retail, financial and technology. Ken Ripley, who is vp and national sales manager responsible for Discovery's emerging networks, will add oversight of the new group to his current duties.

MEDIA RATING COUNCIL TO MEET

The TV Committee of the Media Rating Council will meet May 27 to review Ernst & Young's audit results of Nielsen Media Research's New York Local People Meter service, scheduled for launch on June 3. Nielsen, which is owned by *Mediaweek* parent VNU, also will have the opportunity to review the audit. "If there are any outstanding issues, we'll work to resolve them. It's a collaborative process," said Nielsen spokesman Jack Loftus. Nielsen has been under public attack from a coalition of black and Hispanic political and community groups, Fox TV and others claiming that the LPM service under-

counts minorities. The House Commerce Committee plans to send a letter to the General Accounting Office requesting an audit of Nielsen's LPM service.

INETS TAKE THREE SHOWS FROM MEL GIBSON

If any producer emerged a winner at last week's network upfront presentations, it was actor and *Passion of the Christ* director Mel Gibson. Through his lcon Productions, Gibson landed three shows on the networks' schedules: the ABC comedy *Savages*, about a blue-collar single dad raising five sons, loosely based on Gibson's own life; CBS' warm and fuzzy *Clubhouse*, a coming-ofage tale about the batboy of a fictional baseball team; and UPN's Taye Diggs drama *Kevin Hill*, about a playboy attorney called upon to raise his niece.

SIRIUS SATELLITE BEAMS UP ECHOSTAR PACT

Sirius Satellite Radio last week announced a partnership with EchoStar making the subscription radio service available to 9.7 million DISH Network satellite TV subscribers. Between 6 and 7 million DISH premium package subs will receive all of Sirius' 60 commercialfree music channels free of charge. The deal gives Sirius, currently with 400,000 subscribers, immediate

access and brand exposure to millions of new customers and brings it potentially more listeners than competitor XM Satellite Radio, which boasts 1.6 million subscribers.

ADDENDA: Carol Campbell, publisher of Meredith Corp.'s More, has been named to the newly created position of director of strategic alliances for the 40-plus-women's title...The Broadcasters' Initiative, Emmis Communications' plan to launch a low-cost alternative to cable by pooling the digital spectrum of local TV stations, held its first engineering meeting last week in Chicago, Since it was announced last month. 16 additional TV groups have signed on, joining the original 12 members. Collectively, the groups represent 315 stations across 149 markets...Legislation to sharply increase fines for broadcast indecency is stalled in the Senate over objections to a provision that would temporarily block looser broadcastownership rules, said Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), sponsor of the bill. Brownback, in comments to Mediaweek on May 19, said he had not given up on passage. "We're going to keep pushing," he said ... The WB and Kmart last week signed an integrated marketing

deal in which a dozen WB stars will wear Kmart apparel in multiple episodes of their shows. Among the shows: *7th Heaven, One Tree Hill, Reba* and newcomers *Blue Collar TV* and *Summerland*. The stars also will appear in Kmart spots.

CORRECTION: In the May 17 issue, the Raleigh-Durham, N.C., Market Profile cited the wrong year for political spending, in a line attributed to Tom Schenck, WRAZ-TV vp/general manager. Schenck said about \$8 million in political spending occurred in 2002.

Market Indicators

NATIONAL TV: READY Upfront buying could beg n as early as this week, with buyers projecting a total marketplace of \$8.8 to \$9 billion, which would be down 3-5 percent compared to last year.

NET CABLE: MOVING

About 15 percent of cable upfront business was more or less completed last week. Budgets are up more than 20 percent and the average CPM increase is about 6 pencent. Automakers Fond, Chrysler and, to a lesser degree, GM are out in force.

SPOT TV: STEADY

Conditions are tight in kev political markets, but buyers can still get ads placed. Local is driving demand. Strong categories include automotive, financial, home improvement and wireless.

RADIO: ACTIVE

May, traditionally radio's strongest month, is solid but not so tight that advertisers can't get on the air. June looking strong with youth-oriented categories kicking in.

MAGAZINES: SOLID Travel advertising (hotels, airlines, resorts, private jets) much stronger in summer titles than this period last year. Summer issues also filling with telecom, technology and health products. Business fnom toiletries and credit cards active.



Rep. Deal elects to delay an à la **car**te pricing bill Page 13

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<u>Media Wire</u>

Sens. Seek \$90 Million to Study Media Impact on Kids

Three powerful U.S. lawmakers are seeking \$90 million over five years to study children's intensive use of media. Television, the Internet, movies and video games all would be scrutinized under the proposal from Sens. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Sam Brownback (R-Kan.).

In a Capitol Hill news conference last week, the senators said public policy has lagged behind the development of a media culture that sees children aged 2-18 using or viewing media more than 6 hours each day. "We still lack perhaps the most important piece of information: What does this flood do to our children?" asked Lieberman, who questioned whether intensive TV viewing played a role in juvenile obesity and whether TV viewing among the very young had a hand in the rise of attention-deficit disorders.

The bill, which faces uncertain prospects in a Congress pressed to finish its business in an electionshortened legislative year, would establish a program under the National Institutes of Health.

In related news, the Federal Communications Commission soon will commence a formal inquiry into "excessively violent broadcast television programming and its impact upon children," according to Chairman Michael Powell.

Powell's pledge came in an April 28 letter, released last week, to House Commerce Committee Chairman Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas), who earlier had requested, along with colleagues, a study on the issue. —Todd Shields

NHL Takes Revenue Risk On NBC, ESPN Contracts

The National Hockey League was on the brink of more bad luck going into last weekend. Hoping for a ratings-boosting matchup in the Stanley Cup finals, the league instead got the combination of a small-market Canadian team, the Calgary Flames, against the winner of a matchup (continued on page 8)

Buyers Play Cable Against Broadcast

At least \$750 million spent in cable to keep network from pumping CPMs THE MARKETPLACE By Megan Larson and John Consoli

oping to give themselves extra leverage against attempts by the broadcast networks to move the total \$17 billion upfront marketplace at hefty cost-per-thousand rate hikes, several media-buying agencies have quietly put between \$750 million and \$1 billion into play with some of the major cable networks over the past 10 days.

The goal, according to buyers at those agencies (all of whom declined to speak for attribution), was not only to send a message to the broadcast ad-sales operations that there is an alternative if they take a hard line on rates, but also to lay in a solid foundation of dollars, since they already plan to spend more money in cable this upfront. It didn't hurt that some cable networks were calling up buyers, looking to do deals at single-digit CPM increases.

"All the cable networks were picking up the phones, talking to the agencies, trying to do business," said one major media buyer. "From our perspective, if we think [the] cable [marketplace] is going to be strong—and we do and we think we can do a better deal by moving early, you do it."

USA Networks, which includes Sci Fi Channel, was the first to kick off the negotiations, followed in short order by MTV Networks, Discovery Networks and Turner Broadcasting (which together represent at least three out of four cable ad dollars). Exces from those cable nets signed—or, more likely, shook hands—on a number of deals with buyers from OMD, Starcom Worldwide, MediaVest, Mind-Share and Mediaedge:cia. In total, the cable networks have done deals amounting to between 12 and 16 percent of the anticipated \$6.1 billion cable upfront take.

A consensus of media buyers continues to believe that the broadcast upfront will attract only \$9 billion this year, down 3 percent from last year (*Mediaweek*, May 10).

"Agencies are trying to lay in a base so we don't get caught up in the usual frenzy that occurs during the broadcast upfront, where we end up doing bad deals because we feel we have to get money down," said a top executive at one

What	the Buyers P	redict
NETWORK	2004-'05 UPFRONT Revenue (in millions)	% CHANGE FROM 2003-'04
NBC	\$2,700	-6%
CBS	\$2,300	+4%
FOX	\$1,500	-3%
ABC	\$1,500	-9%
WB	\$700	-6%
UPN	\$300	+16%
TOTAL	\$9,000	-3%
BASED ON I	NTERVIEWS WITH KEY ME	DIA BUYERS

of the active agencies.

Buyers are still bruised from last year's upfront, during which they overpaid for broadcast-network program schedules that did not perform as well as promised in the upfront. Season to date, every broadcast network, save CBS, has seen its delivery of adults 18-49 drop, according to Nielsen Media Research data.

"They [buyers] don't want be in the same position as they were last year with [ABC sales president] Mike Shaw writing double-digit CPM increases on a schedule that ended up falling apart," said one cable sales executive.

It isn't unusual for cable networks to cut some upfront deals in advance of the broadcast networks' unveiling of new programming lineups, which occurred last week (*see page 7*). Starcom has a reputation for buying cable early, and several cable network groups, including Turner, have quietly brokered deals in the past prior to May's upfront-negotiating craze. However, the amount of cable business done with agencies at this point is noticeably more this year than ever before.

"It's safe to say that, as a group of networks, MTV Networks is much further along than it has ever been before at this point," noted Mark Rosenthal, COO and president of MTVN, which includes MTV, VH1, Comedy Central and Spike TV. "We are tracking significantly up in dollars with great pricing."

While none of the networks or buyers would discuss pricing publicly, some agreed that early deals were done at CPM increases of between 4 and 11 percent over scatter. "It's hard to come up with a standard CPM percentage, because each deal, cut by each agency with each cable network, could have different elements and different dollar amounts, so the percentages will be different," one buyer said.

Another factor fueling early cable buying: Advertisers' marketing budgets cumulatively are up by about 20 percent over last year. And unlike years past, the lion's share of the new investment is not expected to go into broadcast. "I think a portion of that money will go to cable and another sizeable portion might be held back for broadcast spending during the season," said a major media buyer. "More product-placement opportunities might come up, and if you have already allocated the money, you can't take advantage of these. The same is true for new midseason programming that is not announced in the upfront."

It doesn't help broadcast's case that buyers weren't bowled over by last week's upfront presentations. "One reason people may be moving early with cable is that, thus far, nobody seems to be impressed with what [new programming] the broadcast nets are showing us," said one buyer.

Of the four cable groups that did deals last week, USA is farthest along, having passed the 50 percent sellout mark. Since USA was talking with agencies prior to the close of NBC's purchase of USA parent Vivendi Universal Entertainment two weeks ago, it will not be sold in conjunction with NBC in this upfront. However, if an agency does play hardball with USA and tries to drive down price, NBC, in all likelihood, will apply some pressure.

So far, however, it seems that the cable marketplace is less contentious than it has been in recent years, with few executives brawling over price. "There is an unstated degree of cooperation," said Lou LaTorre, president of ad sales for Fox Cable Networks Group. "It should all go down relatively soon without a whole lot of kicking and screaming."

Of course, it wouldn't be true to the nature of financial negotiations if someone didn't get upset. "I agreed with Lou until last night, when someone tried to push me to do a 2-plus CPM," said one cable sales executive. "I said, 'No way.""

