



The big number. Cable breaks through one imaginary boundary as Mission Cable TV Inc., Cox Cable's San-Diego based system, hooks up its 100,000th subscriber ("Closed Circuit," March 24). Cox Cable President Henry Harris (r) marks the occasion by presenting the benchmark family, Commander and Mrs. L.D. Phillips, with a certificate of appreciation. The Mission system, largest contiguous CATV operation in the country, has 1,000 miles of active plant.

complained Manhattan Cable's Charlotte Jones. "The trade press only calls me up when the word gets out that there's tits and ass on public access. The truth is that our two access channels run 600 hours of programming a month, and only a half-dozen of those fall into the porno area. The access channels are giving a voice to minority people who are ignored even by public broadcasting."

She was asked to describe in detail the content of the censored Luckman tape. She threw up her hands and muttered: "Oh, what's the use."

Another to HBO ranks

Comcast Corp., owner of nine cable systems, is planning to go with Home Box Office Inc.'s pay cable service for its systems in Westmoreland and Allegheny counties in Pennsylvania. No target date for the operation has been finalized, since further meetings with HBO will determine if Comcast will pick up the programming via microwave or through HBO's proposed satellite network.

pany's lawyers are going over the episode carefully to decide whether it may be shown at all in its present form.

Manhattan Cable's lawyer, Peter Gross, said decisions on suitability are being made in "a jungle of laws and regulations on obscenity." There is fundamental conflict, he said, between New York state law and FCC regulations. "The state law says we can't censor anything that is carried on a public-access channel," he explained. "But the FCC regulations insist that the cable company is responsible for any —quotes—'obscene or indecent matter' that goes out over the air." But that doesn't help any, he added, because the FCC nowhere defines what it means by "obscene" and "indecent."

Mr. Gross said some guidelines may be forthcoming in the way the FCC handles the complaint of a public-access producer named Michael Luckman, who stated in a formal brief that Manhattan Cable censored a tape of his which, according to Charlotte Schiff Jones, a company vice president, "was nothing more than a man lying on a couch masturbating for a half-hour." Mr. Luckman wants the FCC to

declare that a cable company should be nothing more than a common carrier for whatever material a public-access producer submits to it.

That fine line between what's acceptable for airing and what's not may turn into a shaky tightrope later this week. According to Bruce David, who co-produces *Midnight Blue* with Alex Bennett (under the aegis of *Screw* magazine and its publisher, Al Goldstein), they will submit a tape that features an orgy of a group of swinging couples who have gathered at a hotel in the Catskills precisely for that purpose. This scene will not go beyond the category of soft-core porno because "we'll edit out the hard-core stuff," in Mr. David's words.

However, the orgy is such an integral part of the 30-minute documentary on the life style of married couples who indulge in mate-swapping, Mr. David said, that if Manhattan Cable demands cuts, the producers may protest by calling a news conference and showing the unedited tape to the press.

"All this controversy makes it sound as though we're playing nothing but porno,"

Cable Briefs

Telephone ties. Citizens for Cable Awareness in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Community Cable Coalition have asked FCC to deny certificate of compliance to Blue Ridge Cable Television Co. in Edred, Pa., on ground of crossownership between Palmerton Telephone Co. and Blue Ridge Cable Television, both of which are owned by Pencor Services.

Winners. Earl W. Hayt, manager of Berks Cable TV, Reading, Pa., has received 1975 PubliCable Distinguished Public Service Award for outstanding contributions to fostering public interest in telecommunications. Also cited for commendations for public service contributions were: Mary Lou Armiger, New Jersey Education Association, Trenton; James R. Ludwig, Flathead Valley Community College, Kalispell, Mont.; Connie McCready, Commissioner of public works, Portland, Ore.; and Kennon McKee, cable TV coordinator, Portland, Ore.

Broadcasting's index of 133 stocks allied with electronic media

Stock symbol	Exch.	Closing Wed. June 4	Closing Wed. May 28	Net change in week	% change in week	1974-75 High	1974-75 Low	PIE ratio	Approx. shares out (000)	Total market capitalization (000)
Broadcasting										
ABC	ARC	N 25 5/8	25 1/8	+ 1/2	+ 1.99	28 3/8	12 3/8	9	17,171	440,006
CAPITAL CITIES	CCR	N 42	39 3/4	+ 2 1/4	+ 5.66	42	19 1/2	14	7,208	302,736
CBS	CBS	N 50 1/2	47	+ 3 1/2	+ 7.44	50 1/2	20 1/8	13	28,313	1,429,806
CONCERT NETWORK	O	1/4	1/8	+ 1/8	+ 100.00	7/8	1/8		2,200	550
COX	COX	N 25 5/8	24	+ 1 5/8	+ 6.77	25 5/8	9 3/8	13	5,831	149,419
GROSS TELECASTING	GGG	A 10	9 1/2	+ 1/2	+ 5.26	13 5/8	6 3/8	7	800	8,000
LIN	LINR	O 7 3/8	6 3/8	+ 1	+ 15.68	7 3/8	2	8	2,297	16,940
MOONEY	MOON	O 2 1/4	2 3/8	- 1/8	- 5.26	3 5/8	1	6	385	866
RAHALL	RAHL	O 5	5 1/8	- 1/8	- 2.43	6	1 3/4	10	1,297	6,485
SCRIPPS-HOWARD	SCRP	O 17 1/2	18	- 1/2	- 2.77	19 3/4	13 1/2	6	2,589	45,307
STARR	SBG	H 5 1/2	5 1/4	+ 1/4	+ 4.76	9	3 1/4	5	1,091	6,000
STORER	SBK	N 19 3/8	19	+ 3/8	+ 1.97	19 7/8	10 7/8	10	4,624	89,590
TAFT	TFR	N 24 1/8	24 1/2	- 3/8	- 1.53	25 1/8	10 3/4	8	4,011	96,765
WOODS COMM.*	O	1/2	1/2		.00	1 1/4	1/4	4	292	146
TOTAL									78,109	2,592,616