Of the major advertisers pushing to do early deals, domestic automotive companies are leading the pack. With between 40 and 60 new models set to roll out over the next year from domestic and foreign automakers, companies like Chrysler and Ford are trying to get their money down with the most efficient (read: inexpensive) deals possible. Other big spenders are the movie studios, which are spending early to get money down to promote theatricals and DVDs, and pharmaceutical companies looking to gain market share, especially those peddling erectile-dysfunction medication.

Though some cable networks had an unprecedented jump on the marketplace this year, the upfront is expected to continue at a normal pace, with broadcast doing the majority of its business this week. "A couple of cable deals are not going to move the market," said one buyer. "It's only \$1 billion of \$17 billion that gets spent across broadcast, syndication and cable."

Nets to Reduce Repeats

Fall lineups will offer mostly first-run episodes of a wide variety of shows

TV PROGRAMMING By John Consoli

The broadcast network upfront presentations in New York last week were supposed to be all about next season's new programming. But a lack of new shows with breakout potential had buyers more interested in how the networks will schedule their

shows in an attempt to reduce the continued erosion of viewers. Though they labeled most of next season's new shows simply ordinary, media buyers heaped lots of praise on the networks' moves toward scheduling more first-run programming throughout the season. Fox earned particular kudos for its original scripted lineup starting this June.

The networks, after years of repeating episodes in nonsweeps months, have caught on to the reality that the practice is hurting their ratings, since most shows do not do well on second airing. Most of those shows tend to be serialized rather than standalone dramas.

Irwin Gotlieb, CEO of Group M, praised the networks move to more first run and year-round fresh programming. "Anything the broadcast networks can do to raise usage levels is great," he said. "By doing this, they are contributing to the long-term preservation of the medium,

and if the medium gets stronger, we will be glad to pony up [more ad dollars]."

"NBC is going to pair up shows [in certain time periods] to minimize repeats," confirmed Jeff Zucker, president of NBC Entertainment, News and Cable Group. The network plans to air its veteran Wednesday drama *The West Wing* in a lengthy first-run arc, replace it with first-run episodes of new drama *Revelations*, and then run the remaining fresh episodes of *West Wing*.

ABC will do the same with veteran Tuesday drama NYPD Blue, adding a new cop drama, Blind Justice, when fresh Blue epsiodes run out. ABC will also air a new drama, Desperate

Buyers' Hits and Misses Thumbs Up Thumbs Down



KEVIN HILL (UPN, Wed., 9) This Taye Diggs lawyer drama fits nicely as a leadout from America's Next Top Model.

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES

(ABC, Sun., 9) The private lives of five married friends serves up some tantalizing storylines.

JOEY (NBC, Thurs., 8) Matt LeBlanc tries to fill Friends' shoes all on his own.

CLUBHOUSE (CBS, Tues., 9) The fictional baseball drama offers dual entry points for kids and adults.

THE MOUNTAIN (WB, Thurs., 8) A 25-year-old inherits the family resort in this *Dynasty* for teens.



GREEN SCREEN (WB, Wed, 9:30) Are viewers ready for another attempt at sketch comedy from Drew Carey?

LISTEN UP (CBS, Mon., 8:30) Jason Alexander is still looking for a post-Seinfeld hit.

CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE (CBS, Wed., 9:30) Many doubt John Goodman can carry this sitcom without Roseanne.

FATHER OF THE PRIDE (NBC, Tues., 9) This animated Siegfried & Roy send-up will not be the next Simpsons

LOST (ABC, Wed., 8) Themes in this plane-crash drama are too heavy for prime time.

Housewives, on Sunday night at 9 beginning in the fall, until January, when it will return fourth-year drama *Alias* to the time slot for 22 weeks of new episodes.

The WB has plans to air serialized drama *Everwood* in a 10-episode arc before replacing it with a short-arc reality show. *Everwood* then comes back for another 12-episode first-run arc. The WB may employ that strategy with

Media Wire

between the small-market Tampa Bay Lightning and the larger-market Philadelphia Flyers. A Flames-Lightning matchup likely would draw tiny ratings.

The Cup finals will be the last to air on ABC, which, under a new NHL-rights agreement announced last week, no longer will be the league's broadcast carrier. Instead, for the next two seasons, NBC will be the NHL's broadcast partner. NBC will not, however, pay the NHL an upfront rights fee. Instead, the network will share its ad revenue from the telecasts with the NHL, after NBC deducts its production costs.

The NHL's contract with ESPN for cable rights was renewed for only one year, with an option for ESPN to extend the pact for a second year (the old ESPN/ABC contract was for five years). While the NHL received \$120 million per year from ESPN/ABC, now it will receive just \$60 million. ESPN will carry only 40 games next season-that is, if the season is not wiped out by the anticipated player-league contract dispute)—compared to the 70 games it broadcast this season.

Similar to the current contract, ESPN will televise most of the playoff games, the first two games of the Stanley Cup finals and the All-Star game. NBC will air Saturday afternoon games and the final five games of the NHL finals. -John Consoli

Newspaper Spending Grew 3.5 Percent in First Quarter

All newspaper ad categories-national, retail and classified-grew in the first quarter, accounting for \$10.2 billion in revenue, according to an analysis by the Newspaper Association of America. The growth represents a 3.5 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Classified advertising rose 4 percent (taking in \$3.6 billion), national advertising 4.5 percent (\$1.8 billion) and retail 2.7 percent (\$4.8 billion).

Within the classified sector, real estate continued to carry the category, with 6.2 percent growth (\$833 million). Recruitment advertising was up 3.9 percent (\$968 billion) as was automotive, up 2.6 percent (\$1.2 billion).

"These (continued on page 10) some of its other dramatic series that do not repeat well.

Fox, of course, is taking that strategy to an extreme. Not only will it start its new season this summer, with four new scripted shows beginning in June, but it also will add new drama House and new reality shows The Next Great Champ, The Partner and The Billionaire: Branson's Quest for the Best in November. In January, Fox will roll out dramas Athens, The Inside and Jonny Zero, along with sitcom Related by Family, animated sitcom American Dad and Kelsey Grammer Presents: The Sketch Show, Fox announced that in summer '05, it will bring back Family Guy with fresh episodes. The animated sitcom had aired on Fox a few



The Who rocked CBS' upfront by playing CSI themes Who Are You and Won't Get Fooled Again, along with Baba O'Riley.

years back but gained new popularity since its release on DVD.

Fox also will wait until January to begin airing its fourth-year drama 24, which the net will air for 24 consecutive weeks with no repeats or "encore" airings.

"One thing advertisers have been asking for in the upfront is more information about what is going to happen throughout the year," said Jon Nesvig, president of Fox Broadcasting sales. "This will help our sales department sell the schedule better."

Some buyers remain skeptical since Fox. in the past, has promised new shows in the upfront-going so far as to show pilots-but then never airing those shows. Among those: Sextuplets, The Grubbs and The Ortegas. Fox also has pulled some new shows with lightning quickness in the past-Pasadena, after two episodes, and Skin, after three.

Preston Beckman, executive vp for strategic program planning at Fox, said that won't happen this time. "In order for this [yearround programming] process to work, we have to stick with what we sell and make sure those shows get on the air," said Beckman. As far as quick cancellations, Gail Berman, Fox Entertainment president, said she plans to

show patience and let the new shows grow. She cited as evidence the return of ratings-challenged freshman drama Tru Calling and sitcom Arrested Development to next vear's schedule.

Media agency execs were less exuberant about the new shows. In a twist, sixth-place UPN, traditionally the last network to do most of its upfront business, got the most positive buzz for its new shows-dramas Kevin Hill and Veronica Mars and sitcom Second Time Around. Buyers agreed with CBS Television president Leslie Moonves that CSI: NY will be the most watched new drama next season, even though it will compete

against NBC's longtime hit Law & Order on Wednesdays at 10 p.m. Other buyer favorites include CBS' drama Clubhouse, ABC drama Desperate Housewives, WB dramas The Mountain and Jack & Bobby, Fox's North Shore, and Friends successor and spin-off Joey, on NBC.

Buyers pointed to a fair share of clunkers, too, including CBS sitcoms Listen Up and Center of the Universe, NBC animated sitcom Father of the Pride, the WB's Drew Carey's Green Screen and Blue Collar TV, and ABC drama Lost.

Spanish-Language Duel

Univision and Telemundo trade barbs as their upfront could pass \$1 billion

HISPANIC TV By John Consoli

he battle for viewers between Univision and Telemundo heated up last week, with the top executives from the rival Hispanic broadcast networks taking shots at each other.

In a media conference call prior to Telemu-

ndo's upfront, president/CEO Jim McNamara touted his network's ratings gains this season, stating that they were bolstered by the net's decision to produce its own novelas rather than buy them from foreign suppliers after

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tbs (tē-bē-és) n. the home of funny; laugh-out-loud comedy that attracts hard-to-reach younger viewers.





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<u>Media Wire</u>

solid growth numbers across the range of major advertising categories provide further evidence of newspapers' continued strength as a mass medium in the recovering economy," John Sturm, president and CEO of the NAA, said in a statement.

"It's clear that advertisers are recognizing newspapers as an effective national advertising medium," Sturm added. "We're encouraged that after weathering a difficult ad economy for several years, the newspaper industry is seeing renewed growth in categories like help wanted." —Carl Sullivan

Turner: Cable's Share Poised to Beat Broadcast

According to Turner Broadcasting's analysis of Nielsen Media Research data of the 2003-'04 season, adsupported cable is poised for the first time to have a greater share of the TV audience than the seven broadcast networks. Ad-supported cable also beat broadcast during the May sweeps for the first time.

But according to the Television Bureau of Advertising, the broadcast networks have a higher season-to-date household rating average, with a 31.6 prime-time rating versus cable's 30.4. Still, TVB's data points to 4.4 percent ratings growth in cable.

The factors contributing to the continued growth of cable, said Turner research chief Jack Wakshlag, are the number of young viewers tuning out broadcast networks in favor of cable. The erosion of young demos, adults 18-34 and 18-49, continues across all broadcast networks, except CBS.

But it isn't as though they are fleeing TV altogether. Turner's research shows that TV usage has increased compared to five years ago, with the average viewing time per person up 2.5 hours among viewers 18-34.

Young men are watching more TV than they did five years ago or 10 years ago, and they are watching latenight TV more than they used to.

"People are under the impression that TV viewing is going down," said Wakshlag. "We want to show them what is really going on." —*Megan Larson* they air in other Latin American countries, which Univision does.

"Next season, we will produce 100 percent of our prime-time novelas, unlike our competitor, [which] airs novelas made for foreign audiences and are re-shown here," said McNamara.

Those comments made Univision president/COO Ray Rodriguez bristle. "I don't really think it matters

where a program is produced," he said. "We put on proven winners, not experiments. We get three times the ratings as Telemundo, so we must be doing something right."

Otto Padron, vp, programming and promotions for Univision, said, "Telemundo is talking about its growth, but they are at the same [ratings] level they were two years ago." He was making reference to the Univision presentation, which stated that Telemundo's share of the Spanish-language TV audience is at 21 percent, up from 17 percent last season but up just slightly from the 20 percent level of two years ago.

McNamara said Telemundo is continuing to draw Mexican-American viewers, which make up the largest component of Hispanics in the U.S. "The Mexican-American portion of our audience was 62 percent this season, compared to 42 percent last season," he said.

Despite the back and forth with Telemundo, Univision's Rodriguez said he would prefer to target the English-language broadcast networks. And Tom McGarrity, co-president of Univision sales, said, "We are poised to provide national advertisers an alternative to the high CPMs and eroding audience of Englishlanguage networks by offering mass reach, mass distribution and a growing audience more efficiently in Spanish."



Mujer de Madera, with Edith Gonza lez, is a new novela for Univision.

announced new slates of prime-time novelas, some reality and special events. Highlighting the Univision schedule is novela *Mujer de Madera (Woman of Wood)*, featuring Edith Gonzalez, playing a woman jilted at the altar by her lover. Univision also will air two reality shows as part of a 10 p.m. Friday block, and a live music special next March honoring the late

Tejano singer Selena on the 10th anniversary of her murder. The special is being produced in conjunction with her family.

Telemundo will offer four novelas produced in house—including *Gitanus* (*Gypsies*), centered on a woman who falls in love with an outsider—along with several reality shows, new daytime fare and a series of specials produced by Emilio Estefan. One of Estefan's series is *Nuevas Voces de America*, which will feature aspiring singers living together while undergoing training by Estefan's team of experts for an *American Idol*-like competition.

Univision took in about \$700 million in last year's upfront, while Telemundo took in about \$250 million. Hispanic media observers believe those numbers can grow by 15 percent this upfront, which will push the total well over \$1 billion for the first time.

McNamara believes key growth categories in this year's Hispanic upfront will be pharmaceutical, financial and packaged goods. In the packaged goods arena, current spenders like Procter & Gamble might be persuaded to expand the number of brands they are advertising, McNamara said. A similar expansion, he added, could take place among automakers.

McNamara said that while Telemundo will sell independently from parent company NBC, "there may be some instances where they can open some doors for us."

Both Univision and Telemundo

Passing on High-Profile

As network schedules are set, some star-studded and -backed series are cut

TV PROGRAMMING By A.J. Frutkin

ach development season, more TV projects bite the dust than ever see air, and this year is no exception. Of course, among these unrealized shows are some of the year's highest-profile concepts—ones that broadcasters were touting only months ago.

ABC left behind the private-eye action hour

Harry Green and Eugene, starring Keen Eddie's Mark Valley. Boomtown creator Graham Yost's cop drama Countdown also got a pass. Stephen McPherson, ABC's newly appointed programming president, said Countdown, which had been hyped for its real-time look at the last 43 minutes of a crisis, "worked more conceptually

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SETTING: Police Department

MONIQUE:

I hate what I'm doing. I hate this. I want to stop.

SIPOWICZ:

Yeah, well my experience is, the feeling will pass as soon as you make bail.

Great Writing. Great Drama.





than it did in the execution. I don't think we did the best job of bringing that to life." He added that he's still sifting through comedy pilots, including the John Stamos real-time romantic sitcom.

Over at CBS, *The Amaz*ing Westerbergs, a sitcom starring Chris O'Donnell, and another starring Aisha Tyler both got left behind. *Numbers*, a procedural drama from movie directors Tony Scott and Ridley Scott, and Sandra Bullock's *Sudhury*, about a family of witches, also failed to make the cut. In a blow to escapist fare, supernatural subjects fared poorly



at other networks, as well. The Fox comedy *Spellbound*, about a male witch, was dropped, as was the network's remake of *Mr*: *Ed*.

Rob Reiner's NBC improv comedy, *Everyday Life*, about a family of therapists, also got the boot. "It was kind of out-of-the-box, and it was very good," said Kevin Reilly, the network's newly named president of prime-time programming. "It just didn't fully gel." Reilly added that NBC has ordered a new pilot for exec producer Paul Reiser's comedy My 11:30, starring Jeff Goldblum as a narcissist in therapy. "There were a couple of storytelling issues that just felt off, so we're going to adjust it," Reilly said, noting that the show could be ordered up to series as early as midseason. The WB's Dark Shadows

remake, from John Wells, got passed over, as did *The Robinsons: Lost in Space*, from movie director John Woo. Sources familiar with both projects said *Dark Shadows* may have been,

well, too dark for the WB, while *The Robinsons* faced behind-the-scenes creative splits. But with Mark Burnett's upcoming *Global Frequency*, based on a DC Comics property, the WB isn't leaving its fantasy roots behind. "We're trying to emulate the success of *Small-ville*, as opposed to the failure of *Birds of Prey* or *Tarzan*," said Carolyn Bernstein, the WB's vp of drama development.

Laughs Off Track

Comedies continue to fall off schedules as reality and dramas fill their slots

NETWORK TV By A.J. Frutkin

The sitcom may not be dead yet, but it continues to suffer major setbacks. Only 12 new comedies are set to launch on the six broadcast networks this fall, versus 19 last year.

What's more, broadcasters continue to cede time slots to scripted dramas and nonscripted series, slots that traditionally have been occupied by comedies. For example, in addition to *The Apprentice* joining NBC's Thursday lineup at 9 p.m., the network announced it will kick off Tuesday night with *Average Joe* and, later in the season, *The Contender*. ABC is replacing its Wednesday 8-9 p.m. comedy block with the drama *Lost*, from *Alias* creator J.J. Abrams.

Throughout the upfront presentations last week, executives at all the major networks voiced their support for scripted comedy, and they dismissed predictions of the format's eventual demise. But many buyers believe the decline of network comedy could lead to radical changes, especially as nonscripted programming draws increasingly bigger ratings. "You've got to fish where the fish are," said Brad Adgate, senior vp/director of corporate research at Horizon Media. "Younger viewers want reality, and that has the potential to change the dynamics of television."

Indeed, broadcasters seem to be looking to nonscripted shows for their laughs. Buyers responded strongly to the comic elements in ABC's *Wife Swap* (although some believed a title change to the family-friendlier *Mom Swap* was appropriate). Stephen McPherson, ABC's newly appointed president of prime-time programming, told reporters he drew few distinctions between scripted and nonscripted series in scheduling the network's fall lineup: "We chose what was best for the network."

Likewise, Fox entertainment president Gail Berman said that a show like *The Simple Life* illustrates that the line between scripted and nonscripted genres is blurring rapidly. "We have always referred to *The Simple Life* as a sitcom. That's what we intended it to be."

Of the WB's four new comedies, two veer

far from the traditional format: the Jeff Foxworthy sketch-comedy show *Blue Collar TV* and the technologically enhanced *Drew Carey's Green Screen*. WB chairman Garth Ancier compared the Foxworthy show to *In Living Color*. "It's a chance to do something that isn't a story-form, scripted half-hour at a time when it's really, really hard to break through with a 22-minute story-form show," he said.

Although changing viewer tastes may provide the strongest reason for comedy's contin-



ABC has moved new adventure drama *Lost* into its traditional Tuesday 8-9 p.m. comedy block.

ued decline, technological advances have fostered the explosion of entertainment outlets, while the pool of TV writers to support those outlets hasn't grown at an equal pace. "More than anything, comedy takes gifted writing, and the one talent in shortest supply in Hollywood are writers," said John Rash, chief broadcast negotiator at Campbell Mithun.

There might also be a dearth of comic actors. From Tim Allen to Roseanne, "ABC has a huge amount of success with big personalities," said McPherson. "And I think there's a lack of that kind of talent out there."

If scripted comedy can't bounce back, broadcasters will be impacted both creatively and economically. The poor repeatability of nonscripted versus the virtual gold mine that successful sitcoms offer is sure to affect the bottom line of every network and studio.

But with eyeballs at a premium in prime time, the syndication value of a scripted or nonscripted property seems to be of little concern to viewers and buyers. "If today's *Coshy Show* is *American Idol*, that works for advertisers," Rash said.

Looking North

As Rep. Deal delays à la carte legislation, Canadian pricing model examined

CABLE TV By Todd Shields

The leading congressional proponent of requiring cable and satellite companies to offer consumers à la carte channel selection last week signaled he would not press the issue until after this fall's elections. In the meantime, Washington will find plenty of grist for argument on both sides of the issue, including whether Canada's example of greater consumer choice is something for the U.S. to emulate.

According to his aides, Rep. Nathan Deal (R-Ga.) decided to delay his à la carte provision in part to give Congress time to study the issue. Deal and leaders of the Commerce Committee on which he sits sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission on May 18, calling for an in-depth inquiry to be completed by November. Questions to be addressed include how à la carte pricing might affect advertising revenue, programming diversity and cable subscription rates.

Big cable providers, which are fighting channel-by-channel choice, lost no time predicting an outcome. "An FCC study would further confirm that à la carte pricing would be very harmful to ad-supported cable networks and consumers by reducing programming diversity" and driving up costs, said the National Cable & Telecommunications Association. Some smaller cable companies say à la carte pricing may provide relief from rising programming costs. FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, in an informal press briefing May 20, said the agency should go slow in approaching à la carte. "It would appear to raise the hurdles for new entrants and new ideas," he said.

Proponents think à la carte will bring greater choice and lower prices and aid consumers in keeping objectionable programming out of their homes. They say Canada has shown the way. However, cable officials in Canada said they offer à la carte and narrowly crafted tiers only to digital customers.

Customers in Canada must subscribe to a basic analog tier with 25 to 30 channels and rent a set-top box—at a combined monthly price of more than \$20—before they can begin selecting digital fare. At that point, selection can be impressively precise. At Rogers Cable TV, a large provider, tiers can be as narrow as one channel for about \$1.80 or five channels for about \$7 (prices stated in U.S. dollars). For comparison, expanded basic-cable packages in the U.S. average about \$40 a month for 60 to 70 channels.



SETTING: New York City Sidewalk

MIRANDA:

Smart, yes, sometimes cute, but never sexy. Sexy is the thing I try to get them to see me as after I win them over with my personality.

CARRIE:

You win men over with your personality?

Great Writing. Great Comedy.

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local media

RADIO

Still Breathing

Air America ran into trouble by trying to break the rules of radio. Can it recover? By KATY BACHMAN

t's no secret that Air America Radio, the liberal Talk radio network launched earlier this year, is struggling to survive. Top management has left in recent weeks, following the loss of several top-market affiliate clearances. But why, after arguably the biggest public-relations and press blitz the radio industry has ever seen, is the fledgling network teetering on the brink of disaster?

Trouble began two weeks after Air America's launch. Amid rumors of bounced checks, AAR, which was leasing time to clear its program schedule on two stations in Los Angeles and Chicago owned by Multicultural Broadcasting, was knocked off the air. All of a sudden, AAR found itself without clearance in two critical top-10 markets. A court order got it back on the air in Chicago through the end of April, but not in Los Angeles. It still hasn't replaced that coverage.

The hard knocks weren't over. By early May, after five weeks on the air, five of AAR's top executives had exited. The first to go, in late April, was CEO Mark Walsh. A former AOL and National Democratic Committee executive, Walsh stepped down as chief executive to take on a new role as co-founder and senior advisor. Dave Logan, vp of programming and operations, left at the same time. A week later, Evan Cohen, chairman and one of the key investors, was gone, as was vice chairman and investor Rex Sorenson. Radio veteran Jacqui



Rossinsky, executive vp of sales, also quit.

"There are a number of things I would have done differently. I learn from my mistakes. The thing about doing something that hasn't been done before is there is no book, there's no tuto-



rial," argued radio veteran Jon Sinton, AAR's president and its first employee.

The reasons for Air America's early troubles are many—and not so simple. But it all boils down to the fact that the network's founders and promoters have pursued a business plan and execution that simply to not fit the business of radio these days. It has little to do with politics, even though AAR's fundamental programming mission is to provide an opposing political voice to the chorus of conservative talk on radio and television: Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity. (AAR also strongly desires to unseat President

George W. Bush this November.)

AAR's approach has involved breaking more than a few rules in network radio—and radio executives don't like rule breakers. Instead of rolling out and nurturing one show at a time, AAR hit the air with a full slate of programming it wanted stations to clear in its entirety from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. That made getting affiliates nearly impossible. So, the network took the highly unusual step of buying huge blocks of time on local stations to get clearance in the biggest markets. Since it is not feasible financially to sustain that strategy, AAR now is trying to recruit stations the old-fashioned way: barter. The problem is, of the 1,200 Talk stations in the U.S., most already are locked into programming several years out. "Stations have to drop [programs] in order to pick up AAR, and no one wants to take a risk," said Natalie Swed Stone, director of national radio for OMD.

Without a strong affiliate base, including clearances in top markets, the network won't get the attention of media buyers, who will wait until AAR reaches critical mass. "You want things nailed down before launch. Are the

> names big enough to kick off other talent? It takes six to eight months to gauge interest from stations," said Stone.

> Because of AAR's mission to help unseat the president, six to eight months is too long a time to wait. AAR had to find a way to break into the radio business literally overnight. But that's been another one of the network's fundamental

business flaws: It really can't be done that way. Audiences for Talk personalities tend to grow slowly over time, taking years to get to the level of a Limbaugh or Hannity, each of whom today has hundreds of affiliates and tens of millions of listeners.

It doesn't breed stations' confidence in AAR that Al Franken, the network's lead personality, is reported to have signed a one-year contract. While AAR president Sinton insists that Franken is intent on developing his skills as a broadcaster, Franken has made noises on air about running for national office four years down the road.

"No station wants to commit to a show if the talent has made only a one-year commitment," said David Kantor, president and CEO of Reach Media, which syndicates radio personality Tom Joyner.

Another challenge is Sinton's belief in "formatic purity," that a station needs to air only liberal Talk programming rather than mix it up with divergent political views. "We're proving you can have formatic purity. Radio is not like TV where there's appointment [viewing]. Radio is more a mood-service drug, and the station you select had better provide you with that service," said Sinton, based on his experience with trying to affiliate liberal Talk hosts such as Jim Hightower. Sinton recalls that Hightower "didn't do well surrounded by

Liberal Talkers Already On the Air

right-wing Talk."

But Sinton's approach severely limits his network's options for affiliation, ruling out the biggest and best known heritage Talk stations in the business because those stations already carry Limbaugh, Hannity, O'Reilly, Laura Ingraham, Mike Gallagher and other non-liberal hosts.

"I don't see why AAR believes its programming should only clear stations that air a pure liberal format. Talk radio is where you go for ideas, a variety of opinion," said Amy Bolton, vp and general manager of News/Talk for Jones Radio Networks, which syndicates liberal host Ed Schultz (*see sidebar*).

And then, there's the audience itself. Even though half the population may be nonconservative, they don't tend to be the audience tuning into today's Talk radio. A recent analysis of the Talk audience by *Talkers* magazine found that 24 percent of listeners considered themselves Republican, 13 percent Democrat, 5 percent Libertarian, 54 percent Independent and 4 percent "other." The audience is 54 percent male, 46 percent female. To build its audience base, AAR needs to attract new listeners to the dial.

That could be tough. "Left-of-center radio in general doesn't work on Talk radio. The backbone of Talk radio is male and it's older, and that's not liberal radio's base. It's not just an extension of the audience that exists, so they have to create a new base," said Reach Media's Kantor.

With such challenges, it would appear that Air America Radio stands little chance of making it in this business. And while many of the network's critics have dubbed it "Dead Air" America, Sinton is convinced that it is back on the right track. As he turns his focus on increasing distribution and sales, he said, he is pleased with the network's progress so far. Sinton said the network's lineup is now up to 15 affiliates, including WLIB-AM in New York (which, in the first month trend of the Spring 2004 Arbitron book, was up one-tenth of a point, from a 1.3 share to a 1.4, a promising start). Other distribution includes carriage on both satellite radio services, Sirius and XM Satellite Radio, and its own Web site. Sinton says he's close to signing traditional barter deals with seven new affiliate stations and is negotiating with another 20 stations.

"A lot of our critics pooh-poohed us when I said a year and a half ago we'd start in New York and turn the network model on its head,"



A ir America may not make it very far past this fall's presidential election, but liberal Talk radio is alive and well. Several network radio companies already have rolled out liberal Talk hosts in national syndication—they're just doing it one personality at a time.

In January, Jones Radio Networks syndicated Ed Schultz, host of *The Ed Schultz Show*. Broadcasting out of KFGO-AM in Fargo, N.D., Schultz already has attracted 30 affiliates, including KPOJ-AM in Portland, Ore., and WCHL-AM in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he shares the signal with several other shows in Air America's lineup.

In April 2003, Fox News Radio syndicated veteran radio personality Alan Colmes, the liberal half of the *Hannity and Colmes* cable news show on Fox News Channel. Fox News Live with Alan Colmes airs 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. and recently reached the 60-station milestone.

Although he's been on local radio for several years, Michigan personality Thom Hartmann is getting more attention by offering listeners "uncommon sense from the radical middle," from noon-2 p.m. He airs on a handful of affiliates, including WTKG-AM, a Clear Channel Talk station in Grand Rapids, Mich. "The buzz in the industry now is that momentum and consumer curiosity have built to where the coming years will see a whole raft of new liberal Talk shows appearing on the waves across America," Hartmann predicted in a paper published on www.CommonDreams.org.

If these new counterpoints to conservative political Talk take off, expect other radio companies to pile on. "It's early in the game right now," says Amy Bolton, vp and general manager of News/Talk for Jones Radio Networks. "Over the next year, it will start to grow. Listeners are calling liberal Talk a refreshing change." —KB

Sinton said. "People said you can't do that, you have to pay your dues. Just because it hasn't been done doesn't mean it can't be."

One of the first things Sinton did when trouble broke out was to cut 20 people from the sales staff in Los Angeles and Chicago, where the network no longer had affiliates. A much trimmer sales staff of four now operates out of New York under Leon Clark, director of sales. John Manzo, a Clear Channel-trained radio programmer from WJNO-AM in West Palm Beach, Fla., who was the producer for Randi Rhodes, AAR's afternoon drive host, handles programming, network operations and production. He shares programming duties with Shelley Lewis and Lizz Winstead, who, in addition to hosting the 9 a.m.-to-noon slot, supervises the comedy writers, a couple of news writers and program producers.

Sinton credits the network's unprecedented press coverage—even its recent negative press—in establishing a network brand and helping him regroup. "Would you trade almost \$20 million in earned media?" he asked. "We debuted with a level of awareness that people wait years to garner. Even when we were knocked off the air, we got so much media attention that it prompted other broadcasters that we probably would not have contacted to contact us."

Sinton seems to understand, now that the company has cheated death so early in life, that it's all about the business. "Without a solid radio business foundation, the politics simply don't matter," he said. "It's about both. There are two sides to politics, and there is only one represented on the radio."

market profile



Seattle-Tacoma

THE PUGET SOUND REGION IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS HIGHLY EDUCATED AND SKILLED work force, but the greater Seattle metro area has not had a comprehensive mass-transit system to get workers and residents to and from their destinations quickly. With hour-plus commutes not uncommon, a

controversial plan is underway that proponents say could help ease traffic congestion on area highways. Local leaders broke ground on the Central Link light-rail project last November. The initial phase of the plan will cost an estimated \$2.1 billion.

That price tag is a key sticking point for some detractors. The region was hit harder

than most following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Boeing, a major employer, slashed tens of thousands of jobs and relocated its headquarters from Seattle to Chicago. Although the market has begun a slow comeback, it has not reached anywhere near its pre-9/11 health.

Local media have felt the sting as well. TV execs say national business is off so far this year, but local advertising is fairly robust. The Seattle-Tacoma TV market ranks No. 12 in the nation, with 1.69 million homes.

Belo owns NBC affiliate KING-TV, the market's perennial leader, along with Independent station KONG-TV and 24-hour news channel Northwest Cable News (NWCN). While some dominant stations in other large cities have watched market share slowly erode, KING is "at its strongest market position ever"

	JanDec. 2001	lan Des 2002
		JanDec. 2002
Spot TV	\$300,179,990	\$314,085,450
Local Newspaper	\$227,809,370	\$252,348,700
Spot Radio	\$160,803,000	\$141,816,840
Outdoor	\$46,714,968	\$42,268,138
Local Magazine	\$12,179,960	\$12,885,110
Local Sunday Supplement	\$8,061,500	\$8,774,330
Total	\$755,748,788	\$772,178,568

in both revenue and ratings, says Dave Lougee, president and general manager of Belo's three Seattle TV properties.

"This market is smart and educated. NBC programming lines up very well with that, as does good journalism," adds Lougee. KING also carries the syndicated *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Dr. Phil* and *Ellen DeGeneres*.

KING also has a joint sales agreement with Paxson Communications' KWPX, which rebroadcasts KING's evening and late newscasts. Sister station KONG had the top 10 p.m. news in households during the February sweeps. "That has been a very big growth vehicle for us," says Lougee, adding that KONG will jump into morning news in August.

The market's No. 2 station overall is ABC affiliate KOMO-TV, owned by Seattle-based Fisher Broadcasting. However, KOMO finished third in late news in the February sweeps because of the continuing weakness of ABC's prime-time schedule, says Dick Warsinske, KOMO senior vp/gm. KOMO expanded its midday news to a full hour, from 11-noon, after the network cancelled soap *Port Charles*.

Warsinske says he is excited about the addition of *The Jane Pauley Show* this fall as KOMO's new evening news lead-in at 4 p.m. Currently, KOMO airs *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* and *Pyramid* in that hour. Warsinske says KOMO-TV and sister News radio station KOMO-AM now share news resources.

Tribune Broadcasting owns Fox affiliate KCPQ and WB outlet KTWB. KCPQ produces an hour-long 10 p.m. news against KONG's half-hour news. (KONG airs a sports recap show at 10:30 p.m.) Pam Pearson, KCPQ and KTWB vp/gm, says KCPQ remains the 10 p.m. news leader in adults 25-54 with a 2.4/7 in the February sweeps, compared to KONG's 2.0/5.

KCPQ plans to make Christine Chen, now anchor of its three-hour morning news, late-

news anchor on June 1. Current 10 p.m. anchor Leslie Miller will leave the station when her contract expires at the end of May. KCPQ also hired new sales director Paul Rennie at the beginning of the year and restructured its sales department. Rennie had been general sales manager at WRTV-TV, McGraw-Hill Broadcasting's ABC affiliate in Indianapolis. This fall, the Tribune duopoly will acquire syndie shows *Malcolm in the Middle* and *Yes, Dear.*

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<u>letters</u>

Too Old for The O.C.

t's almost sad to think I have such strong feelings about a television program to the extent that I would feel offended when it is criticized. But it hurt when I read the disapproving words about Fox's The O.C. [Mr.

Television, May 3], and so I feel obliged to defend what has become my Wednesdaynight addiction.

Your first instinct was right: Your age is the reason you don't like The O.C. Its target demo is not middle-aged men. It is about high school students and teen drama; you are not expected to like it. Although I am only 23 and I have never seen an entire episode of Dallas, Knots

Landing or Dynasty, I know all the characters were not teenagers. And although The O.C. does have its fair share of adults, these are not your typical adults. The adults on this show have similar traits to the children and sometimes demonstrate less maturity.

As for the comparison to Fox's Beverly Hills, 90210 and Melrose Place, I think this is one of the only valid arguments you made. It makes sense that, since you liked these programs, you would assume that you would like The O.C. The problem is that somewhere over the four years where 90210 left off and The O.C. picked up, you got old.

90210 had the same cardboard cutouts. the same "obtrusive" music, and same outlandish plots that you criticize The O.C. for having. The hunk (Dylan), the nerd (Andrea), the jock (Steve) and the innocent babe (take your choice) all lived in the same



mansions, went to the same unbelievable high school, and basically dealt with the same typical teen problems.

The most telling sign of your age was when you used the word "obtrusive" to describe the music. I have several friends

> who have downloaded the soundtrack and listen to it on a daily basis. However, I will admit that Ryan does get into a few too many fistfights, especially for his size. But he has calmed down the past few weeks, only to have unexpected characters throw the punches instead. As for the acting, it's basically a nighttime soap; we don't expect award-winning acting. I will give you Peter

Gallagher, but I would go after the eyebrows, not the hair.

I will unashamedly admit that I shed more than a few tears during the final episode, even though in reality, Ryan was only moving 45 minutes away. And I am very eager for The North Shore, which I consider The O.C.'s Melrose Place, to hit Fox. You are correct to award congratulations to Fox for its new hit because it is appealing to its target audience, which, unfortunately, does not include you.

> Emilie N. Hanson Assistant Media Planner, Fahlgren Columbus, Obio

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EDITOR'S NOTE

My Problem With the New 'Prime Time'

'm more than a little concerned to hear all this talk of the new "prime time" from online media purveyors. They've all come to the realization-now that they're actually using valid stats and research-that Web usage is at its highest during the daytime hours, as worker bees across the country surf while they get their real jobs done. That online "prime time" is also where Web sales execs plan to cram ad messages to reach us all from noon-3 p.m.

I don't know about you, but I'm pretty busy when I'm at work. And I will have no tolerance for being pestered in some newly intrusive way when I'm searching for the information I need on the Web. Anyway, aren't there already enough ways to reach me? My phone now regularly buzzes at me with unwanted text messages-half of them in Spanish, no less. And the milk carton on my fridge no longer performs a public service by advising me of a missing child; it's now trying to get me to go to the nearest Great Adventure this summer. Enough, already. - Michael Bürgi



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Publisher: Linda D'Adamo

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Forty years ago, Americans began taking down their TV antennas and severing broadcasters' direct



link to television audiences. Since then, the cable industry—the middlemen who replaced us—have created more than \$300 billion of value for themselves.

We think it's time for viewers to come back home—and for broadcasters to reclaim control of our industry.

Changes in technology have given broadcasters the ability to provide the American public with every popular TV channel, without the middlemen and at a more reasonable price. We intend to take advantage of that technology.

Owned by broadcasters, for broadcasters, the Broadcasters' Initiative provides a real benefit to the American public and a means for all of us to get back in the game. By working together, we can provide multi-channel, high-definition video to every American home at a fraction of the cost of cable.

This time, we control our destiny. If we join forces, every station in America from the largest network-owned station to the smallest independent—can own its share of the future.

We've been away too long. American television is coming home.

For your share of your future, call the Broadcasters' Initiative at 317.684.6530, or send e-mail to jsmulyan@emmis.com.





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OPINION SEAN CUNNINGHAM

Raise the Bar

Want more out of TV right now? Follow the viewers

IT'S TIME WE RAISED our expectations of television.

Tremendous untapped selling power is there for the taking in America's largest medium. That theme has echoed throughout meetings I've had with agencies and advertisers in the past few months. While they embrace more media options than ever and relentlessly pursue novel ways of connecting with target consumers, they're asking more of television.

The fact is, advertisers need TV more than ever. And they need it to do more for them. They need TV to deliver real connections with viewers, in repeatable ways at affordable costs, for longer periods of time.

Advertisers have to sell to a world that won't sit still. They need to sync up marketing, promotion and media to get particular people to buy their brands in specific markets, neighborhoods and stores. They know that timing is everything in talking with consumers. An on-thego America with ever-expanding options means that if you want advertising to build your brand, you have to truly connect with me when I'm open to receive the message, and I'm feeling the needs your brand promises to fulfill.

On the eve of the upfront, while the press has focused on the movement of money, agencies are focused on the movement of viewers, who have remade television to their own tastes. This audience migration is the critical area of focus, and it should be—it is changing television everywhere, for all time, and for the better. TV gets more powerful as viewers realign into channels where you can more self-evidently connect with them.

From a planning perspective, seizing advantage in TV now means approaching the medium the way viewers do it's one TV world to them—and interchange broadcast with cable programming options on a target-specific basis.

The steady redistribution of audience from broadcast to cable has emerged as the TV vitality story. We've passed the tipping point on audience migration. Cable ratings are up while broadcast is down for all key targets. And cable's reach either equals or surpasses broadcast reach on short- and long-term bases across all demographics. From a pricing standpoint, the math is simple: Cable is increasingly a more-for-more proposition, while broadcast is increasingly about paying more for less.

From a viewer-connection standpoint, the choice is even clearer. The 2004 How People Use TV study, conducted by Knowledge Networks/SRI, showed that consumers across demographic lines give higher marks to cable programming and brands on critical attributes such as loyalty, anticipation, best programs, appointment TV, attention to advertising and purchase inclination.

Using cable interchangeably with broadcast produces the "more" that advertisers should expect from national TV: more weeks of advertising, more brands on TV, more promotional air cover and more target consumers engaged. That's for starters. Add to that the ability to reverse any recent television concessions to competitors, a return to a richer copy mix, and a lower percentage of delivery in downscale broadcast-only homes, and you have a prescription for boosting brand attention in the age of consumer control.

One proven way to increase chances of getting "prime time" with consumers is to be on the air more consistently with compelling messages. Increasingly, compelling means the right message at the right time and in the right locations. We live and shop on a local basis: The neighborhood is where the action is. The same is true of media: It's local at the point of engagement.

Technology and service advancements have made it easier than ever to buy TV on the same DMA-, neighborhood- and store-specific bases that product distribution and promotion are planned. For advertisers, viewer connection translates into competitive advantage when target consumers take action at retail. Generating this advantage starts with deepening the definition of "local" in television, from DMA down to neighborhood.

Agencies are devoting considerable resources to campaigns based on touch points in consumers' lives, insights that are intrinsically sub-national. In the past four years, the number of DMA interconnects—providing oneorder/one-bill service for local buying—has increased tenfold. A month from now, all DMA-based cable systems will operate on a 100 percent EDI invoicing basis.

A smart businessperson unencumbered by long-held maxims of a bygone television age invests where the market is growing and returns are already being delivered. In media, that means where the high-potential audience is actually paying attention—increasingly, branded programming on cable networks.

Following the viewers makes perfect media sense; it also makes perfect sense to advertiser procurement and purchasing officers.

Sean Cunningham, CEO of the Cabletelevision Advertising Bureau, can be reached at seanc@cabletvadbureau.com. We are introducing full motion color TV ad capture, expansive Hispanic coverage and groundbreaking web-based delivery, *Because you need information at its best.*

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For information, call 212- 991-6000

<u>Calendar</u>

The New Generation Latino Consortium will host its inaugural **NGLC Media**, **Marketing & Entertainment Conference** May 26 at the Harvard Club in New York. The focus will be the newgeneration Latino audience and its impact in the fields of media, marketing and entertainment. Herb Scannell, MTV Networks Group president and Nickelodeon Networks president, will keynote. Contact: 212-967-8267.

American Business Media will present "Taking the ROI Initiative," a one-day session for publishers and media buyers, June 3 at the Westin Times Square in New York. Panelists will include executives from Starcom, Mediaedge:cia and ZenithOptimedia. Contact Jane O'Connor, 212-661-6360, ext. 3332.

Magazine Publishers of America's Independent Magazine Advisory Group will host the first **Magazine Leadership Forum for Independent Publishers** June 21-23 at Northwestern University in Chicago. Contact: 212-872-3755 or visit www.magazine.org/independent_publishers.

Interep will host a conference titled Mid-Year 2004 Radio Symposium: Solving New Industry Variables June 22 at the Grand Hyatt in New York. Topics will include radio advertising's return-on-investment and growth opportunities, major business trends, pacing, pricing and inventory, EDI and indecency rulings. Visit www.radiosymposium.com.

Mediaweek will host the **2004 Media Plan of the Year Awards**, honoring the best plans in the major media categories, at a gala reception and luncheon June 24 at New York's W Hotel. Visit www.mediaplanoftheyear.com.

In Search of Business: How to Develop and Integrate Search Engine Marketing Programs, a one-day seminar presented by Adweek Magazines and The Laredo Group, will be held July 15 at the Westin New York at Times Square. Contact www.insearchofbusiness.com or call 888-536-8536.

inside media

AmEx Titles Take On Aussie Tourism

American Express Publishing Corp. has inked a deal with the Australian Tourist Commission that will include an exclusive ATC advertising buy to run across all AmEx titles, as well as joint online and direct-mail marketing efforts aimed at travelers to Australia. The campaign will launch in the June issue of *Travel + Leisure*, the July edition of *Food & Wine*, the September issue of *T+L Golf* and the October issue of *Departures*.

Hamptons, Vineyard to Get Local Cable Net

Besides beachgoers, Memorial Day Weekend also will bring a 24-hour cable TV network with original local programming to the Hamptons of Long Island and Martha's Vinevard, Mass. Plum TV, founded by Nantucket Nectars creator Tom Scott, film producer Carv Woods and NBC veteran Chris Glowacki, will launch May 28 and be carried on Cablevision systems in the Hamptons and on Adelphia Cable on Martha's Vineyard. The channel's flagship program will be The Morning Show, a two-hour talk show broadcast from multiple local townships. Sponsors will gain exposure through long-form promotional programming, embedded content, product placement and mentions in the Plum ticker, which provides local weather, beach and event information. Network executives anticipate a nightly audience of 425,000. Plum TV is the second such venture by the group, which launched Nantucket (Mass.) TV in May 2002.

BET Backs Switch to LPMs in Top 10

While Don't Count Us Out, the coalition of black and Hispanic political and community leaders. Fox TV and other broadcasters, recently blasted Nielsen Media Research's local people meter system for undercounting minorities, cable network BET last week stated its support of the switch to LPMs in the top 10 markets. In a prepared statement, Debra Lee, president and COO of BET, said: "We don't understand why some broadcasters would oppose any method of truthfully tracking what viewers are and are not watching, regardless of their ethnic background." Viacom-owned BET, which targets blacks, has seen its ratings go up under the new ratings system.

Arbitron Response Rates Dip Again

Response rates for Arbitron's radio-listening diaries continued to slide in the Winter 2004 survey, dipping to 32.1 percent from 33.9 per-

cent a year earlier, a difference of 1.8 points. And though the number of diaries returned was actually up 0.5 points from a year ago, to 56.6 percent, the bottom line is that fewer people agreed to participate in the surveys. Arbitron's consent rate declined 3.5 points, from 59.8 percent in Winter 2003 to 56.3 percent in Winter 2004. To stem the slide, Arbitron has added several new survey treatments, including increased premiums, especially for households in lowest-response-rate markets and among black, Hispanic and young male households.

Fine Living Teams With Dwell for Series

Scripps Networks' Fine Living channel has partnered with *Dwell* magazine to produce a new TV series for fall. The series, as yet untitled, will be an on-air extension of the independent lifestyle magazine, focusing on "what it means to be a home in the modern world," said a statement from the two media properties. The series will profile modern design and architecture, with their penchant for light, simplicity and comfort, by looking at homes and the people who create them.

AURN Jumps On Crunk Trend

American Urban Radio Networks has launched *CrunkRadio*, a two-hour weekly hitdriven music program featuring the Southern-inspired, hard-hitting sub-genre of Rap known as Crunk. The show is hosted by the king of Crunk, producer and recording artist Lil' Jon (aka Jonathan Smith), and Atlantabased radio personality Emperor Searcy. The show launched on 17 stations, including Clear Channel's WHRK-FM in Memphis, Tenn., and KATZ-FM in St. Louis, and On Top Communications' WWHV-FM in Norfolk, Va.

WNDS Sold to New TV Group

ShootingStar Broadcasting has agreed to acquire the assets of WNDS-TV, the Derry, N.H.-based independent station serving the Boston DMA, from CTV of Derry for undisclosed terms. To finance the transaction, ShootingStar formed a new company with its equity partner, Alta Communications of Boston. ShootingStar president Diane Sutter will serve as president/CEO of the new entity. Sherman Oaks, Calif.-based ShootingStar previously formed a partnership to acquire and operate KTAB-TV, the CBS affiliate in Abilene, Texas, which it recently sold to Nexstar Broadcasting. EAST

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EMPLOYMENT

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Creative Media Faculty

In Fall 2004, The Adcenter at Virginia Commonwealth University will be launching a creative media track to work in conjunction with art direction, copywriting, and strategic tracks. The Adcenter is ranked as one of the leading graduate programs in advertising and offers a two year masters degree to graduating students.

As media strategy is growing in stature and significance, the Adcenter is looking for an experienced professional who has demonstrated creativity, strategic foresight, and innovative approaches to media planning. We invite applicants for a nontenure-track position at the level of professor to assume a leadership role in the media track. Candidates must have 7-10 years of media strategy and media buying experience. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree at a minimum. College level teaching is preferred. Send a letter of application, vitae or resume, and a list of references. Send materials to:

Andrea Groat, VCU Adcenter 1313 E. Main Street, Suite 103 Richmond, VA 23219.

Application review will begin immediately and continue until a candidate is chosen. Check our website at www.adcenter.vcu.edu for more details about our program or call 800-311-3341 with questions.

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women, minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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Agency in Northern VA seeks candidate with 3-5 years account service experience for fast food client. E-mail resume and salary requirements to AdvertAE@aol.com or fax to 703-830-5344.



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Leading/developing an expanding Interactive Marketing team, this position's responsibilities include: managing all aspects of jetblue.com; coordinating all outbound customer communication initiatives; spearheading JetBlue's online advertising/search efforts; handling online promotional partnerships; overseeing TrueBlue - JetBlue's customer recognition program; analysing sales data and web metrics; and liaising with IT, Reservations, Customer Service, System Operations and other business units as required.

Requires a BBA in Marketing or related discipline (MBA preferred); a minimum 4 years' proven e-comm experience with significant web responsibilities; at least 2 years' experience leading/developing direct reports; and excellent leadership qualities through all areas of the business. Also need keen analytical skills with a clear understanding of web metrics; the verbal skills to converse at C-level; and the ability to manage multiple tactical and strategic projects within time and budgetary deadlines. Significant travel required, as is willingness to be on-call for emergency management. Apply only at jetblue.com.



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CultureTrends

NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH

AD SPENDING - BUSINESS & CONSUMER SERVICES			
January-December 2003			
Medium	\$(000)		
Cable TV	3,289,347,068		
National Magazines	1,542,046,715		
National Newspapers	431,651,951		
National Radio	169,232,140		
Network TV	2,975,822,553		
Spot TV	4,133,413,936		
Syndicated TV	398,158,108		
SOURCE: Nielsen Monitor P	lus		



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1	NEW	TROY	46,865,412	3	46,865,412
2	1	VAN HELSING	20,727,515	10	85,095,305
3	2	MEAN GIRLS	10,182,766	17	55,400,970
4	3	MAN ON FIRE	5,101,128	26	64,169,492
5	NEW	BREAKIN' ALL THE RULES	5,088,577	3	5,088,577
6	5	13 GOING ON 30	4,107,023	24	48,522,282
7	4	NEW YORK MINUTE	3,814,307	10	10,783,723
8	6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	2,009,380	17	15,301,189
9	7	KILL BILL VOL 2	1,628,802	31	60,836,074
10	9	ENVY	1,042,949	17	11,899,458
		ay 16, 2004			Hollywood Reporte

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Movers

MAGAZINES

Tom Harty, formerly senior vp. general manager for the Golf Digest Cos., has joined Meredith Magazine Group as vp. general manager, charged with overseeing the company's direct response and travel advertising departments as well as strategic planning, magazine development and market research functions. Elsewhere at Meredith Corp., David Ball was named group consumer marketing director, responsible for the titles Country Home, Traditional Home and Successful Farming as well as all online consumer-marketing activities and circulation development for custom titles published by Meredith, including the DirecTV program guide. Most recently, Ball was vp of marketing for Data Transmission Network.

PRODUCTION

Celeste Mitchell has joined Studio One Networks as general director of editorial and programming. A former deputy editor of Cosmopolitan and senior features editor at Family Circle, Mitchell has written and edited for magazines including Woman's Day, More and Fitness,

RADIO

Dan Weiner has been named vp and general manager of KTWV-FM "The Wave," Infinity Broadcasting's Smooth Jazz station in Los Angeles, Weiner ioins the Viacom-owned radio group from Clear Channel, where he was station manager of Sports station KXTA-AM in Los Angeles...Ralph Herrera was named manager of Univision Radio National Sales in Atlanta, a division of the Katz Media Group, Herrera most recently was founder and president of the Lanza Group, an Atlanta-based Hispanic advertising and public relations firm ... Kristina Hahn was promoted to sales manager from senior account executive at Christal Radio, a Katz Media Group rep firm in New York.

TV STATIONS

Yvette Miley was named vp of news for WTVJ, NBC's owned-and-operated station in Miami. Miley had been vp of news and director of programming for WVTM, NBC's O&O in Birmingham, Ala.

media elite EDITED BY ANNE TORPEY-KEMPH

Quicktakes



Haves-ing incident: ASME's Kahan (r.) chatted with Smithsonian's "most interesting person" at B.B. King's.

WHO KNEW ASME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Marlene Kahan was such a big Isaac Hayes fan? She even had the chance to tell him so at the recent Smithsonian bash at B.B. King's Blues Club in Manhattan, where the mag was feting the soul legend as part of its ongoing "Most Interesting Person We Know" series. Kahan chatted briefly with her idol just before Smithsonian publisher Amy Wilkins introduced the guest of honor to the audience of advertisers and media types. which also included Artie Scheff, senior vp/marketing at A&E Television Networks, and Roberta Garfinkle, publishing group specialist at TargetCast TCM. For his part, Haves had warned Wilkins about his tenden-

cv to exceed his allotted stage time-and he was true to his word, expounding on his childhood in Tennessee and original career plan to be a doctor. But he had the crowd roaring when he told of his first meeting with South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone about doing the voice of Chef for the Comedy Central series. "[After reading the script], I said, 'Is this for real?" recalled Hayes. "'Y'all got insurance for this? Y'all are some crazy white

boys.""...Word is out in Los Angeles that Condé Nast Traveler editor in chief Tom Wallace likes to play travel agent at his events, matching celebrities with the perfect getaway. For those attending the mag's recent Hot Nights event at the exclusive Spider Club in Los Angeles, Wallace chose Mexico's romantic La Casa Oue Canta for starlet Juliette Lewis and the kid-friendly Montage Resort & Spa in Laguna Beach, Calif., for working mom Melina Kanakaredes. star of the upcoming CSI: New York. But much to the disappointment of Wallace's daughters, the editor left before Mean Girls star Lindsay Lohan hustled over to the party, hoping to get a souvenir travel package of her own. The next day, Wallace heard about Lohan's late arrival and

promptly agreed to send her to the new "hot

list" property, Four Seasons Bahāmas...Dr. Neil Frank is now the proud holder of the William H. Seav Award, the Belo media company's highest in-house honor, named for its late, longtime board member and presented to employees who reflect Seav's integrity, journalistic standards and commit-

Showered with praise: Frank

ment to community. In presenting the award to Frank, the longtime chief meteorologist at

Houston station KHOU-TV, Belo media operations president Jack Sander cited some of the weatherman's most notable credentials (he is a former director of the National Hurricane Forecast Center, for one), surprising traits ("He knows everything about Doppler radar...but still doesn't know how to turn on his cell phone," Sander quipped), and legendary hairstyle, which looks like it could easily survive a hurricane (see photo above).

mediaweek.com May 24, 2004 MEDIAWEEK 27





CNT's Wallace (I.) sent Lewis packing—to Mexico.

<u>media elite</u>



Outside New York's Grand Central Terminal, Pelle Tornberg, CEO/president of Metro New York Inc., handed out launch-day copies of his company's *Metro New York*, the free daily targeting commuters in the Big Apple.



Premiere brought its Film & Music Lounge to New York to serve as the venue for several film-premiere parties and celebrity events during the recent Tribeca Film **Festival in New** York. (L. to r.) Peter Herbst, editor in chief, Premiere; Melvin Van Peebles, film director; Paul Turcotte, vp/publisher, Premiere; and Mario Van Peebles, actor and film director.



Paige Davis, host of TLC's *Trading* Spaces, and Steve Lacy, Meredith Publishing Group president and COO-elect, chummed at the recent gala previewing the "Designs on Downtown Loft-Living" showhouse in Des Moines, a collaborative project by seven Meredith magazines.



At New York's Marriott Marquis in midtown Manhattan, publishing and advertising executives gathered for the recent Magazine Day event, hosted by The Advertising Club and Magazine Publishers of America. (L. to r.) Brad Simmons, vp/media services, Unilever; Jeannine Shao Collins, vp/group publisher, *Ladies' Home Journal* and *More*; George Sansoucy, senior vp/managing director, print & convergence, Initiative Media; Jan Studin, vp/publisher, The Parents Media Group; and David Carey, vp/publisher, *The New Yorker*.



Budget Living celebrated the launch of its first book, Home Cheap Home: A Room-by-Room Guide to Great Decorating, at Vela in New York. (L. to r.) Eric Rayman, president of Budget Living magazine; John Duff, publisher, Perigee Books; and Sarah Gray Miller, BL editor in chief.

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Making a Living

As Martha Stewart's sentencing date draws near, *MSL* executives meet with buyers to talk cover alternatives

WITH MARTHA STEWART'S JUNE 17 SENTENCING FOR LYING TO GOVERNMENT INVESTIgators about the sale of her ImClone stock less than a month away, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia has begun to outline the company's contingency plans in the marketplace. Last week, Suzanne Sobel,

Martha Stewart Living's publisher, gave media buyers a first look at the magazine's new cover, planned for the September issue. While the cover has yet to be finalized, plans call for the word Living to stretch across the front, and Martha Stewart to appear in the top right corner. There also is the possibility that a cover flap will be attached to newsstand copies, to ensure proper placement and prevent reader confusion.

Sobel also brought to her meetings with buyers an alternate cover. That version also plays *Living* across the cover, but the words *Good Things For* replace *Martha Stewart* at the top right.

While there are no plans to remove Stewart's name from the cover, the company is, in



Come September, Stewart's name will be further marginalized—and later removed if ads head south.

fact, exploring alternatives. In January, MSO trademarked *Everyday Living*; now it is toying with *Good Things For Living*. "If we do not see signs of improvement with our advertising business, we will have to continue the evaluation as to whether or not to take her name off," Sobel acknowledges. "And this could be a possible way to go." Any dramatic changes, she adds, will not be considered until the end of this year or early next year.

Some media buyers speculate that the decision whether to remove Stewart's name will be based on the severity of her sentencing (Stewart is expected to serve some prison time) and the resulting consumer and advertising reaction to it.

So far, Sobel claims that readers have been loyal, and that through March *MSL* exceeded its 1.8 million circulation rate base by 10 percent. (In January, MSO dropped the title's rate base from 2.3 million.) Sobel also has shown buyers phone surveys claiming favorable feedback from *MSL* prospects and current subscribers as well as subscribers of *Everyday Food*.

"Martha has a cult following, and there is still a 1.8 million circulation," notes Robin Steinberg, MediaVest vp, director of print services. "But is there enough time for advertisers to see consumer reaction, and do we feel comfortable knowing Martha's sitting in a jail cell? You have to weigh that. A magazine cannot stay afloat without advertising support."

Advertisers already have proved squeamish. MSL's ad pages through June are down a whopping 41.7 percent, to 358, compared to the year prior, reports the Mediaweek Monitor. The losses come as MSL's rivals—Time Inc.'s Real Simple and O, The Oprah Magazine, published by Hearst Magazines and Oprah Winfrey—are picking up steam. *Real Simple* through June is up 16.9 percent, to 659, and *O* rose 10.5 percent, to 711.

At least one sympathetic media buyer suggests that *MSL* executives are playing it smart. "It's about evolution," Brett Stewart, Universal McCann senior vp, director of strategic print, says of the pending changes. "If they leave it alone they're going to be lambasted, and if they do it too quickly and remove her from the cover they will get into trouble. They're just being smart business people. They've got contingency plans in place for every possible outcome, and I admire them for that."

Meanwhile, other changes on the horizon include MSO title *Everyday Food* losing the tagline "From the kitchens of *Martha Stewart Living*" starting with the July issue. And on the broadcast side, the company announced last week that it will put its syndicated show *Martha Stewart Living* on hiatus after its 11th season ends in September. —*LG*

New Episode *TV Guide* makes more changes

As *TV Guide* this month introduces yet more changes to its pages, it does so without an editor in chief at the helm.

Mike Lafavore—who last fall spearheaded the 9 million-circulation weekly's relaunch, which included a revamp of the front of the book—resigned in early May and last week was not around to usher in changes to the back of the magazine. Instead, Vincent Cosgrove, *TV Guide*'s managing editor and Los Angeles bureau chief, is overseeing the title and implementing the latest changes until a new editor is named.

New elements include the introduction of a feature in the May 23 edition called First-Run This Week, a three-to-four-page alphabetical index of all series airing new episodes that week, as well as special programs. And beginning May 30, the Big Movie Guide will go from an alphabetical guide to a genrebased listing similar to a local video store's categorization of films.

John Loughlin, president of TV Guide Publishing Group, insists that it's business as usual. "We started planning these changes in January," he says. "We knew we had more work to do to make the book flow better, to be more intuitive to readers."

Loughlin says he already has begun talking

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aged a large staff," he says. Among those Loughlin is said to be talking to are Jim Seymore—former managing editor of Time Inc.'s *Entertainment Weekly*, who also has worked for *People* and former *New York* editor Caroline Miller. Other potential candidates include *People* vet Susan Toepfer,

who has worked for over a year on *Gala*, G+J USA Publishing's stalled celebrity magazine, and former ABC television executive Susan Lyne, the onetime editor of Hachette Filipacchi Media's *Premiere*. -LG

Back in Business

BW relaunches SmallBiz

The latest sign that the advertising economy may have turned a corner came last week as *BusinessWeek* announced it will publish a standalone small-business quarterly called *Business-Week SmallBiz*, beginning in mid-June. Kimberly Weisul, *BW*'s small business editor, will oversee the spin-off. *SmallBiz* will be distributed free to 500,000 names gleaned from McGraw-Hill Cos.' Leader's database, made up of some 5 million executives, many of whom are readers of the publisher's b-to-b titles as well as *BW*.

"These are not mom-and-pop gas station owners," notes Geoff Dodge, *BusinessWeek* vp, associate publisher. "These are sophisticated small businesses."

Among the advertisers locked in for the quarterly are FedEx, Visa and Hewlett Packard.

This is *BW*'s second shot in the smallbusiness arena. In 2001, *BW* shuttered its 6year-old monthly supplement *SmallBiz*, which went to 225,000 *BW* subscribers. Since then, small-business content has run in *BW*'s pages.

The new title joins G+J USA Publishing's *Inc.*, Time Inc.'s *Fortune Small Business*, and *Entrepreneur*. *SmallBiz* will provide service content and include departments dealing with economic trends, finance and management.

BW's ad pages through May 24 grew 7.4 percent, to 1,137, versus the year prior, reports the *Mediaweek* Monitor. —*LG*

Mediaweek Magazine Monitor

WEEKLIES MAY 24, 2004

	ISSUE	CURRENT	ISSUE DATE	PAGES	PERCENT	YTD	YTO	PERCENT
	DATE	PAGES	LAST YEAR	LAST YEAR	CHANGE	PAGES	LAST YEAR	CHANGE
NEWS/BUSINESS								
BusinessWeek®	24-May	56.61	26-May	61.57	-8.06%	1,136.96	1,058.86	7.38%
The Economist	15-May	60.00	17-May	35.00	71.43%	904.00	797.00	13.43%
NewsweekE	24-May	39.73	26-May	43.03	-7.67%	818.25	780.66	4.82%
The New Republic [®]	24-May	6.41	26-May	5.45	17.61%	97.06	116.46	-16.66%
Time ^E	24-May	47.85	26-May	40.03	19.54%	943.29	888.35	6.18%
U.S. News & World Report	24-May	24.99	26-May	26.58	-5.98%	635.61	515.08	23.40%
The Weekly Standard	17-May	6.66	19-May	9.70	-31.34%	112.91	126.66	-10.86%
Category Total		242.25		221.36	9.44%	4,648.08	4,283.07	8.52%
SPORTS/ENTERT		T/LEISU	RE					
AutoWeek	24-May	27.08	26-May	18.39	47.25%	465.72	468.92	-0.68%
Entertainment WeeklyN	21-May	32.39	16-May	30.89	4,86%	654,19	645.29	1.389
Golf World	21-May	26.17	23-May	22.83	14.63%	500.64	471.39	6.219
New York	24-May	78.10	26-May	32.40	141.05%	1,000,95	910.45	9.94%
People	24-May	87.34	26-May	83.29	4.86%	1,369,29	1,468.57	-6.769
Sporting News	24-May	16.25	26-May	15,08	7.76%	329.92	296.07	11.439
Sports Illustrated	24-May	37.93	26-May	48.23	-21.36%	903.85	906.76	-0.329
The New Yorker	24-May	30.43	26-May	39.59	-23.14%	782.11	800.64	-2.319
Time Out New York	19-May	63.81	14-May	74,63	-14,49%	1,224.08	1.328.49	-7.86%
TV Guide	23-May	42.59	24-May	26.69	59.57%	959.52	1.008.32	-4.849
Us Weekly	24-May	25.93	26-May	22.33	16.12%	556.73	498.18	11.759
Category Total		468.02		414.35	12.95%	8,747.00	8,803.08	-0.64%
SUNDAY MAGAZ	INES				1000			
American Profile	23-May	8.95	25-May	9.30	-3.76%	196.95	187.70	4.93%
Parade	23-May	16.68	25-May	8.09	106.18%	277.96	290.66	-4.379
USA Weekend	23-May	16.55	25-May	9.02	83.48%	260.98	258.71	0.889
Category Total		42.18	-	26.41	59.71%	735.89	737.07	-0.16%
TOTALS		752.45		662.12	13.64%	14,130.97	13,823,22	2.23%

E=estimated page counts; N=YTD 2004 includes controlled distribution of Lord of The Rings special issue, 7.88 ad pages; @=one fewer issue in 2004 than in 2003 CHARTS COMPILED BY AIMEE DEEKEN

	RATE BASE (2ND HALF '03)	CIRC. (2ND HALF '03)	CURRENT	PAGES LAST YEAR	PERCENT	YEAR TO DATE	YTD LAST YEAR	PERCEN
GENERAL INTEREST	(200 1001 03)	(210 11421 03)	TAGES	LAST TEAM	CHANGE	TO DATE	LAST TEAM	CHANGE
American Heritage	340,000	352,060	47.03	38.73	21.43%	74.03	70.60	4.87%
American Photo	200,000	200,936	45.73	42.67	7.17%	156.83	139.30	12.58%
Mother Jones	170,000	227,192	32.33	32.23	0.31%	89.62	90.73	-1.229
Category Total			125.09	113.63	10.09%	320.48	300,63	6.60%
LIFESTYLE								
AARP The Magazine	21.500.000	22,052,328	52.47	46.16	13.67%	138.48	119.46	15.929
Bride's	None	371,445	400.47	440.59	-9.11%	1,390.06	1,636.21	-15.049
Cargo	300,000	N.A.C	79.54	N.A.	N.A.	178.23	N.A.	N.4
Departures7	565,000	701.802 ^B	130.30	114.97	13.33%	355.49	312.64	13,719
Elle Girl	400,000	408,614	58.80	73,71	-20.23%	185.31	176.70	4.879
Fit Pregnancy	500.000×	528,214 ^B	100.29	90.01	11.42%	274.42	262.64	4.499
Islands ^{8/S}	200,000	203,878	140.83	127.38	10.56%	269.17	258.32	4.20
Modern Bride	None	395,612	290.28	298.49	-2.75%	1,131.47	1,220.23	-7.27
Nat'l. Geographic Traveler8/S		724,119	137.58	135.91	1.23%	239.90	246.16	-2.549
Saveur ^{8/M}	375.000	376,403	101.00	NO ISSUE	1.2070	113.55	97.00	17.06
Category Total	0101000	0.0,100	1,390.56	1,327.22	4.77%	4,276.08	4,329.36	-1.239
SHELTER		Contraction of	_					_
Dwell ^{8/R}	150,000	175,394	90.07	58.82	53.13%	218.84	190.35	14,979
Elle Decor7/S	500,000	513,266	273.11	261,12	4.59%	521.93	513.90	1.56
Garden Design	275.000	280.250	38.48	32.46	18.55%	119.09	106.49	11.839
Metropolitan Home	600,000	604,247	163.78	152.12	7.67%	370.72	328.10	12.99
Midwest Living	850,000	858.836	208.82	203.82	2.45%	524.53	479.30	9.44
OG	300,000	288,295	20.36	25.91	-21.42%	62.18	75.99	-18.17
Old House Journal	None	113,446		NOT REPORT	21.4270	129.49	123.86	4.55
Southern Accents	400,000	439,192	112.60	118.22	-4.75%	296.63	299.34	-0.91
Traditional Home ^{8/S}	925.000	938,901	244.64	220.30	11.05%	456.61	406.54	12.32
Veranda	390,000	412,039	128.92	123.58	4.32%	360.15	325.29	10.72
Workbench Magazine	375.000	383.509	35.00	38.00	-7.89%	98.70	108.10	-8.70
Catego ry Tota l	010,000	500,000	1,315.78	1,234.35	6.60%	3,158.87	2,957.26	6.82
SPORTS/FITNESS				-	174	11,200		
Golf for Women	500.000	510,741	109.88	88.88	23.63%	250.68	223.74	12.04
Ski ^{8/E}	450,000	458,745	45.83	46.99	-2.47%	241.08	304.10	-20.72
Skiing ⁷	400,000	408,372		NO ISSUE		157.68	176.10	-10.46
Spa	None	85,000	98.83	78.33	26.17%	247.05	198.73	24.31
T+L Golf	625.000	650,549	81.18	73.59	10.31%	269.85	254.46	6.05
Weight Watchers	1,000,000	1,098,275	76.60	65.87	16.29%	209.00	192.05	17.02
Category Total	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	.,	412.32	353.66	16.59%	1,391.07	1,349.18	3.109
MEDIAWEEK MONITOR TO	TALS		3,243.75	3,028.86	7.09%	9,146.50	8,936.43	2.35%

Hate base and circulation tigures according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations for the second half of 2003 except: B-audited by BPA International, C=not audited and X=did not file audit by deadline; E=publisher's estimate; J=June/July issue; M=no May issue; R=April/May 2004 issue, May 2003 single issue; S=combined figures of two separate issues; 7=publishes seven times; B=publishes isht times Trusting superior data and planning services. Trusting my work with advanced functionality. Improving my work with advanced functionality. Relying on personalized access and support.

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That's a Wrap

WHILE IT'S A RELIEF TO BE PAST NETWORK UPFRONT WEEK, IT'S ALSO KIND OF A DISappointment knowing the traditional TV season is coming to an end. As much as some of the networks claim to be programming on a 12-month basis (Fox, in particular), the meat and potatoes of a prime-time

schedule is—and will always be—September through May.

As much as I hate to poke holes in Fox's current spin, I do not believe for one minute that the network will completely follow through with its unprecedented plan to launch 15 new series in three separate windows (June, November and January). Here's why: The network prematurely cancelled *American Idol* spin-off *American Juniors* last summer, after executives last year had promised it would be a part of the fall lineup. That tells me that if any of the five new series the net rolls out in June flounder, they'll get axed. And that calls into question any plans for the November slate and beyond.

If there's one battle worth noting next season, it clearly is CBS' highly anticipated CSI: NY versus NBC's Law & Order on Wednesday. Although the veteran Dick Wolf drama has sent dozens of competing shows packing, what's interesting here is that both are crimesolving dramas, and both are likely to attract a sizeable audience. But can CSI: NY actually knock the 14-year-old Law & Order off its winning perch? Although my research instincts tell me that's unlikely, my gut suggests that it actually could happen. And if it does, it could be the biggest news of the season-outside ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition potentially beating Fox's long-in-thetooth The Simpsons (which no one realizes is declining) in adults 18-49.

In a week filled with enough hot air to speed

up global warming, NBC started things off on a false note when Jeff Zucker announced that the net would show the *Joey* pilot in its entirety. "This is only the third time in the history of NBC that we feel confident enough to show you a full screening at our upfront presenta-

tion," crowed an enthusiastic Zucker. "First *The Cosby Show*, then *The Golden Girls*, now *Joey*. What does that tell you?"

Well, it tells me that someone at NBC wrote this presentation with their fingers crossed, because in May 1991, I remember sitting for what seemed like hours watching failed NBC sitcom *The Fanelli Boys*, with a pre-*Sopranos* Joe Pantoliano (who is taking another stab at a CBS drama, alongside *Lyons Den* reject Rob Lowe, in *dr. vegas*). Although *Joey* is a step

up from *The Fanelli Boys*, unless Matt LeBlanc as Joey smartens up (stupidity can only go so far when you're promoted to the lead), the *Friends* spin-off also could end up swimming with the fishes by the end of the season.

If Fox stays with its plan to air *The O.C.* (which returns in November) against *Joey* and CBS' *Survivor*, this will become the most competitive hour in prime time. But since Fox told us last spring that *The O.C.* would air Thursdays at 9, nothing is a given.

The network schedules are definitely heavy on dramas and light on comedies. The dozen sitcoms this fall represent quite a falloff from last season's 19; meanwhile, the number of dramas, at 17, remains the same. And it looks as if the comedy drought will only get worse because of new, generic garbage like ABC's Savages, Fox's Quintuplets, and the WB's Commando Nanny and Drew Carey's Green Screen. Although comedies starring sitcom vets Jason Alexander (Listen Up, Monday at 8:30 p.m.) and John Goodman (Center of the Universe, Wednesday at 9:30 p.m.) will benefit from strategic scheduling, not a single new half hour, including NBC's cute-as-a-button Father Of the Pride, looks genuinely funny. That includes aging redneck comedian Jeff Foxworthy, who does not belong on the WB. Will viewers watching Smallville really stick around for Foxworthy's tired, Southern-fried stand-up shtick? I highly doubt it.

> Although CBS is likely to gain even more momentum, my vote for most improved schedule is sister network UPN. Not only will moving *America's Next Top Model* to Wednesday at 8 p.m. give *Smallville* a run for its young demos, lead-out drama *Kevin Hill*, with Taye Diggs, has the buying community beaming with optimism.

> And then, there's troubled ABC—which could bottle the opening of its presentation as a cure for insomnia. Patience and

prayer will be required for any of its eight new shows to find an audience. Now firmly entrenched as the No. 4 network, it's little wonder that ABC's most promising show has the word "desperate" in it.

Do you agree, or disagree, with Mr. TV? Please e-mail mberman@mediaweek.com and let him know if you would like your response published in an upcoming issue.

MEDIAWEEK (ISSN 1055-176X, USPS 885-580) is published 45 times a year. Regular issues are published weekly except 7/5, 7/19, 8/2, 8/16, 8/30, 12/20, 12/27 by VNU Business Publications USA., 770 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. Subscriptions: \$149 one year, \$249 two years. Canadian subscriptions: \$199 per year. Other foreign subscriptions \$319 (using air mail). Registered as a newspaper at the British Post Office. Canadian Publication Mail Agreement No. 40031729. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Deutsche Post Global Mail 4960-2, Walker Road, Windsor, ON N9A 6J3. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices. Customer Service Email: mediaweek@espcomp.com. Subscriber Service (800) 562-2706. MEDIAWEEK, 770 Broadway, New York, NY, 10003. Editorial: New York, (646) 654-5250; Los Angeles, (323) 525-2270; Chicago, (312) 583-5500. Sales: (646) 654-5125. Classified: (800) 7-ADWEEK. POSTMASTER: Address changes to MEDIAWEEK, Pro. Box 16809, North Hollywood, CA 91615-9467. If you do not wish to receive promotional material from mailers other than ADWEEK Magazines, please call (818) 487-4582. Copyright 2004, VNU Business Media Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher. Reprints (651) 582-3800.

watching *Smallville* really stick around for Jeff Foxworthy's tired, Southernfried stand-up shtick? I doubt it.

Will viewers





Misfit looking for Miss Perfect to watch "The Breakfast Club" with me on AMC.

Looking for a strong, silent Chief Brody-type to watch "Jaws 2" with me on AMC.



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